



THE
BARNHART CONCISE
DICTIONARY
OF
ETYMOLOGY

THE ORIGINS
OF
AMERICAN ENGLISH
WORDS

ROBERT K. BARNHART

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EDITED BY ROBERT K. BARNHART

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PREFACE

The Barnhart Concise Dictionary of Etymology explains the immediate origins of words in English. It contains some 25,000 words, recording the development of native words in English and the many points of contact with other cultures from which English has borrowed new words and adopted new ideas.

This dictionary is an American reference work, basing much of its material on points of view developed by American scholars. It is made from the *Barnhart Dictionary of Etymology*, the first dictionary of etymology to be produced by an editorial staff working in close collaboration with American scholars from various fields of language study.

Many years ago our original Editorial Committee prefaced its work on that of James Murray in England and William Dwight Whitney in the United States. The Committee's research benefited from findings and interpretations of linguistics scientists in the tradition of Edward Sapir, Edgar Sturtevant, Roland G. Kent, and Kemp Malone, and later specialists such as Zelig Harris, Yakov Malkiel, and Joseph Greenberg. In addition, we have adapted the work of William G. Moulton, Robert A. Hall, Jr., and Ralph L. Ward, who solved many problems in etymology for the Thorndike-Barnhart dictionary series.

Further research has been augmented by the late Einar Haugen, whose study of the Scandinavian element in English is markedly evident throughout this book. In studying the borrowing process of Romance words in English, Ralph de Gorog has contributed not only to explaining Continental influences but also to the Scandinavian influence on French that indirectly affects English. Ralph Ward's study of Latin and Greek and of the Classical element in borrowing into the Romance languages has made it possible to supply forms, especially in Gallo-Romance and Vulgar Latin, that have provided logical steps in tracing many derivations.

Beyond the immediate Romance and Classical borrowings into English, we have devoted space generously to our inherited Germanic structure. Proto-Germanic forms are supplied for our native words and, in most instances, for borrowings from Germanic sources. For native English words, reconstruction of Proto-Germanic forms makes it possible to show the underlying relationships among Germanic cognates. The inclusion of cognates in Germanic languages, especially those cognates obviously related to English in form and meaning, demonstrates in a most concrete way that English is a Germanic language.

Cognates may also show that many developments of meaning are not inventions of English alone. If certain Germanic cognates are old enough, some words in Old English may actually have derived from them, originally brought to England by the "Continental" (Angles, Saxons, or Jutes). Other words in Old English were adopted from the Danes, such as *egg*, *skirt* and *thrive*. Meanings in English may also derive from senses in other languages long after the word itself was originally borrowed into English. Such is the case for *prosaic* of prose (originally borrowed from French, 1656), but with the meaning "ordinary" (also from French, 1813), demonstrating that the borrowing process has a continuing function.

In our etymologies we have tried to forge a close association between dating the first recorded appearance of a word in English and its semantic development and its development of form. We have also reexamined the function of affixation and of compounding. In both of these undertakings the late Sherman Kuhn and his assistants on the staff of the *Middle English Dictionary* provided generously of their time and help. In numberless instances the chronological record in our work has been revised from that of the *Oxford English Dictionary*, drawing the year of first recorded appearance back sometimes as much as two, or even three hundred years. In some cases, such as *cork*, antedating has clarified an etymology; in others, such as *apricot* and *bicycle*, it has made the course of borrowing more specific. Careful attention to the application of dating also demonstrates many instances of multiple borrowing. Perhaps the most striking is that of *chalice* (recorded from Latin as early as 830 in Old English and later replaced by Anglo-French *chalice* before 1325, which also replaced a variety of older Middle English forms).

As dictionary makers, we examined not only the extensions of borrowing and semantic development, but also the shift in function from noun to verb, verb to noun, adjective to noun, and so forth, often attributed to influences of the same functions in another language but actually taking place quite regularly in English. Again the *Middle English Dictionary* provided a broad base of evidence that permitted a systematic study of this

process and for the study of replacement of forms in English.

Two periods in the development of English are especially notable for the introduction of a large number of forms, principally from Latin, but some also from Greek, that replaced earlier spellings altered in the course of borrowing from their original classical form. Many of these replacements appeared in the 1300's and early 1400's; others were introduced in the 1500's and 1600's. During the earlier period the object does not seem to have been a conscious effort to "purify" the language so much as an introduction or replacement of familiar spellings in Latin and an attempt to regularize spelling. The later period was an acknowledged interval of purification to be sure, but by resorting to Latin it was also an easy way to introduce new words that would be recognizable or quickly understood coinages. Other replacements include those that involve meaning, such as the term *scurvy* for which the meaning of *scurvy* was replaced by the Dutch meaning for *scorbutic* to cover the disease of vitamin deficiency we know today.

In this dictionary we have included a brief history of the English language, which explains the various events and influences that have affected the language and relates them to language processes. It discusses our long history of borrowing, evident in the arrival of the Continental groups (Angles, Saxons, Jutes, Danes and the Frisian weavers, etc.). Our borrowing process also extends to the return of native-speaking soldiers from long foreign duty, as in the low countries from which they introduced words from Dutch, Walloon, etc., during their service in the Hundred Years' War and the Thirty Years' War (an outstanding example of which is *wagon*). There is also a short glossary of language names and linguistic terms used in the etymologies.

The form of the *Barnhart Concise Dictionary of Etymology* parallels the conception of its unabridged version which was shared by two language scholars: my father, Clarence Barnhart, who was chiefly responsible for the application of principles of linguistic science to the craft of dictionary making, and Kemp Malone, who wrote the first modern etymologies to appear in a general-purpose English-language dictionary.

For many years the ideas of these two men were developed by criticism and advice from a group of scholars that included Reason A. Goodwin, Elliot V.K. Dobbie, Ralph L. Ward, Henry and Renee Kahane, Yakov Malkiel, Robert A. Fowkes, A.E. Alexander, Harry Hoijer, and many others. Now with the help and support of Carol Cohen and Robert Kaplan of Harper-Collins and the efforts of Bruce R. Carrick, who encouraged and nurtured the original unabridged version for the H.W. Wilson Company, we have been able to

revise and condense our work. Our aim throughout has been to make examples of the development of English an understandable subject for those with no specialized knowledge of language study. We also hope this work will serve as a reference for language scholars, but our chief purpose is to contribute to greater interest in serious study of language.

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

This dictionary traces the origins of the basic vocabulary of modern English. It contains some 25,000 entries, more than the reported vocabulary of Shakespeare, who was writing in the first period of modern English. The dictionary examines not only the antecedents of modern English, but emphasizes its development.

Articles and Glossary

Einar Haugen has written a "Short History of the English Language," that will serve as background against which specific cultural influences in an entry can be compared.

A glossary is included that lists language names and terms used in the etymologies.

Dates of Words and Meanings

Every word and meaning entered in this dictionary is given the year of its earliest recorded appearance or use as far as the editors and critics can ascertain. We consulted not only historical dictionaries (and general-purpose dictionaries of the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries) but the Barnhart files of citations that incorporate the original *Oxford English Dictionary* quotations augmented by Sir William Craigie for the *Dictionary of American English* as well as those of the *Middle English Dictionary* made accessible by its editors.

In using the carefully framed system of dating in the *Middle English Dictionary* we have substituted the word *probably* for their question mark, and cited the presumed date of composition whereas the *MED* gives both the date of composition and the date of the manuscript used by the *MED* editors.

The dates in most cases probably show no more than relative occurrence in English, and in other cases may be no more than an accident of the record. In many sources where citations from early writings were found by reading only odd or even pages or half pages, we have a very imperfect record of English; despite such practice, English remains the best recorded language.

Development, Borrowing, and Word Formation

An important feature of this dictionary is the distinction drawn between development within English and borrowing from other languages. Sometimes native words have been influenced in their development by the existence of words in neighboring languages (e.g., *bush* and *she*), and sometimes they have even been reinforced or revived by the existence of foreign terms (*atone* and *capon*). In either case, the distinction between foreign and native elements is maintained in this work. The editors have also taken into consideration the fact that many English words have been absorbed from more than one language, particularly when Medieval Latin flourished as the international language of Europe alongside the various national languages.

In addition to borrowing, many internal processes were at work in English that expanded its vocabulary. Among them, back formation played at least as prominent a part in forming new words earlier as it does today (as in *gyrate* from *gyration*). One of the contributions of this dictionary is to show the significant productive role played by back formation in creating new forms (*admire*, *assert*, *liberate*, etc.). Also carefully noted are the shifts in function from noun to verb, noun to adjective, verb to noun, etc., functional shift always having been an active process in English (even today we find this process in such a usage as “the book is a good *read*”).

Diacritic Marks

Among the practices followed in this dictionary to account for the development of form and meaning is the use of diacritic marks, especially in Greek and Latin, where vowel quantity is phonemic. However, absence of such marking in Medieval Latin words is the result of its widespread use, as Medieval Latin became the common scholarly language of Europe and was known in the Near East, and was probably known even in parts of Asia and India. Consequently any marking of vowel quantities in Medieval Latin is only parochial.

Scandinavian Forms

Where borrowing into English comes from a probable Scandinavian source, relevant forms from Scandinavian

languages (Swedish, Danish, Norwegian, Icelandic) are given. These words show several possible forms from which the English word may have been borrowed. In other instances words borrowed from Scandinavian and attributable to ancient formation are given in Old Icelandic, the classic literary language of the North, which is the language of record for the sagas and poetry.

Influence of Dutch and the Low Countries

Closely involved with Scandinavian loans is the borrowing from other Germanic languages, particularly of the coastal areas of the Continent near England. In the languages of Friesland and the Frisian Islands, the Netherlands, and the Low German areas, words are often similar to the Scandinavian forms, and it is sometimes difficult to determine whether an early borrowing is from Scandinavian or from one of the coastal languages. We have been mindful of the possibility of a greater influence of this cultural contact than others have in the past, especially by listing possible sources of borrowing among Frisian, Middle Dutch, and Low German cognates.

Development from Anglo-French

During the early years of the Middle English period, a dialect of Old French developed as the language of government, the law courts, and the social life of the new aristocracy. This became the dialect of the French residents in England and of their descendants and is designated *Anglo-French* (the French of England). Originally it was probably a dialect known as Old Norman French, spoken in Normandy by the gallicized Viking settlers who had not entirely given up their native Scandinavian dialects. It was also in part a mixture of other closely related dialects of the north French coastal region. We have, in so far as evidence shows, differentiated the antecedents of Anglo-French from Old French by using the term “Old North French” to indicate a basis for the French dialect brought to England.

French and Latin Borrowings

Both French and English have borrowed directly from Latin, and in this dictionary we have made a particular

effort to show where the borrowing from Old and Middle French was probably augmented by direct borrowing from Latin, and similarly in French where borrowing took place directly from Latin.

French words in which regular phonetic development did not take place, and which are truly Latinisms, constitute a cultural group by themselves. These borrowings are important for the understanding of English vocabulary as they are the heritage of the age of the humanists.

The emphasis on Latin was evident in French and English before the 1300's but gained an increasing momentum in both languages after that time, gradually dying out in France towards 1550 but remaining as an active process in English throughout the 1600's. In French the trend was partly a result of the influence of literary Italian, and coincided with the spread of the Renaissance movement and its attendant admiration for the classical languages.

Where French did not adopt a form directly from Latin and the Old French word developed more or less regularly from a locally differentiated form of the Vulgar Latin of the late Roman Empire, we have tried to reconstruct the necessary hypothetical Gallo-Romance form. These phonetic and morphological conceptions explain the normal process of development of Latin into French and represent unattested Late Latin words which were probably limited to the territory of Gaul.

Replacement in English

In English much of the later borrowing from Latin, especially in the late 1400's through the 1600's, is often characterized as an attempt to "purify" the language by replacing what were considered corrupting influences, principally derived from adoption of French forms and the normalizing processes of Anglicization. In fact it was also perhaps originally as much the reflection of a desire to introduce familiar spellings (even to standardize spelling) by individuals who were more familiar with Latin than with English.

Whenever writers in English reached back into Latin for a new formation, a replacement occurred (e.g., *advance*, *advise*, *advocate*). The concept of replacement in

the development of English often explains spelling changes that at first seem inconsistent by giving immediate evidence of the source of new spelling patterns. A replacement may also indicate continued or revived use of a word or even of an intellectual concept (e.g., *appreciation*, *fault*, *scent*, and *victuals*).

Affixes and Combining Forms

Particular attention is given to word elements. We have separated and analyzed all living prefixes and suffixes in English and indicated combining forms where they appear. Sometimes this dictionary also includes word elements that are no longer active in word formation but are of particular interest. To the native speaker, many will seem obvious, but their systematic treatment reinforces the formative processes in English and explains their proper semantic function.

Where such derivatives are especially numerous, they are listed alphabetically, as under *out-*, *over-*, *psycho-*, *un-*¹, *un-*² and *under-*.

Cross References

This dictionary has a system of cross references that extends the association of cognates within a group of words and suggests some of the more remote connections of Proto-Germanic. Cross references are given in SMALL CAPITAL LETTERS. They deserve attention if the user is studying remote source as well as more immediate formation.

Abbreviations and Symbols

As a rule, this dictionary does not use abbreviations beyond those for the parts of speech (*n.*, *v.*, *adj.*).

We have also eschewed the use of symbols except for the traditional asterisk (*) to indicate hypothetical forms. The chief function of hypothetical forms is to serve as a bridge in tracing an etymology. To be sure, a hypothetical form must be reconstructed by rules of sound change on the basis of parallel formations and other comparative evidence. It must also be of appropriate construction to fit logically as a missing link.

In the transcription of forms we have used the symbol *h* to represent the sound in German *ach*, Scottish *loch* (pronounced as *k* without closing the breath passage).

Language Periods

The dates given to various periods in the history of a language are broad periods generally agreed upon by most scholars. By and large they indicate the end of one stage and the beginning of another in the development of a given language. Following are the dates of language periods frequently cited in this book (all the dates are A.D., except where noted; those in parentheses refer to dates preferred by some scholars):

Modern refers to the period in any language after the *Middle* period, except for Latin (called *New Latin*, see below) and Greek, where the accepted term before modern Greek is *Medieval Greek*.

Late refers to the language period following the Classical period of Greek and Latin and to the end of a language period such as Old English:

Late Greek 300–700

Late Latin 300–700

Middle refers to an intermediate language period before *Modern*:

Middle Dutch	1100–1500
Middle English	1100–1500 (1475)
Middle French	1400–1600 (1350–1600)
Middle High German	1100–1500 (1450)
Middle Low German	1100–1500(1450)

Old refers to the earliest known or recorded period of a language:

Old English	before 1100
Old French	before 1400 (before 1350)
Old Frisian	before 1500
Old High German	before 1100
Old Icelandic	before 1500 (from the Viking period to about 1300)
Old Provençal	before 1500 (before 1350)
Old Saxon	before 1100
Old Slavic	before 800
Greek	from Homer to A.D. 300
Latin, Classical Latin	200 B.C.–A.D. 300
Medieval Greek	700–1500
Medieval Latin	700–1500
New Latin	after 1500
Anglo-French	1066–1400, but especially to about 1164

SHORT HISTORY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

The etymology of a word is essentially an account of its history. This history opens vast perspectives on the past, not only of the English-speaking peoples but also of the many others who have interacted with them. There are words that can be traced back thousands of years and others that sprang into being just yesterday. Everyday words are used quite unconsciously which, if their full stories were known, would reveal the panorama of the glory and the shame of the past, its fears and hopes, its prejudices and its faith.

The framework of our knowledge of language we owe to the diligent and sometimes inspired labors of *historical linguists*, or *philologists*, over the past two centuries. Through the pioneering work of such men as the Dane Rasmus Rask (1787–1832), and the Germans Jakob Grimm (1785–1863), and Franz Bopp (1791–1867), a discipline known as comparative philology (or linguistics) was born. Since their time the growing insights gained from the studies of hundreds of linguists have made it possible to place English in its proper relationship to the other languages of the world. One aspect of their work has been to compile etymological dictionaries, not only of English, but also of other languages. This dictionary is a continuation of that tradition, a distillation of many older scholars' detailed studies, and an explanation of how English has developed to its present (and still changing) form.

The Tradition of Writing

English has been written only since about 700 A.D. The language of these early texts was formerly often described as *Anglo-Saxon*—since it was largely Angles and Saxons who became the English people—but is now more properly referred to as *Old English*. This language soon became quite distinct from the other Germanic dialects that followed divergent development on the Continent. In the eighth century the Anglo-Saxons suffered an invasion by their old northerly neighbors, the Vikings, Scandinavian marauders who overran the northern and eastern sections of England. Ultimately halted by an army of men from Wessex under King Alfred the Great, the invading Scandinavians in the course of time settled down with the natives in what became the Danelaw. Though the English language survived, its vocabulary absorbed numerous words from the invaders' Scandinavian dialects (*awkward, birth, egg, sky, thrive, window*). Not until the Norman Conquest, some 250 years later, in 1066, was the survival of English threatened. The use of the new invaders' native Old French dialect in government and literature brought the Old English period to a close.

Old English

Old English was a language of many dialects by the time of the Norman Conquest, but much of the surviving literature is found only in the West Saxon tongue. This includes such classics as the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*, the epic poem *Beowulf*, the shorter poems of the Battle of Maldon and of Brunanburh, as well as a host of Christian writings. Nevertheless, outside West Saxon, some of the finest writing is to be found in works of Caedmon and Cynewulf, in the Northumbrian dialect.

To modern users of English, the language of all of these texts seems strange and remote because of its older Germanic structure. In spite of obvious word elements that are a part of Modern English and loans that are recognizably Latin and Scandinavian forms, Old English has an outward appearance that resembles German or Icelandic. Nouns are inflected for four cases (nominative, accusative, genitive, dative) in the singular and plural in a variety of declensions. Every noun is also marked for gender (masculine, feminine, and neuter), which determines the form of accompanying articles and adjectives. Verbs are inflected for each person (first, second, third) of their subject in the singular and to some extent in the plural. Both nouns and verbs have *strong* and *weak* forms of their inflections.

However, there is abundant evidence that the inflectional system of Old English was beginning to break down some time before William of Normandy ever set foot on English soil. A certain simplification in verbal inflection had already occurred by then, and the complicated system of inflections of nouns and adjectives was beginning to break down. What the Norman Conquest did do was to eliminate the influence of the Anglo-Saxon upper classes, and in so doing, destroy many of the forces of language conservatism which tend to slow down linguistic change. In other words, the Norman Conquest accelerated the process of linguistic change that presumably would have occurred in any case.

Transition to Middle English

The end of the Old English period marked a great sea-change in English. The conquest by the Norman

French imposed a new political and cultural life on the insular land of the Anglo-Saxons and dramatically altered the development of their language. After 1066, the Germanic language that was Old English was relegated to an inferior position. For three centuries it remained only the spoken tongue of the common people. Norman French was the language of supremacy: the power of the Court and its administration was expressed in a tongue foreign to the subject Anglo-Saxon citizenry. Likewise the Church, which continued to conduct all its affairs in Latin, was another "foreign" presence. Nevertheless, this grotesque situation greatly benefited the English language which, in a mostly unwritten form as the language of the common people, was gradually adapted to necessity and circumstance. Vocabulary swelled with borrowing that resulted from wider and closer contact with Old French and its Anglo-French dialect, and the structure changed with the gradual substitution of word order for inflectional endings. The language of Robert Mannyng, Geoffrey Chaucer, and John Gower reveals this process taking place in a language too deeply rooted to be replaced by French. These two languages operated in parallel for a long time, as French was the language of the law courts until 1362 and was still used widely for writing documents well past the 1450's.

The Middle English that emerged had lost most of the inflections of noun and verb, becoming much more like Modern English. Nouns had only the suffix *-s*, functioning both as a possessive and a plural (*boy's*, *boys*); verbs had only *-s* to mark the third person singular in the present (competing with *-th*) and an *-ed* or *-t* for the past tense (*wanted*, *swept*). There were still anomalies in both classes: such plurals as *men*, *mice*, or past tense verb forms like *thought*, *sang*, both reminders that English was still a Germanic language in structure. But the vocabulary was transformed as borrowing added a huge number of French and Latin loanwords to the old Germanic word stock. This process continued at an ever-quicken pace into early Modern English. There was no inner, linguistic necessity for this; Anglo-Saxon literature was at a high point prior to the Norman Conquest, and manuscript illumina-

tion and metalwork had achieved such a state of perfection that England became the training ground for many European apprentices.

The flowering of English through the borrowing process occurred as a consequence of two languages of different cultures in intimate day-to-day contact. In contrast, languages such as German and especially Icelandic have managed with much less outside influence to coin words from their native linguistic stock to satisfy their modern needs. For English the most marked result has been that, while retaining its Germanic structure, it acquired a large Romance element in its vocabulary and thereby assimilated a great deal from the Classical world, to become a more sophisticated and cosmopolitan language than it was before the Norman Conquest. Another and less favorable result has been a loss of predictability in its spelling, which now reflects numerous and conflicting spelling patterns. These developed from the often imperfect interpretations of English writers transcribing words from the various languages of borrowing. Thus many Old and Middle English spellings have been retained in the vocabulary (as in the *gh* of *dough*, *bough*, and *rough*) against all phonetic reason. In addition, the influence of French has left many ways to write the same sound, such as the sound traditionally represented by *sh*—*conscience*, *sure*, *ocean*, *machine*, *nation*, *tissue*, and *fuchsia*.

The Middle English of the 1300's and 1400's was still split into dialects of Northern or Northumbrian, Midland, Southern, and Kentish. But in the fifteenth century the center of English cultural and political life began to shift to London and its environs. This meant that the East Midlands exerted a new dominance in the history of English. London was the seat of the Court and the center of an expanding government; as the center of English commercial life, it attracted people from all parts of the country. Courtiers and civil servants became the elite whose fashion of speaking and writing was normative. Accents leveled out into a more or less standard form used by the gentry, but the cement that held English together was primarily its written form, which was more conservative than the spoken form.

Modern English

In the 1500's and 1600's, the introduction of printing democratized literacy within all language groups, and literary enterprise was no longer largely restricted to the scribes of the Church and Courts. Coupled with the intellectual enthusiasms of the Renaissance, printing forced attention to the written form of language and encouraged standardization. In English especially, the rediscovery of Classical literature and widespread familiarity with it among the intellectuals of the day led to the introduction of innumerable terms from Latin (and Greek) into the English of learned men. Although some contemporary critics regarded the plethora of Classical borrowings with much disfavor, calling the Latinisms "inkhorn terms" in reference to their somewhat self-conscious introduction into English, many of the terms were nonetheless accepted, adding richness and variety to the English vocabulary.

If Chaucer was the quintessential Middle English writer, then Shakespeare, by virtue of his creative use of the English vocabulary, must occupy a similar position during the Elizabethan period. He and other great stylists—Donne, Bacon, Sidney, Spenser, Raleigh, among others—produced a flowering of literature such as English had never before experienced. They made full use of the syntactical and grammatical resources that the language provided, often using forms that later ages have branded as "ungrammatical," such as the double negative. It was left to the 1700's, the "Age of Reason," to create an atmosphere where grammarians and lexicographers could achieve success in a campaign to standardize the language. The Italians and French had set up academies to regulate development of their languages, and under that influence many English writers (Dryden, Defoe, Swift, etc.) called for similar measures in England. As it turned out, the English "Academy" took the form of a dictionary, compiled by an individual, not by a government-sponsored committee. Samuel Johnson's great Dictionary of 1755, originally conceived as a prescriptive work, was adopted as a standard of acceptable English well into the nineteenth century.

One aspect of the language that resisted all stan-

dardizing and that no dictionary, in spite of the several attempts by Walker and Sheridan, could regulate, was pronunciation. From the Middle English period to the Modern, changes continued to occur which altered the relation of sound to symbol. In Old and Middle English the letters represented much the same sounds as in other European languages. But toward the end of the Middle English and well into the Modern period the long vowels changed drastically. This *Great Vowel Shift* was marked by a systematic series of changes in which the pronunciation of vowels resulted in the vowel system of Modern English. Old *ī* became *ai* as in *mine*, *ū* became *ow* as in *house* (from *hūs*), *ē* became the *i* of *machine* (as in *beet*) and *ō* became the *u* of *sue* (as in *boot*), while *ā* turned into *ey* (as in *mate*). The short vowels were more consistent with the past, but *a* shifted to *æ* (as in *can*, *chance*), with some examples restored to *ah* in London English (*chance*, *path*). Unstressed final *-e* (representing the sound of *a* in *sofa*) was lost in words such as *name*, *rate*, with the result that thousands of words which once had two syllables became monosyllabic in Modern English. Interestingly, the pronunciation of Latin by Englishmen followed the same path, so that in legal English we still have idiosyncratic pronunciations of *sine die*, *habeas corpus*, instead of the assumed classical sounds.

Though Modern English can be dated from 1500, the real expansion and extension of the language commenced in the 1700's. Even though English was largely standardized, its vocabulary did not remain static. Within England the language responded to the rapid proliferation of scientific and technological developments that led to the Industrial Revolution. One need only mention Sir Isaac Newton as a key to the spirit that resulted eventually in the thousands of words required to describe the new knowledge of the times. Physics and astronomy led the way in giving humanity an entirely novel view of the universe. Technological advances brought railroads and led to factories and machines and products that required naming. Outside the British Isles English spread with the voyages of discovery and the colonization of North America, Australia, South Africa, and dominion in India.

American English

The United States secured its political freedom from England in 1783, but in spite of independence and an open reception of immigrants from many other lands, America's language remained English. Though not precisely the English of England, American English did not depart in structure from its English model. The new nation's need to establish a separate identity did not go unnoticed, however. By 1813 Thomas Jefferson was admonishing his fellow citizens to create a "new language" fit for the new nation; he referred specifically to the need for a vocabulary that would describe the innumerable different aspects of the American landscape and social order. Old words were extended in meaning: the name *robin* was used for a bird that was not the same as the English robin. American Indian names were adopted for plants and animals, and words from the languages of other immigrants were borrowed. In addition, there were borrowings from the established vocabulary of the French explorers and traders who had preceded even the early colonists in their push West, as well as from the American Spanish of the southwest. The new *American English* was first recorded in 1828 by Noah Webster, who compiled a prescriptive American counterpart to Johnson's Dictionary, and the name Webster signified a standard of its own as the first fruits of American lexicography.

Webster's dictionary and spellers were significant in the standardization of American English through the schools. Printing had made the written form of English readily available. The common citizen learned to read and sent his children to school to follow suit. Both in England and America (and in western Europe generally) the nineteenth century was a time when reading and writing became a widely acquired accomplishment important to the dissemination of information and ideas. Development of a popular press and an increasingly rapid pace of scientific, social, and cultural advancement have accelerated the growth of English in the twentieth century. Modern inventions of travel and communication (the telephone and telegraph, automobile and airplane, radio, television, and satellite) have brought almost instantaneous contact and interchange of infor-

mation. In this context, modern technology, because it is largely couched in American English, has assured American English of a major role throughout the world as a language of international communication, supplanting French which, in a much earlier era, replaced Latin.

The Origins of English

The English language is of course much more than its written tradition; it is first and foremost spoken, although the present-day emphasis on writing has caused many to forget the significance of speech. Every child learns to speak before he or she can read and write; most people spend a great deal more time talking than either reading or writing. A distinguishable form of English was spoken in Great Britain long before it was ever written, and we are fortunate in being able to trace the origins of English back far beyond the dawn of its writing. While all users of English read and write in much the same way, their speech may vary widely, and certainly deviates a great deal from what they read and write. Modern English speech obviously varies regionally by local dialects; but it also varies more subtly by social status: the "Cockney" London speech and the distinctive "Brooklynese" and "New Yorkese" of New York City are but a few examples. Similarly there are marked differences between British and American English, and within American English one distinguishes

the New England dialect from Midwestern or Western and both from the Midland speech of Pennsylvania and western settlement areas, and all from Southern.

As we have seen, English has also been enormously affected in its development by many languages with which it has been in contact. Language contact (either face-to-face contact or indirect contact through the written word) has made English a singularly heterogeneous language, in which the majority of its words have been borrowed and are not lineally descended from earlier native forms. The most important sources of borrowing have been Old and Middle French, Latin, and Greek, as well as the early infusion from the Scandinavian languages. Almost by historical accident, the Indo-European element has been strengthened in English, because many such words that are lost in Germanic have been restored in English by borrowing from other members of the Indo-European family. Borrowing is a more haphazard process of vocabulary development than lineal descent within a family, but insofar as external factors induce borrowing, the resulting forms are relatively predictable.

Any dictionary of etymology is to a great extent the by-product of language studies, a compilation of the research of many linguistics scholars. This dictionary reflects work over the years of many American scholars who have contributed extensively to our knowledge of etymology.

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THE BARNHART CONCISE
DICTIONARY OF ETYMOLOGY

A

a, a form of the indefinite article. *A* is a reduced form of *an* (from Old English *ān* one); the process of losing the nasal sound began before 1160, perhaps as early as 1130. The *n* was frequently lost before sounded *h* in the 1300's and 1400's.

a-¹ a prefix forming adjectives and adverbs from nouns, as in *abed*, *afire*, especially verbal nouns, as in *a-hunting*.

The prefix is a survival of a low-stressed variant *a* of the Old English preposition *on* (or *an*) meaning on, in. Occasionally in late Old English and commonly in Middle English this *a* occurred in prepositional phrases such as those which developed into the compounds *alive*, *afloat*, *afield*, *asleep*, and the like.

a-² a prefix in a few words of Latin origin as a variant of *ab-¹* from, away from. Latin *ā-* replaced *ab-* before *m-*, *p-*, and *v-*, and in English this *a-* is seen in *avert* and related words.

a-³ a prefix taking the place of *ad-* to, toward, in words of Latin origin, especially before *sc-*, *sp-*, and *st-*, + as in *ascribe*, *aspire*, *astrigent*.

a-⁴ a prefix having the general meaning of not, without, lacking, as in *apolitical* (= not political), *atonal* (= without tone). It has the form *an-* before vowels.

The prefix *a-* came into English from Greek *a-*, *an-*, meaning not, without, and is found in words taken directly, or through Latin, from Greek, as in *amorphous* (Greek *ámorphos* without form), *anonymous* (Greek *anōnymos* nameless), and *apathy* (Greek *apátheia* lack of feeling). As a naturalized English prefix, *a-* is also found in new formations, such as *amoral* and *asocial*.

In English the form *a-* occurs before *h-* in a new coinage, as in *ahistorical*; in Greek an initial *h-* was dropped and the prefix was *an-*, as in *anaimiā* bloodlessness (from *háima* blood) which came into English as *anemia*; but the *h-* is sometimes restored by analogy with English words with *h-* of Greek origin, as in *anhydrous* (from Greek *ánydros* waterless, from *hýdōr* water).

a-⁵ a prefix marking an act as momentary, as a single event, added to verbs, and found in such words as *abide*, *amaze*, *ashamed*. Old English *ā-* (originally *or-*), cognate with Old Saxon *ur-*, *ar-*, Old High German *ir-*, *ur-* (modern German *er-*), Gothic *us-*, *ur-*, meaning away, out, also usable as an intensive prefix. Old English *ā-* is an unaccented variant of *or-*. These prefixes are from Proto-Germanic **uz-*.

A 1 or **A-1** *adj.* first-class, excellent. 1837, originally a symbol used by Lloyd's of London to denote ships in first-class condition.

aardvark *n.* 1833, borrowed from earlier Afrikaans *aardvark*, meaning literally "earth pig," a compound of *aard* earth + *vark* pig. In modern Afrikaans the word is spelled *erdvark*.

ab-¹ a prefix that entered English as a component of many words taken from Latin or French, and used also to some extent in forming words in English.

Latin *ab-* is a special use of the preposition *ab* (with variants *ā*, *abs*), meaning from, away from. Combined with a verbal stem Latin *ab-* adds meanings of separation, removal, motion away from. In these formations, the prefix has the form *ab-* before a vowel or *h*, as in *abhor* shrink from; *a-* before *m*, *p*, or *v*, as in *avert* turn away; and *abs-* before *c* or *t*, as in *abstract* draw out.

In a rarer instance, the prefix converted from a Latin phrase as in the case of *aborigines*, which is possibly formed on the Latin phrase *ab origine* from the beginning.

In a few adjectives formed in English, *ab-* recalls its prepositional function of away from as in *aboral* away from the mouth; *abnormal* deviating from the normal.

ab-² a form of the prefix *ad-*, meaning to, toward, before *b* in words of Latin or French origin, as in *abbreviate*. In words from Latin the form is due to the assimilation of the *d* to the following consonant (*b*).

aback *adv.* Probably before 1200 *abac*, developed from Old English (1000) *on bæc* at or toward the back.

The idiom **taken aback** was originally a nautical term meaning (of a ship) caught by a head wind that presses the sails back against the mast. The figurative sense caught suddenly by surprise, appeared in 1840.

abacus *n.* Before 1387, borrowed from Latin *abacus*, from Greek *ábax* (stem *ábak-* as in the genitive form *ábakos*) counting table.

abaft *prep., adv.* 1594, developed from Middle English *baft* behind, and the prefix *a-* on, on the model of adverbs like *about*, *around*, *aside*. *Baft* developed from Old English (before 800) *bæftan*, formed of *bi-* BY, + *æftan* AFT.

There is also before 1325 a Middle English word *obaft* from the phrase *on baft* or *of baft*, but a gap of almost three centuries between *obaft* and *abaft* makes it doubtful that they are the same word.

abalone *n.* 1888, American English *abalone*, alteration of earlier (1850) *avalone*; borrowed from Mexican Spanish *aulone*, from Costanoan (American Indian language of the California coast) *aülun* red abalone.

abandon *v.* 1390 *abandonen* borrowed from Old French *abandoner* leave to one's mercy or discretion, from *abandon* surrender, from the phrase *a bandon* at the power of (*a* at + *bandon* power, jurisdiction, of Frankish origin and related to the source of BAN² edict). —**abandon** *n.* 1850, borrowed from French, from Old French *abandon*. The noun was a re-borrowing of a word that existed in Middle English (probably before 1400) as *abandoun*, borrowed from Old French *abandon*. —**abandoned** *adj.* 1692, formed from English *abandon*, *v.* in imitation of French *abandonné* immoral, past participle of *abandonner*.

abase *v.* Alteration in 1539 (influenced by *base*² low) of *abaishen*, *abassen* (before 1338); borrowed from Old French *abaissier* bring low (*à* to + *baissier* make lower, from Vulgar Latin **bassiāre*, seen in Medieval Latin *bassus* low, humble; see BASE² low). —**abatement** *n.* 1561, formed from English *abase* + *-ment*.

abash *v.* About 1303 *abaishen*, *abassen* to lose one's composure, be upset; borrowed through Anglo-French *baïss-*, from Old French *esbaïss-*, stem of *esbaïr*, also *esbaer* be astonished (*es-* out + *baïr*, *baër* to be open, gape). Related to ABEYANCE.

abate *v.* About 1300 *abaten*, borrowed from Old French *abatre*, *abatre* beat down, from Vulgar Latin **abbattere* (Latin *ab-* to + **battere*, from Latin *battuere* to beat). Related to BAT³ wink and BAT¹ stick.

The sense "to become less, diminish" appeared probably before 1325. —**abatement** *n.* Before 1340, borrowed from Middle French *abatement*, from Old French *abatre*; for suffix see *-MENT*.

abbess *n.* About 1300 *abbesse*, borrowed through Old French *abbēsse*, from Late Latin *abbātissa*, feminine of *abbās* (stem *abbāt-* as in the genitive form *abbātis*). *Abbess* alternated with and finally replaced the earlier forms *abbatess* and *abbotess*. See ABBOT.

abbey *n.* About 1300 *abbeye*, borrowed through Old French *abaie*, from Late Latin *abbātia*, from *abbās* (genitive *abbātis*). See ABBOT.

abbot *n.* About 1123 *abbot*, also *abbat*, alteration of Old English (about 880) *abbod*, also *abbad*; borrowed from Late Latin *abbās* (genitive *abbātis*), from Late Greek *abbās*, from Aramaic *abbā* father.

abbreviation *n.* Probably before 1425 *abbreviacion* a shortening; borrowed through Middle French *abréviation* from Late Latin *abbreviatiōnem* (nominative *abbreviatiō*), from *abbreviāre* make brief (Latin *ab-* to, + *breviāre* shorten, from *brevis* short); for suffix see *-TION*. —**abbreviate** *v.* Before 1425, borrowed from Late Latin *abbreviātus*, past participle of *abbreviāre*; for suffix see *-ATE*¹.

abdicate *v.* 1541, borrowed from Latin *abdicātus*, past participle of *abdicāre* renounce, reject (*ab-* away + *dicāre* proclaim); for suffix see *-ATE*¹. —**abdication** *n.* 1552, borrowed from Latin *abdicatiōnem* (nominative *abdicatiō*) renunciation, from *abdicāre*; for suffix see *-TION*.

abdomen *n.* 1601, borrowed from Latin *abdōmen*; also known in 1541 in a translation from French. Perhaps the original meaning is concealment (of viscera) and derived from Latin *abdere* conceal (*ab-* away + *-dere* combining form meaning to put, place; see DO¹ perform). —**abdominal** *adj.* 1746, borrowed from New Latin *abdominalis*, from Latin *abdōminis* (genitive of *abdōmen*); for suffix see *-AL*¹.

abduction *n.* 1623, borrowed from Latin *abductiōnem* (nominative *abductiō*), from *abducere* lead away (*ab-* away + *ducere* to lead); for suffix see *-TION*. —**abduct** *v.* 1623 (implied in *abducted*), probably borrowed from Latin *abductus* or perhaps a back formation from *abduction*.

aberration *n.* 1594, borrowed from Latin *aberratiōnem* (nominative *aberratiō*), from *aberrare* go astray (*ab-* away + *errare* wander); for suffix see *-TION*.

abet *v.* About 1380 *abetten*, borrowed from Old French *abeter* (*à* to + *beter* hound on, from a Germanic source: 1) either Middle or Low Franconian *bētan* incite; compare Old English *bētan* to hunt, bait, or 2) Scandinavian, compare Old Icelandic *beita* cause to bite, from *bīta* to BITE). The sense of instigate or encourage in a crime appeared in 1590.

abeyance *n.* 1528, borrowed from Anglo-French *abeiance* (legal) expectation, from Old French *abeër* covet (*à* at + *beër*, *baër* to be open).

abhor *v.* Probably before 1425 *abhorren*; borrowed from Latin *abhorrere* shrink away from in horror (*ab-* from + *horrere* bristle with fear).

abide *v.* Probably before 1200 *abiden*, developed by fusion (about 1000) of Old English *ābīdan* remain, (*ā-* a-⁵ + *bīdan*) and *abīdan* (earlier *onbīdan*) stay on, both compounds with *bīdan* stay, wait. —**abidance** *n.* 1647, formed from English *abide* + *-ance*.

ability *n.* Before 1398 *ablete*, borrowed from Old French *ableté*. The spelling *ablete* was replaced in the 1400's by *abilite*, from Old French *habilité*, a learned borrowing from Latin *habilitatem* (nominative *habilitās*) aptitude, from *habilis* easy to manage, handy, see ABLE.; for suffix see *-ITY*.

abject *adj.* Before 1415 *abiect*, *abject* outcast, wretched; borrowed from Latin *abjectus*, past participle of *abicere* throw away, cast off (*ab-* away, off + *-icere*, combining form of *jacere* to throw, cast).

abjure *v.* 1430, borrowed through Middle French *abjurer*, or directly from Latin *abjūrare* deny on oath (*ab-* away + *jūrare* swear). —**abjuration** *n.* Before 1439, borrowed from Latin *abjūratiōnem* (nominative *abjūratiō*), from *abjūrare*; for suffix see *-TION*.

ablation *n.* Probably before 1425, borrowed from Latin *ablātiōnem* (nominative *ablātiō*) a taking away; for suffix see *-TION*. —**ablate** *v.* 1902, back formation from *ablation*. This is a new formation of a word that was originally borrowed in the 1500's

from Latin *ablātus* (see ABLATIVE def.1) but became obsolete by the early 1600's.

ablative *n.* 1 case in grammar. About 1434, borrowed from Middle French *ablatif*, *ablative*, from Latin *cāsus ablātīvus* case of removal, once thought to be coined by Julius Caesar. The grammatical case that expresses direction from a place derives its application from Latin *ablātus* removed, past participle of *aufferre* carry away (*au-* away; see AB-¹ + *ferre* carry); for suffix see -IVE. 2 a substance that ablates. 1959, formed from English *ablate* + -ive.

able *adj.* Probably about 1375, borrowed from Old French *hable*, *able*, from Latin *habilis* easily managed or held, from *habēre* to have, hold.

-able a suffix freely forming adjectives from verbs, with a generally passive meaning "able, liable, fit, etc., to be _____ed" (as in *enjoyable* = able to be enjoyed, *breakable* = liable to be broken); in some older words it has an active meaning "able to _____" (as in *suitable* = able to suit); it is also used to form nouns meaning "giving or inclined to _____" (as in *pleasurable* = giving pleasure, *peaceable* = inclined to peace).

The suffix has only a superficial resemblance and no historical connection with the adjective *able*, the latter has affected productivity of the suffix in English in modern coinages as *jumpable*, *actionable*.

As a suffix *-able* came into the language in words from Old French, or directly from Latin *-abilis*. In Latin the suffix is *-bilis* (*-abilis* in adjectives derived from verbs with infinitives in *-āre* such as *amāre* to love: *amābilis* lovable); in other conjugations *-ibilis*, English *-ible*. On that account, there has been uncertainty between *-able* and *-ible*; probably compounded by use of *-able* in verbs of all conjugations in French.

In English *-able* is the spelling when added to native English words, *-ible* when the underlying verb is clearly derived from a Latin verb in *-ēre*, *-ere*, *-īre* such as *terrible* (Latin infinitive *terrēre*).

abnormal *adj.* Formed about 1835 from English *ab-* off + *normal*. Under the influence of Latin *abnormis* deviating from a rule (*ab-* off, away from + *norma* rule), *abnormal* outlived the now obsolete *anormal*, which came through French from Medieval Latin *anormalis* (Latin *ā-* away from + *normalis* NORMAL); for suffix see -AL¹. —**abnormality** *n.* 1854, formed from English *abnormal* + -ity.

abode *n.* Probably about 1200 *abad*; later *abod* (probably about 1300) a stay, delay, continuance (verbal noun with the same vowel alternation as the past tense of *abiden* to abide, developed from Old English *ābidan* ABIDE). The extended meaning "habitual residence, dwelling" appeared in 1576.

abolish *v.* 1459 *abolishen*, borrowed from Middle French *aboliss-*, stem of *abolir* to abolish, learned borrowing from Latin *abolēre* destroy, cause to die out, related to *abolēscere* die out (*ab-* off + *-olēscere*, as in *adolēscere* grow up; see ADOLESCENCE); for suffix see -ISH².

abolition *n.* 1529 borrowed through Middle French *abolition*, or directly from Latin *abolitiōnem* (nominative *abolitiō*), from *abolēre* destroy, ABOLISH; for suffix see -TION. —**abolitionist** *n.* 1788, formed from English *abolition* + -ist.

abominable *adj.* 1340, borrowed from Old French *abominable*, and from Late Latin *abōminābilis* (from the stem of Latin *abōminārī* deplore as an evil omen; see ABOMINATION); for suffix see -ABLE.

abomination *n.* About 1350, borrowed from Old French *abomination*, from Latin *abōminātiōnem* (nominative *abōminātiō*), from *abōminārī* deplore as an evil omen (*ab-* off, away from + *ōminārī* prophesy, foreboding, from *ōmin-*, stem of *ōmen*); for suffix see -TION. —**abominate** *v.* 1644, possibly a back formation from *abomination*, or borrowed from Latin *abōminātus*, past participle of *abōminārī*; for suffix see -ATE¹.

aborigines *n.pl.* 1547, borrowed from Latin *Aborīginēs* the first inhabitants, especially of Latium, possibly formed from the phrase *ab origine* from the beginning. The tendency to regard this word as a normal English plural produced the singular *aborigine* (1858) by back formation. This form replaced the singular use of *aboriginal*, which appeared in the late 1700's. *Aborīginēs* is a proper noun in early Latin histories, perhaps a tribal name altered by popular etymology. See ORIGIN.

abortive *adj.* Before 1382, borrowed from Latin *abortīvus* causing abortion, from *abortus*, past participle of *aborīrī* disappear, miscarry (*ab-* amiss + *orīrī* appear, be born, arise); for suffix see -IVE. —**abort** *v.* 1580, borrowed from Latin *abortāre*, from *abortus*, past participle of *aborīrī*. —**abortion** *n.* 1547, borrowed from Latin *abortiōnem* (nominative *abortiō*), from *abortus*, past participle of *aborīrī*; for suffix see -TION.

abound *v.* About 1325, borrowed from Old French *abunder*, learned borrowing from Latin *abundāre* to overflow (*ab-* off + *undāre* rise in waves, from *unda* a wave).

about *adv., prep.* Old English *abūtan* about 1000, developed from earlier (about 880) *onbūtan* (on on + *būtan* outside of, a compound of *bī*, be by + *ūtan* outside, from *ūt* out). In Old English *ymbe* and *ymbūtan* served the function of about, around, but *onbūtan* began to absorb their function as the original Old English words disappeared by the 1200's.

above *adv., prep.* Old English (about 896) *abuſan*, reduction of earlier *onbuſan* (on on + *buſan* over, a compound of *bī*, be by + *uſan* over, related to Old English *upp* UP). Our English, *uſan* is cognate with Old Saxon *oban(a)*, Old High German *oban(a)* (modern German *oben*), and Old Icelandic *ofan*, from Proto-Germanic **uſan-*, **uſan-*.

abrade *v.* 1677, borrowed from Latin *abrādere* (*ab-* off + *rādere* to scrape).

abrasion *n.* 1656, borrowed through French, or directly from Medieval Latin *abrasionem* (nominative *abrasio*) a scraping,

from Latin *abrāsus*, past participle of *abrādere* scrape off; see ABRASE; for suffix see -SION.

abridge *v.* About 1303 *abregen* curtail, lessen; borrowed from Old French *abregier* or *abreger*, from Late Latin *abbreviāre* make brief. For an explanation of -g- in French *abrégé* see ASSUAGE. The sense of make shorter, condense appeared about 1384. —**abridgment** *n.* 1494, borrowed from Old French *abrege-ment*, from *abreger*; for suffix see -MENT.

abrogate *v.* 1526, verb use of earlier *abrogate* archaic adjective and participle borrowed before 1464 as *abrogat* abolished, from Latin *abrogātus*, past participle of *abrogāre* (*ab-* away + *rogāre* propose a law, request); for suffix see -ATE¹. —**abrogation** *n.* 1535, borrowed from Latin *abrogātiōnem* (nominative *abrogātiō*), from *abrogāre*; for suffix see -TION.

abrupt *adj.* 1583, broken away, borrowed from Latin *abruptus*, past participle of *abrupere* break off (*ab-* off + *rupere* to break).

abs- + a prefix appearing instead of *ab-*¹ from, away from, before *c* or *t* in words of Latin or Latin and French origin, as in *abscond*, *abstract*, *abstain*.

abscess *n.* 1615, borrowed from Latin *abscessus* a going away; in medicine, a congestion, an abscess, from *abscessus*; (genitive *abscessūs*), from *abscess-*, stem of *abscedere* withdraw (*abs-* away, variant of *ab-* before *c* + *cedere* go).

abscond *v.* 1565, borrowed through Middle French *abscondre*, or directly from Latin *abscondere* hide, conceal (*abs-* away, variant of *ab-* before *c* + *condere* put together, store, from *con-* together + *-dere* put).

absence *n.* About 1380, borrowed from Old French *absence*, *ausence*, learned borrowing from Latin *absentia*, from *absentem* (nominative *absēns*), present participle of *abesse* be away; see ABSENT¹.

absent¹ *adj.* not present. About 1382, borrowed from Old French, learned borrowing from Latin *absentem* (nominative *absēns*), present participle of *abesse* be away (*ab-* away + *esse* be).

absent² *v.* keep away. Probably before 1400, borrowed from Middle French *absenter*, learned borrowing from Late Latin *absentāre* cause to be away, from Latin *absentem* (nominative *absēns*), present participle of *abesse* be away; see ABSENT¹. —**absentee** *n.* 1537, formed from English *absent* + *-ee*. —**absenteeism** *n.* 1829, formed from English *absentee* + *-ism*.

absinthe *n.* 1842, borrowed from French *absinthe*, learned borrowing from Latin *absinthium* the plant wormwood, from Greek *apsinthion*.

The sense of the plant appeared before 1500.

absolute *adj.* About 1380, borrowed from Latin *absolutus*, past participle of *absolvere* to set free, make separate or complete; see ABSOLVE.

absolution *n.* About 1200, *absolucion*, borrowed from Old French *absolution*, from Latin *absolutiōnem* (nominative *absolutiō*) completion, acquittal, from *absolū-*, stem of *absolvere*, see ABSOLVE; for suffix see -TION.

absolve *v.* Probably before 1425, borrowed from Latin *absolvere* to set free, acquit (*ab-* from + *solvere* loosen).

absorb *v.* Probably about 1425, borrowed from Middle French *absorber*, refashioned from Old French *assorbir*, after Latin *absorbere* swallow up (*ab-* from + *sorbere* suck in). —**absorbent** *adj.* 1718, borrowed from Latin *absorbentem* (nominative *absorbēns*), present participle of *absorbere*; for suffix see -ENT.

absorption *n.* 1597, borrowed from Latin *absorptiōnem* (nominative *absorptiō*) a sucking in, from *absorbere*; see ABSORB; for suffix see -TION.

abstain *v.* About 1380, Middle English *abstēnen*, *absteynen*, borrowed from Old French *abstenir*, learned borrowing from Latin *abstinere* withhold (*abs-* away, variant of *ab-* before *t* + *tenere* to hold).

abstention *n.* 1521, borrowed from Middle French *abstention*, from Late Latin *abstentiōnem* (nominative *abstentiō*), from Latin *absten-*, stem of *abstinere* withhold; see ABSTAIN; for suffix see -TION.

abstinence *n.* 1340, borrowed from Old French *abstinence*, *astinence*, from Latin *abstinentia*, from *abstinentem* (nominative *abstinēns*), present participle of *abstinere* withhold; see ABSTAIN; for suffix see -ENCE.

abstract *adj.* Before 1398, borrowed from Latin *abstractus*, past participle of *abstrahere* draw away (*abs-* away *trahere* to draw).

The noun *abstract* appeared before 1456, the verb in 1542, both from the adjective. —**abstraction** *n.* Before 1400, borrowed from Old French *abstraction*, from Latin *abstractiōnem* (nominative *abstractiō*), from *abstrac-*, stem of *abs-trahere*; for suffix see -TION.

The sense of an abstract idea appeared in 1644, a work of abstract art about 1915.

abstruse *adj.* 1599, borrowed through Middle French *abstrus*, or directly from Latin *abstrusus*, past participle of *abstrudere* conceal (*abs-* away + *trudere* to thrust, push).

absurd *adj.* 1557, borrowed from Middle French *absurde*, from Latin *absurdus* out of tune, senseless (*ab-*, amiss + *surdus* deaf, dull, mute). —**n. the absurd** 1954, from French *l'absurde* (in the philosophy of Albert Camus). —**absurdity** *n.* 1472, borrowed from Middle French *absurdité*, from Late Latin *absurditatem* (nominative *absurditās*), from Latin *absurdus*; for suffix see -ITY.

abundance *n.* 1340, Middle English *aboundance*, *aboundaunce*; borrowed from Old French *abundance*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *abundantia* fullness, plenty, from *abundantem* overflowing; see ABUNDANT; for suffix see -ANCE.

abundant *adj.* About 1380, *aboundaunt*, borrowed from Old French *abundant*, and directly as a learned borrowing from

Latin *abundantem* (nominative *abundāns*), present participle of *abundare* to overflow; for suffix see -ANT.

abuse *v.* Probably before 1425 *abusen*, borrowed from Middle French *abuser*, from Vulgar Latin **abūsāre*, from Latin *abūsus*, past participle of *abūtī* use up (*ab-* away + *ūtī* to use). —**n.** 1439 *abus*, borrowed from Middle French *abus*, from Latin *abūsus* (genitive *abūsūs*) a using up, from past participle of *abūtī*. —**abusive** *adj.* 1583, formed from English *abuse* + *-ive*.

abut *v.* Before 1250 *abuten* to end at, border on; a fusion of Old French *abouter* join end to end (*ā* to + *bout* end) with Old French *abuter* touch with an end (*ā* to + *but* end); see BUTT² target. —**abutment** *n.* 1644, formed from English *abut* + *-ment*.

abysmal *adj.* 1656, formed from English *abysm* + *-al*¹. Obsolete *abysm*, an abyss, is first recorded in English as *abime* before 1325 and as *abysm* in 1483. The earlier form was borrowed from Old French *abisme*, from Vulgar Latin **abismus*, an alteration of Late Latin *abyssus* ABYSS. The *m* in *abismus* was introduced by the influence of nouns ending in Latin *-ismus* -ism.

abyss *n.* 1534, borrowed from Late Latin *abyssus* as a learned substitute for *abysm* (see *abysmal*). Late Latin *abyssus* is from Greek *ábyssos* (*a-* without + *byssós* bottom, possibly related to Greek *báthos* depth).

ac- a form of the prefix *ad-*, meaning to, toward, before *c* and *q* in words of Latin or French origin, as in *accept*, *account*, *acquaint*.

acacia *n.* Before 1398 *acacia* a medicinal gum, borrowed from Latin *acacia*, from Greek *akakíā* a thorny Egyptian tree, probably related to Greek *aké* point.

academy *n.* 1474, borrowed from Latin *acadēmīa*, name of a park near Athens and of a school held in a grove of the park where Plato taught, from Greek *Akadēmeia*, the grove belonging to *Akadēmos*, a Greek hero of the Trojan War. The sense of any school or place for training came into English in the 1500's possibly through Middle French *académie*, from Italian *accademia*; or from New Latin *academia*, both ultimately from Latin *acadēmīa*. —**academic** *adj.* 1588, borrowed from Medieval Latin *academicus*; or from Middle French *académique*; for suffix see -IC.

acanthus *n.* 1667, borrowed from Latin *acanthus*, from Greek *ákanthos* (*aké* point, thorn + *ánthos* flower).

accede *v.* Probably before 1425 *acceden* become adapted, come near to; borrowed from Latin *accēdere* approach, enter upon (*ac-* to, variant of *ad-* before *c* + *cēdere* move, go).

accelerate *v.* 1525–30, perhaps modeled on Latin from Middle French *accélérer*, but more likely borrowed directly from Latin *accelerātus*, past participle of *accelerāre* quicken (*ac-* to, variant of *ad-* before *c* + *celerāre* quicken, from *celer* swift); for suffix see -ATE¹. —**acceleration** *n.* 1531, perhaps borrowed from Middle French *accélération*, but more likely from Latin *acceleratiōnem* (nominative *acceleratiō*), from *accelerāre*; for suffix see -TION. —**accelerator** *n.* 1611, formed from English *accelerate* + *-or*².

accent *n.* Before 1398, borrowed from Middle French *accent*, from Old French *acent*, from Latin *accentus* song added to speech (*ac-* to, variant of *ad-* before *c* + *cantus* (genitive *cantūs*) a singing, from *canere* sing; see CHANT).

Latin *accentus* was a loan translation of Greek *prosōidīā* PROSODY. —**v.** 1530, borrowed from Middle French *accenter*, from *accent* ACCENT *n.*

accentuate *v.* 1731, borrowed from Medieval Latin *accētuatus*, past participle of *accētuare* to accent, from Latin *accentus* ACCENT; for suffix see -ATE¹.

accept *v.* About 1380, borrowed from Latin *acceptāre* take or receive willingly, from *acceptus*, past participle of *accipere* receive (*ac-* to + *-cipere*, combining form of *capere* to take). Some scholars derive *accept* from Old French *accepter*, which may be a parallel borrowing from Latin. —**acceptable** *adj.* About 1384, borrowed from Old French *acceptable*, learned borrowing from Latin *acceptābilis* worthy of acceptance, from *acceptāre*; for suffix see -ABLE. —**acceptance** *n.* 1574, borrowed from Middle French *acceptance*, from *accepter*; for suffix see -ANCE.

access *n.* About 1300 *aces* an attack of fever; borrowed from Old French *aces* onslaught, attack, learned borrowing from Latin *accessus* (genitive *accessūs*) a coming to, an approach, from past participle of *accēdere* to approach.

The original meaning in Latin, approach, entrance, appeared in about 1384. —**v.** 1970, from the noun. —**accessible** *adj.* Before 1400, borrowed from Old French *accessible*, learned borrowing from Late Latin *accessibilem*, from Latin *accessum*, past participle of *accēdere*; for suffix see -IBLE. —**accession** *n.* 1646, borrowed from French *accession*, learned borrowing from Latin *accessiōnem* (nominative *accessiō*) a going to, joining, from *accēdere*; for suffix see -SION. —**accessory** *n.* 1414 *accessorie* an accessory to a crime; borrowed from Middle French *accessoire* accomplice, learned borrowing from Medieval Latin *accessorius* additional, from Latin *accessus* a coming to; for suffix see -ORY.

accident *n.* About 1380, borrowed from Old French *accident*, from Latin *accidentem* (nominative *accidēs*), present participle of *accidere* happen, fall out (*ac-* to + *-cidere*, combining form of *cadere* to fall); for suffix see -ENT. —**accidental** *adj.* 1386, borrowed from Middle French *accidental*, or directly from Medieval Latin *accidentalis*, from Latin *accidentem* (nominative *accidēs*); for suffix see -AL¹.

acclaim *v.* 1633, perhaps borrowed from Middle French *acclamer*, but more likely from Latin *acclamāre* shout approval or disapproval of (*ac-* toward + *clāmāre* cry out; see LOW², v.). The spelling was influenced by *claim*.

acclamation *n.* 1541, perhaps borrowed from Middle French *acclamation*, but more likely from Latin *acclamatiōnem* (nominative *acclamatiō*) shout of approval, from *acclamāre* ACCLAIM; for suffix see -TION.

acclimate *v.* 1792, borrowed from French *acclimater* (*ā* to, from Latin *ad-*) + (*climat* CLIMATE).

accolade *n.* 1623, a ceremony bestowing knighthood with an embrace or tap on the shoulder; borrowed from French

acolade an embracing about the neck. The modern French and English spellings are an alteration (after nouns in *-ade*) of Old French *acolée*, from *acoler* to embrace, from Vulgar Latin **acollāre* (Latin *ac-* to + *collum* neck). The meaning of praise or award appeared in the late 1800's.

accommodate *v.* 1525, as a participial adjective; later as a verb (1531); both forms probably borrowed from Latin *accommodatus*, past participle of *accommodare* fit one thing to another (*ac-* to + *commodare* make fit, from *commodus* fit; see *COMMODE*); for suffix see *-ATE*¹. —**accommodation** *n.* 1611, borrowed from French *accommodation*, from Latin *accommodatiōnem* (nominative *accommodatiō*), from *accommodare*; for suffix see *-TION*.

accompany *v.* 1426 *accompanien*, borrowed from Middle French *accompagner*, from Old French *acompaignier* take as a companion (*à* to + *compaignier* from *compain* companion).

accomplice *n.* 1589, perhaps arising from the phrase *a complice* in which the indefinite article was absorbed into the noun *complice* by assimilation as *accomplice* on analogy with *accomplice*, *accomplice*, etc. *Complice* a confederate, 1485, is borrowed from Middle French *complice*, learned borrowing from Late Latin *complicem*, accusative of *complex* partner, confederate, from Latin *complicare* fold together; see *COMPLICATE*.

accomplish *v.* About 1380 *accomplishen*, borrowed from Old French *acomplir*-, stem of *acomplir* to fulfill, from Vulgar Latin **accomplere* (Latin *ac-* to + *complere* fill up); for suffix see *-ISH*². —**accomplishment** *n.* About 1425, Middle English *accomplishment*, borrowed from Old French *acomplissement*; for suffix see *-MENT*.

accord *v.* Before 1121 *acorden*, borrowed from Old French *acorder*, from Vulgar Latin **accordare* make agree, be of one heart (Latin *ac-* to + *cor*, *cordis* HEART). The Vulgar Latin form **accordare* was patterned on Latin *discordare* to disagree and *concordare* to agree. The spelling *acorden* became fixed in the 1400's.

The noun *accord* came into English about 1300, borrowed from Old French *acord*, from *acorder* *v.*

accordion *n.* 1831, borrowed from earlier German *Akkordion*, from *Akkord* concord of sounds, from French *accord*, from Old French *acord* ACCORD. The instrument was invented in 1829 in Vienna.

accost *v.* 1578, borrowed from Middle French *accoster* move up to, from Late Latin *accostare* come up to the side (Latin *ac-* to + *costa* side, rib; see *COAST*).

account *n.* About 1300 *account*, *acunt*, borrowed from Old French *acont*, *acunt*, and later (in imitation of Latin) *acompt* account (*à* to + *count* count, from Late Latin *computus* a calculation, from Latin *computare* calculate, *COMPUTE*). —**v.** About 1300, Middle English *acounten*, *acunten*, borrowed from Old French *aconter*, *acunter* to count (*à* to + *conter*, *cunter*, from Latin *computare* *COMPUTE*). —**accountable** *adj.* Probably before 1387, formed in Anglo-French from *acounte* (Old French *aconte*); for suffix see *-ABLE*. —**accountant** *n.* 1453, borrowed

from Old French *aconter*, *acunter*, present participle of *aconter*, *acunter* to count; for suffix see *-ANT*.

accouter or **accoutre** *v.* 1596, borrowed from Middle French *accoustrer*, *accouter*, from Old French *acostrer* arrange (originally sew up), from Vulgar Latin **accosturare* to arrange, sew, from **cōstūra*, **cōsūtūra* a sewing; see *COUTURIER*. —**accouterment** or **accoutrement** *n.* 1549, borrowed from Middle French *accoustrément*, from *accoustrer*; for suffix see *-MENT*.

accredit *v.* 1620, borrowed from French *accréditer* (*à* to + *crédit* credit, from Middle French; see *CREDIT*). —**accreditation** *n.* 1806, formed possibly from obsolete English (1654) *accredit* + *-ion*.

accretion *n.* 1615, borrowed from Latin *accrētiōnem* (nominative *accrētiō*) a growing larger, from *accrētum*, stem of *accrēscere* grow larger, see *ACCRUE*; for suffix see *-TION*.

accrue *v.* 1440 *acreuen*, borrowed from Old French *acreüe* growth, increase, from *acreü*, past participle of *acreistre* to increase, from Latin *accrēscere* (*ac-* to + *crēscere* grow). *Accrue* was said to be from the obsolete noun *accrue*, but the first citations of noun use appear more than 135 years later in 1577. —**accrual** *n.* 1880, formed from English *accrue* + *-al*².

accumulate *v.* 1529, borrowed from Latin *accumulatus*, past participle of *accumulare* heap up in a mass (*ac-* in addition + *cumulare* heap up, from *cumulus* a heap; see *CUMULATE*); for suffix see *-ATE*¹. —**accumulation** *n.* 1490, perhaps borrowed from Middle French *accumulation*, or more likely from Latin *accumulatiōnem* (nominative *accumulatiō*), from *accumulare*; for suffix see *-TION*.

accurate *adj.* 1612, borrowed from Latin *accūrātus* prepared with care, exact, past participle of *accūrāre* take care of (*ac-* to + *cūrāre* take care; see *CURE*); for suffix see *-ATE*¹. —**accuracy** *n.* 1662, formed from English *accurate* + *-acy*.

accusative *adj.* About 1434, borrowed through Anglo-French *accusatif*, *accusative*, corresponding to Old French *acusatif*, or borrowed directly from Latin *cāsus accūsātīvus* case of accusing, from *accūsātus*, past participle of *accūsāre* ACCUSE; for suffix see *-IVE*.

The Latin *cāsus accūsātīvus* arose out of a mistranslation of Greek *ptōsis aitiātikē* case of that which is caused or effected, because of the coexistence of Greek *aitiāsthai* accuse.

accuse *v.* About 1300 *acusen*, borrowed through Old French *acuser*, or directly from Latin *accūsāre* (*ac-* against + *causari* give as a cause or motive, from *causa* reason, *CAUSE*). In the late 1300's the English form with the prefix *a-* was refashioned to *ac-* after the Latin. —**accusation** *n.* Before 1387, borrowed through Old French *accusation*, or directly from Latin *accūsatiōnem* (nominative *accūsatiō*), from *accūsāre* ACCUSE; for suffix see *-TION*.

accustom *v.* 1422 *acustumen*, borrowed from Middle French *acostumer* (*à* to + *costume* *CUSTOM*). In the 1400's forms with the prefix *a-* were refashioned to *ac-* in conformity with Latin spelling.

ace *n.* Before 1250 *as* (about 1450 *ace*); borrowed from Old French *as*, from Latin *as* (genitive *assis*) a unit, as of coinage or measure, possibly borrowed from Etruscan. The *as* (plural *asses*) was the ancient Roman pound.

The meaning “best or highest” developed in English in the 1700’s from card games in which the ace is the most valuable. *Ace*, a crack combat pilot, appeared in World War I and in sports, “to score” in the 1920’s. *Ace* as a verb, in “ace out” appeared about 1970.

—**aceous** an adjective suffix, borrowed from Latin *-āceus*, and meaning of or like, having the appearance of, as in *arenaceous* looking like or composed of sand (Latin *arēna* sand), and *tuffaceous* like tuff.

—*Aceous* is used in botany in adjectives relating to families of plants as in *liliaceae* relating to New Latin *Liliaceae*, the lily family. In zoology *-aceous* is used in adjectives relating to classes or orders of animals, as in *cetaceous* relating to the order *Cetacea*, including the whales and related animals.

acerbity *n.* 1572, borrowed from Middle French *acerbité*, from Latin *acerbitatem* (nominative *acerbitās*) bitterness, from *acerbus* bitter, related to *acer* sharp; for suffix see *-ITY*. —**acerbic** *adj.* 1865, formed in English from Latin *acerbus* + the English suffix *-ic*.

acetic *adj.* 1808, borrowed from French *acétique*, or formed in English from Latin *acētum* vinegar (originally past participle of *acēre* be sour; related to *acer* sharp) + the English suffix *-ic*.

ache *v.* Old English (about 1000) *acan*, spelled in Middle English *ake* or *aken* and pronounced with *k*, as in *make*; cognate with Low German *āken* to hurt, from Proto-Germanic **akanan* *n.* Old English (before 899) *æce*, spelled in Middle English *ache*, *eche* and pronounced with *ch*, as in *match*. Old English *ææce*, is from Proto-Germanic **akiz*.

The present identical spelling and pronunciation of verb and noun became widespread in the 1700’s.

achieve *v.* About 1300 *acheven*, borrowed from Old French *achever* finish, from the phrase *à chef* at an end, or perhaps from Vulgar Latin **accapāre* bring to a head, either form from Latin *ad* to + Vulgar Latin **capum*, from Latin *caput* HEAD. The spelling *achieve* was influenced by Old French variant *achiever* as well as *chief*, older form of *chef*. —**achievement** *n.* 1475, borrowed from Middle French *achèvement*, from Old French *achever*; for suffix see *-MENT*.

acid *adj.* 1626, probably borrowed through French *acide*, a learned borrowing from Latin; or borrowed directly from Latin *acidus* sour, from *acēre* be sour, related to *acer* sharp. —**n.** 1696, noun use of *acid*, *adj.* —**acidity** *n.* 1620, probably borrowed through French *acidité*, a learned borrowing from Latin; or borrowed directly from Late Latin *aciditatem* (nominative *aciditās*), from Latin *acidus*; for suffix see *-ITY*.

acknowledge *v.* 1481, *acknowlechen*, formed from a blend of *acknow* admit + *knowlechen* admit, from *knowleche*, *n.*, KNOWLEDGE. *Acknow* developed from Old English *oncnāwan*, a compound of *on* and *cnāwan* recognize, see *KNOW*. —**acknowledgment** *n.* 1594, formed from English *acknowledge* + *-ment*.

acme *n.* 1620, borrowed from Greek *akmé* (highest) point, related to *aké* point.

acne *n.* 1835, New Latin, borrowed from Late Greek *akné*, misspelling (in the 6th century author Aëtius) of Greek *akmé* (highest) point; see *ACME*.

acolyte *n.* About 1300, borrowed through Old French *acolyte*, or directly from Medieval Latin *acolytus*, alteration of Late Latin *acolūthos*, from Medieval Greek *akólouthos* following, attendant, from Greek *akólouthos* following, attending on.

acorn *n.* Old English (about 1000) *æcern*, in Middle English *akern*, *akkorn*, *accorn*, *acorn*. The original meaning in Old English was fruit of the field, mast of the oak, beech, etc., with cognates in Old High German *ackern*, pl., Old Icelandic *akarn*, and Gothic *akran* fruit. In the 1400’s and 1500’s, the Middle English forms *akorn*, *akkorn*, etc., were popularly taken to be a compound of *ake* oak (Old English *āc*) and *corn* kernel; hence the modern spelling *acorn*.

acoustic *adj.* 1605, borrowed from French *acoustique*, from Greek *akoustikós*, from *akoustós* heard, audible, from *akouéin* HEAR; for suffix see *-IC*.

acquaint *v.* Probably before 1200, *aqueyntien*, *acointen*, borrowed from Old French *acointer*, *acointier*, from Vulgar Latin **accognitāre* make known, from Latin *accognitus*, past participle of *accognōscere* know well (*ac-* to + *cognōscere* come to know). —**acquaintance** *n.* Probably before 1200 *aqueyntance*, *acointance*, borrowed from Old French *acointance*, from *acointer*; for suffix see *-ANCE*.

acquiesce *v.* 1620, borrowed from French *acquiescer*, from Latin *acquiescere* remain at rest, be satisfied with (*ac-* to + *quiescere* become quiet, rest). —**acquiescence** *n.* About 1631, borrowed from French *acquiescence*, from *acquiescer*; for suffix see *-ENCE*. —**acquiescent** *adj.* 1697, borrowed from Latin *acquiescentem* (nominative *acquiescēns*), present participle of *acquiescere*; for suffix see *-ENT*.

acquire *v.* 1601, borrowed from Latin *acquirere* get in addition (*ac-* to + *querere* seek; related to *QUERY*). Latin *acquirere* shows the “weakening” of *querere* to *-quirere* in derivatives, in early Latin. Connection with *querere* was restored in Vulgar Latin **acquācere*, yielding Old French *acquere*, borrowed in Middle English *acqueren* (1450) but later replaced by *acquire* to restore the literary Latin form.

acquisition *n.* Before 1400, borrowed through Old French *acquisition*, or directly from Latin *acquisitionem* (nominative *acquisitiō*), from *acquisi-*, stem of *acquirere* get in addition; for suffix see *-TION*. —**acquisitive** *adj.* 1637, formed from Latin *acquisitus*, past participle of *acquirere* + English suffix *-ive*.

acquit *v.* Probably before 1200, *acviten*, *aquiten* settle a claim or debt, borrowed from Old French *acquitter* settle a claim (*à* to + *quite* free, clear; see *QUIT*). Middle English *aquiten* was replaced by *acquit* in imitation of Latin with the prefix *ac-*.

The meaning clear of a charge appeared about 1390. —**acquittal** *n.* 1430, probably formed from English *acquit* + *-al*².

acre *n.* Old English (about 975) *æcer* tilled field, a measure of land, from which *acer*, *aker* developed in Middle English before 1124. Under the influence of Old French *acre* and Medieval Latin *acra* (both from Old English *æcer*), the spellings *acer*, *aker* were changed to *acre*.

Old English *æcer* is cognate with Old High German *achar*, Old Icelandic *akr*, Gothic *akrs*, from Proto-Germanic **akraz*, —all in the sense of field or earlier a pasture and originally a wild area, untenanted and open. —**acreage** *n.* 1859, formed from English *acre* + *-age*.

acrid *adj.* 1712, borrowed from Latin *ācer*, *ācris* sharp, related to Greek *akrē* point. The suffixal ending *-id* was probably added by influence of earlier *acid*.

acrimony *n.* 1542, pungency of taste; borrowed through Middle French *acrimonie*, or directly from Latin *ācrimōnia*, from *ācer*, *ācris* sharp + *-mōnia* suffix signifying action, state, condition; see **ACRID**. The current English meaning appeared in 1618.

acrobat *n.* 1825, borrowed from French *acrobate*, from Greek *akrobátēs*, related to *akróbatos* going on tiptoe, climbing up high (*ákros* tip, high point + *-batós*, from *balainein* go).

acronym *n.* 1943, coined from *acro-* combining form from Greek *ákros* tip, end + English *-onym* name, as in **SYNONYM**.

acropolis *n.* 1662, borrowed from Greek *akrópolis* (*ákros* highest, upper + *pólis* city).

acrostic *n.* 1587, borrowed through Middle French *acrostiche*, or directly from Medieval Latin *acrostichis*, from Greek *akrostichis* (*ákros* highest, upper + *stíchos* row, line of verse).

across *adv.* About 1325 *acros* from one side to another; earlier *a-croiz* in a crossed position (about 1300), and *o cros* in the shape of a cross (probably before 1200); all alterations of Anglo-French phrase *an cros* (*an* in, from Latin *in* + *cros* **CROSS**). —**prep.** from side to side of, over. 1591, from the adverb.

acrylic *adj.* 1855, formed from English *acryl* + *-ic* a suffix meaning containing. *Acryl*, denoting allyl derived from garlic and onion, was abstracted from *acrolein* (Latin *ācer*, *ācris* sharp + *olēre* to smell + English *-yl*). —**n.** 1960, from the adjective.

act *n.* About 1380, borrowed, perhaps in a legal sense, from Old French *acte*, from Latin *āctus* a doing, and *āctum* a thing done, both from *agere* do, set in motion, drive, cognate with Greek *ágein* lead, draw. —**v.** About 1460, probably in part influenced by the noun already used in English and Latin *āctus*, past participle of *agere* to do.

actinium *n.* 1881, New Latin, formed from Greek *aktís* (genitive *aktínos*) ray + New Latin *-ium*. The element was originally thought to occur in zinc, and because of a peculiar action of light upon its salts the Greek word for ray of light was used to form the new name.

action *n.* Before 1338, borrowed from Old French *action*, learned borrowing from Latin *actiōnem* (nominative *actiō*), from stem of *agere* ACT; for suffix see **-TION**. —**actionable** *adj.* 1591, formed from English *action* + *-able*.

active *adj.* 1340, borrowed through Old French *actif*, *active*, or borrowed directly from Latin *āctīvus*, from *āctus* ACT; for suffix see **-IVE**. —**activate** *v.* 1626, probably formed from English *active* + *-ate*¹. —**activity** *n.* Probably before 1400, borrowed from Old French *activité*, from Medieval Latin *activitatem* (nominative *activitas*), from Latin *āctīvus* active; for suffix see **-ITY**.

actor *n.* About 1384 *actour*, borrowed from Latin *āctor* an agent or doer, from stem of *agere* ACT; for suffix see **-OR**². The sense of one who acts in plays was first used in 1581 and was applied to both men and women.

actual *adj.* Before 1333 *actual*, *actuel*, borrowed from Old French *actuel* and (before 1398) from Late Latin *actuālis* active, from Latin *āctus* (genitive *āctūs*) a doing, see ACT; for suffix see **-AL**¹. —**actuality** *n.* Before 1398 *actualite*, perhaps borrowed from an Old French form, but traditionally recorded as a borrowing from Medieval Latin *actualitatem* (nominative *actualitas*), from Late Latin *actuālis*; for suffix see **-ITY**. —**actually** *adv.* Probably before 1425 *actualli*, formed from English *actual* + *-ly*¹.

actuary *n.* 1553, a registrar or clerk, borrowed from Latin *actuārius* copyist, account keeper, from *āctus* public business, see ACT; for suffix see **-ARY**. In the current sense the word was first used in 1849. —**actuarial** *adj.* 1869, formed from English *actuary* + *-al*¹.

actuate *v.* 1596, borrowed from Medieval Latin *actuatus*, past participle of *actuare*, from Latin *āctus* a doing, see ACT; for suffix see **-ATE**¹.

acuity *n.* Probably before 1425 *acuite*, borrowed through Middle French *acuité*, or directly from Medieval Latin *acuitatem* (nominative *acuitas*) sharpness, from Old French *agüeté*, from *agu* sharp, from Latin *acūtus* ACUTE; for suffix see **-ITY**.

acumen *n.* 1531, borrowed from Latin *acūmen* sharpness, shrewdness, from *acuere* sharpen; see ACUTE.

acupuncture *n.* 1684, formed from Latin *acus* needle + English *puncture*; see ACUTE. —**v.** 1972, from the noun. —**acupuncturist** *n.* 1952, formed from English *acupuncture* + *-ist*.

acute *adj.* Before 1398, describing a brief and severe disease, fever, etc., as opposed to a chronic condition, borrowed from Latin *acūtus* sharp-pointed, past participle of *acuere* sharpen to a point, related to *acus* needle.

Later *acute* began to develop figurative and other extended meanings: sharp, pointed (1570); penetrating, sharp-witted (1588); intense, sharply felt (1727).

-acy a suffix forming abstract nouns with a general meaning of quality, state, or condition (such as *accuracy*, *intricacy*, *lunacy*) or of activity or function (such as *advocacy*, *candidacy*). It often takes the place of *-ate* or other suffix in the noun or adjective from which it is formed (*accuracy* from *accurate*, *lunacy* from *lunatic*); occasionally it is simply added to the other word (as in *supremacy*, from *supreme*).

The suffix *-acy* is one of the special forms of the suffix *-cy*. The form in Middle English was *-cie*; it entered English in

words borrowed from Old or Middle French words in *-acie* or *-atie*, or directly from Latin words in *-ācia* or *-ātia*.

ad *n.* 1841, shortening of *advertisement*.

ad- a prefix that entered English as a component of many words taken from Latin (directly or through French); it has some use in forming words in English.

Latin *ad-* is a special use of the preposition *ad* to, toward, cognate with English *at*, Old English *æt*, Gothic *at*, Proto-Germanic **at-*. As a prefix to verbs it adds a meaning of direction toward, addition, or the like. When prefixed to words beginning with certain consonants, it changes form by assimilation of the *d* to the following consonant: *ad-* becomes *ab-* before *b*: *abbreviate*; *ac-* before *c*, *q*: *accede*, *acquaint*; *af-* before *f*: *affix*; *ag-* before *g*: *agglutinate*; *al-* before *l*: *ally*; *an-* before *n*: *annul*; *ap-* before *p*: *apprehend*; *ar-* before *r*: *arrogant*; *as-* before *s*: *assist*; *a-* before *sc*, *sp*, *st*: *ascribe*, *aspire*, *astrigent*; *at-* before *t*: *attract*.

The prefix *ad-* was transformed to *a-* in Old French, and so appears in words that entered Middle English through Old French. In the 15th century many of these words were respelled with the *ad-* to restore the connection with Latin. When the process went too far, as in *advance*, English acquired a *d* that had no historical justification.

In English, *ad-* is sometimes employed in adjective formations in its ancient prepositional sense, as in *adrenal* at (above) the kidneys.

adage *n.* 1548, borrowed from Middle French *adage*, learned borrowing from Latin *adagium* (*ad-* to, and root *ag-*, related to *aiō* I say).

adamant *adj.* 1677, extended from the earlier meaning extremely hard; unbreakable, before 1387.

The adjective derived from *adamant*, *n.*, 1345, a hard rock or mineral, which came from a confusion of meaning: either very hard (diamond) or magnetic (loadstone), recorded as early as 885; borrowed from Old French *adamant* the hardest stone, from Latin *adamantem*, accusative of *adamās*, from Greek *adámās* (genitive *adámantos*) the hardest metal, (later) diamond (perhaps from *a-* not + *damnánai* conquer; see *TAME*; but very possibly of foreign origin).

adapt *v.* Probably before 1425 (as past participle *adapted* meaning "fitted"); borrowed from Middle French *adapter*, from Latin *adaptāre* adjust (*ad-* to + *aptāre* join, from *aptus* fitted, joined, *APT*). —**adaptable** *adj.* 1800, formed from English *adapt* + *-able*. —**adaptation** *n.* 1610, borrowed from Medieval Latin *adaptationem* (nominative *adaptatio*), from Latin *adaptāre*; for suffix see *-ATION*.

add *v.* About 1380 *adden*, borrowed from Latin *addere* add to, join (*ad-* to + *-dere*, combining form meaning to put, place; see *DO*¹ perform).

adder *n.* The Old English form (about 950) was *nædre*, with cognates in Old Saxon *nādara*, Old High German *nātra*, *nātara* (modern German *Natter*), from Proto-West-Germanic **nædrō*, and Old Icelandic *nadhr*, Gothic *nadrs*, from Proto-North-Germanic **nadrás*, all in the sense of a snake.

During the period about 1300–1400 the initial *n* was lost by misdivision of a *nadder* as an *adder*. Compare *APRON* for a similar instance of misdivision.

addict *v.* 1534, borrowed from Latin *addictus*, past participle of *addicere* deliver, yield, devote (*ad-* to + *dīcere* say, declare). —**n. About 1909, noun use of *addict*, *v.* —**addiction** *n.* 1641, borrowed from Latin *addictionem* (nominative *addictiō*), from *addic-*, stem of *addicere*; for suffix see *-ION*.**

addition *n.* Before 1388, borrowed from Old French, learned borrowing from Latin *additionem* (nominative *additiō*), from *addi-*, stem of *addere* ADD; for suffix see *-TION*. —**additive** *adj.* 1699, borrowed from Latin *additivus*, from *addi-*, stem of *addere*; for suffix see *-IVE*. —**n.** 1945, noun use of *additive*, *adj.*

addle *adj.* About 1250, rotten (eggs), an attributive use of Old English *adela* mud, mire, liquid filth (about 1000), cognate with Middle Dutch *adel* liquid manure and Old Swedish *-adel* urine, of unknown origin.

The phrase *adel eye* rotten egg is a translation of Medieval Latin *ovum urinae* egg of urine or putrid liquid, an erroneous rendering of Latin *ovum ūrinum*, Greek *ourinon oion* wind egg (an addle egg, supposed to be caused by impregnation by the wind). By the end of the 1500's the usage extended to confused, muddled, on analogy with the condition of an addle egg, and at the same time the adjective use in *addle brain*, *addle pate* was evinced. —**v.** (at first as *addled*), 1646, from the adjective.

address *v.* Before 1325 *adresen* to guide, direct; borrowed from Old French *adresser* (earlier *adrecier*), from Vulgar Latin **addrēctiāre* make straight (Latin *ad-* to) + (**drēctiāre* straighten, from Latin *drēctus* straight, *DIRECT*). The present spelling with *-dd-* is a refashioning of the prefix *a-* into *ad-* in English, after the Latin form. —**n.** 1539, noun use of *address*, *v.* The sense of direction written on a letter appeared in 1712.

adduce *v.* Probably before 1425, borrowed from Latin *adducere* lead to, bring to (*ad-* to + *dūcere* to lead).

-ade suffix meaning an act or process (as in *blockade*), a product or result (as in *lemonade*), or a person or thing acting (as in *cavalcade*). Borrowed from French *-ade*, from Latin *-āta*, originally the feminine of the past participle *-ātus*.

adenine *n.* 1885, borrowed from German *Adenin*, from Greek *adēn* (genitive *adēnos*) gland, because it was first isolated from the pancreatic gland of an ox.

adenoid *adj.* 1839, borrowed from Greek *adenoidēs* (*adēn*, genitive *adēnos*, gland + *eidōs* form). —**adenoids** *n.* pl. glandlike tissues in the upper part of the throat. 1891, from the adjective.

adept *adj.* Before 1691, borrowed from Latin *adeptus*, past participle of *adipiscī* to attain to, acquire (*ad-* to + *apiscī* grasp, obtain, related to *aptus* fitted, *apt*).

adequate *adj.* Before 1617, borrowed from Latin *adaequātus*, past participle of *adaequāre* equalize (*ad-* to + *aequāre* make level, from *aequus* *EQUAL*); for suffix see *-ATE*¹.

adherent *n.* 1425, borrowed from Middle French *adhérent*, or directly from Latin *adhaerentem* (nominative *adhaerēns*), present participle of *adhaerere* stick to (*ad-* to + *haerere* stick, cling); for suffix see -ENT. —**adhere** *v.* 1597, borrowed from Middle French *adhérer*, or directly from Latin *adhaerere*.

adhesion *n.* 1624, borrowed from French *adhésion*, or directly from Latin *adhaesiōnem* (nominative *adhaesiō*) an adhering, from *adhaes-*, stem of *adhaerere* ADHERE; for suffix see -ION.

adieu *interj., n.* About 1385 *adew*, borrowed from Old French *adieu*, earlier *a dieu* (*vous*) commend I commend (you) to God (*a* to, from Latin *ad* + *dieu* God, from Latin *deum*, accusative of *deus*). Compare ADIOS.

adios *interj.* 1837, American English; borrowing of Spanish *adiós*, earlier *a dios*, in *a dios vos acomiendo* I commend you to God (*a* to, from Latin *ad* + *dios* God, from Latin *deus*).

adipose *adj.* 1743, borrowed from New Latin *adiposus*, perhaps also influenced by French *adipeux*, *adipeuse*, both New Latin and French from Latin *adeps* (genitive *adipis*) fat of animals, from Greek *áleipha* unguent, fat.

adjacent *adj.* Before 1420, borrowed from Latin *adjacentem* (nominative *adjacēns*), present participle of *adjacere* lie near (*ad-* near + *jacere* lie, rest, related to *jacere* to throw).

adjective *n.* Probably before 1387, borrowed through Old French *adjectif* (feminine *adjective*), from Latin *adjectivum*; see *adj.* below. —**adj.** Before 1398, in the phrase *noun adjective*, borrowed as a translation of Late Latin *nōmen adjectivum*, from Latin *adjectivum*, neuter of *adjectivus* added, from *adjectus*, past participle of *adiciere* add to (*ad-* + *-icere*, combining form of *jacere* to throw); for suffix see -IVE.

It was not until the Middle Ages that the categories of noun and adjective were clearly separated.

adjoin *v.* About 1303 *ajoinen*, borrowed from Old French *ajoin-*, stem of *ajoindre*, from Latin *adjungere* join to (*ad-* to + *ungere* join; see YOKE), refashioned in the 1400's to *adjoinen* in imitation of the Latin form.

adjourn *v.* Before 1338 *ajornen* assign a day, especially a day to appear in court; borrowed from Old French *ajorner*, from the phrase *a jor* to a stated day, (*a-* to + *jorn* day, from Latin *diurnum*, neuter of *diurnus* daily).

The English spelling with *ad-* was influenced by Middle French *ajorner*.

The sense of to put off until a later time appeared in 1427. —**adjournment** *n.* 1444, borrowed from Middle French *ajournement*, from Old French *ajornement* from *ajorner*; for suffix see -MENT.

adjudge *v.* About 1380, Middle English *ajuggen*, *adjuggen*, borrowed from Old French *ajugier*, from Latin *adjudicāre* adjudicate.

adjudicate *v.* 1700, borrowed from Latin *adjudicātus*, past participle of *adjudicāre* grant or award as a judge (*ad-* to + *jūdicāre* to JUDGE); for suffix see -ATE¹. —**adjudication** *n.* 1691, borrowed from French *adjudication*, or directly from Late

Latin *adjudicātiōnem* (nominative *adjudicātiō*), from Latin *adjudicāre*; for suffix see -TION.

adjunct *n.* 1588, borrowed from Latin *adjūctus*, past participle of *adjungere* join to; see ADJOIN. —**adj.** 1595, joined to another, subordinate; adjective use of *adjunct*, *n.* The title *adjunct professor* appeared in 1826 in American English.

adjure *v.* 1382 *adjuren* put to an oath; borrowed from Latin *adjūrāre* confirm by oath, (later) put to an oath (*ad-* to + *jūrāre* swear). —**adjuration** *n.* About 1390, borrowed from Late Latin *adjūrātiōnem* (nominative *adjūrātiō*) from Latin *adjūrāre*; for suffix see -TION.

adjust *v.* About 1380 *ajusten*, borrowed from Old French *ajoster*, *ajuster*, from Vulgar Latin **adjuxtāre* to set beside, add (Latin *ad-* to + *juxtā* next, related to *ungere* join). Before 1611, *adjust* was reborrowed from Middle French *ajuster* (modern *ajuster*), where it had already been refashioned as if from Latin *jūstus* right. —**adjustment** *n.* 1644, formed from English *adjust* + *-ment*.

adjutant *n.* 1600, army officer assisting a superior officer; borrowed from Latin *adjūtāntem* (nominative *adjūtāns*), present participle of *adjūtāre* to help; for suffix see -ANT.

adlib *v.* 1919, formed from (1811) abbreviation of AD LIBITUM. —*n.* 1925, noun use of *adlib*, *v.*

ad libitum *Music.* 1610, New Latin *ad libitum* at one's pleasure, from Latin *ad* at, and New Latin *libitum* pleasure, from Latin *libere* to please.

administer *v.* About 1380 *amyynis-tren*, *administren*, borrowed from Old French *aministrer*, *administrer*, from Latin *ministrāre* serve, manage (*ad-* to + *ministrāre* serve, MINISTER). —**administrate** *v.* 1651, possibly a back formation of *administration* or borrowed from Latin *administrātus*, past participle of *ministrāre*; for suffix see -ATE¹. Modern use of *administrate*, confined chiefly to the U.S. and Canada, is almost certainly a back formation from *administration*. —**administration** *n.* About 1333, borrowed from Latin *administrātiōnem* (nominative *administrātiō*), from *ministrāre*; for suffix see -TION. —**administrator** *n.* 1434, borrowed through Middle French *administrateur*, or directly from Latin *ministrātor* manager, servant, from *ministrāre*; for suffix see -OR².

admirable *adj.* About 1450, borrowed from Latin *ad-mīrābilis*, from *admīrārī* ADMIRE; for suffix see -ABLE.

admiral *n.* 1297 *amiral*, borrowed from Old French, said to come from Arabic *āmīr-al-* chief of the _____ (in titles) and misinterpreted by Christian writers to be a word with the ending *-al*². Later scholars have suggested the source in Arabic is more likely through cultural contact to be *āmīr-ar-rahl* chief of the transport, referring to the fleet plying between North Africa and Andalusia.

The spelling *admiral* with *d*, in the sense of a Muslim emir or prince, came into Middle English before 1200 borrowed from Medieval Latin *admiralis*; influenced by Latin *ad-mīrābilis* ADMIRABLE, alteration of *aminalis*, borrowed through Old French *amiral*, or borrowed directly from Arabic. See AMIR,

EMIR. —**admiralty** *n.* 1419 *Admiralte, Amiralte*, borrowed from Middle French *amiralte*, from Old French *amiral* *admiral*; for suffix see -TY².

admiration *n.* About 1425 *admiracioun*, borrowed through Middle French *admiration* and Old French, or directly from Latin *admirātiōnem* (nominative *admirātiō*), from *admirārī* ADMIRE; for suffix see -TION. —**admire** *v.* About 1579, borrowed through Middle French *admirer* and Old French *amirer*, or perhaps directly from Latin *admirārī* wonder at (*ad-* at + *mīrārī* wonder, from *mīrus* wonderful; see MIRACLE).

admissible *adj.* 1611, borrowed from Middle French *admissible*, from Latin *admissus* (past participle of *admittere* ADMIT); for suffix see -IBLE.

admission *n.* About 1430, borrowed from Latin *admissiōnem* (nominative *admissiō*), from *admiss-*, stem of *admittere* ADMIT; for suffix see -ION.

admit *v.* Before 1387 *admitten*, borrowed from Latin *admittere* (*ad-* to + *mittere* let go, send; see MISSION).

From a phonetic standpoint transmission from French does not seem likely, because Old French forms have *e* (*ametre, amette, admettre*) rather than *i*.

admixture *n.* 1605, borrowed from Latin *admixtus*, past participle of *admiscere* (*ad-* in addition + *miscere* MIX); for suffix see -URE.

admonish *v.* 1340 *amonesten*, from Old French *amonester*, from Vulgar Latin **admonestare*, alteration of Latin *admonere* advise, remind (*ad-* to + *monere* advise, warn).

The ending -ish developed because the -t in *amonesten* was thought to be the past participial ending that would produce the stem *amoness-*, from the pattern of English verbs like *abolish* (from Middle French *aboliss-*); the form *amonesh*, later *admonish*, was constructed by imitation.

Sometime later the prefix *a-* was replaced by *ad-* after the Latin form.

admonition *n.* About 1380 *amonicioun*, borrowed from Old French *amonicion*, from Latin *admonitiōnem* (nominative *admonitiō*) from *admonere* advise, see ADMONISH; for suffix see -TION. The original Middle English form was fully replaced in the 1600's by *admonition* after the Latin.

ado *n.* About 1380, contraction of *at do*, recorded about 1280 as a Northern dialectal form of *to do*, possibly influenced by Old Icelandic, in which *at* was used with the infinitive form of the verb, the way *to* is used in English.

adobe *n.* 1739, American English, borrowing of Spanish *adobe*, from Arabic (oral form) *at-tōb*, (written form) *at-tūb* the brick (*al-* the + *tūb* brick).

adolescence *n.* Probably before 1425, borrowed from Middle French *adolescence*, from Latin *adolēscētia*, from *adolēscēntem* (nominative *adolēscēns*), present participle of *adolēscere* grow up (*ad-* to + *-olēscere* grow up, derived from *-olēre*, related to *alere* nourish); for suffix see -ENCE. —**adolescent** *n.* 1459, borrowed through Middle French *adolescent*, or directly from Latin *adolēscēntem*.

adoption *n.* 1340 *adopcioun*, borrowed through Old French *adoption*, or directly from Latin *adoptiōnem* (nominative *adoptiō*), from *adopt-*, stem of *adoptare* choose for oneself (*ad-* to + *optare* choose, wish); for suffix see -TION. —**adopt** *v.* Before 1500, perhaps a back formation of English *adoption*, traditionally considered a borrowing through Middle French *adop-*, or directly from Latin *adoptare*.

adore *v.* About 1375 *adouren, aouren*, borrowed from Old French *adourer, adorer*, from Latin *adorare* speak to formally, beseech, and in Late Latin, to worship (*ad-* to + *orare* speak formally, pray). *Adouren* replaced *aouren* before 1300, borrowed from Old French *adorer*, from Latin *adorare*. —**adoration** *n.* 1543, borrowed from Middle French, learned borrowing from Latin *adorātiōnem* (nominative *adorātiō*), from *adorare*; for suffix see -TION.

adorn *v.* About 1385 *adournen*, borrowed from Old French *adourner, adorning*, from Latin *adornare* equip, embellish (*ad-* to + *ornare* prepare, furnish). *Adournen* replaced *aournen* before 1325, borrowed from Old French *aourner, aorner*, from Latin *adornare*. —**adornment** *n.* About 1385, borrowed from Old French *adornement, aournement*, from *adourner* to adorn, from Latin *adornare*; for suffix see -MENT.

adrenal *adj.* 1875, formed in English from Latin *ad-* at, by + Late Latin *rēnālis* of or pertaining to the kidneys, from Latin *rēnēs* kidneys; for suffix see -AL¹.

adrenalin *n.* 1901, formed in English from *adrenal* + *-in* (chemical suffix). Coined by Jokichi Takamine, 1853–1922, Japanese chemist, who discovered the hormone.

adroit *adj.* 1652, borrowed from French, from Old French *adroit, adreit*, from *a-* to (from Latin *ad-*) + *droit, dreit* right (from Late Latin *directum* right, justice, from Latin, accusative of *directus* straight).

adsorb *v.* 1882, formed in English from *ad-* + *-sorb*, abstracted from *absorb*, from Latin *sorbere* suck in. —**adsorbent** *n.* 1928, formed in English from the verb + -ENT. —**adsorption** *n.* 1882, formed in English from *ad-* + *-sorption*, abstracted from *absorption*.

adulate *v.* 1777 back formation of *adulation*; perhaps influenced by French *aduler* to flatter.

adulation *n.* Before 1400, borrowed from Old French *adulacion*, from Latin *adulātiōnem* (nominative *adulātiō*), from *adulārī* to flatter; for suffix see -TION.

adult *adj.* 1531, borrowed from Latin *adultus*, past participle of *adolēscere* grow up, mature; see ADOLESCENCE. —**n.** 1658, noun use of *adult*, *adj.*

adulterate *v.* 1531, possibly a back formation of *adulteration*, or borrowed from Latin *adulterātus*, past participle of *adulterare* to corrupt, alter (*ad-* to + Late Latin *alterare* to alter); for suffix see -ATE¹. —**adulteration** *n.* 1505, borrowed from Latin *adulterātiōnem* (nominative *adulterātiō*), from *adulterare*; for suffix see -TION.

adultery *n.* About 1415 *adultrie*, *adulterie*, borrowed through Middle French and Old French *adulterie*, or directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *adulterium*, from *adulterāre* to corrupt, ADULTERATE; for suffix see -Y³. *Adultrie*, *adulterie*, *adulterie* was a replacement of *advoutrie* and earlier (about 1303) *avoutrie*, borrowed from Old French *avoutrie*; from *avouter* adulter, from Latin *adulterum*, accusative of *adulter*, from *adulterāre*. —**adulterous** *adj.* Replaced (before 1400) *avoutrious*, from *avouter*, borrowed from Old French *avouter*; for suffix see -OUS.

advance *v.* Before 1200 *avauncen* move forward; borrowed from Old French *avancer*, *avancier*, from Vulgar Latin **abanteāre*, from Latin *abante* from before (*ab* from + *ante* before; see ANTE-).

The form *advance* resulted because the initial *a* was thought to represent Latin *ad*. The same error led to the spelling *advantage* in place of *avantage*. —**advancement** *n.* About 1300 *avauncement*, borrowed from Old French *avancement*, from *avancer*; for suffix see -MENT.

advantage *n.* About 1300 *avantage*, *avauntage* a being ahead, superiority; borrowed from Old French *avantage*, from *avant* before, from Latin *abante*, see ADVANCE; for suffix see -AGE.

The spelling *advantage* is mistakenly from Latin *ad-*, —**advantageous** *adj.* 1598, formed in English from *advantage* + -OUS.

advent *n.* Old English *Advent* the season before Christmas (963); borrowed from Latin *adventus* (genitive *adventūs*) arrival, from *adven-*, stem of *advenire* arrive, come to (*ad-* to + *venire* come; see COME). In the 1400's *Advent* was extended to the Second Coming, and in the 1700's to any important arrival (*advent of spring*).

adventitious *adj.* 1603, borrowed from Medieval Latin *adventitiū*, alteration of Latin *adventiciū*, from *adventum*, past participle of *advenire* arrive, see ADVENT; for suffix see -ITIOUS.

adventure *n.* Before 1200 *aventure* that which comes by chance; borrowed from Old French *aventure*, from Vulgar Latin **adventūra* a happening, from the Latin future participle of *advenire* to come about, see ADVENT; for suffix see -URE.

In the 1400's and 1500's the French form was often respelled *adventure* in imitation of Latin, and though the fashion died out in France, the respelled form passed permanently into English. —**adventurous** *adj.* About 1380 *aventurous*, borrowed from Old French *aventuros*, from *aventure*; for suffix see -OUS.

adverb *n.* About 1425, borrowed perhaps through Old French *averbe*, or more likely directly from Latin *adverbium* (*ad-* to + *verbum* word, verb; translation of Greek *epírrhēma*, from *epi-* on, to + *rhēma* verb).

adversary *n.* 1340, borrowed through Old French *adversaire*, or directly from Latin *adversarius*, from *adversus* turned against, ADVERSE; for suffix see -ARY.

adverse *adj.* About 1385, borrowed from Old French *avers*, *advers*, from Latin *adversus* turned against, past participle of *advertere*; see ADVERT. —**adversity** *n.* Before 1200 *adversite*,

borrowed from Old French *adversité*, from Latin *adversitatem* (nominative *adversitās*) opposition, from *adversus* turned against; for suffix see -ITY.

advert *v.* Before 1420 *averten* turn toward, notice; borrowed from Old French *avertir*, from Latin *advertere* (*ad-* to + *vertere* to turn). Compare AVERT. The spelling *advert* replaced the Middle English form in the 1500's, partly in imitation of the Latin form, partly by influence of Middle French *avertir* warn (see ADVERTISE).

advertise *v.* Probably before 1425 *advertisen* take notice (of); borrowed from Middle French *advertiss-*, stem of *avertir*, variant of Old French *avertir* warn, from Vulgar Latin **advertere*, corresponding to Latin *advertere* turn toward (*ad-* toward + *vertere* to turn). —**advertisement** *n.* 1426, borrowed from Middle French *advertissement*, from *advertiss-*, stem of *avertir*; for suffix see -MENT.

advice *n.* About 1300 *avis* opinion; borrowed from Old French *avis*, from the phrase *a vis*, as in *ce m'est a vis* my view is, an alteration of (*ce*) *m'est vis* it seems to me, from Vulgar Latin **mī est vīsum*, corresponding to Latin *mīhī vidētur* seems (best) to me. The source of the borrowing is Latin *ad* to + *vīsum*, neuter past participle of *vidēre* to see.

The spelling *advis* was popularized in English by Caxton in the late 1400's, from the occasional French spelling *advis*, in imitation of the Latin. In the 1500's final -e was added to show vowel quantity of *i*; and in the 1700's the *s* was changed to *c* apparently to distinguish the word from the verb *advise*.

advise *v.* About 1300 *avisen* examine, find out, consider, decide, devise; borrowed from Old French *aviser*, from *avis* opinion; see ADVICE. The spelling *advise* replaced *avisen* in the late 1400's by influence of the occasional Middle French spelling *adviser*, in imitation of the Latin. —**adviser** *n.* 1611, formed from English *advise* + -er, perhaps after Late Latin *advisor*.

The later form *advisor* is a back formation from *advisory*, or a direct borrowing of the Late Latin *advisor*. —**advisory** *adj.* 1778, formed from English *advise* + -ory, as if an adaptation of Late Latin **advīsōrius*, from Late Latin *advisor*.

advocacy *n.* About 1385 *advocacie*, borrowed from Old French *advocacie*, learned borrowing from Medieval Latin *advocacia*, from Latin *advocātus* ADVOCATE; for suffix see -ACY.

advocate *n.* 1340 *avocat*, borrowed from Old French, learned borrowing from Latin *advocātus*, originally past participle of *advocāre* call to, as a witness or advisor (*ad-* to + *vocāre* to call, related to *vōcem* VOICE); for suffix see -ATE¹. The original Middle English spelling was largely replaced after 1380 by *advocat* after the Latin form. —**v.** 1641, from the noun.

adz or **adze** *n.* Old English (before 830) *adesa*, *eadesa*, of unknown origin.

In Middle English the term was spelled *adese*, *adse*; the current forms with *z* appeared in the 1700's.

aegis *n.* 1793, figurative sense of earlier (1611) *aegis* shield, especially the shield of Jupiter or Minerva; borrowed from Latin *aegis*, from Greek *aigís* the shield of Zeus (said to be made

of goatskin, and popularly derived from *aig-*, the stem of *aîx* (goat).

aeolian *adj.* 1605, formed in English from Latin *Aeolius* (from *Aeolus* the god of the winds, from Greek *Alolos*, from *aiôlos* quickly moving) + English *-an*.

aeon or **eon** *n.* 1647, borrowed from Latin *aeon*, from Greek *aion* age, lifetime; see AGE.

aerate *v.* 1794, formed in English after Latin *aër* air (from Greek *āēr*) + English suffix *-ate*¹; perhaps influenced indirectly by Old French *aérer*.

aerial *adj.* 1604, formed in English after Latin *aërius* airy (from Greek *aërios*, from *aër* air) + English suffix *-al*¹. —**n.** 1902, noun use of *aerial*, *adj.*

aerie or **aery** *n.* Before 1475 *eyre*, later *airie* (1581); borrowed from Medieval Latin *aeria*, from Old French *aïre*, from Latin *ārea* level ground, garden bed, AREA. The spelling *eyrie* was introduced in the belief that the word was derived from Middle English *ey(e)*, meaning egg, and its literal meaning was “a repository for eggs.”

aero- a combining form meaning: 1 air: *Aerometer* = air meter. 2 atmosphere: *Aerology* = science of the atmosphere. 3 gas: *Aerodynamics* = dynamics of gases. 4 aircraft: *Aerodrome* = landing field for aircraft. Before 1393, abstracted in Middle English from *aeromance* divination by studying the air; borrowed from Old French *aeromancie*, or from Medieval Latin *aeromantia*. The combining form is ultimately from Greek *āero-*, from *āēr*, *aëros* air. Most of the *aero-* compounds are relatively late coinages. Some that date from the late 1700's were coined in France, reflecting concern with flight, especially in lighter-than-air craft; examples adapted into English, include *aerology* 1736, *aeronaut* 1784, *aerostatics* 1784, and *aerostat* (the original term for a balloon) 1784.

aerobic *adj.* 1884, formed in English after French *aérobie* (coined in 1863 by Louis Pasteur, 1822–1895, from Greek *āēr*, *aëros* air + *bíos* life) + English suffix *-ic*. —**aerobics** *n.* 1968 (coined by Kenneth H. Cooper, American physician), formed in English from *aerobic* + *-s*, on analogy with *gymnastics*, *calisthenics*, etc.

aeronautics *n.* 1824, formed in English from *aeronautic* + *-s* on analogy with *aerostatics*, etc.; or from New Latin *aeronautica* (1753) + English suffix *-ics*. —**aeronautic** *adj.* 1784, borrowed from French *aéronautique*, from *aéro-* (from Greek *āero-*, from *āēr*, *aëros* air) + *nautique* of ships, nautical (from Latin *nautica*, *nauticus*, from Greek *nautikós*); for suffix see *-IC*.

aeroplane *n.* 1873, borrowed from French *aéroplane*, from *aéro-* of air (from Greek *āero-*) + *plane*, stem of *planer* to soar; see PLANE¹, *v.* and AIRPLANE.

aerosol *n.* 1923, formed in English from *aero-* of air + *sol* (1899) colloidal solution, shortened from *solution*.

aerospace *n.* 1958, formed in American English from *aero-* atmosphere + (outer) *space*.

aesthetic *adj.* 1798, of or having to do with sensuous perception (after Immanuel Kant); borrowed from French *esthétique* and German *ästhetisch*, from Greek *aisthētikós* perceptible to the senses, from *aisthānesthai* perceive; for suffix see *-IC*.

The broad sense of an appreciation of beauty was already established in German (1750–58) by the time Kant (1781) used the word, but did not develop in English until sometime between 1803 and 1825. —**aesthetics** *n.* 1803, possibly formed in English from *aesthetic* + *-s*, on analogy with *athletic* + *-s*; or borrowed from German *ästhetik*, from Greek *aisthētikós*; or from New Latin *aesthetica*; for suffix see *-ICS*. —**aesthete** *n.* 1881, borrowed from Greek *aisthētēs* person who perceives; cited in most sources as a formation on analogy with *athlete*, *athletic*.

af- a form of the prefix *ad-*, meaning to, toward, before *f*, as in *affect*, *affirm*. In words from Latin it is due to assimilation of *d* to the following consonant (*ff*).

affable *adj.* Probably about 1475, borrowed from Middle French *affable*, learned borrowing from Latin *affābilis* easy to speak to, from *affārī* speak to (*af-* to *fārī* speak; related to FABLE); for suffix see *-ABLE*.

affair *n.* Probably before 1300 *afere*, in the plural use *aferes* things to do; activities, borrowed from Anglo-French *afere*, from Old French *afaire* (à faire to do, from Latin *ad* to + *facere* DO¹ perform).

The Old French spelling was refashioned in Middle French as *affaire* after Latin words with *aff-*, and this spelling was popularized in England by Caxton.

affect¹ *v.* have an effect on. 1410 *affecten*, borrowed from Latin *affectus*, past participle of *afficere* act on, exert influence on (*af-* to + *facere* DO¹ perform).

affect² *v.* make a pretense or show of. Probably before 1425 *affecten* to desire, aspire to; borrowed from Middle French *affecter*, learned borrowing from Latin *affectāre* strive for, frequentative verb form of *afficere* act on; see AFFECT¹. —**affectation** *n.* 1548, borrowed through Middle French *affectation*, or directly from Latin *affectātiōnem* (nominative *affectātiō*), from *affectāre*; for suffix see *-TION*.

affection *n.* Probably before 1200, emotion or feeling; borrowed from Old French *affection*, learned borrowing from Latin *affectiōnem* (nominative *affectiō*) inclination, influence, from *affect-*, stem of *afficere* act on, AFFECT¹; for suffix see *-TION*.

afferent *adj.* Physiology. conducting inward. 1839–47, borrowed from Latin *afferentem* (nominative *afferens*), present participle of *afferre* bring to (*af-* to + *ferre* bring); for suffix see *-ENT*.

affiance *n.* Before 1338, borrowed from Old French *afiance*, from *afi-* stem of *afier*, *affier* to trust, from Medieval Latin *affidare* (Latin *af-* to + Vulgar Latin **fidāre* to trust, from Latin *fidus* faithful); for suffix see *-ANCE*. —**v.** 1555, borrowed from Middle French *afiancer*, from Old French *afiance*, *n.*

affidavit *n.* 1593, borrowed from Medieval Latin *affidavit* he

has stated on oath, third person singular perfect of *affidare* to trust; see AFFIANCE.

affiliation *n.* 1751, adoption; later joining in association, borrowed from French *affiliation*, from Medieval Latin *affiliationem* (nominative *affiliatio*), from *affiliare* adopt as a son (Latin *af-* to + *filius* son); for suffix see -ATION. — **affiliate** *v.* 1761, borrowed after French *affilier*, from Medieval Latin *affiliatus*, past participle of *affiliare*; for suffix see -ATE¹. — **n.** 1879, from the verb.

affinity *n.* About 1303, relationship by marriage; borrowed from Old French *afinité*, *affinité*, learned borrowing from Latin *affinitatem* (nominative *affinitās*), from *affinis* kin by marriage (*af-* to + *finis* border, end); for suffix see -ITY.

affirm *v.* Probably before 1300 *affermen* make firm; borrowed from Old French *aferner*, from Latin *affirmare* (*af-* to + *firmare* strengthen, affirm, from *firmus* strong, FIRM). In the 1500's the original spellings were refashioned after the Latin as French *affirmer* and English *affirm*. — **affirmation** *n.* About 1410, borrowed through Middle French, or directly from Latin *affirmationem* (nominative *affirmatio*), from *affirmare*; for suffix see -TION. — **affirmative** *adj., n.* About 1400, through Middle French, or directly from Late Latin *affirmativus*, from Latin *affirmatus* past participle of *affirmare* affirm; for suffix see -ATIVE.

affix *v.* 1533, borrowed from Medieval Latin *affixare*, frequentative verb form of Latin *affigere* fasten to (*af-* to + *figere* fasten). — **n.** 1612, borrowed from French *affixe*, from Latin *affixum*, past participle of *affigere*.

affliction *n.* About 1303 *affliccioun*, borrowed from Old French *affliccion*, from Latin *afflictionem* (nominative *afflictio*), from *affligere*; for suffix see -TION. — **afflict** *v.* Before 1393, to cast down or deject; borrowed from Old French *afflicter*, from Latin *afflictus*, past participle of *affligere* to dash down, distress (*af-* to + *figere* to dash, strike). The meaning of trouble, distress is first recorded in 1535.

affluent *adj.* 1413, flowing in abundance, copious; borrowed through Middle French, or directly from Latin *affluentem* (nominative *affluens*), present participle of *affluere* flow towards (*af-* to + *fluere* to flow); for suffix see -ENT. The meaning of wealthy appeared in the 1700's. — **affluence** *n.* About 1350, borrowed from Middle French, from Latin *affluentia*, from *affluentem* (nominative *affluens*), present participle of *affluere*; for suffix see -ENCE.

afford *v.* 1588 alteration of *aforthen* (probably before 1387); earlier *ivorthen* (probably before 1200); reduced forms of Old English *geforthian* to further, accomplish (*ge-*, prefix implying completeness + *forthian* to further, from *forth* forward, onward, FORTH).

The change from *th* to *d*, which occurred in the 1500's, was similar to the earlier change of such forms as *burthen* to *burden* and *murther* to *murder*.

affray *n.* About 1303, disturbance, alarm, fright; borrowed from Old French *effrei* disturbance, fright, from *effreer*, *esfreer* disturb, frighten, from Vulgar Latin **exfridare* (literally) to take

out of peace. The Vulgar Latin is formed of Latin *ex-* out of + Frankish **frithu* peace, represented in Old High German *fridu*, Old Saxon *frithu*, and Old English *frithu* peace, from Proto-Germanic **frithuz* consideration, forbearance.

affront *v.* About 1330, borrowed from Old French *afronter*, from Vulgar Latin **affrontare* to face, confront (literally) strike on the forehead, from Latin *ad frontem* to the face. — **n.** 1596, noun use of *affront*, *v.* See FRONT.

aficionado *n.* 1845, borrowed from Spanish *aficionado* amateur, (literally) fond of, from *afición* affection, from Latin *affectionem*; see AFFECTION. Most sources derive this word from the Spanish verb *aficionar* but the verb does not appear in Spanish before 1555, and the word *aficionado* is recorded in the 1400's.

afraid *adj.* Probably about 1300, originally the past participle of the archaic verb *afray* frighten; borrowed through Anglo-French *afayer*, *effayer* disturb, frighten, from Old French *effreer*, *esfreer*; see AFFRAY.

Afro- a combining form for *African*, from the stem *Afr-* of Latin *Afer*, *Afri* African.

aft *adv.* Before 1325 *afte* back; developed from Old English (937) *æftan* from behind; cognate with Old High German *aftan* from behind, Old Icelandic *aptan* (*pt* represents sounds *ft*), and Gothic *aftana*. Related to AFTER.

after *adv., prep.* Old English *æfter* next or following in time (before 735, in *Bede's Death Song*); cognate with Old High German *aftar* back, behind, Old Icelandic *aptr* back, aft, *eptir* after (*pt* represents sounds *ft*), and Gothic *afta* back, *aftarō* from behind, from Proto-Germanic **afteraz*.

Originally *æfter* was a comparative form meaning "farther back, more away." Compare AFT.

aftermath *n.* 1523, a second or later mowing of grass; formed from English *after* + dialectal *math* a mowing, Old English *mæth*, cognate with Old High German *mād* (modern German *Mahd* mowing, hay crop), from Proto-Germanic **mæthan*.

The figurative sense occurred before 1658.

afterward *adv.* Old English (about 1000) *æfterweard* (*æfter* after + *-weard* -ward, indicating direction). — **afterwards** about 1300, a derivative of *afterward* with the adverbial genitive ending -s and -es.

ag- a form of the prefix *ad-*, meaning to, towards, before *g*, as in *aggress*, *aggrieve*.

again *adv.* Late Old English (1031) *agan*, (1052) *agean* back (to a starting point), reduced before 830 from Old English *ongegn*, *ongēan* toward, opposite, against, back, again (*on* on + *gegn* against, toward); cognate with Old High German *ingegin*, *ingagan* against, in opposition to (modern German *entgegen*).

The Old English forms *-gegn*, *-gēan* are found only in compounds and are cognate with Old High German *gegin*, *gagan* against, toward (modern German *gegen*), and with Old Icelandic *gegn* toward, again.

against *prep.* Probably before 1160 *agenes* in opposition to,

against, from *agen* again (Old English *onægn* opposite, AGAIN) + adverbial genitive *-s*, *-es*. The ending was changed in the late 1300's to *-st* by association with superlatives ending in *-st* and *-est* (compare *amongst*); or the final *-t* was added to *-s* or *-es* for phonetic reasons (compare *be-twixt*). Forms in *-st* began to appear about 1300, and are abstracted from the sequence *agen(e)s the*.

agape *n.* 1690, love feast held by early Christians, perhaps influenced by early French *agape*, but borrowed from Greek *agápē* love, from *agapān* to love.

agate *n.* 1570, borrowed from Middle French *agate*, alteration of Old French *acate*, learned borrowing from Latin *achātēs*, from Greek *achātēs*, named after Achates, a river in Sicily where Pliny reports the mineral was first found.

agave *n.* 1797, New Latin *agave*, from Greek *Agauē*, a proper name in mythology, from *agaue*, *agauós* noble, perhaps from *ágasthai* wonder at.

age *n.* About 1275, borrowed from Old French *aage*, earlier *eage*, from Vulgar Latin **aetāticum*, from Latin *aetātem* (nominative *aetās*) period of life. The Latin word is a contraction of *aevitās*, from *aevum* lifetime, eternity, age, cognate with Greek *aiōn* age, Sanskrit *āyus* life, and in the Germanic languages with Old English *ā*, *ō* always, ever, Old High German *eo*, *io* (modern German *je* ever), and Gothic *aiws* time, eternity.—**v.** make old. Before 1420, from the noun.

-age a suffix acquired in many words borrowed from French, especially Old French, such as *message*, *tonnage*, *umbrage*, *voyage*, and extensively used in English to form nouns from other nouns, expressing various relations (as in *baggage*, *parsonage*, *peerage*, *postage*, *poundage*), and from verbs, expressing action or the result of action (as in *breakage*, *cleavage*, *wreckage*). Old French *-age* is from Latin *-āticum*, neuter of the adjective suffix *-āticus*, that originated as the form with *-ā* stem nouns of *-ticus*, from Greek *-tikós*.

ageism *n.* 1970, coined by R.N. Butler, American gerontologist, from (old) *age* + *-ism*, on the pattern of such words as *sexism* and *racism*, in which particular cases *-ism* implies discriminatory practice or behavior.

agency *n.* 1658, borrowed from Medieval Latin *agentia*, from Latin *agentem* (nominative *agēns*), present participle of *agere*, to do; for suffix see *-ENCY*.

agenda *n.* 1657, borrowed from Latin *agenda*, plural of *agendum*, neuter gerundive of *agere* to drive, lead, do.

agent *n.* 1471, perhaps influenced by Old French *agent*, but probably borrowed from Latin *agentem* (nominative *agēns*), present participle of *agere* to do, act, lead, drive; for suffix see *-ENT*.

agglomerate *v.* 1684, borrowed from Latin *agglomerātus*, past participle of *agglomerāre* to wind or add onto a ball (*ag-* on + *glomerāre* wind up into a ball, from *glomus*, genitive *glomeris*, ball; for suffix see *-ATE*¹). —**agglomeration** *n.* 1774, formed in English from *agglomerate* + *-ion*; or borrowed from French

agglomération, from Latin *agglomerātus*, past participle of *agglomerāre*; for suffix see *-ATION*.

agglutinate *v.* 1586, verb use of earlier *agglutinate*, adj., glued (1541); borrowed from Latin *agglutinātus*, past participle of *agglutināre* fasten with glue (*ag-* to + *glutināre* to glue, from *gluten*, genitive *glutinis*, glue, related to Late Latin *glūs* glue); for suffix see *-ATE*¹. It is possible that *agglutinate* was influenced by earlier Middle French *s'aglutiner* join morally or mentally (1300's) and *aglutiner* bring together (1400's). —**agglutination** *n.* 1541, probably formed in English from Latin *agglutināre* + English *-ation*.

aggrandize *v.* 1634, borrowed from French *agrandiss-*, extended stem of *agrandir* (Old French *a-* to + *grandir* to increase, from Latin *grandire* make great, from *grandis* great, GRAND). The doubling of the *g* was influenced by Middle French *aggrandir* and Italian *aggrandire*. The suffix *-ize* was used with the original French verb stem *-is*, *-iss*, in imitation of Greek verbs or verbs thought to derive from Greek.

aggravate *v.* 1530, make heavy, burden down, verb use of *aggravate*, adj., weighed down (1471); borrowed possibly through influence of Old French *aggraver*, from Latin *aggravātus*, past participle of *aggravāre* make heavier (*ag-* to + *gravāre* weigh down, from *gravis* heavy); for suffix see *-ATE*¹. The sense of exasperate, annoy was first recorded in 1611. —**aggravation** *n.* 1481, borrowed from Old French *aggravation*, from Late Latin *aggravātiōnem* (nominative *aggravātiō*), from Latin *aggravāre* make heavy; for suffix see *-TION*.

aggregate *adj.* About 1400 *aggregat* collected into a mass; borrowed from Latin *aggregātus*, past participle of *aggregāre* add to (*ag-* to + *greg*, genitive *gregis* flock, herd); for suffix see *-ATE*¹. —**v.** Probably before 1400, borrowed from Latin *aggregātus*. —**n.** Before 1425, borrowed from Latin *aggregātum*, neuter past participle of *aggregāre*. —**aggregation** *n.* Probably before 1425, borrowed through Middle French *agregation*, or directly from Medieval Latin *aggregationem* (nominative *aggregatio*), from Latin *aggregāre*; for suffix see *-TION*.

aggress *v.* About 1575, approach or march forward; borrowed through French *aggressor*, or directly from Latin *aggressus*, past participle of *aggrēdi* to approach, attack (*ag-* to + *gradi* to step, walk). The meaning to attack or commit aggression is recorded before 1714. —**aggressive** *adj.* 1824, formed in English from *aggress* + *-ive*.

aggression *n.* 1611, borrowed through French *agression*, or directly from Latin *aggressionem* (nominative *aggressiō*), from *aggress-*, stem of *aggrēdi* to attack; for suffix see *-ION*.

aggrieve *v.* Probably before 1300 *agreven*, borrowed from Old French *agrever* bear heavily on, make heavier or more severe, from Latin *aggravāre* make heavier. The English form began to be written *agg-*, after the Latin in the 1400's.

aghost *adj.* Probably before 1325 *agast* terrified, from the past participle of earlier *agasten* terrify, probably before 1200 formed from *a-*, intensive prefix + *gasten* frighten, Old English *gæstan*, from *gæst*, *gāst* spirit GHOST.

The spelling *aghash* became widespread in the 1700's, probably by influence of *ghastly* and *ghost*.

agile *adj.* 1581, borrowed from Middle French *agile*, from Latin *agilis*, from *agere* to move. —**agility** *n.* 1413, borrowed from Middle French *agilité*, from Latin *agilitatem* (nominative *agilitas*), from *agilis*; for suffix see -ITY.

agitate *v.* 1586, verb use of Middle English *agitat*, *adj.* 1449, borrowed from Latin *agitatus*, past participle of *agitare* move to and fro, frequentative form of *agere* to drive, lead, do; for suffix see -ATE. —**agitation** *n.* 1596, borrowed from Latin *agitatiōnem* (nominative *agitatiō*), from *agitare*; for suffix see -TION.

agnostic *n.* 1870, coined by Thomas Huxley in 1869 from Greek *agnōstos* unknown, unknowable (*a-* not + *gnōstós* (to be) known) + English suffix -ic. —**agnosticism** *n.* 1870, formed in English from *agnostic* + -ism.

ago *adj.* Probably about 1300, originally past participle of *agon* go away, go forth; developed from Old English *āgān*, about 897 (from *ā-* a-⁵, away, forth, out + *gān* GO).

agog *adv., adj.* Before 1405, borrowed from Middle French *en gogues* in good humor, of uncertain origin.

agonize *v.* 1583, to subject to agony; borrowed from Middle French *agoniser* torment, from Late Latin *agonizāre*, from Greek *agonízesthai* to contend, struggle, from *agōn* (genitive *agōnos*) a contest, see AGONY; for suffix see -IZE.

agony *n.* About 1384, perhaps borrowed from Old French *agonie*, or directly from Late Latin *agōnia*, from Greek *agōniā* a struggle, from *agōn* a contest, assembly, from *agein* to conduct, celebrate; for suffix see -Y³.

agoraphobia *n.* 1873, coined by German psychiatrist Carl Westphal in 1871 as German *Agoraphobie*, formed from Greek *agorā* marketplace + -phobíā fear.

agrarian *adj.* 1618, borrowed through Middle French *loy agrarienne* agrarian law, from Latin *agrārius* of the land, from *ager* (genitive *agrī*) field; for suffix see -IAN.

agree *v.* About 1385, to please; borrowed from Old French *agrēer* to please, from a *gré* to (one's) liking, from Latin *ad* to, and *grātum* pleasing, neuter of *grātus*; see GRACE. —**agreeable** *adj.* About 1380, borrowed from Old French *agrēable*, from *agrēer* to please; for suffix see -ABLE. —**agreement** *n.* 1425, borrowed from Old French *agrément*, from *agrēer* to please; for suffix see -MENT.

agriculture *n.* Probably 1440, probably influenced by Old French *agriculture*, but borrowed from Late Latin *agricultūra* (compound formed with short *i* by analogy with Latin *agricola* farmer), from Latin *agrī cultūra* cultivation of land (*agrī*, genitive of *ager* land, field).

agro- a combining form meaning field, land, soil, as in *agrol-ogy*, or *agriculture*, as in *agrochemical*. Borrowed from Greek *agro-*, combining form of *agrós* field, land.

agronomy *n.* 1814, borrowed from French *agronomie*, from Greek *agronómos* overseer of land (*agros* land + -*nómos* administering, related to *némein* manage).

ague *n.* About 1300, borrowed from Old French *aguë*, from Latin *acūta* severe (in the phrase *febris acūta* severe fever), feminine of *acūtus* sharp; see ACUTE.

-aholic a combining form meaning a person with an addiction such as that of a *workaholic*, a person with a compulsive desire to work. Abstracted in 1972 from *workaholic*, coined in 1971 by Wayne Oates, an American pastoral counselor. The form is also found in -*holic*, as in *colaholic* and *chocoholic*.

aid *v.* Probably before 1400, borrowed from Old French *aidier*, from Latin *adjūtāre*, frequentative form of *adjuvāre* give help to (*ad-* to + *juvāre* to help). —**n. Probably 1419, a wartime tax to the Crown; 1430, help or support; borrowed from Old French *aide*, from Late Latin *adjūta*, from stem of past participle of *adjuvāre* give help to.**

aide *n.* 1777, short for AIDE-DE-CAMP.

ail *v.* Before 1300 *ailen*, *eilen*, developed from Old English (about 940) *eglan*, *eglian*, related to *egle* troublesome, oppressive, from Proto-Germanic **azljaz*. It is cognate with Gothic (us-) *agljan* harass, Middle Low German *egelen* cause trouble, and perhaps Old High German *egī* fear, punishment, Old Icelandic *agi* fear. —**ailment** *n.* 1706, formed from English *ail* + -ment.

aileron *n.* 1909, borrowed from French *aileron*, alteration (influenced by *aile* wing) of Old French *aleron*, diminutive of *ele* wing, from Latin *āla* wing.

aim *v.* About 1303, estimate, calculate, reckon; borrowed from Old French *esmer*, from Latin *aestimāre* appraise, and also from Old French *aesmer*, from Vulgar Latin **adaestimāre* (Latin *ad-* to + *aestimāre* appraise). The current meaning developed in the 1400's from the sense of calculating the direction of an object or a blow. —**n. Probably about 1380, from the noun, influenced by Old French *esme* and *aesme* aim.**

air *n.* a combination of three senses from different origins: 1 mixture of gases; atmosphere. Probably before 1200, borrowed from Old French *air*, from Latin *aerem*, accusative of *aēr*, from Greek *āēr* (earlier **āuēr*), genitive *āēros*, earliest meaning: mist, clouds. 2 appearance; manner; bearing. 1596, borrowed from Middle French *air*, perhaps influenced by Old French *aire* quality, disposition, place, from Vulgar Latin **arja*, from Latin *āera*, from Greek *āēra*, accusative of *āēr*. 3 melody; tune. 1590, borrowed from or influenced by Italian *aria* melody, ARIA. The Italian word, meaning air (mixture of gases) and coming from Vulgar Latin **arja*, developed the sense of "melody, aria" from the earlier meaning "manner, appearance," taken from Middle French *air* (cited in def. 2).

airplane *n.* 1907, alteration of AEROPLANE. The spelling *airplane* soon replaced *aeroplane* in official American and some British publications.

aisle *n.* About 1370 *ele*, *eill* wing of a church; borrowed from Old French *ele*, from Latin *āla* wing, earlier **aclā*, related to Latin *axilla* armpit; cognate with Old High German *ahsala* shoulder (modern German *Achsel*), Old Icelandic *axl*, Old English *eaxl*, and Latin *axis* AXIS. In the 1800's, through the influence of French *aile* wing, it was respelled *aisle*.

ajar *adj., adv.* 1718, alteration of Scottish dialect *a char*, contracted from earlier (about 1500–1512) *on char* slightly open, ajar; Middle English *on char ajar* (literally) on the turn; see CHAR² turn, chore.

akimbo *adj., adv.* About 1400 in *kenebowe*, later (1611) *a kenebow*, of uncertain origin, possibly from the Middle English phrase *in keen bow* at a sharp angle; or a Scandinavian word related to Icelandic *kengboginn* crooked.

al- a form of the prefix *ad-*, meaning to, toward, before *l*, as in *alloy*, *allude*.

-al¹ a suffix forming adjectives from nouns or other adjectives and meaning of, like, related to, as in *natural*, *ornamental*, *historical*.

Middle English had the forms *-al* and *-el*, borrowed in part from Old French *-al*, *-el*, and in part directly from Latin *-ālis* (of the kind of, pertaining to).

The form *-al* is freely applied to words with different endings from Latin (*funereal*, *terrestrial*), Greek (*musical*, *rhomboidal*), and other languages, including English itself (*operational*, *genocidal*, etc.).

-al² a suffix forming nouns of action from verbs, chiefly from Latin or French, and meaning act of _____ing, as in *revival*, *survival*, *removal*, *approval*.

Middle English had the forms *-aille*, later *-aile*, *-al*, borrowed from Old French feminine singular *-aille* (see ESPOUSAL), from Latin *-ālia* (neuter plural of *-ālis*, adjective suffix also used as noun suffix; see -AL¹).

In modern English *-al²* also forms nouns from verbs of Germanic origin, as in *bestowal*, *betrothal*.

alabaster *n.* 1375, borrowed from Old French *alabastre*, from Latin *alabaster*, from Greek *alābastros*, alteration of *alābastos* vase (of alabaster).

alacrity *n.* Before 1460, borrowed from Latin *alacritatem* (nominative *alacritās*), from *alacer* (genitive *alacris*) brisk, lively, eager. Perhaps cognate with Old English and Old High German *ellen* zeal, Old Icelandic *eljan* courage, power, and Gothic *aljan* zeal, as burning; for suffix see -ITY.

alarm *n.* Probably about 1380, a call to arms, borrowed from Old French *alarme*, from Italian *allarme*, from *all'arme!* (to the arms! —*v.* About 1590, verb use of *alarm*, *n.*

alb *n.* Old English (before 1100) *albe*, borrowed from Medieval Latin *alba*, from Latin *vestis alba* white vestment, feminine of *albus* white (surviving in Romanian *alb* white). The French *aube* was the usual spelling in English in the 14th and early 15th centuries.

albatross *n.* 1672, probably an alteration of earlier *alcatraz* a large sea bird related to the petrels. The name had various spellings: *albitross*, *alगतross*, *albetross*, *alb-* perhaps influenced by Latin *albus* white. *Alcatraz* is an obsolete name, recorded from the Portuguese in 1564, borrowed from Portuguese *alcatraz* pelican, in 1593, from Arabic *al-ghattās* a sea eagle.

The figurative meaning of a burden, such as one of guilt, is an allusion to the albatross shot by the ancient mariner and

hung about his neck by his shipmates as a sign of his guilt in Coleridge's *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* (1798).

albino *n.* 1777, borrowed from Portuguese *albino*, or from Spanish *albino*, from *albo* white, from Latin *albus*; see ALB.

album *n.* 1651, through German use as applied to a book of friends' or colleagues' signatures, verses, drawings, etc.; borrowed from Latin *album* white tablet on which things were inscribed (neuter of *albus* white).

albumen *n.* 1599, borrowed from Latin *albūmen* (genitive *albūminis*) white of an egg, (literally) whiteness, from *albus* white.

albumin *n.* 1869, borrowed from French *albumine* white of an egg, from Latin *albūmin-*, stem of *albūmen* ALBUMEN; for suffix see -IN².

alchemy *n.* Probably before 1387 *alconomye*, *alkenamy*; about 1378 *alkemomye*, *alkamy*; borrowed from Old French *alkemie*, learned borrowing from Medieval Latin *alkimia*, borrowed from Arabic *al-kīmīyā* (al the + Late Greek *chymelā* art of alloying metals, from Greek *chýma*, genitive *chýmatis* that which is poured out, ingot, from *cheîn* pour).

alcohol *n.* 1543; fine powder, borrowed from Medieval Latin *alcohol* powdered ore of antimony, from Arabic *al-koḥl* the powdered metal, kohl.

The original sense extended in 1672 to distillate of a liquid, essence, in 1753, to spirit of any fermented liquor. —**alcoholic** *adj.* 1790, formed from English *alcohol* + *-ic*.

alcove *n.* 1676, borrowed from French *alcôve*, from Spanish *alcoba*, from Arabic *al-qubba* the vaulted chamber, from *qubba* to vault.

alderman *n.* Old English Mercian dialect (before 810) *aldor-monn* a nobleman or leader of high rank; before 891, in Old English, West Saxon *ealdormann*; formed from *aldor*, *ealdor* patriarch, chief (from *ald* old + *-or* as in *baldor* prince, from *bald* bold) + *mann* man.

ale *n.* Old English (about 940) *ealu*, *alu*; cognate with Old Saxon *alo*, Old Icelandic *öl* ale, from Proto-Germanic **aluth-*. Until the growing of hops was introduced in England in the first half of the 1400's, ale and beer were synonymous terms in Middle English.

alert *adj.* 1618, borrowed from French *alerte* vigilant, alert, from *à l'herte*, *à l'erte* on one's guard, from the Italian military phrase *all'erta* on the watch (*erta* lookout, high tower, steep slope, originally feminine of *erto*, past participle of *ergere* raise up, from Latin *erigere* raise). —*v.* 1868, verb use of *alert*, *adj.*

alfalfa *n.* 1845, borrowed from Spanish *alfalfa*, from Arabic *al-fasfaṣa*, *al-fisfiṣa* the best kind of fodder.

algae *n. pl.* of *alga*. 1551 *alga*, borrowed from Latin *alga* seaweed, of uncertain origin.

The plural form *algae* appeared in English in 1794.

algebra *n.* 1551, borrowed from Medieval Latin *algebra*, from Arabic *al-jabr*, *al-jabr*, "the bone setting," reintegration, i.e.

restoration or reduction of parts to make a whole, as in computation (*al* the + *jabara* reunite, consolidate, restore).

The earliest sense in English was of the surgical treatment of fractures, bone setting, used before 1400.

The use of the Arabic *al-jabr* in a famous work on algebra (*Kitāb al-Jabr wal-Muqābala* Rules of Reintegration and Reduction) popularized the word in its mathematical sense and the use of Arabic numerals in Europe.

algorithm *n.* 1699, either influenced by or borrowed from French *algorithme* and perhaps separately formed in English as an alteration of *algorism*, (the Arabic or decimal system of numerals, probably before 1200), influenced by Greek *arithmōs* number.

alias *adv.* About 1432, borrowed from Latin *aliās* at another time, from *alius* (an)other. —**n.** 1605, from the adverb.

alibi *n.* 1743, developed from an adverb meaning “elsewhere,” 1727, perhaps influenced by French *alibi* subterfuge, poor excuse; borrowed from Latin *alibi* elsewhere, locative adverb of *alius* (an)other. —**v.** 1909, American English, from the noun.

alien *n., adj.* Before 1338, stranger, foreigner; *adj.* probably before 1300, strange, foreign; borrowed through Old French *alien*, and directly from Latin *aliēnus* of or belonging to another, from *alius* (an)other.

alienate *v.* 1548, verb use of the earlier adjective *alienate* estranged (before 1420); borrowed from Latin *aliēnātus*, past participle of *aliēnāre* to make another's, estrange, from *aliēnus* of or belonging to another person or place, from *alius* (an)other; for suffix see -ATE¹. —**alienation** *n.* About 1395, borrowed through Old French *aliénacion*, and directly from Latin *aliēnātiōnem* (nominative *aliēnātiō*), from *aliēnāre*; for suffix see -TION.

alight¹ *v.* dismount. Old English (about 1000) *ālīhtan*, (*ā*- *a*-⁵ + *lihtan* get off, make light, from *liht* light in weight; originally said of taking one's weight off a horse or vehicle).

alight² *adj.* About 1300, adjective use of *alight* (probably before 1200), past participle of *alighen* light up, developed from Old English *onlihtan* (on- up + *lihtan* to light).

align *v.* About 1410 *alinen* of wolves, bitches, etc., to copulate; borrowed from Middle French *aligner*, from Old French *alignier* (*a*- to + *lignier* to line).

The spelling *align* became widespread in the 1800's in imitation of the French. —**alignment** *n.* 1790, borrowed from French or formed in English from French *aligner* to align + English suffix -ment.

alike *adv., adj.* Probably about 1300 *aliche*; earlier *iliche* (about 1175); developed from Old English *gelīce* and *onlīce*, from *gelic* and *onlic* similar, LIKE¹.

Old English *gelic*, *gelice* are cognate with Old Saxon *gilik*, *gilikō*, Old Frisian *gelike*, *lik*, Gothic *galeiks* Middle Dutch *ghelijc* (modern Dutch *gelijk*), Old High German *galih*, *gilih*, *gelih*, (modern German *gleich*), Old Icelandic *glíkr* (modern Icelandic *líkur*), and Gothic *galeiks*, from Proto-Germanic **galīkaz*.

Alike is not a compound of *a*-¹ and Old English **lic*, for Old English did not have the adjective form **lic*.

alimentary *adj.* 1615, borrowed from Latin *alimentārius* (*alimentum* nourishment + *-ārius* -ary); or formed in English from *aliment* nourishment (1477, borrowed through Middle French *aliment* food, from Latin *alimentum*, from *alere* nourish) + English suffix -ary.

alimony *n.* 1655, borrowed from Latin *alimōnia* nourishment, sustenance, support, from *alere* nourish + *-mōnia* suffix signifying action, state, condition.

alive *adj.* Probably about 1175, reduced form of the Old English phrase *on life* in life, living, from *on* in, and *life*, dative of *līf* LIFE.

alkaline *adj.* About 1330, perhaps borrowed independently of *alkali*, in the phrase *sal alkalin* (retaining the foreign word order), from Medieval Latin. Later it became *sal alkali* and was finally reduced to *alkali*. —**alkali** *n.* About 1395, borrowed from Medieval Latin *alkali*, from Arabic *al-qālī* the ashes of saltwort (plant growing on alkaline soil). Many sources derive *alkali* through French, but it is not recorded in French until almost 115 years after *alkali* appeared in English.

all *adj.* Old English *eall*, *al* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); common to Germanic languages such as Old Saxon *al*, *al*, Old Frisian *al*, *ol*, Old High German *al*, Old Icelandic *allr*, and Gothic *alls*, from Proto-Germanic **alnaz*.

Allah *n.* 1584, borrowed from Arabic *Allāh*, contraction of *al-ilāh* the (true) god.

allay *v.* About 1150 *aleyen* to put down; developed from Old English *ālegan* (about 725, in *Beowulf*, *ā*- *a*-⁵ + *legan* to LAY¹ put down); cognate with modern German *erlegen* lay low, and Gothic *uslagjan* lay out, from Proto-Germanic **uz-lazjanan*.

The spelling with two l's was introduced in the 1600's by mistakenly identifying the Old English prefix *ā*- with *al*-, the assimilated form of *ad*- in words adopted or formed from Latin.

allege *v.* About 1300, plead before a court, borrowed through Anglo-French *aleger*, alteration (influenced in meaning and form by Latin *allēgāre* to charge) of Old French *esligier* to clear at law, from Latin *ex*- out + *lītīgāre* bring suit. —**allegation** *n.* Probably before 1425, borrowed through Middle French *allégation*, from Latin *allēgātiōnem* (nominative *allēgātiō*), from *allēgāre* to charge, send a message (*al*-, to + *lēgāre* to commission); for suffix see -ATION.

allegiance *n.* About 1399 *alegeaunce* loyalty of a liegeman to his lord; borrowed through Anglo-French *alegaunce*, alteration of Old French *lijance*, *liejance*, *legeance*, from *liege* LIEGE; for suffix see -ANCE.

The Old French forms were confused in England with *allegeance* alleviation, contributing to the development of the English spelling *allegiance*.

allegory *n.* About 1384, probably borrowed from Latin *allēgoria*, from Greek *allēgoría*, from *allēgorein* speak otherwise than

one seems to speak, (*állos* another, different + *agoreúein* speak openly, from *agoná* public place); for suffix see -Y³. —**allegorical** adj. 1528, from earlier *allegoric* (about 1395), borrowed from Latin *allegoricus*, from Greek *allēgorikós*, from *allēgoría*; for suffix see -ICAL.

allele n. 1931, possibly borrowed from German *Allel*, or developed in English, the German and English forms being a shortening of **allelomorph**, 1902 borrowed from the stem of Greek *allēlōn* of one another (from *állos* other, ELSE) + *morphé* form.

alleluia n. Probably before 1200, borrowed from Latin *allēlūja*, from Greek *allēlōia*, from Hebrew *hallēlū-yāh* praise Jehovah, HALLELUJAH.

allergy n. 1911, borrowed from German *Allergie* (coined in 1906 by Clemens von Pirquet, 1874–1929, Austrian pediatrician), from Greek *állos* different, strange + *érgon* action; for suffix see -Y³. —**allergic** adj. 1911, though formed in English from *allergy* + -ic, the word is attested earlier (1906) in French *allergique*. —**allergen** n. substance causing allergy. 1912, formed in English from *allergy* + -gen.

alleviate v. Probably before 1425, borrowed perhaps through influence of Middle French *allevier*, from Late Latin *alleviātus*, past participle of *alleviāre* to lighten (Latin *al-* to + *levis* light in weight); for suffix see -ATE¹. —**alleviation** n. Probably before 1425, borrowed possibly through Middle French *alleviation*, from Late Latin *alleviātiōnem* (nominative *alleviātiō*), from *alleviāre*; for suffix see -TION.

alley n. 1360–61 *aley*, *aleye* open passage between buildings, alley; borrowed from Old French *allée* a path, passage (also meaning “a going”) from *alé*, past participle of *aler* to go, probably from Gallo-Romance *allārī*, back formation from Latin *allātus* having been brought to (*al-* to + *lātus*, serving as past participle to *ferre* bring).

A contrary point of view maintains that Old French *aler* (found in the Latinized form *alare* in a glossary of the 700's) developed from **amlare*, from **amlāre*, from Latin *ambulāre*.

alliance n. About 1300, borrowed from Old French *aliance*, from *alier* ally with, see ALLY; for suffix see -ANCE.

alligator n. 1623 *allegater*, alteration of earlier *aligarto*, borrowed from Spanish *el lagarto* (*de Indias*) the lizard (of the Indies), from *el* the + *lagarto*, from Latin *lacertus* LIZARD.

An earlier form, *lagarto*, appeared in English in 1568 and 1577; it was borrowed from Spanish without the article *el* or *al* and was replaced in 1591 by *aligarto*.

alliteration n. 1656, probably borrowed from New Latin *alliterationem* (nominative *alliteratio*), from Latin *al-* to, + *littera* LETTER, on the pattern of Latin *oblitterātiōnem* obliteration. —**alliterate** v. 1816, back formation from *alliteration*, on the pattern of *obliteration*, *obliterate*.

allo- a combining form meaning “other,” as in *allocentric*, or “different, varying,” as in *allochromatic*. Borrowed from Greek *allo-* combining form of *állos* other. Before a vowel the form is *all-*, as in *allergy*.

allocate v. 1640–41, verb use of earlier *allocate*, adj.; 1438, borrowed from Medieval Latin *allocate* (the word with which writs authorizing payment often began). It is the imperative plural of *allocare* allocate (Latin *al-* + *locāre* to place, LOCATE); for suffix see -ATE¹. —**allocation** n. 1447–48, borrowed possibly through Middle French *allocation*, from Medieval Latin *allocationem* (nominative *allocatio*), from *allocare*; for suffix see -TION.

allot v. 1474 *alotten*, borrowed from Old French *aloter* (*a-* to + *lot* LOT from a Germanic word). —**allotment** n. 1574, possibly borrowed from Middle French *allotement*, and formed in English from *allot* + -ment.

allow v. Before 1325 *allowen*, borrowed through Anglo-French *allowen*, *alouer*, from Old French *alouer* approve, from Latin *allaudāre* (*al-* + *laudāre* praise, LAUD).

In Old French *alouer* approve, was confused with *alouer* assign, from Medieval Latin *allocare* allocate, and both were considered different senses of the same word by the time *alouer* was adopted in English. —**allowance** n. Probably before 1387, borrowed from Old French *alouance*, from *alouer* approve; for suffix see -ANCE.

alloy n. Before 1325 *alai*, *allai*, borrowed through Anglo-French *alei*, from Old French *alei*, from *aleier* mix with a baser metal; literally, to combine, from Latin *alligāre* bind to (*al-* to + *ligāre* bind; see LIGAMENT).

Middle English *alai* was later replaced by *alloy* (1604), from French *aloi*. —v. About 1378 *alaien*, *allaien*, borrowed through Anglo-French *allaier*, from Old French *alotier*, *alier*, from older *aleier*, from Latin *alligāre*. Middle English *alaien*, *allaien* was later replaced by *alloy* (1691), from French *aloyer*, now *allier*.

allude v. 1533, mock, (later) refer fancifully to; possibly borrowed through Middle French *alluder*, from Latin *alludere* make a mocking allusion to; play with (*al-* to + *ludere* play).

allure v. 1402, borrowed from Anglo-French *alurer*, corresponding to Old French *aleurer* (*a-* to + *loirre* falconer's LURE, from a Frankish word).

allusion n. 1548, borrowed from Latin *allusiōnem* (nominative *allusiō*), from *allūs-*, stem of *alludere* ALLUDE; for suffix see -SION.

alluvium n. 1665–66, borrowed from Medieval Latin *alluvium*, neuter of *alluvius* washed against, from Latin *alluere* wash against, (*al-* to, against, + *-luere*, combining form of *lavare* to wash, LAVE). —**alluvial** adj. 1802, borrowed from French *alluvial*, or formed in English from *alluvium* + -AL¹.

ally v. About 1300 *allien* combine, unite; borrowed from Old French *alier*, *allier*, from a different stem of *aleier*, from Latin *alligāre* bind to, ALLOY. —n. Probably about 1375 *allie*, noun use of *allien*, v., to ally.

alma mater n. 1710, Latin *alma māter* bountiful or nourishing mother (*alma*, *almus* nourishing, from *alere* nourish, and *māter* MOTHER). *Alma māter* a title given by the Romans to goddesses, especially Ceres and Cybele, was used in this sense in

English in 1398. In the 1700's the title was first used in reference to British universities such as Oxford.

almanac *n.* Before 1388, borrowed from Medieval Latin *almanach*, from Spanish *almanaque*, earlier Catalan *almanac*, from Spanish-Arabic *al-manākh* calendar, almanac, apparently from Late Greek *almenichakón*, probably of Coptic origin.

almighty *adj.* Old English (about 725, in *Beowulf*) *ælmīhtig* (æ- ALL + *mīhtig* MIGHTY). Cognate with Old Saxon *alomahtig*, Old High German *alamahhtig* (modern German *allmächtig*) and Old Icelandic *almáttigr*, evidently loan translations based on Latin *omnipotēns*, accusative *omnipotentem* OMNIPO-TENT.

almond *n.* Probably about 1300, borrowed from Old French *almande*, *alemande*, *amande*, from Medieval Latin *amandola*, alteration (influenced by Latin *amandus* lovable) of Latin *amygdala*, from Greek *amygdālē*.

The initial *al-* may have developed through influence of Spanish *almoneda* almond.

almoner *n.* 1264 as a surname; about 1303 *aumener*, borrowed from Old French *aumosnier*, *almosnier*, from Vulgar Latin **almosinārius*, variant of Late Latin *eleēmosi-*, *elēmosinārius*, from *eleēmosyna* ALMS. In the 1500's the spelling with *l* became the accepted form by analogy with *alms*.

almost *adv.* Old English (before 1000) *ealmāest* nearly (a compound of *eal*, *al* ALL + *māest* MOST). From 1120 to 1250, Middle English *almest*, *ealmest* developed into modern *almost*, but it did not predominate until the 1400's.

alms *n.* Old English (before 810) *ælmesse*, corresponding to Old Saxon *alamosna* alms, Old High German *alamuosan*, and Old Icelandic *ölmusa*, *almusa*, all from a Germanic word going back to Vulgar Latin **alemosyna*, an alteration of Late Latin *eleēmosyna*, from Greek *eleēmosynē* alms, pity, ultimately from *éleos* pity.

aloft *adv.* Probably about 1200, *oloft*; borrowed from Scandinavian; compare Old Icelandic *ā lopti* up above (*ā* in, on + *lopt* sky, LOFT).

alone *adj., adv.* Probably about 1200, literally, all by oneself (*al* ALL + *on*, *one*, Old English *āna* *adv.*, by oneself). Compare German *allein* and Dutch *alleen*, both meaning alone; also late Old Icelandic *all-einna*.

along *prep.* Old English (887) *andlang*, alongside of (*and-* opposite, against + *lang* long).

aloof *adv.* 1532, away to the windward (*a-* on + *loof* windward, probably from Old French *lof*, from Germanic; see LUFF).

alpaca *n.* 1792, borrowed from Spanish, probably from Aymara *allpaca*, *alpáka*, possibly related to Quechua *p'áko* alpaca. The form *pacos* appears in 1753.

alpha *n.* Probably about 1200, borrowed from Latin *alpha*, from Greek *álpha*, from Semitic; compare Hebrew *'aleph* the first letter of the Hebrew alphabet.

alphabet *n.* Probably before 1425, borrowed from Late Latin *alphabētum*, from Greek *alphabētos*, from *álpha* the letter A and *bēta* the letter B, the first two letters of the Greek alphabet.

Alpine *adj.* Probably before 1425, borrowed perhaps through Middle French *alpin*, and directly from Latin *Alpinus*, from *Alpēs* the Alps.

already *adv.* About 1300, from the adjective phrase *all ready* fully ready. Compare Norwegian and Danish *allerede* already.

also *adv.* Before 1131 *alswa* likewise, similarly, form of Old English, *ealswā* (occasionally, *alswā*) entirely so, quite so (*eall*, *all* ALL + *swā* SO).

altar *n.* Old English (about 1000), borrowed from Latin *altāre*, earlier *altāria*, plural, perhaps related to Latin *adolēre* burn up, consume.

From about 1200 to 1500 the Old English form was generally replaced by *auter*, borrowed from Old French *auter*, from Latin *altāre*. During the 1500's *altar*, reintroduced from Latin, quickly replaced *auter*.

alter *v.* About 1385, borrowed from Old French *altérer*, learned borrowing from Late Latin *alterāre*, from Latin *alter* the other. —**alteration** *n.* Before 1398, borrowed from Old French *alteracion* and Medieval Latin *alterationem* (nominative *alteratio*), from Late Latin *alterāre* alter; for suffix see -TION.

altercation *n.* About 1390, borrowed through Old French *altercacion*, and directly from Latin *altercātionem* (nominative *altercātiō*), from *altercārī* altercate, from **altercus* in turn, from *alter* the other; for suffix see -TION.

alternate *adj.* 1513, borrowed from Latin *alternātus*, past participle of *alternāre*, from *alternus* every other, from *alter* the other; for suffix see -ATE¹. —*n.* 1718, from the adjective. —*v.* 1599, from the adjective.

The derivative form *alternately* appears in English about 80 years before *alternate*, and *alternation* appears in 1443, which gives rise to speculation that *alternate* may be a back formation from *alternation* or that *alternate* may have existed earlier than the formal records indicate.

although *conj.* About 1325 *althagh*, compound of Old English *al*, *eall* ALL, and *thāh*, variant of *thēah* THOUGH.

altitude *n.* About 1386, borrowed from Latin *altitūdō* (genitive *altitūdinis*), from *altus* high.

alto *n.* 1784, man with alto voice, borrowed from Italian, from Latin *altus* high. Though originally applied to a man's voice, and therefore explaining the connection with "high," *alto* is now usually applied to a woman's voice and is thought of as "low" because the word is generally considered to be a clipped form of *contralto*.

altogether *adv.* Before 1200 *altogeder* completely; developed from Middle English phrase (about 1150) *al togedere* all together (Old English *eall*, *al* ALL + *tōgædere* TOGETHER).

altruism *n.* 1853, borrowed from French *altruisme*, possibly from French *autrui* for another or others (Old French *altrui*,

from Vulgar Latin **alterui*, altered under the influence of *cui* for whom, from Latin *alteri*, dative of *alter* the other) + French *-isme* *-ism*. —**altruistic** adj. 1853, formed in English from French *altruiste* *altruistic* + English *-ic*.

alum *n.* 1373, borrowing of Old French *alum*, from Latin *alūmen* an astringent substance, probably a sulfate.

aluminum *n.* Coined in 1812 by British chemist Sir Humphry Davy, as alteration (influenced by Latin *alūmen*, *alūminis* *alum*) of earlier New Latin *aluminium* (1808, also coined by Davy from *alumina* a mineral occurring in nature as corundum + *-ium*). *Aluminium*, preferred in British usage, also appeared in 1812 as an alteration of *aluminum* on the analogy of *sodium*, *potassium*, *magnesium*.

alumna *n.*, pl. **alumnae**. 1882, American English, Latin *alumna*, feminine of *ALUMNUS*.

alumnus *n.*, pl. **alumni** 1645, Latin *alumnus*, literally, foster child, vestigial present passive participle of *alere* nourish.

alveolus *n.* 1706, Latin *alveolus*, diminutive of *alveus* cavity, related to *alvus* belly (metathesized form by shift of *l*, of earlier **aulos*) and cognate with Greek *aulós* hollow tube.

always *adv.* Probably about 1350, a compound of *all* and *way* (the *s* comes from Middle English *wayes*, the adverbial genitive form of *way*).

Beginning as separate phrases with different meanings and different grammatical application, Old English *ealne weg* all the way, the whole way, was an adverbial accusative phrase; *alles weis* at every time was an adverbial genitive phrase. However, *ealne weg* adopted the additional meaning of at every time, continually before 899 and survived in Middle English as *alne way*, along with the later phrase *alles weis*, until about 1350. Dropping its inflection, the phrase *alne way* became a compound before 1375, *alway* always, and survived until well into the 1800's. Concurrently with the addition of the adverbial suffix *-s*, *-es* *alway* became *always* probably about 1350, and gradually gained ground on *alway* from the 1400's onward.

am *v.* form of the verb *be*. Developed from Old English (about 725, in *Beowulf*) *eom*, altered from earlier **em* (compare Old Icelandic *em*), probably on the model of *bēom*, *bēon* BE, Mercian (before 830) *eam*, Northumbrian (about 950) *am*.

In Old English the verb *am* had only a present tense; all other forms were part of a separate verb with the stem *wes-* meaning "to remain." The two verbs supplemented each other in Old English and constituted the verb *am-was* showing "existence" as the substantive verb. However, by the 1200's parts of *am-was* became obsolete and corresponding parts of *be* took their place, thus making up a verb *am-was-be*. Since *be* supplied the infinitive form, the name was applied to the whole verb. See BE for further explanation and ARE¹, IS, and WAS for particular details.

am- a prefix taking the place of *ambi-* in a few borrowings from Latin, especially *amputate*.

amalgam *n.* Before 1400, an alloy of mercury; borrowed through Old French *amalgame*, or directly from Medieval

Latin *amalgame*, perhaps alteration of Latin *malagma* poultice or plaster, from Greek *málagma* softening substance, from *mal-assein* to soften, from *malakós* soft. —**amalgamate** *v.* 1660, verb use of earlier (1642–47) participle *amalgamate*, probably borrowed from Medieval Latin **amalgamatus*, past participle of *amalgamare*, from *amalgame*; for suffix see *-ATE*¹. In some uses *amalgamate* may be a back formation from earlier *amalgamation*. —**amalgamation** *n.* 1612, probably formed from English *amalgam* (archaic *v.* to alloy with mercury) + *-ation* or borrowed from *amalgamation* (1578).

amanuensis *n.* 1619, borrowing of Latin *āmanuēnsis*, a shortened form of *servus ā manū* secretary (originally "servant from the hand," from *ā* from, *manū*, ablative of *manus* hand).

amaranth *n.* 1616, borrowed perhaps through French *amarante*, from Latin *amarantus*, from Greek *amárantos*, literally, everlasting (*a-* not + *maranesthai* wither, decay, die out; related to *máranesthai* fight).

The form with *-th* probably developed from the influence of Greek *ánthos* flower.

amaryllis *n.* 1794, borrowed from Latin, from Greek *Amáryllis*, typical name of a country girl (in Theocritus, Ovid, Vergil, etc.).

amass *v.* 1481, borrowed from Old French *amasser* (*ā-* to + *masser*, from *masse* MASS¹ lump).

amateur *n.* 1784, lover of (some activity or thing); borrowed from French and Old French *amateur*, learned borrowing from Latin *amātōrem* (nominative *amātor*) lover, from *amāre* to love.

amatory *adj.* 1599, borrowed from Latin *amātōrius*, from *amātōrem* lover; see *AMATEUR*.

amaze *v.* Probably before 1200, *amasen*, Middle English form of Old English (about 1000) *āmasian* (*ā-* *a-*⁵ + **masian* to confuse; related to MAZE).

amb- a form of the prefix *ambi-* before a vowel, in borrowings from Latin or French, as in *ambiguous*.

ambassador *n.* About 1385, borrowed from Middle French *ambassadeur*, Old French *embassator*, from Italian *ambasciatore*, from Old Provençal *ambaisador*, from *ambaisa(da)* office of an ambassador, *EMBASSY*; for suffix see *-OR*².

amber *n.* 1365, earlier meaning (probably about 1350) ambergris; borrowed from Old French *ambre*, learned borrowing from Medieval Latin *ambar*, *ambara*, from Arabic *ānbar* ambergris.

ambergris *n.* grayish waxlike substance used in perfumes. Probably before 1425, borrowed from Middle French *ambregris*, literally, gray AMBER.

ambi- a prefix borrowed from Latin *ambi-* around, both, in two ways; cognate with Greek *amphi-* around, about, on both sides, Old English *ymb-* around, and Old High German *umbi* (modern German *um* around). The meaning of around is preserved in borrowings with the shorter forms *am-* and *amb-*,

but as a word-forming element in modern English *ambi-* has a general meaning of both, double, as in *ambisexual*, *ambivalence*.

ambiance *n.* 1923, borrowing of French *ambiance*, but influenced by earlier (1889) English *ambience*; English spelling now follows the French form *-ance*. French *ambiance*, from *ambiant* surrounding, from Latin *ambientem*; see AMBIENT. English *ambience* was formed from *ambient* + *-ence*.

ambidextrous *adj.* 1646, borrowed through French *ambidextre*, or directly from Late Latin *ambidexter* (Latin *ambi-* both + *dexter* right-handed, see DEXTERITY); for suffix see -OUS.

ambient *adj.* 1596, borrowed through Middle French *ambiant*, *ambient*, or directly from Latin *ambientem* (nominative *ambiēns*), present participle of *ambire* go about (*amb-* around + *ire* go); for suffix see -ENT. — **ambience** *n.* See AMBIANCE.

ambiguity *n.* Probably about 1400, borrowed from Old French *ambigüité*, from Medieval Latin *ambiguitatem* (nominative *ambiguitas*), from Latin *ambiguus* ambiguous; see AMBIGUOUS. — **ambiguous** *adj.* 1528, borrowed perhaps through French *ambigu*, but more likely directly from Latin *ambiguus*, from *ambigere* dispute about (*amb-*, in two ways + *agere* to drive, lead, act); for suffix see -OUS.

ambition *n.* 1340, borrowed through Middle French *ambition*, or directly from Latin *ambitiōnem* (nominative *ambitiō*) a going about, from *ambire* go about; see AMBIENT; for suffix see -TION. The meaning desire for honor, power, etc. developed in Latin from the literal meaning a going about, from the going about of candidates for office in ancient Rome soliciting the votes of citizens, which led to "a striving for favor or good will," and "a desire for popularity, fame, etc." — **ambitious** *adj.* 1382, borrowed through Old French *ambitieux*, or directly from Latin *ambitiōsus*, from *ambitiō* (accusative *ambitiōnem*) a going about; for suffix see -OUS.

ambivalence *n.* 1924, formed in English from (1912) *ambivalency*, and borrowed from German *Ambivalenz* (coined 1910 by the German psychiatrist Eugen Bleuler), from Latin *ambi-* in two ways + *valentia* strength, from present participle of *valēre* be strong. — **ambivalent** *adj.* 1916, formed in English from *ambivalency*, on the analogy of *equivalent*, *equivalency*.

amble *v.* Probably about 1300, borrowed through Anglo-French *aumbler*, from Old French *ambler* walk as a horse does, from Latin *ambulāre* to walk, from *amb-* around + *-ulāre*, cognate with Greek *álē* wandering, *alásthai* wander about, Latvian *aluōt* go around or astray, and Tocharian *āl-* remove, detach.

ambrosia *n.* 1555, borrowed perhaps through Middle French *ambroysie*, and directly from Latin *ambrosia*, from Greek *ambrosiā*, *ambrosios* of the immortals (i.e. gods), from *ambrotos* immortal (*a-* not + *brotos*, from earlier **mrotos* MORTAL).

ambulance *n.* 1809, borrowing of French *ambulance*, from *hôpital ambulant*, literally, walking hospital, from Latin *ambulantem* (nominative *ambulans*), present participle of *ambulāre* to AMBLE.

The meaning of a vehicle, such as a wagon to carry the injured, did not develop until the Crimean War (1853–56) when ambulances came into general use.

ambush *v.* About 1300 *ambushen*, *embushen*, borrowed from Old French *embuscher* (*en-* in + *busche* wood, bush, apparently from Frankish **busk*; compare Old High German *busc* BUSH¹). — *n.* 1489, Middle English *embushe*, from the verb, or borrowed from Middle French *embusche*, from Old French *embusche*, from *embuscher*; see AMBUSH, *v.*

ameba *n.* See AMOEBA.

ameliorate *v.* 1767, formed from English *a-*³ to + *meliorate*; patterned on French *améliorer*, from Old French *ameillorer* (from *a-* to + *meillorer* to better, from Late Latin *meliorāre* improve).

amen *interj.* Frequent in Old English (before 1000) as a closing word of vernacular texts; borrowed from Late Latin *āmēn*, from Greek *āmēn*, from Hebrew *āmēn* truly, verily, surely.

An expression of affirmation or agreement in the Bible and adopted in Greek in the Septuagint, it passed into early Christian use in Greek and Latin.

amenable *adj.* 1596, answerable (to the law); borrowed through Anglo-French *amenable*, from Middle French *amener* (*à* to + *mener* to lead, from Latin *mināre* to drive with shouts, variant of *minārī* threaten); for suffix see -ABLE.

amend *v.* Probably before 1200 *amenden*, borrowed from Old French *amender*, alteration (influenced by Vulgar Latin **am-*, for Latin *ad-* to) of Latin *emendāre* to free from fault (*ē-* out + *menda* fault, blemish). — **amendment** *n.* Probably before 1200, borrowed from Old French *amendement*, from *amender* amend; for suffix see -MENT. — **amends** *n.* Probably before 1300, borrowed from Old French *amendes* penalties, plural of *amende* reparation, from *amender* to AMEND.

amenity *n.* Before 1398, borrowed from Old French *amenité*, or directly from Latin *amoenitatem* (nominative *amoenitās*), from *amoenus* pleasant, perhaps related to *amāre* to love.

American *adj.* 1598, borrowed from New Latin *Americanus*, from *America*, the continent, named after *Americus Vesputius* (Italian *Amerigo Vespucci*, 1454–1512, who made three voyages to America and claimed to have discovered it). In 1507 a German geographer, Martin Waldseemüller, named the land *America* in a Latin treatise entitled *Cosmographiae Introductio*.

americium *n.* chemical element discovered in 1945. 1946, New Latin, formed from *Americ(a)* + *-ium*.

Ameslan *n.* 1974, formed in English as an acronym for *Ame(rican) Sign Lan(guage)*.

amethyst *n.* Before 1300 *amatiste*, borrowed from Old French *amatiste* and Medieval Latin *amatistus*, from Latin *amethystus*, from Greek *améthystos* the amethyst, thought to be a preventive of intoxication (*a-* not + *methýskein* make drunk, from *méthý* wine).

amiable *adj.* Before 1375, borrowed from Old French *amiable*, from Late Latin *amicābilis*, from Latin *amicus*, *n.* friend.

amicable *adj.* Probably before 1425, borrowed from Late Latin *amicābilis*, from Latin *amicus*, *n.* friend, related to *amāre* to love.

amid *prep.* Probably before 1200 *amidde*, *amid*, developed from the Old English phrase (about 725, in *Beowulf*) *on middan* in the middle, possibly on analogy with Latin *in mediō*; see *MID*.

amidst *prep.* 1391 *amyddes*, formed from *amidde* *AMID* + adverbial genitive *-s* or *-es*.

The ending was changed in the 1500's to *-st*, by association with superlatives in *-st* and *-est* (compare *against*); or the final *-t* was added to *-s* or *-es* for phonetic reasons (compare *betwixt*).

amino *adj.* 1887, formed in English as a word and a combining form from earlier (1863) *amine* chemical compound formed from *ammonia* (*am(monia)* + *-ine*²).

amir *n.* 1614, borrowed from Arabic *āmīr* commander, *EMIR*. Related to *ADMIRAL*.

Amish *adj.* 1844, American English, apparently borrowed from German *amisch*, derived from the name of Jacob *Amman*, a Swiss Mennonite preacher of the 1600's who founded the sect, + *-isch* *-ish*¹. —*n.* 1884, noun use of *Amish*, *adj.*

amiss *adv.* About 1250 *amis*, *amisse* in a wrong manner, in fault (*a*¹ in + *missen* fail to hit, *MISS*¹).

amity *n.* 1450 *amyte*, borrowed from Middle French *amitié*, from Old French *amistié*, from Vulgar Latin **amicitātem* (nominative **amicitās*), from Latin *amicus*, *adj.* friendly, related to *amāre* to love; for suffix see *-TY*².

ammonia *n.* 1799, New Latin, so named from *sal ammoniac* ammonium chloride, (about 1330) *armoniac*; borrowed through Old French *armoniac*, and directly from Medieval Latin *armoniacum*, alteration of Latin *ammōniacum*, from Greek *ammōniakós*, literally salt of *Ammon*, Egyptian god identified by the Romans with Jupiter, because *sal ammoniac* was brought from the region of Libya near the shrine of Ammon.

ammunition *n.* Before 1626, borrowed from obsolete French *amunition*, *ammunition*, and an altered form *amonition*, all from Middle French *munitio*, perhaps developed from a misdivision of *la munitio* into *l'ammunition*.

amnesia *n.* 1786, New Latin, from Greek *amnēsia* forgetfulness, from *amnēmōn* forgetful (*a-* not + *mimnēskesthai* to recall).

amnesty *n.* 1605, forgetfulness, intentional overlooking; borrowed from French *amnestie*, from Latin *amnēstia*, from Greek *amnēstia* oblivion (*a-* not + *mimnēskesthai* to recall).

The current meaning of pardon for a past offense appeared in 1693.

amniocentesis *n.* 1970, New Latin, formed from *amnion* + *centesis* surgical puncture, borrowed from Greek *kēntēsis* a pricking, from *kenteîn* to prick, related to *kontós* pole.

amnion *n.* 1667, New Latin, from Greek *amnion* membrane around a fetus; originally, bowl in which the blood of victims was caught. —**amniotic** *adj.* 1822, formed from English *amnion* + *-otic*, as in *sclerotic* and *narcotic*.

ameba or **amoeba** *n.* 1855, borrowed from New Latin *Amoeba* (1841) the genus name, from Greek *amoibē* change, in

reference to its continually changing shape, from *amelbein* to change.

amok *adv.*, *adj.* See *AMUCK*.

among *prep.* Before 1121, reduced from Old English (before 899) *onmang*, *ongemang*, originally a phrase *on gemang*, *gemong* in a crowd (*on* in + *gemang*, *gemong* mingling, crowd), from the same root as *gemengan* mix or mingle (*ge-* together prefix + *mengan* to mix). Compare Old Saxon *angimang* among, *amid*; Old Frisian *mong* among.

amongst *prep.* Before 1250, formed from *among* + adverbial genitive *-s* or *-es*.

The ending was changed in the 1500's to *-st*, by association with superlatives in *-st* and *-est* (compare *against*); or the final *-t* was added to *-s* or *-es* for phonetic reasons (compare *betwixt*).

amorous *adj.* About 1303, borrowed from Old French *amorous*, *amoureux*, from *amour* love; for suffix see *-OUS*.

amorphous *adj.* 1731, borrowed from Greek *ámorphos* (*a-* without + *morphē* form).

amortize *v.* Probably before 1387 *amortisen* hold property in mortmain, without right of disposal; borrowed from Old French *amortiss-*, stem of *amortir* deaden, from Vulgar Latin **admortire* (Latin *ad-* to + *mortem*, nominative *mors*, death; related to *MORTAL* and *MORTGAGE*); for suffix see *-IZE*. —**amortization** *n.* 1672, formed in English from *amortize* + *-ation*, or borrowed from Medieval Latin *amortizationem* (nominative *amortizatio*), from *amortizare*; for suffix see *-TION*.

amount *v.* About 1275, go up, rise, mount; borrowed from Old French *amont*, from *a* *mont* upward (literally, to the mountain), from Latin *ad montem* (*ad-* to + *montem*, nominative *mōns* mountain). The meaning of be equal (to), reach (to) appeared in Middle English about 1350. —*n.* 1710, noun use of *amount*, *v.*

ampere *n.* 1881, borrowed from French *ampère*, named after André M. *Ampère*, 1775–1836, a French physicist. —**amperage** *n.* 1894, formed in English from *ampere* + *-age*, after *voltage*.

ampersand *n.* 1837, formed in English by alteration of *and per se* (=) *and*, a phrase formerly found in glossaries, meaning “&” by itself = “and.” The phrase developed from the use of Latin *per se*, meaning “by itself,” which was formerly used in naming a letter that stood by itself to form a word, such as *A per se A* (*a* by itself equals or makes the word *A*).

amphibian *adj.* 1637, having two modes of existence, or of doubtful nature; (later, probably after 1847) of or having to do with the *Amphibia* (class of animals that live both on land and in water). Both senses derive from New Latin *Amphibia* (1607), from Greek *amphibia*, neuter plural of *amphibios* *AMPHIBIOUS*; for suffix see *-AN*. —*n.* 1835, noun use of *amphibian*, *adj.*

amphibious *adj.* 1643, borrowed from Greek *amphibios* living a double life, amphibious (*amphi-* both + *bios* life).

amphitheater *n.* 1546, borrowed through Middle French *amphithéâtre*, or directly from Latin *amphitheātrum*, from Greek *amphithēatron*, neuter of *amphithēatos* with seats for spectators all round (*amphi-* around, on both sides + *thēatron* THEATER).

amphora *n.* 1323, borrowing of Latin *amphora*, from Greek *amphoreús*, earlier *amphiphoreús* (*amphi-* on both sides + *phoreús* bearer, ultimately from *pherein* to bear).

ample *adj.* 1437, borrowing of Middle French *ample*, from Latin *amplus* large, wide, spacious; possibly related to *ampla* handle, grip.

amplify *v.* Probably before 1425, borrowed from Middle French *amplifier*, learned borrowing from Latin *amplificāre*, from *amplificus* splendid, from *amplus* ample + the root of *facere* make; for suffix see -FY.

amplitude *n.* 1549, borrowed perhaps through Middle French *amplitude*, or directly from Latin *amplitūdō* (genitive *amplitūdinis*), from *amplus* ample; for suffix see -TUDE.

ampoule *n.* 1907, borrowed from French, from Latin *ampulla*, diminutive of *amphora* AMPHORA.

amputate *v.* 1638, possibly a back formation from *amputation*, or borrowed from Latin *amputātus*, past participle of *amputāre* (*am-* about + *putāre* to prune, trim); for suffix see -ATE¹.

—**amputation** *n.* 1611, borrowed through Middle French *amputation*, or directly from Latin *amputatiōnem* (nominative *amputatiō*), from *amputāre*; for suffix see -TION. —**amputee** *n.* 1910, formed from English *amput(ate)* + -ee.

amuck or **amok** *adv., adj.* 1672 *amuck*, 1772 *amock*, borrowed from Malay *amok* in a murderous frenzy.

amuse *v.* 1480, borrowed from Middle French *amuser* divert, cause to muse, from Old French *amuser* (*a-* to + *muser* ponder, MUSE). —**amusement** *n.* 1603, borrowed from French, from *amu-ser*; for suffix see -MENT.

an *An* is the older and fuller form of *a*. It originated in Old English as an unstressed form of the numeral *ān* one; see ONE. By 1150 it was reduced in the midland dialect of England to *a* before a consonant; but in the southern dialect *an* before a consonant was found as late as 1340. Before *w* and *y* it was used until the 1400's (*an woman*), and before *h* in a stressed syllable (*an hundred*) down to the 1600's and is still affected before *h* today.

an⁻¹ a prefix meaning not, as in *analphabetic*, *anastigmatic*, or without, as in *anhydrous*; the form before vowels and sometimes *h*-, corresponding to *a*⁻⁴ before consonants.

an⁻² a form of the prefix *ad-*, meaning to, toward, before *n*, as in *annex*. Formed in Latin by assimilation of the *d* to the following consonant (*n*).

an⁻³ a form of the prefix *ana-* before a vowel, as in *anode*.

—**an** a suffix of adjectives and nouns meaning: (person or thing) being of or belonging to, as in *American*, *European*, *crustacean*; person expert or skilled in, as in *historian*, *magician*. Derived either from Latin *-ānus*, adjective suffix, or by alteration of

Middle English *-ain*, *-en*, borrowed from Old French, from Latin *-ānus*.

From the same sources (Latin *-ānus*, Old French *-ain*) English in a few cases acquired a variant *-ane*, sometimes in a word distinguished in meaning from the form in *-an* (*humane*: *human*, *urbane*: *urban*), sometimes without any such contrast (*arcane*, *mundane*).

ana- a prefix meaning up, again, back, or in words borrowed directly or indirectly from Greek *ana-*, as in *anachronism*, *analysis*, *anathema*, and in technical coinages of various kinds, as in *anagram*, *anaplastic*.

—**ana**, with a common variant *-iana*, a suffix added to a proper noun, meaning lore concerning a person or place, as in *Americana*, *Lincoliana*. Borrowed from Latin *-āna*, *-iāna*, neuter plural of the adjective suffixes *-ānus*, *-iānus*.

anachronism *n.* Before 1646, borrowed through French *anachronisme* and Latin *anachronismus*, from Greek *anachronismós*, from *anachronizesthai*, literally, be timed back, from *anachronizein* refer to a wrong time (*ana-* back + *chronizein* spend time, from *chrónos* time; see CHRONIC); for suffix see -ISM.

anaconda *n.* 1768, modification of New Latin (1693) *Anacandaia*, probably from Singhalese *henakandayā* a kind of whip snake, (literally) lightning stem.

anaerobic *adj.* 1884, formed in English by adding the common adjective suffix *-ic* to noun and adjective use of French *anaérobie* (coined in 1863 by Louis Pasteur from Greek *an-* without + *āēr*, *āeros* air + *bíos* life).

anagram *n.* 1589, borrowed probably through French *anagramme*, or adapted directly from New Latin *anagramma*, from Greek *anagrammatizein* transpose letters (*ana-* up or back + *grámma* letter; see GRAMMAR).

analgesic *adj., n.* 1875, formed in English from *analgesia* + *-ic*. New Latin *analgesia*, adopted in English (1706), is from Greek *analgēsīa* (*an-* without + *ālgēsis* sense of pain, from *algēin* feel pain, from *ālgos* pain, related to *alégein* to care about, originally to feel pain).

analogous *adj.* 1646, borrowed perhaps through French *analogue* *adj.*, or directly from Latin *analogus*, from Greek *análogos* proportionate (*aná* *lógon* according to due ratio, *aná* up, upon + *lógon*, accusative of *lógos* ratio, reason; see LOGIC); for suffix see -OUS.

analogue *n.* 1826, borrowing of French *analogue*, from Greek *análogon*, neuter singular of *análogos*; ANALOGOUS.

analogy *n.* Probably before 1425, borrowed through Old French *analogie*, or directly from Latin *analogia*, from Greek *analogiā* proportion, from *análogos* proportionate, ANALOGOUS; for suffix see -LOGY.

analysis *n.* 1581, borrowing of Medieval Latin *analysis*, from Greek *ánalysis* a breaking up, from *análein* unloose (*ana-* up + *lēin* loosen, untie). —**analyst** *n.* 1656, borrowed from French *analyste*, from *analyse* analysis, from Greek *ánalysis*.

—**analytic** *adj.* 1601, from earlier (about 1590) noun use, borrowed through French *analytique*, or directly from Late Latin *analyticus*, from Greek *analytikós*, from *ánalysis*. —**analyze** *v.* 1601, early spelling *analyse*, formed in English probably by back formation from *analysis*, influenced by verb suffix *-ize*.

anarchy *n.* 1539, borrowed through French *anarchie* and Medieval Latin *anarchia*, from Greek *anarchía*, from *ánarchos* rulerless (*an-* without + *archós* ruler, related to *arche-*, *archi-* chief, first, ARCH-). —**anarchist** *n.* 1678, probably formed in English from earlier *anarch* (1667, borrowed from Greek *ánarchos*) leader of revolt + *-ist*.

anathema *n.* 1526, borrowed from Latin, from Greek *anáthema* thing dedicated or devoted, especially to evil, related to *anatithénai* to set up (*ana-* up + *tithénai* to set, put, place).

anatomy *n.* Before 1398, borrowed through Old French *anatomie* and Late Latin *anatomia*, from Greek *anatómē* dissection, related to *anatémnein* to cut up, dissect (*ana-* up + *témnein* to cut); for suffix see -TOMY.

—**ance** a suffix forming nouns (chiefly from verbs) and meaning action, process, state, or quality, as in *allowance* = action of allowing, *annoyance* = state or quality of being annoyed. -*Ance* is borrowed through Old French or directly from Latin *-antia* (*-ant-* participial stem, as in *cōstantem* steady, firm + *-ia* suffix corresponding to English *-y³*). Compare -ENCE.

ancestor *n.* About 1300 *auncestre*, *ancestre*, borrowed from Old French *ancestre*, from Late Latin *antecessor* predecessor, from Latin *antecess-*, stem of *antecēdere* precede (*ante-* before + *cēdere* go). The ending *-re* was Latinized to *-or* in the 1500's; for suffix see -OR². —**ancestry** *n.* Before 1338, borrowed with alteration (influenced by Middle English *ancestre* ancestor) from Old French *ancestrie*, from *ancestour*, from Late Latin *antecessōrem* (nominative *antecessor*), from Latin *antecess-*, stem of *antecēdere*.

anchor *n.* Middle English *ancre*, *anker*, developed from Old English (before 899) *ancor*; borrowed from Latin *ancora*, from Greek *ánkēra*, related to Greek *ankýlos* crooked, curved. —*v.* Probably before 1200 *ancen*, verb use of *ancre*, *n.* *Anchor* was rarely spelled with *-ch-* before the end of the 1500's. The adoption of *-ch-* was an imitation of Latin *anchora*, which was itself a corrupt variant of *ancora*.

anchorite *n.* About 1433, borrowed from Medieval Latin *anachorita*, alteration of Late Latin *anachōrēta*, from Late Greek *anachōrētēs*, from Greek *anachōrēin* to retreat (*ana-* back + *chōrēin* withdraw, give place, from *chōros* place, space); for suffix see -ITE¹. In the 1500's *anchorite* replaced older *ancre* (before 1121), from Old English *ancra* (before 900), a shortening of Late Latin *anachōrēta*.

anchovy *n.* 1596, borrowed from Spanish *anchova*, (earlier) *anchoa*, from Italian dialect of Genoa *anciua* and dialect of Corsica *anchiua*, apparently from Vulgar Latin **apiuva*, corresponding to Latin *apua* a small fish, from Greek *aphýē* small fish of various kinds.

ancient *adj.* Probably about 1390 *auncien*, borrowed from Old French *ancien*, *auncien*, from Vulgar Latin **anteānus* meaning "from before" (Latin *ante* before + *-ānus* -an). The addition of final *-t* to English *auncien* occurred in the 1400's by mistaken association of the word with adjectives in *-ant* and *-ent* that had later dropped the final *-t*.

ancillary *adj.* 1667, borrowed from Latin *ancillāris* of a handmaid, from *ancilla* handmaid, diminutive of *ancula*, feminine of *anculus* manservant (*an-* around + *-culus*, from *colere* attend to, cultivate); for suffix see -ARY.

—**ancy** a suffix forming nouns (chiefly corresponding to adjectives in *-ant*, such as *buoyant*, *constant*) and meaning state or quality, as in *buoyancy* = state or quality of being buoyant, *constancy* = state or quality of being constant. -*Ancy* is a variant form of *-ance* and is borrowed from Latin *-antia*. It became differentiated from *-ance* probably to emphasize the sense of state or quality.

and *conj.* Old English (about 700) *and*, *end*, *ond*; cognate with Old Frisian *anda*, *enda* and, Old Saxon *ande*, *endi*, Old High German *endi*, *anti*, *enti*, *unti* (modern German *und*), Middle Dutch *ende*, *end*, *enn* (modern Dutch *en*), and Old Icelandic *enn* and, but, from Proto-Germanic **undā*.

andiron *n.* 1309 *aundiren*, *aundirne*, borrowed from Old French *andier*, *aundier*. The later ending *-iron* was influenced by Middle English *iren* iron.

androgynous *adj.* 1651, borrowed from Latin *androgynus*, from Greek *andrógygnos* male and female in one, hermaphrodite (*anēr*, genitive *andrós* man, male + *gyné* woman, female); for suffix see -OUS.

—**ane** a suffix designating a saturated hydrocarbon of the methane series (as in *butane*, *propane*). -*Ane* is also a variant of the suffix *-an*, as in *humane*, *germane*, *urbane*, adding emphasis to a quality described by an adjective, as in *human*, *german*, *urban*.

anecdote *n.* 1686, private or unpublished historical fact; borrowed through French *anecdote*, and directly from Medieval Latin *anecdota*, from Late Greek *anékdotā* things unpublished (in reference to memoirs of Procopius, consisting chiefly of gossip about the court of Justinian). Late Greek *anékdotā*, neuter plural of Greek *anékdotos* unpublished, is from *an-* not + *ékdotos* published, from *ekdidónai* give out, publish, (*ex-* out + *didónai* give).

anemia *n.* 1876 *anemia*; before 1824 *anaemia*, influenced by earlier French *anémie* (1722), but adopted from New Latin, from Greek *anaímia* lack of blood, from *ánaimos* bloodless (*an-* without + *háima* blood). —**anemic** *adj.* anemic after 1839; *anaemic* sometime before 1847, perhaps influenced by earlier French *anémique* (1833), but formed from English *anaemia* + *-ic*.

anemone *n.* 1548, borrowed through Middle French *anemone*, Old French *anemoine*, and directly from Latin *anemōnē*, from Greek *anemónē*, (*ánemos* wind + *-ōnē* daughter of, a feminine patronymic suffix).

aneroïd *adj.* 1848, borrowed from French *anéroïde* (Greek *a-*

without + Late Greek *nērón* water + French *-oide* (-oid). *Nērón* derived from the Late Greek phrase *nērón hýdōr* fresh water, from Greek *nearón*, neuter of *nearós* fresh, from *neos* new; see NEW.

anesthesia *n.* 1721, New Latin, from Greek *anaisthēslā* insensibility (*an-* without + *aisthēsis* sensation, from *aisthānesthai* to feel, perceive). —**anesthetic** *adj.* 1846 *anaesthetic*, borrowed from Greek *anaisthētos* insensible (*an-* without + *aisthētos* sensible, from *aisthānesthai* to feel) + English *-ic*. —**n.** 1848, from the adjective.

aneurysm or **aneurism** *n.* Probably before 1425 *aneurisma*, borrowed from Medieval Latin *aneurisma*, from Greek *aneúr-yisma*, from *aneurýnein* dilate (*ana-* up + *eurýnein* widen, from *eurýs* wide).

angel *n.* About 1300 *angel*, *aungel* (with *g* as in gem), replacing earlier *angel*, *angles* (with *g* as in gust), a fusion of Old English *engel* and Latin *angelus*. The later Middle English *angel*, *aungel* are a fusion of Old English *engel* and Old French *angele*, *angel*, *aungel*, from Latin *angelus*, from Greek *ángelos*, originally meaning “messenger.”

The Greek word was a loan translation in the Septuagint of Hebrew *mal'akh* messenger, angel; and *ángelos* may have been suggested by the related Greek *ángaros* royal mounted courier.

The Old English *engel* was a borrowing of Latin *angelus*. Other Germanic languages made a similar borrowing of the Latin: Old Frisian *angel*, *engel*, Old High German *angil*, *engil*, Old Icelandic *engill*. —**angelic** *adj.* About 1385, borrowed from Old French *angélique*, from Latin *angelicus*, from Greek *angelikós*, from *ángelos* angel; for suffix see -IC.

anger *n.* Probably about 1250 *anger*, *angre* distress, affliction, grief, pain; borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *angr* grief); cognate with Old English *enge* narrow, Old High German *engi* (modern German *eng*), Old Icelandic *angr*, Gothic *angwus*, from Proto-Germanic **angiz*. Related to ANGUISH, ANXIETY. —**v.** Probably about 1200, *angren* to distress, irritate, annoy, provoke; borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *angra* to grieve, from *angr* grief).

angina *n.* 1578, influenced by French *angine*, but borrowed from Latin *angina* infection of the throat accompanied by choking, from *angere* to choke; see ANGER.

angina pectoris 1744, New Latin *angina pectoris* sudden constriction of the chest (Latin *pectoris*, genitive of *pectus* chest).

angio- before vowels **angi-**, a combining form adopted from Greek *angēlon* receptacle (formed from *ángos* vessel, of unknown origin). New Latin *angio-*, *angi-* is used in scientific coinage referring to a covering or enclosure, as in *angiocarpous* (having a fruit enclosed in a covering), and especially to blood and lymph vessels, as in *angiogram* (X-ray of blood-vessels).

angle¹ *n.* space between two lines that meet. About 1380, corner, borrowed through Old French *angle*, or directly from Latin *angulus* corner, angle; cognate with Greek *ánkōs* bend, valley. *Angle*¹ is related to *ANGLE*² and *ANKLE*.

angle² *v.* fish with hook and line. About 1450, verb use of *angle*, *n.*, fishhook; developed from Old English *angel* (before 899); related to *anga* hook.

Old English *angel* is cognate with Old High German *angul* fishhook, *ango* hook, Old Icelandic *qngull* fishhook.

Anglican *adj.* 1635, borrowed from Medieval Latin *Anglicanus*, from *Anglicus* of the English people, of England, from Latin *Angli* the Angles; see ANGLO-. The word was used in its Latin form *Anglicana* in the Magna Charta 1215.

Anglicize *v.* 1710, formed in English from Medieval Latin *Anglicus* of the English people + English suffix *-ize*. —**Anglicism** *n.* Anglicized idiom or language. 1642, formed in English from Medieval Latin *Anglicus* + English *-ism*.

Anglo *n.* Informal. 1 U.S. (Southwest) an American white who speaks English. 1941, abstracted from *Anglo-American* (1787). 2 Canadian. a Canadian of English descent. 1959, abstracted from *Anglo-Canadian* (1832). 3 British. a British citizen of English descent. 1964, abstracted from *Anglo-Saxon* (1610).

Anglo- a combining form meaning English, as in *Anglo-Catholic*, *Anglo-American*. Borrowed from Medieval Latin *Anglo-*, combining form of *Angli* the English, from Latin *Angli* Angles (a Germanic tribe, accompanied by Saxons, Jutes, and Frisians, that crossed into Britain in the 400's and 500's A.D. colonizing the greater part of it). The name of the tribe is also of Germanic origin (compare Old English *Engle* the Angles). *Angles* referred originally to the people of *Angul*, now called *Angeln*, a region of northern Schleswig-Holstein in Germany (Old Icelandic *Ongull*), which was so called because of its hooklike shape.

Anglo-Saxon *adj.*, *n.* Old English *Angul-Saxon* (about 885) with the meaning “English Saxons” to distinguish them from the Saxons of the Continent, sometimes now referred to as Old Saxons.

There was no record of a collective name for the colonizers who came to Britain from the Continent in the 400's and 500's A.D. but later the term *Englisc* (English) appeared from the dialect of the Angles. Subsequently *Englisc* applied to all dialects of the Angles and the Saxons, probably sometime before 700 A.D. Then in the struggle with the Danes *Englisc* was used probably by 800 A.D. to describe all speakers of any dialect of the Angles and the Saxons.

After the Norman Conquest (1066) the invaders were referred to as French and the natives as *English*, but in a few generations *Saxon* was used to distinguish the natives from before the Norman Conquest.

This distinction was diluted, however, by the chroniclers of the 1100's and the meaning *Anglo-Saxon* was easily extended to all English. However, this use of *Anglo-Saxon* was not adopted in English until about 1610 to distinguish between the Saxons of England and the Saxons of the Continent, or Germany.

The modern use of *Anglo-Saxon* has given rise to the popular abstraction of *Anglo-* as meaning “English and _____” so that numerous combinations have developed; see ANGLO-.

angry *adj.* 1375, vexing, fierce, severe, inflamed (referring to

things and events); about 1385, incensed, resentful, angered (referring to people), formed from Middle English *anger* + *-y*¹.

angst *n.* 1956, borrowed from German *Angst*, from Old High German *angust*. The word is cognate with Latin *angere* to choke, distress, *angustus* narrow. *Angst* was first recorded in a collection of George Eliot's letters, in a letter written in 1849. For the next 100 years the word slowly made its way into English and was given special prominence after translations of Freud's work in psychology were circulated in the U.S.

anguish *n.* Probably before 1200, borrowed through Old French *anguisse*, *angoisse*, from Latin *angustia* tightness, from *angustus* narrow. The word is related to *anger* through Latin *angere* to choke; for suffix see *-ish*².

angular *adj.* Before 1398, borrowed, perhaps through influence of earlier Old French *angulaire*, from Latin *angulāris*, from *angulus* ANGLE¹ (space); for suffix see *-AR*.

aniline *n.* 1850, borrowing of French *aniline*, also perhaps reinforced by German *Anilin*. Both forms are from French *anil*, from Portuguese *anil*, from Arabic *an-nīl* (al- the + *nīl* indigo); for suffix see *-ine*².

It is also possible that *aniline* is a formation in English of *anil* indigo dye, the word known in English from 1581, + *-ine*², because the name *aniline* was applied to the dyes when a process for making it was invented in 1826.

animal *n.* About 1330, borrowed through Old French, or more likely directly from Latin *animal*. The Latin word was originally the neuter form of *animālis* having the breath of life, animate, from *anima* life, breath, which is related to *animus* mind, spirit.

animate *adj.* Before 1398, borrowed from Latin *animātus*, past participle of *animāre*, from *anima* life, breath; for suffix see *-ATE*¹. —*v.* 1538, verb use of the adjective.

Both adjective and verb are recorded in French prior to their use in English, and the verb may have come into use in English by influence of French.

animism *n.* 1866, formed from Latin *anima* life, breath, soul + English *-ism*. The development of the term in English was probably influenced by an earlier sense of a doctrine that animal life is produced by an immaterial soul (1832), borrowed from German *Animismus* (coined by the German physicist G.E. Stahl, 1660–1734).

animosity *n.* Probably before 1425, vigor; borrowed through Middle French *animosité*, or directly from Latin *animōsitātem* (nominative *animōsitās*), from *animōsus* spirited, from *animus* spirit; for suffix see *-ITY*. The meaning of violent hatred appeared in 1605.

animus *n.* = animosity. 1816, borrowed from Latin *animus* spirit, feeling.

anion *n.* negatively charged ion. 1834 (introduced by the English physicist and chemist Michael Faraday); borrowed from Greek *anión* (thing) going up, neuter present participle of *aniénai* go up (*aná* up + *iénai* go).

anise *n.* Probably about 1300, borrowed from Old French *anis*, learned borrowing from Latin *anīsum*, *anēsum*, from Greek *ánnēson*.

ankle *n.* About 1350 *angle*; probably before 1300 *anclowe*; before 1150 *anclowe*; developed from Old English *onclēow* (before 800) cognate with Old High German *anchal*, *enchil* ankle (in modern German *Enkel*), Middle Dutch *anekel* (modern Dutch *enkel*), Old Icelandic *þekla* (from **ankulan*), and Latin *angulus* corner, angle; see ANGLE¹ space.

Old English had another form *anclēow* (cognate with Old High German *anchlāo*, apparently influenced by Proto-Germanic **klāwa-* claw), but eventually this was supplanted by the simpler *anekel*.

A later form in Middle English *anekel* was borrowed ultimately from Old Icelandic *þekla*.

annals *n. pl.* 1563, borrowed perhaps through Middle French *annales*, but more likely directly from Latin *annālēs librī*, literally, annual books or records, plural form of *annālis* ANNUAL, from *annus* year.

anneal *v.* Before 1382 *anelen* temper by heating and then cooling; developed from Old English (before 725) *onēlan* to set on fire, kindle (*on-*, *an-* on + *ēlan* to burn, bake, from *āl* fire, a burning, Proto-Germanic **ailan*). The Old English term *-āl* was a rare word and is related to the more common Old English *æld*, *æled* fire, which is cognate with Old Saxon *ēld*, Old Icelandic *eldr* fire, Swedish *eld*, and Danish *ild* fire, Proto-Germanic **ailidaz*.

annelid *n.* 1834, borrowed from French *annélide*, from New Latin *Annelida*, the scientific name for the phylum of worms in a system of classifying animals developed by the French naturalist Lamarck in 1801 and in which he proposed the French word *annelés* ringed ones, from which the New Latin term later came.

annex *v.* About 1370, borrowed through Old French *annexer*, from Medieval Latin *annexare*, frequentative form of Latin *annectere* to bind to (*an-* to + *nectere* to bind; related to CONNECT). —*n.* 1540, probably borrowed from Middle French *annexe*, from Latin *annexus*, past participle of *annectere*.

Possibly the noun developed in English from the verb. However, the meaning "an addition to an existing building" apparently is an adoption in 1861 from French *annexe*. —**annexation** *n.* 1611, probably formed from English *annex*, *v.* + *-ation*.

annihilate *v.* 1525, verb use of Middle English past participle *annihilate*, *adnichilat*; borrowed perhaps through influence of Middle French *annihiler* from *anichiler*, or directly from Late Latin *annihilātus*, past participle of *annihilāre* to cause to be nothing (from Latin *an-* to + *nihil* nothing, NIL); for suffix see *-ATE*¹. —**annihilation** *n.* Before 1638, formed from English *annihilate* + *-ation*, or alternatively either borrowed from Middle French *annihilation*, or directly from Late Latin *annihilātiōnem* (nominative *annihilātiō*), from *annihilāre*; for suffix see *-TION*.

anniversary *n.* Probably before 1200, borrowed through

Anglo-French *anniversarie* and Medieval Latin *anniversarium*, from Latin *anniversarius* returning annually (*annus* year + *versus*, past participle of *vertere* to turn); for suffix see -ARY.

announce *v.* 1483, borrowed from Old French *annoncier*, from Latin *annūtiāre* (*an-* to, variant of *ad-* before *n* + *nūtiāre* announce, relate, from *nūntius* messenger). — **announcement** *n.* 1798, either borrowed from French *annonce*, or formed in English from *announce* + *-ment*.

annoy *v.* About 1275, Middle English *anoien*; borrowed through Anglo-French *anuier*, *anoier*, from Old French *anoier*, *enoier*, *enuier* to weary, vex, from Late Latin *inodiāre* make loathsome, from Latin *esse in odiō* be hateful (*odiō*, ablative of *odium* hatred). — **annoyance** *n.* About 1390, borrowed from Old French *anoiance*, from *anoier* to weary, vex; for suffix see -ANCE.

annual *adj.* Before 1382, borrowed perhaps through Old French *annuel*, or more likely as a learned borrowing from Late Latin *annuālis*, alteration of Latin *annālis* annual, influenced by Latin *annuus* yearly, from *annus* year; for suffix see -AL.

annuity *n.* About 1412, borrowed through Anglo-French *annuité*, or directly from Medieval Latin *annuitatem* (accusative of *annuitas*), from Latin *annuus* yearly; for suffix see -ITY.

annul *v.* 1395, borrowed through Old French *annuler*, or directly from Late Latin *annūllāre* (Latin *an-* to + *nūllus* of no value, NULL).

annunciate *v.* Before 1536, verb use of Middle English past participle *annunciat* (about 1375) or borrowed directly from Latin *annūtiātus*, past participle of *annūtiāre* make known, announce; for suffix see -ATE¹. It is possible *annunciate* is a back formation in English from earlier *annunciation*. — **annunciation** *n.* Before 1325, referring to Lady Day, the festival of the Annunciation; borrowed through Anglo-French *anunciacioun*, from Late Latin *annūntiātiōnem* (nominative *annūntiātiō*), from Latin *annūtiāre* announce; for suffix see -TION.

anode *n.* 1834, borrowed from Greek *ánodos* way up (*aná* up + *hodós* way); so called from the path the electric current was thought to take from the positive pole. *Anode* and *cathode* were introduced, though not coined, by the English chemist and physicist Michael Faraday. Compare ELECTRODE.

anodyne *adj.*, *n.* 1543, borrowed from Medieval Latin *anodynus* pain-removing, from Latin *anōdyus*, *anōdyus* painless, from Greek *anōdyus* (*an-* without + *odýnē* pain).

The word was known in Middle French *anodin* as early as 1503 but was probably not the immediate source of English borrowing, rather it was a parallel development in French from Latin, because the first recorded appearance of the word in English is from a book on surgery translated from Latin.

anoint *v.* About 1303, *anointen*, *enointen*; borrowed from Old French *enoindre* smeared on, past participle of *enoindre* smear on, from Latin *inungere* (*in-* on + *ungere* to smear).

anomaly *n.* 1571, borrowed from Latin *anōmalia*, from Greek *anōmalia*, from *anōmalos* anomalous (*an-* not + *homalós* even,

probably from *homós* SAME); for suffix see -Y³. — **anomalous** *adj.* 1646, borrowed from Late Latin *anōmalus*, from Greek *anōmalos* anomalous; for suffix see -OUS.

anonymous *adj.* 1601, borrowed from Late Latin *anōnymus*, from Greek *anōnymos* (*an-* without + *ónyma*, dialectal form of *ónoma* NAME); for suffix see -OUS.

anorexia *n.* 1626, perhaps influenced by earlier French *anorexie*; New Latin, from Greek *anorexiā* (*an-* without + *órexis* appetite, desire, from *óregein* to desire, stretch out).

answer *n.* Middle English *andswere*; developed from Old English (about 725, in *Beowulf*) *ondswere*, *andswaru* (*and-* against + *swaru* affirmation, swearing, from *swerian* swear), and cognate with Old Frisian *ondser*, Old Saxon *antswōr*, and Old Icelandic *andsvar*, all with the original sense of rebutting a charge or accusation. — *v.* Middle English *answeren*, developed from Old English (about 725, in *Beowulf*) *andswarian*, from *andswaru* answer.

ant *n.* Before 1500 *ant*, developed from earlier *ampte*, *empte* (1382), and still earlier *amete*, *emete* (about 1300), developed from Old English *æmette* (before 899, as in the form *æmethyl* ant hill).

The Old English *æmette*, literally, one that cuts off (leaves) and its cognate in Old High German *ameiza* ant, have elements of their compound forms (*-mette* and *-meiza*) that are cognate with Old Icelandic *meita* and Gothic *maitan* to cut, from Proto-Germanic **maitanan*.

— **ant** a suffix forming adjectives and nouns from verbs, as in *compliant* (from *comply*), *assistant* (from *assist*). Borrowed through Old French *-ant*, or directly from Latin *-antem*, present participle suffix. Compare -ENT.

antagonize *v.* 1634, borrowed from Greek *antagōnizesthai* to struggle against (*anti-* against + *agōnizesthai* to struggle, from *agōn* contest; see AGONY). — **antagonism** *n.* 1838, borrowed from French *antagonisme*, from Late Greek *antagōnisma*, from Greek *antagōnizesthai* to contend. — **antagonist** *n.* 1599, borrowed perhaps through French *antagoniste*, or directly from Late Latin *antagōnista*, from Greek *antagōnistēs* opponent, rival, from *antagōnizesthai* to contend.

antarctic *adj.* 1601 *antarcticke*, alteration (influenced by Latin *antarcticus*) gradually replacing earlier Middle English *antartik*, about 1400; borrowed through Old French *antartique*, from Medieval Latin *antarticus*. The Medieval Latin word followed the same process of sound change as the parallel term *arctic* and dropped the *c* in *-arc-* which was in the original Latin *antarticus*, from Greek *antarktikós* opposite the north (*anti-* opposite + *arktikós* of the north); see ARCTIC.

ante *n.* stake in poker. 1838, American English, apparently from *ante-* before. — *v.* put up an ante. 1846, from the noun.

ante- a prefix meaning before, as in *antedate*, or in front of, as in *anteroom*. Borrowed from Latin prefix *ante-*, from *ante* before, in front of. The prefix is cognate with Greek *anti* against, instead of; see ANTI-.

antecedent *n.* Probably before 1387; borrowed perhaps through Old French *antécédent*, or directly from Latin *antecedentem* (nominative *antecedens*), present participle of *antecedere* go before (*ante-* before + *cēdere* go); for suffix see *-ENT*.

antediluvian *adj.* 1646, existing before the Deluge; formed in English from *ante-* before + Latin *diluvium* DELUGE; for suffix see *-IAN* and *-AN*.

antelope *n.* About 1417, referring to a picture of a beast on a coat of arms; borrowed from Old French *antelop* mythical savage beast with long, sawlike horns living on the banks of the Euphrates, from Medieval Latin *antalopus*, from Late Greek *anthólōpos* (genitive *anthólōpos*).

The modern meaning of a deerlike animal appeared in English in 1607, and is probably the source of the term in modern French.

antenna *n.* 1646, sensory organ; borrowed from Medieval Latin in the plural form *antennae*, used in a translation of Aristotle as an equivalent to Greek *kerata* "horns" of an insect. Earlier Latin *antenna*, *antemna* sail yard refers to the long yard that sticks up on the lateen sail.

anterior *adj.* 1611, toward the front, fore; borrowed perhaps through French *antérieur*, or more likely directly from Latin *anterior*, (formed in Latin as an opposite to *posterior* after) as if from **anterior*, from *ante* before.

anthem *n.* Old English (before 899) *ontemn*, *antefn* antiphon (verses of a hymn, church service, etc., sung or chanted in alternate parts); borrowed from Late Latin *antefana*, an alteration of *antiphōna* antiphon (changed from *anti* to *ante*, influenced by Late Latin *ante* before).

The Middle English spellings *antefne*, *antimne*, *antempne*, *antem* shifted in the late 1500's to *anthem*. The change from *t* to *th* restored a look of Greek ancestry to the word as in *author*, *theater*, and *sympathy*.

anther *n.* Indeterminately applied between 1706 and 1759, but generally fixed in meaning and form by 1791; borrowed from French *anthère* and from New Latin *anthera*, from Latin *anthēra* medicine extracted from flowers. The Latin word is from Greek *anthērā*, feminine of *anthērōs* flowery, from *anthē* full bloom, from *ánthos* flower.

anthology *n.* 1640, collection of the "flowers" of verse (i.e., small, choice poems) by various authors; borrowed, perhaps by influence of French *anthologie*, from Greek *anthología* flower-gathering (*ánthos* flower + *légēin* gather); for suffix see *-LOGY*. —**anthologize** *v.* 1892, formed from English *anthology* + *-ize*.

anthracite *n.* 1601, a mineral resembling coals of fire; 1812, hard coal; borrowed from Latin *anthracites* a kind of semi-precious gem known as bloodstone, from Greek *anthrakites*, from *ánthrax* (genitive *ánthrakos*) live coal, charcoal, ANTHRAX; for suffix see *-ITE*¹.

anthrax *n.* Before 1398, *antrax* carbuncle; borrowed through Medieval Latin and Anglo-French *antrax*, from Greek *ánthrax*

carbuncle, live coal, charcoal. The spelling with *th* is a replacement from the 1500's, made to restore a classical spelling.

anthropo-, **anthrop-** a combining form meaning man, human being, as in *anthropology*, *anthropomorphic*; borrowed from Greek *ánthrōpo-*, combining form of *ánthrōpos* man, human being.

anthropoid *adj.* Before 1837, probably from adjective use of the noun (1832); borrowed from Greek *ánthrōpoeidēs* (*ánthrōpos* man + *eídōs* shape); for suffix see *-OID*.

anthropology *n.* 1593, probably borrowed from New Latin *anthropologia*, or formed directly in English from Greek *ánthrōpo-*, combining form of *ánthrōpos* man, human being + *-logy*.

anthropomorphic *adj.* 1827, formed in English from earlier *anthropomorphism*, *anthropomorphous* (both 1753) + suffix *-ic*. *Anthropomorphous* is an Anglicization of Late Latin *ánthrōpomorphus* having human form, or of Greek *ánthrōpómorphos* (*ánthrōpos* human being + *morphē* form).

anti- a prefix meaning against, opposed to, or opposite of, as in *antiaircraft*, *antifreeze*, *antisocial*. Borrowed through Old French, or directly from Latin *anti-*, representing Greek *anti-*, from *antí* against, instead. *Anti-* is cognate with Latin *ante*, in front of, Gothic *and*, *anda-* against, along, Old High German *ant-* against, and Old English *and-* against.

Related in function to Old English *and-*, the prefix was generally confined to words such as *anticrist* (*Antecrist*), *antipope* (*Antepope*), *antidot*, *antidotum*. The formation was not popularized until the period of modern English.

antibiotic *adj.* 1894, borrowed from French *antibiotique* (*anti-* against + *biotique* of microbial life, from Late Latin *biōticus* of life); for suffix see *-IC*. —**n.** 1944, noun use of *antibiotic*, *adj.*

antibody *n.* 1901, translation of German *Antikörper*, condensed from such a phrase as *anti-toxischer Körper* antitoxic body or substance (*anti-* opposing + *toxisch* toxic, *Körper* body, substance).

antic *n.* Often **antics**, pl. 1529, originally *antike*, *anticke*, later *antique*, borrowed from Italian *antico* antique, from Latin *antīquus* ANTIQUE. *Antic* was originally used as an equivalent to Italian *grottesco* grotesque, from *grotta* grotto, in reference to fantastic representations of human, animal, and plant forms in murals unearthed in the ancient Baths of Titus in Rome. The term was later extended to anything similarly bizarre.

anticipation *n.* Before 1397, borrowed from Latin *anticipātiōnem* (nominative *anticipātiō*), from *anticipāre* take care of ahead of time (*anti-* before + *-cipāre*, form of *capere* to take); for suffix see *-TION*. —**anticipate** *v.* 1532, possibly a back formation from *anticipation*, or borrowed from Latin *anticipātus*, past participle of *anticipāre* take care of ahead of time; for suffix see *-ATE*¹.

antidote *n.* Probably before 1425; borrowing of Old French *antidote*, and directly from Latin *antidotum*, from Greek *antídōton* given as a remedy, verbal adjective of *antídōnai* give in return (*anti-* against + *didōnai* to give).

antigen *n.* 1908, borrowing of German *Antigen*, formed from *Anti(körper)* antibody + *-gen* thing that produces.

antimony *n.* Probably about 1425, borrowed through Old French *antimoine*, and directly from Medieval Latin *antimonium*, possibly developed by Latinization of some Arabic word such as *'othmud* (originally *'ithmid*), borrowed from, or influenced by, Greek *stímmis* (variant of *stímmi* powdered antimony used to paint the eyelids), which can be traced to Egyptian *stm*.

antipathy *n.* 1601 *antipathie* contrary feeling; borrowed (perhaps by influence of French *antipathie*, 1542), from Latin *antipathia*, from Greek *antipátheia*, from *antipathēs* opposed in feeling (*anti-* against + *páthos* feeling).

antiphon *n.* About 1500, borrowed perhaps from Middle French *antiphone*, *antifone* hymn, or, more likely, directly from Late Latin *antiphōna*, from Greek *antiphōna* musical accords, neuter plural of *antiphōnos* sounding in response (*anti-* in response to, opposed to + *phōnē* sound, song).

antipodes *n.pl.* Before 1398, those who dwell on opposite sides of the earth; borrowed from Latin *antipodes*, from Greek *antipodes*, plural of *antipous* with feet opposite ours (*anti-* opposite + *pous*, genitive *podós*, FOOT).

The meaning "things that are opposite or contrary" appeared in 1641, and earlier in the obsolete form *antipos* (1631).

antique *adj.* 1536, aged, venerable (earlier in 1530 as a noun meaning "a relic of ancient art"; see **ANTIC**); borrowed probably through Middle French *antique*, from Latin *antiquus* former, ancient, an earlier form of *antīcus*, from *ante* before; see **ANTE-**. —**antiquarian** *n.* 1610; *adj.* 1771, either formed in English from Latin *antiquarius* of antiquity + *-an*; or developed in English from earlier *antiquary* (1563) + *-an*. If *antiquarian* developed from *antiquary*, then the root form *antiquary* was borrowed (perhaps through Middle French *antiquaire*) from Latin *antiquarius* of antiquity, from *antīquus*; for suffix see **-ARY**. —**antiquity** *n.* Probably about 1280, borrowed through Anglo-French and Old French *antiquité*, from Latin *antiquitatem* (nominative *antiquitās*), from *antīquus*; for suffix see **-ITY**.

antithesis *n.* 1529, borrowed from Late Latin *antithesis*, from Greek *antithesis*, from *antitithēnai* to set against, oppose (*anti-* against + *tithēnai* to set, place).

antler *n.* Before 1398 *aunteler*; borrowed through Anglo-French *auntiler*, variant of Old French *auntoillier*, from Northern Gallo-Romance *cornū* **antoculāre* horn in front of the eyes, neuter of **antoculāris* before the eyes (Latin *ante* before + Late Latin *oculāris* of the eyes, **OCULAR**).

antonym *n.* 1870, perhaps borrowed from French *antonyme* (1866), or formed in English from *anti-* + *-onym*, as in *synonym*, opposite of *synonym*.

anus *n.* Probably before 1425, borrowed through Old French *anus*, from Latin *ānus* ring, circular form, anus.

anvil *n.* Middle English *anvelt*, *anfelt*, *anvild*; developed from

Old English *anfilte* (about 1000) and earlier *onfilti*, before 800 (*an*, *on* on + *-filte* or *-filti* something beaten, related to Old English *felt* **FELT**).

The word is cognate with Old High German *anafalz*, dialectal Middle Dutch *anevilt*, and with modern Low German: *afilts* (Aachen district), *amfilt* (Solingen district), and *anefilt*, all meaning "anvil." Compare also German *falzen* to groove, fold, welt, *Falzamboss* coppersmith's anvil, and *Filz* felt, from Proto-Germanic *(*ana-*)/felt-, (*ana*)/falt-.

anxiety *n.* About 1525, probably borrowed from Latin *ānxi-etātem* (nominative *ānxiētās*), from *ānxius* **ANXIOUS**; for suffix see **-TY²**.

The word was known in French (*anxiété*) as a medical term from the 1100's, but it is unknown whether it was familiar to English authors, who would have been familiar with the Latin.

anxious *adj.* 1623, probably borrowed from Latin *ānxius*, from *angere* choke, cause distress; for suffix see **-OUS**. The French *anxieux* was known from 1375; whether it was known to writers in English in the early 1600's has not been determined.

any *adj.*, *pron.* Middle English *ani* or *eni*; developed from Old English (about 725, in *Beowulf*) *ænig* any, anyone, (*ān* one + *-ig* -y¹; see **ONE** and for suffix see **-Y¹**).

The word is cognate with Old Saxon *ēnig* any, Old Frisian *ēnig*, Old High German *einag* some, any (modern German *einige*, Dutch *enig*), Old Icelandic *einigr* no one, anyone, from Proto-Germanic **ainazās*, *ainizās*.

Combinations of *any* appeared early and frequently in English writing: *anything* appears by 1000; *anybody*, about 1300; *anyone* by 1380; *anyway* or *anyways*, for "in any way," probably about 1200; *anywhere*, before 1400.

aorta *n.* 1578, perhaps borrowed by influence of earlier French *aorte* (1546), or more likely taken as New Latin *aorta*, from Greek *aortē* the aorta (the term applied by Aristotle to the great artery of the heart); earlier, the bronchial tubes (the term applied by Hippocrates).

ap⁻¹ a form of the prefix *ad-*, meaning to, toward, before *p*, as in *apportion*. Formed in Latin by assimilation of *d* to the following consonant (*p*).

ap⁻² a form of the prefix *apo-* before a vowel, as in the astronomical term *apastron* (*ap-* away + Greek *ástron* star), also before (and merged in pronunciation with) *h*, as in *aphelion*, *aphorism*.

apart *adv.* Before 1325, borrowed from Old French *à part* to the side, from Latin *ad partem* to one side or part (*ad* to + *partem*, accusative of *pars* **PART**).

apartment *n.* 1641, borrowed from French *appartement*, from Italian *appartamento*, literally, separate part, from *appartare* to separate (*a parte* to the side, from Latin *ad partem*; see **APART**); for suffix see **-MENT**.

apathy *n.* 1603, borrowed from French *apathie* and Latin *apathia*, from Greek *apátheia*, from *apathēs* without feeling (*a-* without + *páthos* feeling; for suffix see **-Y³**). —**apathetic** *adj.* 1744, formed in English from *apathy* + *-ic*, on analogy *pathetic*.

ape *n.* Old English *apa* (about 700). Related to and probably cognate with Old Saxon *apo* ape, Frisian *apa*, Middle Dutch *āpe*, *aep* (modern Dutch *aap*), Old High German *affo* (modern German *Affe*), Old Icelandic *api* (Swedish *apa*, Danish *abe*); of uncertain origin; perhaps borrowed through contact in exploration or trading, and so related to Irish *ap*, *apa*; Welsh *ab*, *epa*; Old Russian *opica*; all borrowed in very early times apparently with loss of an original *k* found in Sanskrit *kapt-s* ape. —**v.** to imitate; mimic. 1632, verb use of the noun sense, “an imitator or mimic” (probably developed before 1200).

aperture *n.* 1649, borrowed perhaps through Middle French *aperture*, or directly from Latin *apertūra*, from *apertus*, past participle of *aperire* to open, uncover; for suffix see -URE.

apex *n.* 1601, borrowed from Latin *apex* (genitive *apicis*) peak, tip (of the small rod on top of a Roman priest's cap, possibly from *apere* connect).

aphasia *n.* 1867, New Latin, from Greek *aphasiā* (*a-* without + *phásis* utterance, from *phánaí* to speak).

The word *aphasie* was known in French by 1826, but the form of the word introduced into English was *Latinat*.

aphelion *n.* 1676, borrowed from New Latin *aphelium* with the Greek ending *-on*. The earlier New Latin *aphelium* (1656, in a translation of Hobbes' *Elements of Philosophy*) was coined by the German astronomer Johann Kepler writing in Latin about the findings of Ptolemaic astronomy, which were written in Greek, and therefore show the connection for the Greek origin of many terms in astronomy. Kepler coined *aphelium* after Greek *apò hēllou* away from the sun (*apò* away from + *hēllou*, genitive of *hēlios* sun).

aphid *n.* 1884, an alteration of New Latin *aphides*, plural of *aphis* (a term of uncertain origin coined or, at least first applied, by Linnaeus and attested in English since 1771).

aphorism *n.* 1528, borrowed from Middle French *aphorisme*, from Late Latin *aphorismus*, from Greek *aphorismós* definition, pithy sentence (*ap-* off + *hóros* boundary); for suffix see -ISM.

aphrodisiac *n.* 1719, borrowed from Greek *aphrodisiakós* inducing sexual desire, sexual, from *aphrodisios* pertaining to *Aphrodítē* Aphrodite, the Greek goddess of love. Compare *VENEREAL*.

apiary *n.* 1654, borrowed from Latin *apiarium*, neuter of *apiarius* of bees, from *apis* bee; for suffix see -ARY.

aplomb *n.* 1828, borrowing of French *aplomb*, from earlier *à plomb* according to the plummet (i.e., poised upright); see *PLUMB*.

apo- a prefix meaning: 1 from, off, away, as in *apogeotropic* = turning away from the earth. 2 free from, without, as in *apochromatic* = free from chromatic aberration. 3 formed from or related to, as in *apoenzyme* = protein portion of an enzyme or enzyme system. 4 apart, separate, detached, as in *aposepalous* = having separate sepals. *Apo-* was acquired in English through French or directly from Latin in borrowings, such as *apocalypse*, *apologia*, *apology*, *apoplexy*, *apostasy*, *apostle*, *apostrophe*, and *apothecosis* and comes from Greek *apo-*, from *apó* away, from, off.

apocalypse *n.* About 1384 *apocalips* a vision or hallucination; developed from earlier *Apokalypsis* (name of the last book of the New Testament, usually called *Revelation*), probably about 1200. The name of the biblical text was borrowed through Anglo-French *apocalipse*, from Old French *apocalypse*, and from Late Latin *apocalypsis* revelation, from Greek *apokálypsis* uncovering, from *apokályptein* uncover (*apo-* off, *un-* + *kalýptein* to cover, veil). —**apocalyptic** *adj.* 1663, borrowed through French *apocalyptique*, from Greek *apokalyptikós*, from *apokályptein*; for suffix see -IC.

apocrypha *n. pl.* Before 1387, and by 1539 *Apocrypha*, books excluded from the Bible because they were not considered genuine in the Old Testament. Borrowed from Medieval Latin, from Late Latin *apocrypha*, neuter plural of *apocryphus* secret, not approved for public reading in the church, from Greek *apókryphos* hidden, as of hidden or unknown authorship (*apo-* away + *kryptein* to hide). *Apocrypha* replaced the earlier form *apocrif* about 1445, which had been borrowed from Old French *apocriefe*. —**apocryphal** *adj.* of doubtful authenticity. 1590, formed in English from *apocrypha* + *-al*.

apogee *n.* 1594, point in the orbit of a planet, comet, etc., at its greatest distance from the earth or from any other celestial body about which it orbits; later meaning figuratively “furthest point; highest point” (1600). Probably borrowed from French *apogée*, from Greek *apógeion sēmeton* point far from the earth, neuter of *apógeios* far from the earth, from *apò gēs* (*apò* off, away and *gēs*, genitive of *gē* earth).

apology *n.* 1533, defense, justification; borrowing of Late Latin *apologia*, from Greek *apologíā* a speech in defense, from *apologesthai* defend oneself, from *apólogos* an account or story, from *apologeín* to tell fully (*apo-* from, off + *légein* to tell, speak; see *LEGEND*).

Whether the term also came into English by way of French or was modeled after the French is questionable, but *apologie* has been recorded in French since 1488. —**apologetic** *adj.* 1649, defensive; borrowed through French *apologétique*, from Late Latin *apologēticus*, from Greek *apologētikós*, from *apologesthai* defend oneself. —**apologize** *v.* 1596, formed from English *apology* + *-ize*.

apoplexy *n.* About 1390, borrowed through Old French *apoplexie*, or directly from Late Latin *apoplēxia*, from Greek *apoplēxía*, from *apoplēssein* disable by a stroke (*apo-* off, from + *plēssein* to strike).

apostasy *n.* Perhaps about 1348, borrowed from Late Latin *apostasia*, from Greek *apostasíā* defection, desertion of one's faith, from *apostēnai* to defect, stand off (*apo-* away from + *stēnai* STAND); for suffix see -Y³. The word may have been borrowed also from French *apostasie* (about 1250) which also existed in Anglo-French *apostasye*. —**apostate** *n.* 1340, borrowed through Old French *apostate*, or directly from Late Latin *apostata*, from Greek *apostátēs* defector, deserter, rebel, from *apostēnai* to defect.

apostle *n.* The term as we know it today comes from two sources in Middle English. *Apostle* is a fusion of: 1) Old English *apostol* disciple of Christ (before 899); borrowed from Late

Latin *apostolus*; and 2) Middle English *apostle* disciple of Christ (probably before 1200); borrowing of Anglo-French *apostle*, from Old French *apostle*, learned borrowing from Late Latin *apostolus*, from Greek *apóstolos* messenger, from *apostéllein* send away (*apo-* away + *stéllein* to send).

apostrophe *n.* the sign ('), for omission of a letter or a sound in a word, or showing possessive forms (as *don't*, *John's book*), or form some plurals (as in 2 o's). 1530, borrowed from Middle French *apostrophe*, learned borrowing from Late Latin *apostrophi-*, from Greek *apóstrophos* *prosōidīā* omission mark, related to *apostrophēin* avert, turn away (*apo-* away + *strophēin* to turn).

In possessives, the apostrophe shows dropping of *-e* in *-es*, which was the possessive ending in English.

apothecary *n.* About 1387–95, borrowed probably through Old French *apothicaire*, *apotecaire*, or directly from Late Latin *apothēcarius* shopkeeper, from Latin *apothēca* storehouse, from Greek *apothēkē*, related to *apothēnai* put away (*apo-* away + *tiēnai* to put); for suffix see *-ARY*.

apotheosis *n.* 1573–80, a raising to the status of a god; borrowed from Late Latin *apotheōsis*, from Greek *apotheōsis*, from *apotheōn* deify (*apo-* special use of prefix indicating change + *theōs* god).

appall *v.* Before 1333 *appallen*, *apallen* to fade, become feeble; borrowed from Old French *apallir* become or make pale (*a-* to, from Latin *ad-* + *pale*, from Latin *pallidus* PALE¹ wan). The meaning “to dismay, shock” appeared in 1532.

apparatus *n.* Before 1628, borrowed from Latin *apparātus* (genitive *apparātus*) equipment, preparation, from *apparāre* prepare (*ap-* to + *parāre* make ready).

apparel *n.* Probably before 1300 *appareil*, *apareil*; borrowed through Anglo-French *apareil*, *apparraille*, from Old French *apareil*, from *apareiller* to clothe, fit out, possible from Vulgar Latin **appariculāre*, built on a noun **appariculum* preparation, formed from Latin *apparāre* prepare, make ready; or from Vulgar Latin **adpariculāre* make equal, fit (*ad-* to + **pariculus*, a diminutive of Latin *pār* equal).

apparent *adj.* Before 1393, borrowed from Old French *aparant*, also later *apparent*, learned borrowing from Latin *appārentem* (nominative *appārēns*), present participle of *appārēre* APPEAR; for suffix see *-ENT*.

apparition *n.* Probably before 1425, *apparicion* appearance, especially of something strange borrowed through Anglo-French *aparicion*, from Old French *apparition*, referring to Epiphany (the revealing of the Christ child to the Wise men), and probably by extension to any appearance, from Late Latin *appāritiōnem* (nominative *appāritiō*), meaning “an appearance,” and “attendants.” In Classical Latin the meaning was restricted to “service, servants, attendants,” from *appāri-*, stem of Latin *appārēre* APPEAR, serve; for suffix see *-TION*.

In English, the sense of a specter, phantom, or ghost first appears in 1601.

appeal *v.* Before 1338 *apelen*, *appelen* to call to a higher court borrowed through Anglo-French and Old French *apeler* to call

upon, accuse, from Latin *appellāre* accost, address, call upon, appeal to. The Latin is related to another form *appellere* drive to, direct toward (*ap-* up to + *pellere* to drive). —**n.** About 1300, Middle English *apel*, *appel* an appealing to a higher court; borrowed from Old French *apel*, from *apeler*, *v.*

The form *-eal* was a spelling reform in the 1500's.

appear *v.* About 1275, *aperen*, *apperen*; borrowed from Old French *aper-*, a stem of *apareir*, *aparoir*, from Latin *appārēre* (*ap-* to + *pārēre* come in sight, come forth). —**appearance** *n.* About 1380, *apparence*; borrowed through Anglo-French *aparaunce* and Old French *aparence*, from Late Latin *appārentia*, from Latin *appārentem* (nominative *appārēns*), present participle of *appārēre* APPEAR; for suffix see *-ANCE*.

The form *-ear* was a spelling reform in the 1500's.

appease *v.* About 1300 *apesen*, *appesen*; borrowed through Anglo-French *apeser*, *apeiser*, from Old French *apeiser*, *apaisier* bring to peace, pacify (*a-* to, from Latin *ad-* + *pais* peace; see peace). The form *appease* was a spelling reform during the 1500's. —**appeasement** *n.* 1439, borrowed from Middle French *apeisement*, *apaisement*, from Old French *apaisement*, from *apeiser*, *apaisier* pacify; for suffix see *-MENT*.

appellate *adj.* 1726, appealed against; borrowed from Latin *appellātus*, past participle of *appellāre* APPEAL; for suffix see *-ATE*¹.

append *v.* 1646, borrowed from Latin *appendere* (*ap-* on + *pendere* to cause to hang, weigh). —**appendage** *n.* 1649, formed from English *append* + *-age*.

appendix *n.* 1542 *appendex* something added; borrowed from Latin *appendix* (genitive *appendicis*) something attached, from *appendere* attach; see APPEND.

The meaning of organ, especially the intestinal appendix, appeared in 1615 and was perhaps borrowed from, or at least influenced by the French, in which the term was known by 1541. —**appendectomy** *n.* 1894–95, formed in American English from *appendix* + *-ectomy*. —**appendicitis** *n.* 1886, formed in American English from New Latin *appendic-*, stem of *appendix* + *-itis*.

apperception *n.* 1753, adperception, later *apperception*; borrowed as a learned reconstruction of French *aperception*, for New Latin *apperceptionem* (nominative *apperceptio*), used by Leibnitz to describe the mind as conscious of its own perception.

appertain *v.* About 1380, borrowed through Anglo-French *apartenir*, *appurtenir*, from Old French *apertenir*, *apartenir*, from Vulgar Latin **appartenēre*, an alteration (influenced by Latin *pars*, genitive *partis* part) of Late Latin *appertinēre* belong to, pertain to (Latin *ap-* to + *pertinēre* belong to). Related to APPURTENANCE.

appetite *n.* About 1303, borrowed through Anglo-French *apetit*, *appetit*, from Old French *apetit*, learned borrowing from Latin *appētītus* desire, appetite, from *appetere* to long for (*ap-* to + *petere* seek, ask).

applaud *v.* About 1475, borrowed from Latin *applaudere* approve by clapping hands (*ap-* upon + *plaudere* clap, applaud, approve). — **applause** *n.* About 1425, borrowed from Latin *applausus* (genitive *applausūs*), from *applaudere* applaud.

apple *n.* Old English *æppel* (before 899); cognate with Old Frisian *appel*, Old High German *apful* (modern German *Apfel*), Old Icelandic *æpli*, Old Swedish *æpl*, Crimean Gothic *apel*, from Proto-Germanic **apl-*.

appliance *n.* 1561, application; later, an apparatus or device (1597); formed in English from *apply* + *-ance*.

application *n.* Before 1398, borrowed from Old French *applicacion*, from Latin *applicatiōnem* (nominative *applicatiō*) a joining to, from *applicare* APPLY; for suffix see *-TION*.

applicant *n.* About 1485, borrowed from Latin *applicantem* (nominative *applicans*), present participle of *applicare*; for suffix see *-ANT*.

apply *v.* About 1380 *aplien*, *applien* join to; borrowed from Old French *aplier*, from Latin *applicare* (*ap-* on + *plicare* to fold, lay).

appoint *v.* About 1385 *apointen*, *appointen* come to a point about a matter, agree; borrowed through Anglo-French *apointier*, from Old French *apointer* (*a-* to + *point*, POINT). — **appointment** *n.* 1417 *apointment*, borrowed from Middle and Old French *apointment*, from Old French *apointer* appoint; for suffix see *-MENT*.

apportion *v.* 1574, borrowed through Middle French, from Old French *apportionner* (*a-* to + *portionner* to portion). — **apportionment** *n.* 1628, probably formed in English from *apportion* + *-ment*; but influenced by French *apportionnement*.

apposite *adj.* 1621, borrowed from Latin *appositus*, past participle of *appōnere* apply to, put near (*ap-* near + *pōnere* to place; see POSITION). — **apposition** *n.* 1440, grammatical parallelism; borrowed from Latin *appositionem* (nominative *appositio*), from *appōnere*; for suffix see *-TION*.

appraise *v.* Before 1420 *apreisen*, *apraisen*, probably borrowed from Middle French **apreis-*, stem of *apriser*, *aprisier*, from Late Latin *appretiare* value, estimate, appraise (Latin *ap-* to + *pretium* price).

It has been suggested that there was influence of *praise* *v.* to praise, value, prize, in English formation of *appraise*; the extent of this is unknown. English *apprize*, also meaning "appraise," did not serve as a pattern, but may have caused confusion of the forms, because *apprize* (Middle English *aprisen* appraise) and *appraise* are simultaneous borrowings. — **appraisal** *n.* 1817, formed from English *appraise* + *-al*.

appreciate *v.* 1655, borrowed from Late Latin *appretiare* value, estimate, appraise (Latin *ap-* to + *pretium* price); for suffix see *-ATE*. — **appreciation** *n.* Probably about 1400, borrowed through Anglo-French *appréciation*, or directly from Late Latin *appretiationem* (nominative *appretiatio*), from *appretiare* appraise; for suffix see *-TION*.

apprehend *v.* Before 1398, grasp mentally, comprehend; bor-

rowed perhaps through Old French *apprehender*, or directly from Latin *apprehendere* take hold of, grasp (*ap-* upon + *prehendere* seize). — **apprehension** *n.* Before 1398, borrowed perhaps through Old French *apprehension*, or directly from Latin *apprehensionem* (nominative *apprehensio*), from *apprehendere*; for suffix see *-SION*. The meaning of dread appeared in 1648.

apprentice *n.* 1307, borrowed through Anglo-French *aprentiz*, from Old French *aprentiz*, *aprentis*, from Gallo-Romance **apprenticius* learner of a trade, from Latin *apprendere* grasp mentally, learn, a contraction of *apprehendere* APPREHEND. — *v.* 1631, from the noun.

apprise *v.* 1694, borrowed from French *appris*, past participle of *apprendre* learn, grasp, from Latin *apprendere*, contraction of *apprehendere* APPREHEND.

approach *v.* About 1300, borrowed through Anglo-French *aprocher* from Old French *aprochier*, from Late Latin *appropiare* come near to (Latin *ap-* to + Late Latin *propiare* come nearer, from Latin *propius* nearer, comparative of *prope* near). — *n.* Before 1460, noun use of *approach*, *v.*

approbation *n.* Before 1393, borrowed through Old French *aprobacion*, or directly from Latin *approbationem* (nominative *approbatio*) from *approbare* APPROVE; for suffix see *-TION*.

appropriate *adj.* Probably before 1425, belonging to as an attribute, quality, etc.; borrowed from Late Latin *appropriatus*, past participle of *appropriare* (Latin *ap-* to + *propriare* take as one's own, from *proprius* one's own); for suffix see *-ATE*. — *v.* set apart (as one's own). Probably before 1425, to attribute as belonging to; borrowed from Late Latin *appropriatus*, past participle of *appropriare*; for suffix see *-ATE*.

By the 1600's a Latinate form *appropriate*, *v.* had established itself in English and superseded the older *approprie* from Old French *apropriier*.

approve *v.* About 1380, to confirm, commend; earlier, about 1300, to show to be true, prove; borrowed from Old French *aprover*, from Latin *approbare* (*ap-* to + *probare* OVE). — **approval** *n.* 1690, formed from English *approve* + *-al*.

In Middle English the spelling *apreven* was common. It developed from a stem form of the Old French verb, but later died out.

approximate *adj.* Probably before 1425, borrowed from Latin *approximatus*, past participle of *approximare* (*ap-* to + *proximare* come near, from *proximus* nearest, superlative of *prope* near); for suffix see *-ATE*. — *v.* Before 1425, borrowed from Latin *approximatus*, past participle of *approximare*; for suffix see *-ATE*. — **approximation** *n.* Probably before 1425, borrowed from Middle French *approximation* or directly from Latin *approximationem* (nominative *approximatio*), from *approximare*; for suffix see *-TION*.

appurtenance *n.* Probably before 1300, a minor right or privilege; borrowing of Anglo-French *apurtenance*, variant of Old French *apertenance*, from *apertenir* APPERTAIN; for suffix see *-ANCE*.

apricot *n.* 1551 *abreckock*; borrowed probably from Catalan

abercoc (related to Spanish *albaricoque* and Portuguese *albricoque*), from Arabic *al-barqūq* (*al-* the + *barqūq* apricot).

The Arabic *barqūq* is believed to have come ultimately from Latin *praecoquis*, (variant of *praecox* early-ripe) through the variant *praecoquum* to Greek *praikókion*. The Greek had a variant plural *berikókia*, and either by trade or by Ptolemaic influence in Arabic culture, it came into Arabic as *barqūq*. Subsequently the Arabic word was carried into southwestern Europe in the time of the Muslim domination of Spain.

Latin *praecoquis* early-ripe, can probably be attributed to the fact that the fruit was considered a variety of peach that ripened sooner than other peaches; the Latin word was formed from *prae* before, pre- + *coquere* to ripen, COOK.

The change in spelling from *abreckock* to *apricot* (1580 and through the 1600's) was probably influenced by French *abricot* apricot, itself from Catalan *abercoc*. Influence traditionally offered from Latin *apricus* sunny, is not established.

April *n.* About 1375 *April*, *Aperill*, etc.; reborrowed, possibly through Anglo-French *Aprille*, from Latin *Aprīlis* the second month in the ancient Roman calendar, dedicated to the goddess Venus (Aphrodite).

The forms cited were borrowed again from Latin, and replaced earlier *Averil* (probably before 1200); borrowed from Old French *avril*, from Gallo-Romance **Aprilius*, an alteration of Latin *Aprīlis*.

apron *n.* 1307 *napron*, *naperon*; borrowed from Old French *napron*, diminutive of *nape*, *nappe* cloth, from Latin *mappa* napkin, MAP. Between about 1450 and 1485, the initial *n* was lost, by misdivision of *a napron* as *an apron*. Compare ADDER, NICKNAME, and UMPIRE for misdivisions. The shift from *m* in Latin *mappa* to *n* in French *nappe* and *naperon* is seen in several Old French words and is a matter of continuous change in Medieval Latin.

apropos *adv.* 1668, borrowed from French *à propos* to the purpose (Old French *a* to + *propos* purpose, verbal noun of *proposer* offer, PROPOSE).

apse *n.* arched recess in a church. 1846, borrowed from Medieval Latin *apsis*, from Latin *apsis* arch, vault, from Greek *apsís*, dialectal variation of *hapsís* loop, arch, from *háptein* fasten, of uncertain origin.

apt *adj.* Probably about 1350 borrowed perhaps through Old French *apte*, or directly from Latin *aptus* joined, fitted, originally past participle of *apere* connect, and later used as the past participle of *apiscor*, *apisci* to reach, attain.

aptitude *n.* Probably before 1425, borrowed through Middle French *aptitude*, or directly from Late Latin *aptitūdō* (genitive *aptitūdinis*) fitness, from Latin *aptus* joined, fitted, see APT; for suffix see -TUDE.

aqualung *n.* 1950, formed in English from Latin *aqua* water + English *lung*. The original device was developed by Jacques Cousteau and Emile Gagnan in 1943, but the elements of this term were long in the air. As early as 1881 W.D. Hay's *300 Years Hence* was writing about 'the aquanaut's lungs'.

aquamarine *n.* 1727, perhaps influenced by earlier French

aigue-marine, borrowed through Provençal from Latin *aqua marina* sea water (for its color).

aquarium *n.* 1854, borrowed from Latin *aquārium* watering place for cattle, neuter of *aquārius* of water, from *aqua* water; see AQUATIC.

The sense of a fish tank may have been stimulated by earlier attempts to combine *vivarium* with Latin words suggesting "water," such as *aquatic vivarium* and *marine vivarium*.

aquatic *adj.* 1490, borrowed from Middle French and Old French *aquatique*, learned borrowing from Latin *aquaticus* watery, inhabiting water, from *aqua* water.

Latin *aqua* is related to Gothic *ahwa* river, Old High German *aha*, Old Icelandic *ā*, Old Frisian *ā*, and Old English *ēa* river, flowing water, from Proto-Germanic **ahwō*.

aqueduct *n.* 1538, borrowed from Latin *aquaeductus* (*aquae*, genitive of *aqua* water + *ductus*, genitive *ductus*, from stem *duc-* of *dūcere* to lead, convey).

aqueous *adj.* 1643, in reference to the aqueous humor inside the eye; borrowed from Medieval Latin *aqueus*, from Latin *aqua* water; for suffix see -OUS. The Medieval Latin term *aqueus* was probably formed by analogy of Latin *terreus* earthy, from *terra* earth.

aquiline *adj.* 1646, curved like an eagle's beak; borrowed from Latin *aquilinus* of or like an eagle, from *aquila* EAGLE; for suffix see -INE¹.

ar- a form of the prefix *ad-*, meaning to, toward, before *r* in words of Latin or French origin, as in *arrogant*. Formed in Latin by assimilation of *d* to the following consonant (*r*). In words formed in Old French with the prefix *a-* (from Latin *ad-*) and borrowed in that form, the spelling before *r* was changed to *ar-* (as in *arrange*, *arrive*) in or about the 1600's on the model of Latin.

-ar a suffix forming adjectives from nouns and meaning: 1 of or having to do with, as in *molecular* = having to do with molecules. 2 like, as in *oracular* = like an oracle. 3 of the nature of, as in *spectacular* = of the nature of a spectacle. The suffix was borrowed from Latin *-āris*, altered by dissimilation from original *-ālīs* -al¹ in words that contain an *l*, as seen from the Latin originals of words such as *angular*, *familiar*, *jocular*, *peculiar*, *popular*, *stellar*, and *polar*. The adjectives formed in English, especially from Latin nouns, follow the same pattern, such as *curricular*, *granular*.

Arab *n.* Before 1398, a native of Arabia; borrowed from Old French *Arabe*, a learned borrowing from Latin *Arabs*, from Greek *Áraps* (genitive *Árabos*), from Arabic *paarab*, the indigenous name of the people. The 100 years between the earlier date of *Arabian* and later *Arab* is probably a defect in the record.

—**Arabian** *n., adj.* Probably before 1300, borrowed from Old French *Arabien* and Latin *Arabius*; for suffix see -IAN.

—**Arabic** *n.* About 1325, in the phrase "gum arabic"; borrowed from Old French *Arabic*, from Latin *Arabicus*, *adj.*, from *Arabs* (genitive *Arabīs*) Arab; for suffix see -IC.

arabesque *n.* 1611, Arabian ornamental design; borrowed from French *arabesque*, from Italian *arabesco* (known in the Renaissance to such as Raphael), from *Arabo* Arab, ultimately borrowed from Latin *Arabus* Arabian, from *Arabs* Arab; for suffix see -ESQUE.

arable *adj.* About 1410, borrowed through Anglo-French *arable*, variant of Old French *arable*, from Latin *arābilis*, from *arāre* to plow; for suffix see -ABLE. *Arable* may have been introduced to "correct" the equivalent, earlier English term *erale*, *earable* (derived from Old English *erian* to plow) by replacing it with a Latinate spelling.

arachnid *n.* 1869, borrowed (perhaps through influence of earlier French *arachnide*, 1806) from New Latin *Arachnida* the class of arachnids (a name introduced by Lamarck). The New Latin term is from Greek *aráchnē* spider, web, (earlier **ar-ákēsna*).

arbitrer *n.* Probably before 1387 *arbitour*, borrowed perhaps through Old French *arbitre*, or directly from Latin *arbitrator*, originally, one who approaches (two disputants), from *ar-* to + *baetere* to go.

arbitrary *adj.* Before 1400 borrowed perhaps through Old French *arbitraire*, or directly from Latin *arbitrārius* of arbitration, from *arbitrator*; for suffix see -ARY.

arbitrate *v.* 1590, replacing earlier *arbitren* (1425); borrowed perhaps through influence of Old French *arbitrer*, from Latin *arbitrātus*, past participle of *arbitrāri* act as arbiter, from *arbitrator* ARBITER; for suffix see -ATE; or possibly a back formation in English from earlier *arbitration*. —**arbitration** *n.* About 1390, borrowed from Old French *arbitracion*, from Latin *arbitratiōnem* (nominative *arbitratiō*), from *arbitrāri*; for suffix see -TION.

arbitrator *n.* About 1426 *arbitratour*, borrowed from Old French *arbitrateur*, *arbitratour*, from Latin *arbitrātōrem*, accusative of *arbitrator* from *arbitrāri* act as arbiter; for suffix see -OR².

arbor¹ *n.* shady place. Probably before 1300 *erber*, *herber* a garden area, garden of herbs; borrowed through Anglo-French *erber*, *herber* from Old French *erbier*, *herbier*, from Late Latin *herbārium*, from Latin *herba* herb, grass.

The sense development separated "the garden of herbs" from "the shady place formed by trees" about the middle of the 1500's, furthered by connection to Latin *arbor* "tree."

The change of initial *er*, as in *erber*, to *ar-* before consonants took place in many Middle English words, affecting the pronunciation, as well as the spelling. For example, *carve* was earlier *kerven*, *farm* earlier *ferme*. Sometimes there was a shift in pronunciation, as in *sergeant*, while the older *-er-* spelling was retained.

The shift of final *-er*, *-or* follows a practice of interchanging spellings in the 1500's.

arbor² *n.* axle of a machine. 1659, borrowed from French *arbre* tree, axis, from Latin *arbor* tree, of unknown origin.

arbor³ *n.* tree 1646, borrowing of Latin *arbor* tree, beam, of unknown origin. —**arboreal** *adj.* Before 1667, formed in English from Latin *arboreus*, from *arbor* tree; for suffix see -AL¹.

arc *n.* About 1390 *ark*, *arc* part of a circle which the sun appears to pass through; borrowed through Anglo-French *arc*, *ark*, *arche* from Old French *arc*, from Latin *arcus* arch, bow; see ARROW.

arcade *n.* 1731, borrowed from French *arcade* an arch, half circle, from Italian *arcata* arch of a bridge, from Medieval Latin *arcata* an arch, from Latin *arcus* arch, bow; for suffix see -ADE.

arcane *adj.* 1547, borrowed from Latin *arcānus* closed, hidden, from *arca* chest.

arch¹ *n.* About 1300, borrowed from Old French *arche* arch of a bridge, from Northern Gallo-Romance **arca* arch, feminine (earlier neuter plural) form corresponding to Latin *arcus* arch, bow. —**v.** About 1400, from the noun.

arch² *adj.* 1 chief, leading, as in *arch rebel*. 1547, formed in English by abstraction from the prefix *arch-*. 2 mischievous in a playful way, saucy, waggish, as in *an arch look*. 1662, developed in English from def. 1.

arch- a prefix meaning: 1 chief, principal, as in *archenemy* = chief enemy. 2 extreme, ultra-, especially in a derogatory sense, as in *archconservative* = extreme conservative. 3 early, primal, primitive, as in *archencephalon* = primitive encephalon (part of the brain).

The prefix developed from Middle English *arche-*, *erche-* (influenced in form by Old French *arche-* and earlier *arce-*), forms of Old English *arce-*, *erce-*, *cerce-*; borrowed from Latin *archi-*, from Greek *arche-*, *archi-*, related to *archós* ruler, *arché* a beginning.

archaeology *n.* 1607, ancient history, study of antiquities; borrowed, perhaps by influence of French *archéologie* (1599), from Greek *archaiología*, from *archaios* ancient, from *arché* a beginning; for suffix see -LOGY.

The meaning of scientific study of ancient people, customs, and life appeared in 1837.

archaic *adj.* 1832, perhaps developed in English from earlier *archaical* (before 1804), and by influence of French *archaïque* (1776), ultimately borrowed from Greek *archaîkós* old-fashioned, from *archaios* ancient; for suffix see -IC. —**archaism** *n.* 1643, borrowed from New Latin *archaismus*, from Greek *archaîsmós*, from *archaízein* to give an archaic flavor to, from *archaios* ancient; for suffix see -ISM.

archangel *n.* Probably before 1200, gradually replacing Old English *hēah-engel* high angel. Middle English *archangel* was borrowed through Old French *archangel* (1155), or directly from Latin *archangelus*, from Greek *archángelos* (*arch-* chief + *ángelos* ANGEL).

archbishop *n.* Before 1121, *archebishop*, *erchebishop*, were influenced by Old French *archevesque* and Late Latin *archiepiscopeus*. Earlier *arce biscop*, *erce biscop*, developed from Old English *cerce biscop*, *erce biscop* (about 850); borrowed from Late Latin *archiepiscopeus*, from Late Greek *archiepískopos* (from Greek *archi-* chief + *epískopos* overseer).

Old English *cerce biscop* was probably a replacement for earlier *hēah biscop* (or *bisceop*) high bishop.

archer *n.* About 1300, borrowed through Anglo-French *archer*, from Old French *archier*, from Late Latin *arcarius* archer, alteration of *arcarius* maker of bows, from Latin *arcus* bow; for suffix see -ER². — **archery** *n.* Probably before 1400 borrowed through Anglo-French *archerie*, from Old French *archerie*, from *archier* archer; for suffix see -Y³.

archetype *n.* 1545, borrowed possibly through Middle French *archétype* from Old French *architipe*, or directly from Latin *archetypum*, from Greek *archétypon* pattern, model, the neuter form of *archétypos* original (*arche-* first + *týpos* stamp, mold, TYPE).

archi- a form of the prefix *arch-*, borrowed from Greek *archi-*, and occurring in words borrowed from Greek (or through Latin), such as *architect* = Greek *archi-* chief + *téktōn* builder, as well as in modern scientific coinages patterned on Greek, such as *archibenthos* = Greek *archi-* primal + *benthos* depth (of the sea). *Archi-* also occurs in a few adjectives based on nouns that occur in Greek, as in English *archbishop* (about 850) which acquired the adjective form *archiepiscopal* (about 1600), a borrowing from the Greek original through Latin; both ultimately from Greek *archi-* chief + *episkopos* overseer.

In Greek the variant form *arche-*, survives in English *archetype* = *arche-* first, primal + *týpos* stamp.

archipelago *n.* 1502 *archipelago* the Aegean sea, borrowed from Italian *arcipelago* (*arci-* chief, from Greek *archi-* + Italian *pelago* sea, from Latin, from Greek *pélagos*). The meaning, any sea with many islands (such as the Aegean sea) developed in the 1600's.

The spelling with *-ch-* is a learned restoration of the Greek after *archi-*.

architect *n.* 1555, borrowed from Middle French *architecte*, possibly influenced by Italian *architetto*, from Latin *architectus*, from Greek *architéktōn* chief builder (*archi-* chief + *téktōn* builder). — **architecture** *n.* 1563, borrowed from Middle French *architecture*, possibly influenced by Italian *architettura*, from Latin *architectūra*, from *architectus* architect; for suffix see -URE.

archives *n. pl.* 1603 *archive*; 1638 *archives*, borrowed from French *archives*, a learned borrowing from Latin singular *archivum*, variant of *archium*, from Greek *archeion* governmental building, public office, from *archē* government.

arctic *adj.* 1556 *arctike*, alteration (influenced by Latin *arcticus*) gradually replacing earlier *artic*, (about 1400); borrowed through Old French *artique*, from Medieval Latin *articus*, alteration of original Latin *arcticus*, from Greek *arktikós* of the north.

-ard a suffix forming nouns and meaning one who does (something) excessively or conspicuously, as in *drunkard* and *laggard*. Borrowed from Old French *-ard*, *-art*, of Germanic origin, as in Old High German *-hart*, *-hard* hardy, and cognate with Old English *heard* HARD.

The suffix appeared originally in Middle English in words from Old French, such as *coward*, *mallard*, and *placard*, where it functioned as an intensive, augmentative, and often pejorative

form. It later became a living suffix in English, forming such words as *dastard*, *sluggard*, and *wizard*.

ardent *adj.* Probably before 1425, fiery, glowing, alteration of earlier *ardaunt*, *ardant* (before 1333). The later form *ardent* was influenced by Latin *ardentem* (nominative *ardēns*), present participle of *ardēre* to burn, and gradually replaced the earlier *ardaunt*, *ardant*, borrowed through Anglo-French *ardante*, from Old French *ardant*, present participle of *ardoir* to burn, from Latin *ardēre* to burn, related to *ardus* ARID.

ardor *n.* About 1390 *ardour*, *ardure*, borrowed through Anglo-French *ardour*, *ardure* from Old French *ardour*, from Latin *ardōrem* (nominative *ardor*), from *ardēre* to burn, related to *ardus* ARID. The later spelling *ardor* was influenced by the Latin and gradually replaced the earlier *ardour*, *ardure* in the 1500's.

arduous *adj.* 1538, borrowed from Latin *arduus* steep, difficult; for suffix see -OUS.

are¹ *v.* form of the verb *be*. Old English (before 950), in the Mercian dialect (before 830) *earun*, in Northumbrian *aron* (about 1100), together with (*thū*) *eart* (thou) art. These are ancient perfect active (preterite present) forms from Proto-Germanic **ar-*.

In Old English *am* had two forms in the plural: *sind*, *sindon* and *earon*, *aron*. Of these *sind*, *sindon* gradually fell out of use in the first half of the 1200's, and was replaced by forms of *be* (*beth*, *ben*, *be*) which remained through Middle English. At the same time *aron* and its forms (*aren*, *am*, *are*) continued in use and spread until early in the 1500's, *are* became a part of standard English, replacing forms of *be*, though *be*, which was first used as a substitute form in the 1200's, is still found in expressions such as "the powers that be." See AM and BE, parts of the verb *am-was-be*.

are² *n.* metric measure equal to 100 square meters. 1819, borrowed from French *are*, coined in 1795 from Latin *area* open space, piece of level ground, AREA.

area *n.* 1538, borrowed from Latin *area* open space, piece of level ground; ultimate origin uncertain. An attempt to derive Latin *area* from *ārēre* be dry is not generally accepted.

arena *n.* 1600, a variant of Latin *harēna* sand, sandy place (in reference to the floor of Roman arenas that were strewn with sand).

argent *n.* Archaic or Poetic. silver. Probably before 1425, quick-silver or mercury; borrowed through Middle French *argent*, from Old French, from Latin *argentum*.

argon *n.* 1894, New Latin *argon*, borrowed from Greek *ārgón*, neuter of *ārgós* idle (*a-* without + *érgon* WORK); so called by its discoverers, Baron Rayleigh and Sir William Ramsay, from its inert qualities.

argot *n.* 1860, borrowed from French, from Middle French *argot* group of beggars, of unknown origin. Originally applied to slang or jargon of thieves.

argue *v.* About 1303, borrowed through Anglo-French *arguer*, from Old French, from Latin *argūtāre* chatter shrilly, prattle,

frequentative of *arguere* assert, make clear.—**argument** *n.* About 1330, reasoning, disputation; borrowed from Old French *argument* proof, from Latin *argūmentum*, from *arguere* assert, make clear; for suffix see -MENT.

arid *adj.* 1652, borrowed probably through French *aride*, or directly from Latin *āridus*, from *ārere* be dry; related to *ārere* to burn, *āra* altar, earlier *āsa*. Related to ASH¹.—**aridity** *n.* 1599, borrowed probably through Middle French *aridité*, from Latin *ariditatem* (nominative *ariditās*), from *āridus*; for suffix see -ITY.

aristocracy *n.* 1561, borrowed from Middle French *aristocratie*, or directly from Late Latin *aristocratia*, from Greek *aristokratia* rule of the best-born (*aristos* best + *kratos* rule, power, strength).—**aristocrat** *n.* 1789, borrowed from French *aristocrate*, from Greek *aristokratēs* aristocrat.

The word *aristocrate* came into French in the mid-1500's, apparently then dropped out of use, and was reintroduced in French in 1778, becoming popularized during the French Revolution. Its introduction to English in 1789 shows how closely events in France at that time were discussed in England.

arise *v.* Probably before 1200 *arisen* stand up, rise; developed from Old English *ārisan* (before 830); cognate with Old Saxon *ārīsan*, Old High German *ur-*, *ar-*, *irrisan*, Gothic *urrisan*, from Proto-Germanic **uz-riśanan*; see A-⁵, RISE.

arithmetic *n.* About 1250 *arsmetike*, borrowed from Old French *arsmetique*, *arismetique*, a learned borrowing from Latin *arithmētica*, from Greek *arithmētikē* *tēchnē* art of reckoning, from *arithmeîn* to count, from *arithmós* number.

About 1300 the form *arsmetrike* appeared from Medieval Latin *arsmetrica* art of measure, arithmetic, which resembles the earlier, but independently formed, *arsmetike*. Intermediate variants *arithmetikē* (before 1410), and *arithmetricke* were standardized to *arithmetike*, (1543), probably to imitate Greek *arithmētikē*.

ark *n.* Old English *erc* before 830; elsewhere in Old English *ærc*, *earc*, *arc*; an early borrowing (like Old High German *arahha* ark, Old Icelandic *örk* (genitive *arkar*), and Gothic *arka*), from Latin *arca* chest, box, coffer.

arm¹ *n.* limb. Old English *earm*, about 725, in *Beowulf*, cognate with Old Frisian *arm*, *erm* arm, Old High German *arm*, *aram*, Old Icelandic *armr*, Gothic *arms*, from Proto-Germanic **armaz*.

arm² *n.* weapon (in the singular *side arm*, *short arm*, and *firearm*), more usual as **arms**, *n. pl.* Before 1250 *armes*, borrowed through Anglo-French and Old French *armes*, from Latin *arma* tools, weapons; related to *ars* (accusative *artem*) skill.—**v.** Probably before 1200, borrowed perhaps through Anglo-French and Old French *armer*, from Latin *armāre*, from *arma* weapons.—**armament** *n.* 1699, borrowed from French *armement*, from Late Latin *armamentum* arms, from Latin *arma* tools, weapons; for suffix see -MENT.

armada *n.* 1533 *armado*, a misspelling, but gradually corrected in the 1600's to *armada*; borrowed from Spanish *armada*, from Medieval Latin *armata* armed force.

armadillo *n.* 1577, borrowed from Spanish *armadillo*, diminutive of *armado* armed (with reference to its bony armorlike shell), from Latin *armātus*, past participle of *armāre* to arm.

Armageddon *n.* 1811, figurative use of the name from the Bible (Revelation 16:16) meaning the place of the great and final conflict (1611); borrowed from Late Latin *Armageddōn*, from Greek *Armageddōn*, probably from Hebrew *Har Megiddōn* Mount of Megiddo, a city in central Palestine, site of important battles of the Israelites.

armature *n.* a coil of wire that rotates in a magnetic field causing an electric motor to move (1835), developed from the iron bar placed between poles of a horseshoe magnet to protect its magnetic field (1752), an extension of a protective covering of a plant or animal (1662), from protection provided by God (1542). Before 1450, an armed force, borrowed from Middle French *armature*, learned borrowing from Latin *armātūra* armor, from *armāre* to arm; for suffix see -URE.

armistice *n.* 1707, borrowed after the pattern of French *armistice* (1688), from New Latin *armistitium* (recorded in English as early as 1664), from Latin *arma* arms + *-stitium*, from *sistere* to stop, stand.

armor *n.* Probably before 1300 *armure*, *armour*, *armeur*; borrowed from Old French *armeüre*, from Latin *armātūra*, from *armāre* to arm, from *arma* arms, gear.

arms *n. pl.* See ARM².

army *n.* About 1387–95 *armee*, borrowed through Anglo-French *armee* from Old French *armée*, from Medieval Latin *armata* armed force, developed from Latin *armāta*, feminine of *armātus*, past participle of *armāre* to arm, from *arma* weapons; for suffix see -Y⁴.

aroma *n.* 1814, fragrance, influenced by or reborrowed directly from Latin *arōma* sweet odor. The new meaning in English extended or replaced earlier *aroma* (*aromat*, *aromaz*) fragrant substance (recorded probably before 1200); borrowed through Anglo-French and Old French *aromat*, a learned borrowing from Medieval Latin *aromatum*, alteration of Latin *arōma* sweet odor, spice, from Greek *arōma* (genitive *arōmatos*) spice, of unknown origin.—**aromatic** *adj.* About 1400, probably borrowed through Old French *aromatique*, from Late Latin *arōmaticus*, from Greek *arōmatikós*, from *arōma* spice; for suffix see -IC.

around *prep., adv.* Probably before 1300, developed from the phrase *on round*.

arraign *v.* Probably about 1380 *araynen*, *areinen*, *arreinen*, borrowed through Anglo-French *arainer*, *areiner* from Old French *araisnier* (*a-* to, from Latin *ad-*) + (*raisnier* speak, reason, from Vulgar Latin **ratiōnāre* reason, from Latin *ratiōnem*, accusative of *ratiō*, argumentation, REASON).

Introduction of the *g* in *arraign* (late 1400's and early 1500's) probably to restore a spelling of Latin origin, such as in *reign* or in *feign*, was an overcorrection. Middle English *araynen*, *areinen*, ultimately from Latin *ad-* + *ratiōnem* had no *g*.

arrange *v.* 1375 *araingen* draw up in ranks; borrowed from Old French *arangier* (*a-* to, from Latin *ad-*) + (*rangier*, *ranger* place in ranks, assemble, from *rang* RANK¹, earlier *renc*, from Frankish **hring*. —**arrangement** *n.* 1727–51, borrowed from French *arrangement*, from *arranger* arrange, from Old French *arangier*; for suffix see -MENT.

arrant *adj.* 1550, at first a variant of *erraunt* roving, vagabond, as a special use of ERRANT as in *knight-errant*.

For 150 years from about 1390, in phrases such as *thief erraunt* and *arrant thief*, a roving robber, the term was derogatory, until about 1570 when it began to take on the meaning of thoroughgoing, downright.

array *v.* Probably before 1325, *araien*, *arraien* arrange in order; borrowed through Anglo-French *arraier*, *arayer*, from Old French *arēer*, from Vulgar Latin **ar-rēdāre* (from Latin *ad-* to + Frankish **rēd-*, the source of Old English (*ge*)*rēde* ready). —**n.** Before 1338 *arai*, *arrai* order, arrangement; borrowed through Anglo-French *arraie*, *arai*, from Old French *arei*, from *arēer* to array.

arrears *n.* About 1300, *arere* behind; 1340, *arriers* in time past; borrowed through Anglo-French *arere*, from Old French *ariere* behind, backward, from Vulgar Latin **ad retrō* backward (Latin *ad* to + *retrō* back, behind). The meaning of balance due appeared in 1432; the phrase in *arrears* behind in payments, appeared in 1620.

arrest *v.* Before 1375, *stay*, stop; 1375 *aresten* seize, restrain legally; borrowed through Anglo-French *arester*, from Old French *arester* to stay, stop, from Vulgar Latin **arrestāre* (Latin *ad-* to + *restāre* stay back, remain, from *re-* back + *stāre* to stand). —**n.** 1375, a staying, stopping; borrowed through Anglo-French *arest*, *areste*, from Old French *areste*, from *arester* to stay, stop.

arrive *v.* Probably before 1200 *ariven* come to land on the shore; borrowed through Anglo-French *ariver*, from Old French *ariver*, *arriver* to come to land, from Vulgar Latin **ar-rīpāre*, from Latin *ad rīpam* to the shore. —**arrival** *n.* About 1380 *arivaile* landing; borrowed through Anglo-French *arivail*, *aryvaille*, from Old French *arivaille*, *arrivaille*, from *ariver*, *arriver* to come to land.

arrogance *n.* 1340, borrowed through Old French *arrogance*, from Latin *arrogantia* arrogance, from *arrogantem* (nominative *arrogāns*) assuming, overbearing, present participle of *arrogāre* claim for oneself, assume (*ar-* to + *rogāre* ask, propose); for suffix see -ANCE. —**arrogant** *adj.* About 1390, borrowed from Latin *arrogantem* assuming, overbearing, insolent; for suffix see -ANT.

arrow *n.* Old English, before 800 *earh*, especially in *earh-faru* flight of arrows, and before 835 *arwan*, singular and plural; these forms developed into Middle English *aro* and *arow* before 1325. The word is cognate with Old Icelandic *or* arrow (genitive *orvar*), from Proto-Germanic **arHwō*.

arsenal *n.* 1506, a dock with naval stores; borrowed from Italian *arsenale*, earlier *arsena*, Medieval Latin *arsana*, from Ara-

bic *dār aš-šinā* 'a house of manufacturing (*šinā* 'a art, craft, skill, from *šana* 'a make, fabricate).

French also had the form *arsenal* (1250); Spanish is later (1610), but the original English borrowing was from Italian, because the earliest sources were in reference to the Arsenal at Venice, and the earliest forms in English were Italianate *arsenale*, *arsenale*.

arsenic *n.* Before 1393, borrowed from Latin *arsenicon*, from Greek *arsenikón* yellow arsenic; literally, masculine, the neuter form of *arsenikós*, *arrhenikós* masculine, from *ársēn*, *árrhēn* (genitive *ársenos*, *árrhenos*) male, strong (the word supposedly referring to the powerful qualities of arsenic). But the Greek *arsenikón* is actually a folk etymology for Middle Persian word **zarnik* golden, probably by Semitic transmission (Syriac *zarniqā* arsenic). Arsenic may have been borrowed into Old French from earlier Middle English.

arson *n.* Before 1680, borrowed through French *arsoun*, *arson*, from Old French *arson*, *arsion*, from Late Latin *ársionem* a burning, from Latin *ārsūm*, past participle of *ārdere* to burn. —**arsonist** *n.* 1864, formed from English *arson* + -ist.

art *n.* About 1250, cunning, trickery; borrowed through Anglo-French *art*, from Old French *art*, from Latin *artem*, accusative of *ars* skill. The early use of the word in English centered upon the meaning of skill, scholarship, and learning. The application of "skill" to the arts, such as music, dancing, drama, and literary composition does not appear before 1600. The specific meaning of painting, sculpture, etc., does not appear before the latter 1600's or early 1700's. —**artful** *adj.* 1613, formed from English *art* + -ful.

artery *n.* Before 1398, borrowed through Anglo-French *arterie*, from Old French *artaire* (1213), and directly from Latin *artēria* artery, windpipe, from Greek *ártēría* (earlier **aetēría*) an artery, as distinct from a vein; originally windpipe (regarded by the ancients as air ducts; since the arteries do not contain blood after death); perhaps related to *aortē* AORTA. —**arterial** *adj.* Probably before 1425, possibly formed in English from Latin *artēria* + English suffix -al.

artesian *adj.* 1830, borrowing of French *artésien* of Artois (in Old French *Arteis*), region in northern France where artesian wells were first drilled in the 1700's, though *artésien* is not recorded as being applied in French to such wells before 1803.

arthritis *n.* 1543, borrowing of Latin *arthrit̄is*, abstracted from Greek *nósos arthrit̄is* disease of the joints, from *árrhron* joint, from *arariskein* to fit; for suffix see -ITIS. —**arthritic** *adj.* Before 1398, as a noun *arthetica*; by 1400 as an adjective *artetik*, *artetica*; borrowed through Old French *goute arthetique* arthritic gout and Medieval Latin *gutta arctica*, from Latin *arthriticus*, from Greek *arthritikós* of the joints, gouty, from *arthrit̄is*.

For almost 150 years the adjective (*artetik*, *arthretik*, etc.) was also used as a noun. This accounts for the adjective form of today (*arthritic*) coming into English before the modern noun *arthritis*.

arthropod *n.* 1877, earlier (1870) *Arthropoda* the name given in biological classification to the invertebrate animals with

jointed bodies and legs which constitute a phylum. *Arthropoda* is New Latin, formed from Greek *árthron* joint + *podós* (genitive *podós*) foot.

artichoke *n.* 1530 *archicokke*, borrowed from northern dialect forms of Italian such as *articiocco*, *arciocco*, *arciocoffo*, etc., from Old Provençal *arquichaut*, from older Spanish *alcarchofa*, from Spanish-Arabic *al-ḥarshōfa*, variant of Arabic *al-ḥarshūf* the artichoke.

The word was introduced into Europe during the 1500's, but the plant was known in Italy by the 1450's.

article *n.* Probably before 1200, a clause or section, as in a set of rules or a creed; borrowed through Anglo-French from Old French *article*, a learned borrowing from Latin *articulus* small section or joint, diminutive of *artus* (genitive *artūs*) joint.

articulation *n.* Probably before 1425 meaning (1) a joint (2) setting of bones; borrowed through Old French *articulation* (1363), from Medieval Latin *articulationem* (nominative *articulatio*), from Latin *articulāre* to divide (meat, etc.) into single joints; for suffix see -TION. —**articulate** *v.* 1563–83, to draw up articles of charges, and an alternate form for earlier *articlen* (1448) *articulen* (1454); to draw up articles of a claim later, to connect by joints, (1616) and to speak distinctly (1691). Earlier *articlen*, *articulen* was borrowed perhaps through Old French *articuler* (1265) and Italian *articolare* to move parts of the body (before 1321), from Latin *articulāre*; modern English *articulate* may have been borrowed directly from Latin *articulātus*, past participle of *articulāre* to divide (meat, etc.) into joints, from *articulus*, diminutive of *artus* joint; for suffix see -ATE¹. It is also possible that *articulate*, developing almost 140 years after *articulation*, is a back formation in English. —**adj.** 1586, uttered in distinct syllables; borrowed from Latin *articulātus* jointed, past participle of *articulāre* to divide into joints; for suffix see -ATE¹.

artifact *n.* 1821 *artefact*, formed probably by influence of Italian *artefatto*, from Latin *arte*, ablative of *ars* art + *factus* made, past participle of *facere* to make. The form *artifect* (1884) is an alteration of *artefact*, probably influenced by Latin *arti-*, stem of *ars* art.

artifice *n.* 1534, the making of anything by craft or skill; earlier (probably before 1425) *artificie* technical skill, art; borrowed through Anglo-French *artefice*, *artifice*, from Middle French *artifice* skill, cunning, learned borrowing from Latin *artificium* craft, employment, art, cunning, from *artifex* (genitive *artificis*) craftsman (*arti-*, stem of *ars* art + *facere* to make).

The sense of clever stratagem, trick first appeared in 1656.

artificial *adj.* About 1390, in the phrase *artificial day* the part of the day from sunrise to sunset; later (probably about 1425) made by man, not natural; borrowed through Old French *artificial*, *artificiel*, from Latin *artificiālis* of or belong to art, from *artificium* art, skill, craft; for suffix see -AL¹.

artillery *n.* About 1390 *artelrie*, *artyllerye*, borrowed through Anglo-French *artillerie* and Medieval Latin *artillaria*, both forms from Old French *artillerie* implements of war, ballistic machines, from *artillier* equip (with implements of war); for suffix see -ERY.

Old French *artillier*, a spelling influenced by *artskill*, may derive from *atillier*, an alteration of *atirier* arrange (*a-* to, from Latin *ad-* + Old French *tire* order, rank); alternatively some sources refer the word to Medieval Latin *artacula*, *articulum* art, skill, a diminutive form of Latin *ars* (genitive *artis*) art. This connection is not accepted by all authorities, however.

artisan *n.* 1538, borrowed probably from Italian *artefano* (*arte* art, from Latin *artem* (nominative *ars*) + suffix *-esano*, from Latin *-ēnsiānus*); also compare Spanish *artesano* (about 1440); for suffix see -AN. Compare COURTESAN, PARTISAN. Though Middle French *artisan* is often cited as the source for English, the word is not recorded in French before 1546 and was probably itself borrowed from Italian.

artist *n.* 1581, borrowed from Middle French *artiste*, from Italian *artista*, from Medieval Latin *artista*, from Latin *ars* (genitive *artis*) ART skill; for suffix see -IST. —**artistic** *adj.* 1753, formed from English *artist* + *-ic*.

The French source *artistique* traditionally cited is not recorded before 1808. —**artistry** *n.* 1868, formed from English *artist* + *-ry*.

-ary 1 a suffix forming nouns meaning: **a** a place for, as in *infirmary* = a place for the infirm. **b** a collection of, as in *statuary* = a collection of statues. **c** a person or thing that, as in *boundary* = a thing that bounds or limits. 2 suffix forming adjectives meaning: **a** of or having to do with, as in *legendary* = of legend. **b** being, having the nature of, as in *secondary* = being second. **c** characterized by, as in *customary* = characterized by custom.

Borrowed from Latin *-ārius* (feminine *-āria*, neuter *-ārium*), and in part influenced by Old French *-arie*, *-aire*, from Latin *-ārius*, the suffix *-ary* was also reinforced in English by direct borrowings from Latin, such as *infirmary* (from Medieval Latin *infirmaria*) and *statuary* (from Latin *statuāria*). On the other hand, words such as *cautionary* and *inflationary* are purely English formations.

Some loan words from French retain the French *-aire*, such as *concessionnaire* from French *concessionnaire* and *millionaire* from French *millionnaire*.

Aryan *adj.* 1847, earlier *Arian* (1839): referring to a national name 'comprising the worshippers of the gods of the Brahmans' (1861, by Max Müller), and also applied (1858, by Whitney; 1847, by Pritchard) to the Indo-European languages as a group, including Sanskrit which was associated with the Brahmans and Hindu literature. The word was borrowed through Latin *Ariānus* belonging to *Ariāna* or *Aria* and Greek *Areiā*, *Ariā* the eastern part of ancient Persia, from Sanskrit *Arya-* (earlier *Aria-*) noble, the name the Sanskrit-speaking immigrants to India called themselves. The ancient Persians gave themselves the same title, Old Persian *Ariya-*, and it appears in Pahlavi and modern Persian *Iran*. Sanskrit *ārya-s* honorable, respectable; originally, belonging to the hospitable, is a derivative of *aryā-s* lord, hospitable lord; originally, protecting the stranger, from *ari-s* stranger.

The spelling *Aryan*, used by scholars in the 1850's and following, was gradually replaced by *Indo-European* (first

attested for this group of languages in 1814).—**n.** 1550 *Arien*; 1601 *Arian*.

as *adv., prep., conj., pron.* Probably before 1200 *ase* and earlier *als*, *alse*; developed as weakened phonetic forms of Old English *ealswā*, *allswā* (before 950) meaning all so, wholly so, quite so, in which *swā* meaning “so” was a demonstrative adverb qualified by the intensive adverb *all*. Historically *as* is equivalent to *so* and has all the relational uses of *so*, the differences being largely idiomatic. With many adjectives and adverbs, *as* was written in combination (*asmuch*, *aswell*, *asoon*) and survives in *forasmuch*, *inasmuch*, *whereas*.

as- a form of the prefix *ad-*, meaning to, toward, before *s*, as in *assign*. Formed in Latin by assimilation of *d* to the following consonant (*s*).

asbestos *n.* 1607 *asbest*, 1658 *asbestos* mineral that does not burn; borrowed from Latin *asbestos*, and replacing earlier *albeston* applied to quicklime (before 1387), still earlier *abestus* (before 1100); borrowed from Old French *abeste*, *abeston*, *albeston* and Medieval Latin *albeston*, from Latin *asbestos*, from Greek *ásbestos* unquenchable (*a-* not + *sbestos*, verbal adjective of *sbennýnai* to quench). The Latin word was mistakenly applied by Pliny to quicklime (the “unquenchable” stone).

ascend *n.* Before 1382, borrowed from Anglo-French *ascendre* and from Latin *ascendere* (*a-* to, up + *scandere* to climb). —**ascendant** *n., adj.* About 1380 *ascendent*; 1548 *ascendant*, borrowed from Middle French *ascendant* and from Latin *ascendentem* (nominative *ascendēns*), present participle of *ascendere*; for suffix see -ANT. —**ascension** *n.* Before 1333, borrowed from Anglo-French *ascensium* and from Latin *ascēnsiōnem* (nominative *ascēnsiō*), from *ascēn-sus*, past participle of *ascendere*; for suffix see -SION. —**ascent** *n.* 1600, formed in English from *ascend*, on the analogy of earlier *descend*, *descent*.

ascertain *v.* 1417 *assertenyng* a giving assurance; later *ascerten* to inform, give assurance (1425); borrowed through Anglo-French *acerteiner* from Old French *acertener* (*a-* to, from Latin *ad-*) + (*certener*, from *certain* CERTAIN). The modern meaning of *ascertain* is not attested until the 1700's.

ascetic *adj.* 1646, borrowed from Greek *askētikós* laborious, from *askētēs* hermit, monk; earlier, one who practices a spiritual exercise to attain perfection and virtue, developed from one who practices any art or trade, from *askēn* to exercise; for suffix see -IC. —**n.** 1660, noun use of *ascetic*, *adj.* —**asceticism** *n.* 1646, formed from English *ascetic* + -ism.

ascribe *v.* Probably before 1425 *ascriben*, developed by influence of Latin *ascribere* as a replacement of earlier *ascriven*, first recorded about 1340, borrowed from Old French *ascrivre* to attribute, inscribe, from Latin *ascribere*, *adscribere* to write in; later, to attribute (*ad-* to + *scribere* write; see SCRIBE). —**ascription** *n.* 1597, borrowed from Latin *ascripitiōnem* (nominative *ascripitiō*), from *ascribere* ascribe; for suffix see -TION.

-ase a suffix used to name enzymes, such as *maltase* = an enzyme that decomposes malt. -*Ase* is abstracted from *diastase*, adopted in French from Greek *diástasis* separation.

ash¹ *n.* remains after burning. Middle English *asshe*, *esse*, usually in the plural *asshen*, *esken*; developed from Old English (before 800) *æsce*, *asce*, *esce*; cognate with Old High German *asca* ash (modern German *Asche*), Old Icelandic *aska*, earlier Dutch *asch* (now *as*), Danish *aske*, Swedish *aska*, from Proto-Germanic **askōn*.

ash² *n.* a tree mentioned widely in older literature, especially as a shaft for a spear. Middle English *asshe*, *assh*, *ash*, developed from Old English *æsc* spear made of ash wood (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old High German *ask* ash tree (modern German *Esche*, earlier *Asche*), Old Icelandic *askr* ash, spear, boat, Swedish, Danish, Norwegian *ask* ash, box or container, Middle Dutch *esce* (modern Dutch *es*, earlier *esch*), all of these forms implying Proto-Germanic **askaz* or **askiz*.

ashamed *adj.* Old English (before 1000) *āsceamod*, past participle of *āsceamian*, feel shame (*ā-* a-^s + *sceamu* SHAME).

asinine *adj.* About 1610, borrowed from Latin *asininus* of or like an ass, from *asinus* ASS, also dolt, blockhead; for suffix see -INE¹.

The meaning “of or having to do with an ass or asses” is recorded in English later than the meaning “characteristic of an ass or asses, stupid, silly,” but note that the meaning “stupid” is also in Latin.

ask *v.* Old English *āhsian* (before 725), *ācsian* (before 800), *ācsian* (about 885); cognate with Old Frisian *āskia* to request, demand, ask, Old Saxon *ēscōn*, Old High German *eiscōn*, *heiscōn*, from Proto-Germanic **aiskōjanan*.

The Old English variant, *ācsian* or *āxian*, became *axen* in Middle English and later *ax*, an accepted literary form of the verb until about 1600, which survives in dialectal speech. Forms of *asken* are frequent in Middle English beside *axen*, and *ask* occurs in the late 1500's, especially in Shakespeare.

askance *adv.* 1530, sideways, askew; developed from *ascaunce* as if, pretending that (about 1395), alteration of earlier *ase quances* in such a way that, even as (before 1333), *ase* as, and Old French *quances* as though, from Latin *quamsī*, variant of *quasi* as if, as it were.

asp¹ *n.* poisonous snake. 1526, borrowed through Middle and Old French *aspe*, *aspis*, or directly from Latin *aspis*, from Greek *aspis*. The Latin and Old French *aspis* was used in English from the 1300's until the early 1500's.

asp² *n.* Poetic. aspen, poplar tree. Old English (about 700) *æspe*, *æpse*, a word cognate with Old High German *aspa* aspen (modern German *Espe*), Old Icelandic *ǫsp*, Swedish, Danish, Norwegian *asp*, Dutch *esp*, from Proto-Germanic **aspō*.

asparagus *n.* Before 1398 *asperages*, *aspergy*; borrowed from Old French *asperge*, *asparge* and Medieval Latin **asperagi*, from Latin *asparagus*, from Greek *aspáragos*, *aspháragos*, probably borrowed from some foreign source.

The current form is a reborrowing about 1597 of Latin *asparagus* and replaced the earlier *sparage*, *sperge* (probably before 1300), borrowed through Anglo-Latin *spargus* (before

1250), from Medieval Latin *sparagus*, *sparagi* (alterations of Latin *asparagus*).

In the mid 1500's when the asparagus plant became familiar, a shortened form *sparagus* displaced *sperage*, *sparage*, altered by folk etymology (before 1650) to *sparagrass*, *sparrow-grass*. The spelling *asparagus*, by the late 1800's, was the popular form.

aspect *n.* About 1385, relative position in planets as they appear; borrowed from Latin *aspectus* (genitive *aspectūs*) seeing, look, appearance, from *aspec-*, stem of *aspicere*, *adspicere* look at (*ad-* at + *specere* to look).

aspen *n.* Used as an adjective about 1385, especially in *aspen leaf*, the *-en* being an old adjective ending found in German *espen* and Old Frisian *espen*; or perhaps a survival of the old English genitive *æspan* of the ASP² (from about 1000).

asperity *n.* Before 1535, alteration (influenced by Latin *asperitās*) of earlier *asperete*, in use probably before 1200; borrowed from Old French *aspereté*, learned borrowing from Latin *asperitātem* (nominative *asperitās*), from *asper* rough; for suffix see -ITY.

aspersion *n.* 1448, shedding (of Christ's blood); borrowed from Latin *aspersiōnem* (nominative *aspersiō*), from *aspers-*, stem of *aspergere*, *adspargere* to sprinkle (*ad-* on + *spergere* to scatter); for suffix see -SION.

A later meaning the act of sprinkling with water, dust, etc. was extended by 1596 to a damaging or false statement and by 1633 the action of casting such statements.

asphalt *n.* Before 1398, borrowed from Late Latin *asphaltum*, from Greek *ásphalton*, variant of *ásphaltos* (*a-* not + **sphaltós* able to be thrown down, so called from its use as a binding material assuring the solidity of walls; **sphaltós* is taken to be a verbal adjective of *sphálllein* to throw down).

There was also *asphaltoun* (probably about 1380), from the Greek *ásphalton*.

asphyxia *n.* 1706, stoppage of the pulse, New Latin *asphyxia*, borrowed from Greek *asphyxiā* a stopping of the pulse (*a-* without + *sphýxis* pulse, from *sphýzein* to throb). The current sense appeared in 1778 and was regarded as a misnomer, because in victims of suffocation the pulse continues long after the outward signs of respiratory action have ceased. —**asphyxiate** *v.* 1836, formed from English *asphyxia* + *-ate*¹. —**asphyxiation** *n.* 1866, formed from English *asphyxia* + *-tion*.

aspic *n.* 1789, borrowed from French *aspic* jelly, literally meaning asp, an expansion of Old French *aspe*, influenced by *basilic* basilisk. The meaning in French may come from *froid comme un aspic* cold, like an asp (serpent), or from the various colors in the gelatin or the shape of the mold. See ASP¹.

aspirate *v.* Before 1700, borrowed possibly through influence of earlier French *aspirer* (1529) to *aspire* in pronunciation, from Latin *aspirātus*, past participle of *aspirāre*, *adspirāre* breathe upon; for suffix see -ATE¹. It is also possible that *aspirate* is a back formation from *aspiration*.

aspire *v.* Before 1400, borrowed from Old French *aspirer* *aspire* to, inspire, from Latin *aspirāre*, *adspirāre* breathe upon, seek to

reach (*ad-* to, upon + *spirāre* breathe). —**aspiration** *n.* Probably before 1398, act of aspiring; later, inspiration (probably about 1425); borrowed from Old French *aspiration* divine inspiration, from Latin *aspiratiōnem* (nominative *aspiratiō*), from *aspirāre* aspire; for suffix see -TION. The meaning of earnest desire appeared in 1606.

aspirin *n.* Probably before 1922, borrowed (1899) as a trademark in German *Aspirin*, from *A(cetylrilte) Spir(säure)* acetylated spiraeic acid + *-in*². Spiraeic acid is an old name of salicylic acid, originally obtained from the leaves of *Spiraea ulmaria*.

ass *n.* Old English *assa*, masculine (before 830); perhaps developed from the source of Middle Welsh *asen*, or from Middle Irish *assan*. Old English *assa* is ultimately borrowed from Latin *asinus*, *asina* (feminine), from a language of Asia Minor (compare Greek *ónos*, Armenian *ēš*, Sumerian *anšu* ass).

assail *v.* Probably before 1200, borrowed from Old French *assaillir*, *asaillir*, from Vulgar Latin **assalire*, alteration of Latin *assilire* to leap at (*as-* at + *salire* to leap). —**assailant** *n.* About 1532, borrowed from Middle French *assaillant*, present participle of *assaillir*, from Old French *assaillier*. English *assaillant* gradually replaced earlier *assailer*, *assailour* (recorded before 1400); borrowed from Old French *assailleux*, from *assaillier* ASSAIL.

assassin *n.* 1531, murderer, borrowed through Middle French *assassin* (Old French *assassis* hashish eaters who committed murder) and through Italian *assassino* murderer; earlier, hashish eater, from Arabic *hashshāshīn*, literally, hashish eaters, in reference to a religious and military order (in the mountains of Lebanon) remarkable for their secret murders, because the members selected to commit a murder, especially of a public figure, were first intoxicated with hashish. Current use still refers chiefly to a murderer of a public figure. —**assassinate** *v.* 1618, perhaps borrowed by influence of French *assassiner* to murder, from Medieval Latin *assassinatus*, past participle of *assassinare* to assassinate. *Assassinate* could also be a back formation of earlier *assassination*. —**assassination** *n.* 1605, formed in English, probably from French *assassinat* assassination + English *-ion*.

assault *n.* 1375, alteration of earlier *asaut* (probably before 1200); borrowed from Old French *asaut*, *assaut*, from Vulgar Latin **assaltus* assault, attack, alteration of Latin *assultus* (genitive *assultūs*), from stem *assul-* of *assilire*, *adilire* leap at, assail (*as-* at + *salire* to leap).

The original English form *asaut* was altered to *saulte* (1530, in Palsgrave's *Lesclarcissement*) after the Latin form, as in *fault*, *vault*. However, Palsgrave reads: *make a saulte*. The *a* could be the article *a* but could just as well be part of *assaulte*, incorrectly divided by the printer. —**v.** About 1410, *asauten* to attack, assault; borrowed from Middle French *asauter*, *assauter*, from Vulgar Latin **assaltāre* (Latin *as-* at + *saltāre* to leap).

assay *n.* Before 1338, a trying, trial, ordeal; borrowed through Anglo-French *assai*, alteration (influenced by the prefix *a-* to) of Old French *essai* trial; see ESSAY. The sense of analysis appeared about 1386. —**v.** Probably before 1300, *assaien* to try, borrowed from Anglo-French *assaer*, *assaiier*, from *assai*, *n.*

assemble *v.* Before 1325 (but used as a gerund *assemblinge* a coming together, gathering or meeting, about 1300); borrowed through Anglo-French from Old French *assembler*, from Vulgar Latin **assimulāre* bring together (Latin *as-* to + *simul* together, at the same time). —**assembly** *n.* Probably before 1300, borrowed through Anglo-French *assemblé*, from Old French *assemblée*, feminine past participle of *assembler* assemble; for suffix see -Y³. —**assembly line** (1914, American English).

assent *v.* About 1300, borrowed through Anglo-French *assentir*, from Old French *assentir*, *assenter*, from Latin *assentāri*, serving as a frequentative form to *assentire* (*as-* to + *sentire* feel, think; see SENSE). —**n.** Probably before 1300, borrowed from Old French *assent*, from *assentir*, *v.*

assert *v.* Before 1604, formed in English either as (1) a word modeled on Latin, as if borrowed from Latin *assertus*, past participle of *asserere* claim rights over something, state (*as-* to, + *serere* join, put); or (2) a word created by back formation from earlier *assertion*. —**assertion** *n.* 1424, borrowed through Middle French *assertion*, or directly from Late Latin *assertiōnem* (nominative *assertiō*), from Latin *asserere* claim rights over something, state; for suffix see -TION. —**assertive** *adj.* 1562, formed in English as if from Medieval Latin **assertivus*, from Latin past participle *assertus*; for suffix see -IVE.

assess *v.* 1423, borrowed through Anglo-French *assesser*, from Medieval Latin *assessare* fix a tax upon, originally a frequentative form of Latin *assidere* sit, especially as assistant judge or assessor, literally meaning to sit beside another (*as-* to, by + *sedere* sit). —**assessment** *n.* 1548, formed from English *assess* + -ment. —**assessor** *n.* 1427, borrowed through Anglo-French from Old French *assessour*, and directly from Latin *assessorēm* (nominative *assessor*) a tax assessor, earlier meaning an assistant judge, from *assess-*, stem of *assidere* sit, especially as assessor.

assets *n. pl.* 1531, sufficient estate; borrowed through Anglo-French *assez*, *assetz*, from Old French *assez*, *asez* enough, from Vulgar Latin phrase **ad satis* to sufficiency (Latin *ad* to + *satis* enough).

The English use originated in the Anglo-French legal phrase *aver assetz* to have enough (to meet a claim), from which *assets* later passed into general use. It was originally singular but because of the final -s in imitation of the pronunciation (*asets*) in French and its collective sense, *assets* came to be treated as a plural, with the singular *asset* appearing in the 1800's.

assiduity *n.* Probably before 1425, persistence, continual recurrence; borrowed through Old French *assiduité*, from Latin *assiduitātem* (nominative *assiduitās*); and borrowed from Latin *assiduitās*, from *assiduus* sitting down to, constantly occupied, unremitting, from *assidere* sit at or near (*as-* at + *sedere* sit); for suffix see -ITY. —**assiduous** *adj.* 1538, borrowed from Latin *assiduus*, from *assidere* sit at; for suffix see -OUS.

assign *v.* About 1300, borrowed through Anglo-French from Old French *assigner*, learned borrowing from Latin *assignāre*

mark out (*as-* to, for + *signāre* make a sign, from *signum* mark). —**assignment** *n.* 1389, borrowed from Old French *assignement*, from *assigner* assign; for suffix see -MENT; or formed in Middle English from earlier *assign* + -ment.

assimilate *v.* Probably before 1425, borrowed through influence of Old French *assimiler*, from Latin *assimilātus*, past participle of *assimilāre*, variant of *assimulāre* compare (*as-* to + *simulāre* make similar, from *similis* like); for suffix see -ATE¹. —**assimilation** *n.* Probably before 1425, borrowed through Old French *assimilation*, from Latin *assimilatiōnem* (nominative *assimilatiō*), variant of *assimulatiōnem*, from *assimulāre* compare; for suffix see -TION.

assist *v.* 1426, borrowed through Middle French *assister*, learned borrowing from Latin *assistere* to assist (*as-* to, by + *sistere* take a stand, from *stāre* to stand). —**n. 1597, from the verb. —**assistance** *n.* 1424, borrowed from Middle French *assistance*, from *assister* to assist, and from Medieval Latin *assistentia* assistance, from Latin *assistere* to assist; for suffix see -ANCE. —**assistant** *n., adj.* 1433, borrowed from Middle French *assistant*, present participle of *assister* to assist, and from Latin *assistentem* (nominative *assistent*) assisting, present participle of *assistere* to assist; for suffix see -ANT.**

assize *n.* About 1300 *assise* session of a law court, a legal suit, regulation, standard of quality or measure, custom or practice; borrowed through Anglo-French from Old French *assise* court session; also, a setting (of taxes, etc.), from the feminine past participle of Anglo-French *aseoir*, later Old French *aseoir* to sit at, settle, assess, from Medieval Latin *assedere* sit at, alteration of Latin *assidere*; see ASSESS.

associate *adj.* Probably before 1425, developed from past participle *associat* associated; borrowed from Latin *associātus*, past participle of *associāre* join with (*as-* to + *sociāre* join with, from *socius* companion); for suffix see -ATE¹. —**v.** About 1450, gradually replacing earlier *associen* (about 1383). *Associate* is a verb use of the Middle English past participle *associat*, borrowed from Latin *associātus*, past participle of *associāre* join with. The earlier Middle English *associen* was borrowed through Old French *associer*, *associier*, from Latin *associāre*. —**n.** 1533, developed from *associate*, *adj.* used absolutely. —**association** *n.* 1535, borrowed perhaps through Middle French *association*, and directly from Medieval Latin *associationem* (nominative *associatio*), from Latin *associāre* join with; for suffix see -TION. —**associative** *adj.* 1812, formed from English *associate* + -ive.

assonance *n.* 1727, borrowed from French *assonance*, from Latin *assonāre* respond to, sound in answer (*as-* to + *sonāre* to sound); for suffix see -ANCE.

assort *v.* 1490, borrowed from Middle French *assortir*, from Old French *assorter* (*a-* to, from Latin *ad-*) + (*sorte* kind, SORT). —**assortment** *n.* 1611, formed from English *assort* + -ment, probably influenced in its formation by earlier French *assortiment* (1532).

assuage *v.* About 1300 *aswagen*, *asswagen*; borrowed through Anglo-French *asuager*, *assuager*, *asswager*, from Old French *as-*

souagier, from Northern Gallo-Romance **assuāviāre* (from Latin *as-* to + *suāvis* agreeable, SWEET).

Development of the sound represented by *vi* in *assuāviāre* to /dʒ/ represented by *g* in Old French *cage* is parallel to the development in Old French of *déluge* from Latin *diluvium*.

assume *v.* Before 1420, borrowed from Latin *assumere* take up, receive, assume (*as-* to, up + *sūmere* to take, formed from **sus-*, from earlier **subs-*, variant of *sub* -up, + *emere* to take). — **assumption** *n.* About 1300, *Assumpcion*, borrowed from Old French *assumpcion*, *assomption* and from Latin *assumptiōnem* (nominative *assumptiō*) a taking up, adoption, from *assumere* take up; for suffix see -TION.

assure *v.* About 1375, borrowed from Old French *aseürer*, from Vulgar Latin **assēcūrāre* (from Latin *as-* to + *sēcūrus* safe, SECURE). — **assurance** *n.* About 1385, borrowed from Old French *aseürance*, from *aseürer* assure; for suffix see -ANCE.

aster *n.* 1706, New Latin *aster*, from Latin *astēr* star, aster, from Greek *astēr* star; see STAR. The original meaning in English was “star,” borrowed from Latin (1603), but now obsolete.

asterisk *n.* Before 1382 *asterich*, before 1387 *asterisc*; borrowed from Late Latin *asteriscus*, from Greek *asterískos*, little star, diminutive of *astēr* (genitive *astēros*) star.

asteroid *n.* 1802, borrowed from Greek *asteroeidēs* starlike (*astēr*, genitive *astēros*, star + *eidos* form).

asthma *n.* Before 1398 *asma*, borrowed, perhaps by influence of Old French *asmat*, from Latin *asthma* (genitive *asthmatis*), from Greek *ásthma* panting, probably related to Greek *áemi* I breathe hard, blow, and *ánemos* wind.

The *th* in English was introduced in the 1500's to restore a Latinate form. — **asthmatic** *adj.* 1542, formed in English on the pattern of Latin *asthmaticus*, from Greek *asthmatikós*, from *ásthma* (genitive *ásthmatos*); for suffix see -IC.

astigmatism *n.* 1849, formed from English *a-* without + Greek *stigmat-* (stem of *stigma* mark, spot) + English suffix -ism; coined by the English scientist and philosopher William Whewell, 1794–1866. — **astigmatic** *adj.* 1849, formed from English *a-* without + Greek *stigmat-* + English suffix -ic.

astonish *v.* 1530, alteration of *astonen*, *astonen*, *astounen*, *astunen* (probably before 1300); borrowed from Old French *estoner*, *estuner* to stun, *astonish*, from Vulgar Latin **extonāre* (Latin *ex-* out + *tonāre* to thunder); corresponding to Latin *attonāre* to strike with a thunderbolt, stupefy (*at-* to + *tonāre* to THUNDER).

The alteration of Middle English *astonen* to *astonish* may have been influenced by a pattern of verbs already existing in -ish, e.g. *admonish*, *distinguish*, *famish*; no form is known to have existed for Old French *estoner* to supply the stem in the -iss- that traditionally evolved into English verbs in -ish.

astound *v.* 1600, developed from Middle English *astounded*, *astoned*, (probably before 1300), past participle of *astounen*, *astonen* to stun, ASTONISH.

astral *adj.* 1605, borrowed from Late Latin *astrālis*, from Latin *astrum* star, from Greek *ástron*, see STAR; for suffix see -AL¹.

astray *adv.*, *adj.* Before 1325 *astrai*, *o stray*; earlier *astraié*, past participle (about 1300); borrowed from Old French *estraié* strayed, past participle of *estrai*, *estray*; see STRAY.

The loss of the initial *e* in borrowing from Old French *estraié* gave rise to a belief that the word was formed in English from *a-* + *stray*, *n.*, but no earlier English noun form *stray* has been found.

astrigent *adj.* 1541, borrowed from Latin *astrigentem* (nominative *astringēns*), present participle of *astringere* bind fast (*a-* to + *stringere* to tie, bind).

astro-, a combining form meaning: 1 star or other celestial body or bodies, as in *astrophysics* = the study of the physics (temperature, size, density) of celestial bodies. 2 outer space, space travel, as in *astronautics* = science of space travel. Appearing by 1740 as a combining form in English abstracted from a host of earlier words, such as *astronomy* (before 1200), *astrology* (1375), and ultimately borrowed from Greek *astro-*, from *ástron* star.

astrobleme *n.* 1961, formed in English from *astro-* celestial body + Greek *blēma* throw of a missile, or the resulting wound, from *ballein* to throw, hit.

astrolabe *n.* About 1390 *astrelabie*; borrowed through Anglo-French from Old French *astrelabe*, a learned borrowing of Medieval Latin *astrolabium*, from Greek *astrolābos* celestial sphere, originally meaning “taking (position of) stars” (*astro-* star + *lambánein* to take).

astrology *n.* 1375 *astrologie*, borrowed from Old French *astrologie*, and from Latin *astrologia* astronomy, from Greek *astrologiā*, from *astrológos* astronomer (*astro-* star + *-lógos* treating of, from *légein* speak of); see note at ASTRONOMY. — **astrologer** *n.* About 1385, in the phrase *commune astrologer* in reference to the cock as announcer of sunrise; formed in English after Latin *astrologus* astrologer + English suffix -er.

astronaut *n.* 1929, but widely popularized in 1961, formed in English from *astro-* outer space + *-naut*, from Greek *naútēs* sailor. Earlier, *Astronaut* (1880) was the name of a fictional spaceship, the ending *-naut* was patterned on *aeronaut* (1784) and *aquonaut* (1881). — **astronautics** *n.* 1929, borrowed from French *astronautique*, coined by French writer J.H. Rosny in 1927, on the pattern of *aéronautique* aeronautics.

astronomy *n.* Probably before 1200 *astronomie*, borrowing of Old French *astronomie*, from Latin *astronomía*, from Greek *astronomiā*, from *astrónōmos* one who arranges or classifies the stars (*astro-* star + *-nōmos* arranging, regulating, from *némein* administer, manage).

Originally *astronomy* included observation of the stars and planets and their influence upon natural phenomena, together with their supposed influence on human affairs. In Medieval Latin, Old French, and Middle English of the 1300's and 1400's the terms *astronomy* and *astrology* were interchangeable. During the late 1400's, a distinction developed between scientific study of astronomy (*natural astronomy*) and the philosophical study of human destiny (*judicial astronomy* or *astrology*). — **astronomer** *n.* Before 1398, formed in Middle English

after Medieval Latin *astronomus* astronomer (from Greek *astrónomos*) + English suffix *-er*.¹ An earlier word *astronomien* (before 1300) was borrowed from Old French *astronomien*.

astute *adj.* 1611, borrowed perhaps through influence of Middle French *astu*, *astut*, from Latin *astūtus* crafty, from *astus* (genitive *astūs*) guile, of uncertain origin.

asylum *n.* Probably before 1439, *asilum* place of refuge, sanctuary; borrowed from Latin *asylum* sanctuary, from Greek *ásylon* refuge, from the neuter of *ásylos* safe from violence (*a-* without + *sylē* right of seizure). Middle English *asilum* was a Latinate replacement of earlier (about 1384) *asile*, borrowed from Old French. The meaning of an institute for special care, as of the insane or orphans, appeared in 1776.

at *prep.* Old English (before 725) *æt*, from which Middle English *at* developed by about 1200. Old English *æt* is cognate with Old Saxon *at*, *æt*, Old High German *az*, Old Icelandic and Gothic *at*, and Old Frisian *et*.

at- a form of the prefix *ad-*, meaning to, toward, before *t*, as in *attend*, *attest*, *attribute*. Formed in Latin by assimilation of *d* to the following consonant (*t*).

atavism *n.* 1833, borrowed from Latin *atavus* ancestor, great-grandfather's grandfather (*at-* an element of undetermined origin + *avus* grandfather); for suffix see *-ISM*. Said to have been a borrowing of French *atavisme*; but the word is not recorded in French before 1838.

ataxia *n.* 1878, borrowed possibly through French *ataxie*, or adopted directly as New Latin *ataxia*, especially in the phrase *locomotor ataxia*, from Greek *ataxiā* (*a-* without + *taxis* order, from a stem of *tássein* arrange).

-ate¹ suffix forming: **1** adjectives meaning: **a** of or having to do with, as in *collegiate* = *having to do with college*. **b** having, containing, as in *compassionate* = *having compassion*. **c** having the form of, like, as in *stellate* = *having the form of a star*. **2** verbs meaning: **a** become, as in *maturate* = *become mature*. **b** cause to be, as in *alienate* = *cause to be alien*. **c** produce, as in *ulcerate* = *produce ulcers*. **d** supply or treat with, as in *aerate* = *treat with air*. **e** combine with, as in *oxygenate* = *combine with oxygen*. **3** nouns derived from adjectives or participial forms often already found in English with *-ate*, as in *delegate*, *prelate*, *advocate*.

The suffix *-ate* was borrowed into Middle English largely by translation of Latin texts containing verbs with the past ending *-ātus* and infinitives ending in *-āre* producing many adjectives and later verbs in English. For example *attenuate* *v.* (1530) developed from *attenuate* *adj.* (before 1425); borrowed from Latin *attenuātus*, past participle of *attenuāre* make thin, weaken.

Other adjectives with *-ate* are formed in English from Latin participial adjective ending in *-ātus*, where no verb exists in Latin, such as *foliato*, from Latin *foliātus*.

Some nouns are furnished in English from the participial forms in *-ate*. For instance, *associate* *n.*, developed from the Middle English participial form *associat*, earlier borrowed from Latin *associātus*. Others were originally adjectives; while many more were borrowed from nouns in Latin or were created after the pattern of fourth-declension nouns in Latin.

Another path of borrowing was from Latin, by way of Old French forms ending in *-ē*, as in *senē* senate, refashioned in Old French to *-at* as in *senat* in the 1200's and 1300's, but after 1400 an *-e* was added to show a long vowel sound in the suffix *-at*.

The same process is evident in later forms taken from modern French where the infinitive ends in *-er* and the past participle in *-ē*, as in French *affectionné*, English *affectionate*.

-ate² a suffix in chemical terms, such as *nitrate* from nitric acid, and as a specialized use of *-ate*¹, taking the place of older chemical terminology, as in *acetatum*, now *acetate*.

-ate³ a suffix forming nouns naming an occupation, position, condition or the like, or the persons serving or being in it, such as *consulate* = office of a consul, *professorate* = position of a professor.

Borrowed from Latin *-ātus*, ending of fourth-declension nouns that have genitive ending *-ātus*, but are separate from noun formations under *-ate*¹.

atheism *n.* 1587, borrowed from Middle French *athéisme*, from Greek *átheos* denying the gods (*a-* without + *theós* a god + Middle French *-isme* *-ism*). —**atheist** *n.* 1571, borrowed from Middle French *athéiste*, from Greek *átheos* + Middle French *-iste* *-ist*. —**atheistic** *adj.* 1634, formed from English *atheist* + suffix *-ic*.

athlete *n.* Probably before 1425 *athletez*, borrowed probably from Greek *áthlētes*. 1528 *athelete*, borrowed from Latin *áthlēta*, from Greek *áthlētes* contestant, combatant, from *áthlēin* contend, compete for a prize, from *áthlos* (earlier *áethlos*) contest, and *áthlon* (earlier *áethlon*) prize, contest. —**athletic** *adj.* 1636, borrowed perhaps by influence of French *athlétique* (1534) from Latin *áthlēticus*, from Greek *áthlētikós*, from *áthlētes* athlete; for suffix see *-IC*. —**athletics** *n.* 1727–51, formed from English *athletic* + *-s* on analogy with *gymnastics* (1652); for suffix see *-ICS*.

-athon or **-thon** a combining form abstracted from *marathon* meaning any prolonged or extended activity, event, etc., usually involving endurance, as in *walkathon* (1932), *talkathon* (1948), and *telethon* (1952).

-ation a suffix forming nouns, and meaning act or state of —ing, as in *admiration*; condition or state of being —ed, as in *agitation*; result of —ing, as in *civilization*. English *-ation* was borrowed from Latin *-ātiōnem* (nominative *-ātiō*) which is formed of *-ā-* (stem of verbs ending in *-āre*, such as Latin *orāre*, English *orate*) + *-tiōnem* (accusative of noun suffix *-tiō* *-TION*).

Often *-ation* is a replacement of Middle English *-acion*, *-acioun*, borrowed from Old French *-aciun*, from Latin *-ātiōnem*, and forms words from Latin and French (*create*, *creation* and *moderate*, *moderation*), but for some there is no underlying verb form (*constellation*). Another source is from Greek verbs ending in *-ize* (*organize*, *organization*). There is also a large group of words derived through French (*modify*, *modification*; *form*, *formation*) though usually incorrectly considered to be formed in English. Nevertheless *-ation* is an active suffix in English producing such words as *flirtation*, *starvation*, and *both-eration* and generally taking on the meaning of verbs in *-ing*,

from which back formations of new verbs occur where there is no underlying verb form: *administrate* (1651) from *administration* (1333), *evaluate* (1842) from *evaluation* (1755), *hibernate* (before 1802) from *hibernation* (1664), *medicate* (1623) from *medication* (before 1425), and *syllabicate* (1775) from *syllabication* (1631). A Latin past participial stem exists for a few of these verbs, but evidence points to the noun in *-ation* as the source in English for these verbs.

-ative a suffix forming adjectives, and meaning: 1 tending to, as in *talkative* = *tending to talk*. 2 having to do with, as in *qualitative* = *having to do with quality*. English *-ative* was borrowed directly from Latin *-ātivus* (*-āt-*, past participial stem in *-ātus*, *-ātum* of verbs ending in *-āre*, such as *dēmōnstrāre*, English *demonstrate*) + *-ivus* (the adjective suffix, see *-IVE*). Many English words were also borrowed through French and Old French *-atif* (masculine), *-ative* (feminine) from Latin *-ātivus*, such examples include *affirmative* and *representative*. Still others are formed in English directly from nouns in *-ty* but based on the Latin noun stem, such as *authoritative* from Latin stem *auctōritāt-*, and *qualitative* from *qualitāt-*.

Atlantic *adj.* Probably before 1425 *Atlantik*, from earlier noun use *Atlant* 1387, both uses referring to the sea on the west coast of Africa, named after Mount *Atlas* in Mauritania, which, according to Classical mythology, supported the heavens (an extension of the Classical idea of the heavens resting on the shoulder of the Titan *Atlas*); later extended to the entire ocean.

English *Atlantic* was borrowed from Latin *Atlanticus*, from Greek *Atlantikós* having to do with *Atlas* (*Atlant-*, stem of *Átlās* ATLAS + *-ikós* English suffix *-IC*).

Atlas or **atlas** *n.* 1 chief supporter; mainstay. 1589, adopted in English from the name *Atlas*, a Titan in Greek mythology who bore the heavens or world on his shoulders, from Latin *Atlās*, from Greek *Átlās*. 2 Usually **atlas**, book of maps. 1636, adopted in English from New Latin *Atlas*, said to have been used originally by Gerhardus Mercator, the Flemish map-maker of the 1500's, from the practice of placing a picture of *Atlas* on the front page of collections of maps. *Atlas* may also have been borrowed from the earlier French use, recorded in 1595.

atmosphere *n.* 1677, perhaps influenced by French *atmosphère* (1665), but probably suggested by Bishop John Wilkins' use of New Latin *atmosphæra* (1638); formed from Greek *atmós* vapor + *sphaîra* sphere.

The figurative sense of surrounding influence appeared sometime between 1797 and 1803. —**atmospheric** *adj.* 1783, formed from English *atmosphere* + suffix *-ic*.

atoll *n.* 1625 *atollon*, borrowed from *atolu*, a word of the Maldivian Islands in the Indian Ocean (apparently applied in the Maldives to the islands themselves), perhaps from Malayalam *aḍal* uniting, closing.

French had an earlier form *attollon* (1611), borrowed from Portuguese *attollon*, and Sinhalese *ātull* meaning "interior"; but no relationship to English *atoll* has been formally estab-

lished, especially with the modern French word, which was apparently reborrowed from English as *atoll* in 1848.

atom *n.* About 1477 *attome*, the smallest part of a substance; borrowed from Middle French *atome*, and as a learned borrowing from Latin *atomus* (used especially by Lucretius, about 96–55 B.C., in describing an atomic theory of materialism), from Greek *átomos* (used in reference to an atomic philosophy of all matter by Leucippus, about 500 B.C., later enhanced by Democritus, about 460–357 B.C.), noun use of *átomos* indivisible (*a-* without + *tómos* a cutting, from *témnein* to cut; see *TOME*). *Atom* in the sense of the smallest particle of an element in a chemical reaction was used by the British chemist John Dalton in 1805, and *atomic* in this sense may have appeared at the same time, though the form was known in English as early as 1678.

atone *v.* Probably about 1300 *atonen* to reconcile; developed in English from the adverbial phrase *at on* in agreement (probably about 1225). —**atonement** *n.* 1513, reconciliation, possibly developed in English from the phrase *at onement* a being at one, i.e., in accord; but more likely formed in English from earlier *atone* + *-ment*.

atrium *n.* 1 hall or court. 1577, borrowed from Latin *ātrium*, of uncertain origin. 2 either of the two upper cavities of the heart. 1870, an extension of definition 1.

atrocitiy *n.* 1534, borrowed, through influence of Middle French *atrocité*, from Latin *atrōcītās*, from *atrōx* gloomy, cruel, fierce (stem *atr-*, related to *āter*, black, dark + a lost noun **ōqus* eye, face); for suffix see *-ITY*. —**atrocious** *adj.* 1669, formed in English from Latin *atrōci-* (stem of *atrōx* gloomy, cruel) + English suffix *-ous*.

atrophy *n.* 1620, borrowed probably through French *atrophie*, from Late Latin *atrophia*, from Greek *atrophía* (*a-* without + *trophé* nourishment, from *tréphēin*, fatten, nourish); for suffix see *-Y³*. —**v.** 1865, from the noun.

attach *v.* Before 1338, take or seize by law; borrowed perhaps through an Anglo-Latinized form *attachiare* (1258) of Old French *atachier* (1080) hold fast, fasten; earlier *estachier* fasten, from *estache* post, door jamb; ultimately from a Germanic source (compare Old English *staca* STAKE¹ post). The general sense of to fasten came into English in the 1400's. —**attachment** *n.* (1) the act of attaching or seizing by law. Before 1400, borrowed through an Anglo-Latinized form *attachimentis* (1258), from Old French *atachier*; for suffix see *-MENT*. (2) something that is attached (before 1797).

attack *v.* 1600, borrowed from French *attaquer*, from Italian *attaccare* (from the same source as Old French *atachier*; see *ATTACH*, which was used occasionally from the 1400's to the 1600's to mean to attack). —**n.** 1667, from the verb (perhaps influenced by French *attaque*). *Attack* is a re-formation in English taking the place of *attach*, *n.*, a seizure or attack of fever, a use lost sometime in the 1400's.

attain *v.* Probably before 1300, borrowed from Old French *ataign-*, stem of *ataindre* to touch upon, seize, affect, from Vulgar Latin **attangere*, alteration of Latin *attingere* (*at-* to + *tangere* to touch). —**attainment** *n.* 1384, formed from

English *attain* + *-ment*, probably by influence of Old French *ataignement*. — **attainable** adj. 1647, formed from English *attain* + *-able*.

attainder *n.* 1444, borrowed through noun use of Anglo-French *ateindre*, Old French *ataindre* to touch upon, seize; see *ATTAIN*. English *attainder* is related to earlier *attaint*, *v.* condemn to loss of property and civil rights (about 1390) and *ateynt* (probably before 1300); borrowed from Old French *ataint*, past participle of *ataindre*.

attempt *v.* Before 1393, borrowed from Old French *attemper*, *attenter*, and directly from Latin *attemptāre* (*at-* to, upon + *temptāre* to try; see *TEMPT*). — **n.** About 1534, noun use of *attempt* *v.*

attend *v.* Before 1325 *attenden*, *atenden* observe, consider, pay attention; borrowed through Old French *atendre* pay attention, and directly from Latin *attendere* pay attention to, listen to; literally, stretch to (*at-* to, variant of *ad-* before *t* + *tendere* to stretch). — **attendance** *n.* About 1380, *attendaunce* duty, service; borrowed from Old French *atendance*, from *atendre* pay attention, and Anglo-Latin *attendencia*, from Latin *attendentem* (nomitive *attendēns*), present participle of *attendere*; for suffix see *-ANCE*. — **attendant** *n.* Before 1422, from earlier adjective use; borrowed from Middle French *attendant*, present participle of *attendre* attend (Old French *atendre*); for suffix see *-ANT*.

attention *n.* About 1380, borrowed from Latin *attentiōnem* (nominative *attentiō*), from *attendere* *ATTEND*; for suffix see *-ION*. The word disappeared from the record after the late 1400's, and subsequent use in English, in Shakespeare's *Richard II* (1593), was probably a reborrowing. — **attentive** adj. Before 1382 (implied in *attentively*); borrowed from Middle French *attentif* *attentive*, probably from Latin *attentus*, past participle; for suffix see *-IVE*.

attenuate *v.* Probably before 1425 *attenuen*, borrowed from Old French *attenuē*; replaced by *attenuate* (1530), verb use of Middle English *attenuate*, adj., emaciated, thin (probably existing before 1425); borrowed from Latin *attenuātus*, past participle of *attenuāre* (*at-* to + *tenuāre* make thin, from *tenuis* thin; see *THIN*). — **attenuation** *n.* Probably before 1425, borrowed from Latin *attenuātiōnem* (nominative *attenuātiō*), from *attenuāre* *attenuate*; for suffix see *-TION*.

attest *v.* 1596, borrowed through Middle French *attester*, Old French *atester*, from Latin *attestārī* confirm, bear witness (*at-* to + *testārī* bear witness, from *testis* witness). Also perhaps a back formation from *attestation*. — **attestation** *n.* 1451, borrowed, perhaps through Middle French *attestation*, and directly from Latin *attestātiōnem* (nominative *attestātiō*), from *attestārī* bear witness; for suffix see *-TION*.

attic *n.* 1696, a low decorative story above the main facade of a building, later referred to as the *attic storey* (1724), shortened to *attic* by 1855; borrowed from French *attique*, learned borrowing from Latin *Atticus*, from Greek *Attikós* of Attica, a region in ancient Greece whose style of architecture was represented by this structure.

attire *v.* Probably before 1300 *atiren* to dress (meat), also to dress, adorn, or equip for war; borrowed from Old French *atirer*, *atirier* arrange, equip, dress (*a-* to + *tire* order, rank). — **n.** Probably before 1300, noun use of *attire*, *v.*

attitude *n.* 1695, posture of a figure in a statue or painting; borrowing of French *attitude*, from Italian *attitudine* fitness, disposition, from Late Latin *aptitudinem*, accusative of *aptitūdō* fitness, from Latin *aptus* joined, fitted; see *APT*; for suffix see *-TUDE*.

Originally a technical term in the fine arts, the term was extended to mean posture of the body implying a mental state (1725) and manner of acting representative of a mental state (1837), introducing the phrase attitude of mind (1862).

atto- a combining form meaning one quintillionth (10¹⁸), as in *attosecond*. 1962, borrowed from Danish *atten* eighteen (related to Old Icelandic *átján*; cognate with Old English *eahtatēne* eighteen) + connective *-o-*, as in *quadro-*, *sexto-*.

attorney *n.* About 1303 *aturne*, later *atournei* (about 1440); borrowed through Anglo-French *aturné*, *aturné*, from Old French *aturné*, *aturné*, past participle of *aturner*, *aturner* to decree, assign, appoint, prepare (*a-* to + *turner*, *turner* to turn).

The doubling of the *t*, about 1440, was an attempt to establish what was thought to be its original Latin form. — **attorney general**, 1533, legal officer of the State, from earlier meaning of a legal representative acting under power of attorney (1292).

attract *v.* Probably before 1425, to draw out (diseased matter) as a means of treatment; borrowed from Latin *attrahere*, past participle of *attrahere* draw to (*at-* to + *trahere* to draw). The sense of draw near appears in 1568. — **attraction** *n.* Before 1400, the action of drawing out diseased matter, extraction; borrowed probably through Anglo-French *attraction*, Old French *attraction*, from Latin *attractionem* (nominative *attractiō*), from *attrahere*, past participle of *attrahere*; for suffix see *-TION*. — **attractive** adj. Before 1398, having the ability to draw off and ingest nutriment; borrowed perhaps through Middle French *attractif*, *attractive*, from Medieval Latin *attractivus*, from Latin *attractus*; for suffix see *-IVE*.

attribute *n.* 1373, borrowed from Latin *attribūtus*, past participle of *tribuere* assign to (*at-* to + *tribuere* assign, give, bestow). — **v.** 1523, developed in English from earlier participial adjective *attribut* (probably before 1425); borrowed from Latin *attribūtus*, past participle of *tribuere*. — **attribution** *n.* 1467, borrowed from Middle French *attribution*, from Latin *attributiōnem* (nominative *attributiō*), from *tribuere*; for suffix see *-TION*. — **attributive** adj. 1606, borrowed from French *attributif*, *attributive*, from Latin *attribūtus*, past participle of *tribuere*; for suffix see *-IVE*. — **n.** 1750, noun use of *attributive*, adj.

attrition *n.* Probably before 1425, a rubbing away by friction; earlier, meaning regret, a form of contrition; borrowed from Latin *attritiōnem* (nominative *attritiō*), from *attritus*, past participle of *atterere* rub against (*at-* to, against + *terere* to rub; see *THROW*); for suffix see *-TION*.

The sense of wearing down the enemy's strength, especially in *war of attrition*, appeared in 1914.

auburn *adj.* Before 1420, yellowish or whitish, blond; borrowed through Anglo-French *auburn*, Old French *auborne*, from Medieval Latin *alburnus* whitish, from Latin *albus* white. In the 1400's to the 1600's often spelled *abron*, *abrone*, *abrown*, which probably gave rise to *auburn* as a kind of brown.

auction *n.* 1595, borrowed from Latin *auctiōnem* (nominative *auctiō*) sale by increase of bids, literally an increase, from *aug-*, stem of *augere* to increase; for suffix see -ION. —**v.** 1807, from the noun. —**auctioneer** *n.* 1708, developed from English *auction* *n.* + *-eer*.

audacity *n.* Probably before 1425, borrowed from Medieval Latin *audacitas* boldness, from Latin *audāx* (genitive *audācis*) bold, from *audēre* be bold; for suffix see -ITY. —**audacious** *adj.* 1550, borrowed from Middle French *audacieux*, from *audace* boldness, learned borrowing from Latin *audācia*; for suffix see -OUS.

audible *adj.* 1529, borrowed through Middle French *audible* (1488), and directly from Late Latin *audibilis*, from Latin *audire* to hear; for suffix see -IBLE.

audience *n.* Probably before 1387, an opportunity to be heard; later, group of listeners; borrowed through Anglo-French *audience*, from Old French, learned borrowing from Latin *audientia* a hearing, from *audientem* (nominative *audientiēs*), present participle of *audire* hear; for suffix see -ENCE.

audio *n.* 1940, abstracted from English AUDIO-; was influenced by earlier *video* (1935).

audio- a combining form meaning sound or hearing, as in *audiophile* (1951), *audiovisual* (1937). Modern coinage (1913) from the stem of Latin *audire* hear + connective *-o-*.

audit *n.* 1431, probably formed in English by influence of earlier *auditor* (before 1333), on the basis of a borrowing from Latin *auditus* (genitive *auditiūs*) a hearing, from *audire* to hear. —**v.** 1457, verb use of Middle English *audit*, *n.* —**auditor** *n.* Before 1333, an official who examines accounts, and before 1382, listener; borrowed through Anglo-French *auditeur*, from Old French *auditeur*, and directly from Latin *auditor* a hearer, listener, from *audire* to hear; for suffix see -OR².

audition *n.* 1599, power or faculty of hearing; borrowed through Middle French *audicion*, from Latin *auditiōnem* (nominative *auditiō*), from *audire* hear; for suffix see -TION. The sense of a trial hearing of a performer appeared in 1881. —**v.** 1935, from the noun.

auditorium *n.* 1727–51, replacing *auditory*, developed from Middle English *auditorie* (about 1384); borrowed from Latin *auditorium* lecture room, audience, neuter of the adjective *auditorius* of or for hearing, from *auditor* a hearer, listener, from *audire* to hear. —**auditory** *adj.* 1578, borrowed from Latin *auditorius* of or for hearing; for suffix see -ORY.

auger *n.* Middle English *nauger*, *nawger*, *navger*, developed from Old English (about 700) *nafoġār*, *nabogār* nave or hub borer; from a Germanic compound of the words for nave, hub (Old English *nafu*) and spear, borer (Old English *gār*), with cognate descendants in Old Icelandic *nafarr*, Old High Ger-

man *nabugēr*, *nabagēr*, and Old Saxon *nabugēr*, from Proto-Germanic **naβōzaizaz*.

In Middle English, the initial *n* was dropped by misdivision of *a nauger* as *an auger*.

ought *n.* Before 1300 *ought*, *auht*, *awiht*, developed from Old English (before 1000) *āht*, contraction of *āwiht* (*ā* ever + *wiht* anything; literally, anything whatever).

augment *v.* Before 1400, borrowed through Anglo-French, from Old French *augmenter*, learned borrowing from Late Latin *augmentāre*, from Latin *augmentum* an increase, from *augere* to increase.

augur *n.* Before 1393, borrowed from Latin *augur*, a religious official in ancient Rome who foretold events by omens, probably originally meaning an increase in growth (as of crops) enacted in ritual, from *augere* to increase. —**v.** 1601, from the noun, and borrowed from Latin *augurāri* to predict from signs or omens, from *augur*, *n.* —**augury** *n.* About 1385, borrowed from Old French *augurē*, *augurie*, or directly from Latin *augurium* divination, omen, from *augur*, *n.*

august *adj.* 1664, borrowed from Latin *augustus* venerable, worthy of honor (assumed as a title by the Roman emperors), and probably originally meaning consecrated by the augurs or consecrated with favorable auguries. Latin *augustus* developed from **augus* (genitive **augoris*) increase, power (Latin form which later produced *augur*), from *augere* to magnify, increase.

August *n.* Old English (1097) borrowed from Latin *Augustus* the sixth month in the Roman calendar, named after *Augustus* Caesar, from *augustus* majestic, AUGUST. The earlier Old English name was *Wēodmōnath* Month of Weeds.

auk *n.* 1674, borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Norwegian *akle*, Old Icelandic *álka*).

aunt *n.* About 1300, borrowed through Anglo-French *aunte*, from Old French *ante*, from Latin *amita* father's sister.

aura *n.* 1859, subtle emanation or atmosphere, in a figurative sense. 1732, subtle emanation from any substance, earlier gentle breeze (before 1398); borrowed from Latin *aura* breeze, breath of air, from Greek *aúra* breeze, breath.

aural *adj.* 1847, formed in English from Latin *auris* ear + English suffix *-al*¹.

aureomycin *n.* 1948, formed in English from Latin *aureus* golden (abstracted from *Streptomyces aureofaciens* fungus from which the drug is produced) + English *-mycin* (from Greek *mýkēs* fungus + English *-in*²).

auricle *n.* 1 chamber of the heart. Probably before 1425, borrowed through Old French *auricule*, from Latin *auricula* ear, for the shape of the auricles of the heart, said to resemble the ear of a dog or bear. 2 outer part of the ear, 1653; borrowed separately from Latin *auricula* ear, diminutive of *auris* ear.

aurochs *n.* 1835, by misinterpretation of earlier use (1766) referring to an extinct species of wild ox; borrowed from German *Aurochs*, obsolete form of *Auerchs*, from Old High

German *ūrohso* (*ūro* aurochs + *ohso* ox). Old High German *ūro* is cognate with Old English *ūr* and Old Icelandic *urr*, both meaning aurochs.

aurora *n.* About 1386, borrowed through Old French *aurore*, and directly from Latin *aurōra* dawn, *Aurōra* the goddess of dawn. —**aurora borealis** 1621, as originally described by the French physicist and astronomer Pierre Gassendi, northern dawn, later (1727–51) northern light.

auspices *n.* 1533, sign or omen given by birds; later favor, influence (before 1637); borrowed from Middle and Old French *auspice*, *auspices*, learned borrowing from Latin *auspiciū* divination by observing the flight of birds, from *auspex* (genitive *auspiciis*) one who takes signs from the flight of birds (*avi-*, stem of *avis* bird + *-spex* observer, from *specere* look, observe) —**auspicious** *adj.* 1601, formed in English from Latin *auspiciū* + English suffix *-ous*.

austere *adj.* Before 1338, borrowed through Old French *austere*, and directly from Latin *austērus*, from Greek *austērós* making the tongue dry; hence, harsh, severe, related to *hailos* dry. —**austerity** *n.* About 1380, borrowed through Old French *austerité*, and directly from Latin *austēritātem* (nominative *austēritās*), from *austērus* austere; for suffix see *-ITY*.

austral *adj.* 1541, borrowed from Latin *austrālis*, from *auster* the south wind, known in Old French (1372) but the English word appears to be a separate borrowing from Latin.

authentic *adj.* 1369 *autentyk* authoritative; borrowed through Anglo-French *autentic*, from Old French *authentique* and from Medieval Latin and Late Latin *authenticus*, from Greek *authētikós*, from *authēntēs* one acting on one's own authority, master, perpetrator (*aut-* stem of *autós* self + *-hēntēs* doer); for suffix see *-IC*.

Greek and Latin *-th-* was restored in the 1600's. —**authenticity** *n.* 1657, formed from English *authentic* + *-ity*, perhaps by influence of Middle French *authenticité* (1557). —**authenticate** *v.* 1653, borrowed, perhaps by influence of Old French *authentifier* (1265), from Medieval Latin *authenticatus*, past participle of *authenticare*, from *authenticus* authentic; for suffix see *-ATE*¹. —**authentication** *n.* 1788, formed from English *authenticate* + *-ion*.

author *n.* 1529, alteration by influence of Middle French variant *author* of Middle English *autour*, *auctour* (about 1350); borrowed through Anglo-French *autour*, *autour*, *autor*, from Old French *autor*, *autor*, learned borrowings from Latin *auctōrem* (nominative *auctor*), literally one who causes to grow; hence, founder, author, from *augēre* to increase; for suffix see *-OR*².

The spelling *author* was a scribal variant of *autor* in Middle French, during the Renaissance by analogy with words in *th* thought to come ultimately from Greek. —**v.** 1596, to originate, verb use of *author*, *n.* The verb disappeared after the 1630's but was revived, chiefly in the U.S., in the 1940's.

authority *n.* Before 1535, alteration by influence of Middle French *autorité* of Middle English *autorite*, *auctorite* book or quotation that settles a question (probably before 1200); bor-

rowed through Anglo-French *auctorité*, *autorité*, from Old French *auctorité*, *autorité*, learned borrowings from Latin *auctōritātem* (nominative *auctōritās*), from *auctor* AUTHOR; for suffix see *-ITY*. See *author* for note on *-th-* spelling. —**authoritative** *adj.* 1605, formed from English *authority* + *-ative*. —**authorize** *v.* 1579, alteration of Middle English *autorisen*, *autorisen* (about 1383); borrowed from Old French *autoriser*, *autoriser*, from Medieval Latin *autorizare*, from Latin *auctor* AUTHOR; for suffix see *-IZE*. —**authorization** *n.* 1610, reformed in English from *authorize* + *-ation*; earlier *auctorisation* (1472–73), quickly dropped out of English.

autism *n.* 1912, borrowed from German *Autismus* (coined by Paul Bleuler, 1857–1939, Swiss psychiatrist), from New Latin *autismus* (*aut-*, from Greek *autós* self + *-ismus* -ism). —**autistic** *adj.* 1912, formed from English *aut-* (from *autism* + *-istic*, as in *characteristic*, the ending *-istic* being imitative of Greek *-istikós*). —**n.** 1968, noun use of *autistic*, *adj.*

auto *n.* 1899, shortened from AUTOMOBILE.

auto⁻¹ a combining form meaning self, one's own, by oneself, as in *autobiography*, *autograph*, *autointoxication*. Sometimes spelled *aut-* before vowels and *h*, as in *autopsy*, *authentic*. Borrowed from Greek *auto-*, *aut-*, combining form of *autós* self.

auto⁻² a combining form meaning automobile or vehicle, as in *autodrome*, *automaker*; a clipped form of English *automobile*.

autobiography *n.* 1809, formed from English *auto*⁻¹ + *biography*.

autocrat *n.* 1803, borrowed from French *autocrate*, from Greek *autokratēs* ruling by oneself (*autós* self + *krátos* strength, power). —**autocratic** *adj.* 1823, borrowed from French *autocratique*; for suffix see *-IC*.

autograph *n.* 1791, a person's signature; earlier, an author's own manuscript (1640–44); borrowed by influence of earlier French *autographe* (1580), from Latin *autographum*, *autographus*, from Greek *autógraphos* written with one's own hand (*autós* self + *gráphein* write). —**v.** 1837, verb use of *autograph*, *n.*

automatic *adj.* 1748, mechanical; formed in English from Greek *automátos* self-acting + English suffix *-ic*; see AUTOMATON. —**n.** automatic pistol. 1902.

automation *n.* 1948, American English, from *autom(atic) operation*, coined by Delmar S. Harder, who organized in 1947 a group of specialists he named "automation engineers." —**automate** *v.* 1954, American English, back formation from *automation*.

automaton *n.* Before 1625, borrowed from Latin *automaton*, from Greek *automátōn*, neuter of *automátos* self-acting, spontaneous (*autós* self + *-matos* thinking, animated).

automobile *n.* 1895, probably developed from the adjective use as in *auto-mobile car* (1883); borrowed from French *automobile*, *adj.* (1861), and influenced by French *automobile*, *n.* (1890); a compound of French *auto-* self + *mobile* moving. —**automotive** *adj.* 1898, formed from English *auto*⁻¹ + *motive*.

As a noun *automotive* appeared in 1865, referring to a kind of flying machine.

autonomy *n.* 1623, borrowed, perhaps by influence of earlier French *autonomie* (1596), from Greek *autonomiā*, from *autónomos* independent (*auto-* self + *nómos* custom, law); for suffix see -Y³. —**autonomic** *adj.* 1832, *autonomic nervous system* (1896), formed from English *autonomy* + *-ic*. —**autonomous** *adj.* 1800; borrowed, perhaps by influence of earlier French *autonome* (1751), from Greek *autónomos* independent; for suffix see -OUS.

autopsy *n.* 1651, eyewitnessed observation; borrowed from New Latin *autopsia*, from Greek *autopsiā* a seeing with one's own eyes, from *autóptēs* eyewitness (*autós* + *op-* root meaning "to see"; see OPTIC). "Dissection of a body" appeared in 1678, probably by influence of earlier Middle French *autopsie* (1573).

autumn *n.* 1596 *autumne*, and 1526, mistakenly as *authum* both forms alterations of earlier *autumpne* (about 1380); borrowed from Old French *autompne*, learned borrowing from Latin *autumnus*, of uncertain origin. —**autumnal** *adj.* 1574, maturing or blooming in autumn; borrowed from Latin *autumnālis*, from *autumnus*.

auxiliary *adj.* 1603, borrowed from Latin *auxiliārius*, *auxiliāris*, from *auxilium* help, probably from a lost adjective **auxilis* serving to strengthen, from *augēre* to increase; for suffix see -ARY. Earlier Middle French *auxiliaire* (1512) may also have been borrowed by English.

avail *v.* About 1300 *avaien*, apparently formed from *a-* to (from Latin *ad-*) + *vailen* to avail (borrowed from Old French *vaill-*, stem of *valoir* be worth, from Latin *valēre*; see VALUE). —**n.** About 1400, either (1) noun use of *avail*, *v.* or (2) a possible mistaking Old French *de vaille* of value, as *d'availle*. —**available** *adj.* 1417, valid, effective; 1444, beneficial, serviceable; hence, 1827, capable of being made use of, at one's disposal; formed from English *avail* + *-able*.

avalanche *n.* 1771, borrowing of French *avalanche*, from Swiss French *avalantse* descent, possibly an alteration by transposition of *l* resulting from *lavanche*, from a pre-Latin Alpine language.

The formation of this word was further influenced by Old French *avaler* go down, from *à val* down, from Latin *ad vallem* to the valley; and is felt by some to be ultimately from Vulgar Latin **lābīna*, from Latin *lābī* to slide.

Earlier forms appear in English as *valancas* (1765), borrowed from Italian *valanca*; or *valanche* (1766), borrowed from dialectal French *valanche* or by misdivision of standard French *l'avalanche*.

avant-garde 1910, borrowed from French, literally, advance guard, used in English between the 1400's and 1700's.

avarice *n.* Probably about 1300, borrowing of Old French *avarice*, learned borrowing from Latin *avaritia*, from *avārus* greedy, related to *avēre* crave, long for. —**avaricious** *adj.* About 1390, borrowed from Old French *avaricieux*, *avaricieuse*, from *avarice*.

avenge *v.* Probably before 1387, borrowed through Anglo-French *avenger*, from Old French *avengier* (*a-* to + *vengier* take revenge).

avenue *n.* 1600, an approach, passage, pass; borrowed from Middle French *avenue* way of access or approach, Old French act of approaching, arrival, from feminine of *avenu*, past participle of *avenir* arrive, from Latin *advenire*. The extended meaning of broad, tree-lined roadway appeared in 1654, the current sense of a wide main street, probably before 1858.

aver *v.* Before 1400 *averen*, *oueren*; borrowed through Anglo-French *averer*, from Old French, verify, from Vulgar Latin **advērare* make true, prove to be true (from Latin *ad-* to + *vērū* true).

average *n.* 1540, *average* extra charge or expense of shipment, alteration (influenced by the ending *-age* in words like *damage*, *cartage*) of earlier *averag* tax on goods, loss arising from damage at sea (1491) developed between 1250 and 1490 as an Anglicized borrowing from Old French *avarie*, and from Italian *avaria*, ultimately from Arabic *'arwārīya* damaged goods, from *'awār* damage, defect, from *'āra* to spoil.

The current sense developed from "an equal distribution of expense or loss in proportion to their interests" (1598); any similar distribution based on a median estimate (1735); the arithmetic mean so obtained; (1755), extended to "any mean." —**adj.** 1770, adjective use of *average*, *n.* —**v.** 1769, verb use of *average*, *n.*

averse *adj.* Before 1450, borrowed through Old French *avers*, and directly from Latin *āversus*, past participle of *āvertere* AVERT. —**aversion** *n.* 1596, borrowed from Middle and Old French *aversion*, from Latin *āversīōnem* (nominative *āversīō*), from *āversus*, past participle; for suffix see -ION.

avert *v.* Probably before 1439, borrowed from Old French *avertir*, from Latin *āvertere* turn aside (*ā-* from + *vertere* to turn).

aviary *n.* 1577, borrowed from Latin *aviārium*, neuter of *aviārius* of birds, from *avis* bird; for suffix see -ARY.

aviation *n.* 1866, borrowing of French *aviation* (1863), from Latin *avis* bird + French *-ation*. —**aviator** *n.* 1887, borrowed from French *aviateur*, from *aviation*.

avid *adj.* 1769, borrowed, through influence of earlier French and Middle French *avide* (1470), from Latin *avidus*, from *avēre* desire eagerly; and probably as a back formation in English from *avidity*, or from the now obsolete *avidous* (formed in English about 1542 from Latin *avid(us)* + English suffix *-ous*). —**avidity** *n.* 1449, borrowed from Middle French *avidité*, from Latin *aviditatem* (nominative *aviditās*), from *avidus* greedy, eager; for suffix see -ITY.

avocado *n.* 1763, *avocado*, *avocado*, earlier *avogato* (1697); borrowed from Spanish *avocado*, alteration of an earlier form similar to *aguacate*, from Nahuatl *ahuacatl* testicle.

avocation *n.* Before 1617, a calling away from one's occupation, diversion; borrowed from Latin *āvocatīōnem* (nominative

āvōcātīō), from *āvōcāre* (*ā-* away + *vōcāre* to call); for suffix see -TION.

avoid *v.* Before 1325, clear out, withdraw (oneself); borrowed probably from Anglo-French *avoider*, variant of Old French *esvuidier* to empty, quit (*es-* out + *vuidier* to empty, void, from Vulgar Latin **vōcītāre*, from **vōcītus* VOID). —**avoidance** *n.* Before 1398, formed from English *avoid* + suffix *-ance*.

avoirdupois *n.* 1656, alteration of earlier *avoir-de-peise* (probably before 1325), borrowed from Old French *avoir de pois*, *avoir de peis* goods of weight (*avoir* property, goods, a noun use of *avoir* have + *de* of + *peis* weight).

avouch *v.* 1494, borrowed from Middle French *avochier* call upon as an authority, from Old French, from Latin *advocāre* call to (as a witness); see ADVOCATE.

avow *v.* Probably before 1300, borrowed through Anglo-French *avoer*, *avouer*, from Old French *avōer*, *avouer* acknowledge, accept, especially as a protector (*a-* to + *vouer* to affirm, vow, from *vou* VOW). —**avowal** *n.* 1727–31, formed from English *avow*, *v.* + suffix *-al*².

avuncular *adj.* 1831; formed in English, perhaps through influence of earlier French *avunculaire* (1801), from Latin *avunculus* mother's brother + English suffix *-ar*; see UNCLE.

awake *v.* Probably before 1200 *awaken* wake up; developed from Old English *āwacan* (*ā-* a-⁵ + *-wacan*, cognate with Gothic *wakan* stay awake from Proto-Germanic **wak-*; see WAKE¹). —**adj.** Before 1300, short for *awaken*, original past participle of *awaken*.

award *v.* About 1390, decide after careful consideration; borrowed from Anglo-French *awarder*, variant of Old French *esguarder* decide, examine, watch out (*es-* out + *garder* to watch). The sense of to confer, grant appeared (in judicial use) in 1523. —**n.** About 1390, decision after careful consideration; borrowed from Anglo-French *award*, variant of Old French *esguard*, from *esguarder* decide, examine. The sense of something awarded appeared in 1596.

aware *adj.* Probably before 1325 *a ware* watchful, conscious; developed from earlier *iwar* (about 1175), found in Old English (about 950) *gewær* (*ge-* an intensive prefix + *wær* wary; see WARY); cognate with Old Saxon *giwar*, Middle Dutch *gheware*, Old High German *giwar* (modern German *gewahr*), all meaning aware, from Proto-Germanic **ja-waraz*; see WARY.

away *adv.* Probably before 1300 *away*, *away*; developed from earlier *aweī*, *a-wei* (about 1150), found in Old English *aweg* and (about 725, in *Beowulf*) *on weg* (on on + *weg* way). The sense of the original compound is to another place, and can be compared with Old High German *in wëg* on the way, Middle High German *enwëc* away (modern German *weg* away).

awe *n.* Probably before 1300, developed from earlier *age* (about 1250) and *aghe* (probably about 1200); borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *agi* fear) from Proto-Germanic **ag-*.

Old Icelandic *agi* is also cognate with Old English *ege* fear,

awe, which yielded *eie* and *aye* meaning fear, terror in early Middle English, before being replaced finally in the 1400's by the form *awe*. —**awful** *adj.* Before 1425, developed from *agheful* (probably about 1200) (*aghe* awe + *-ful*). In the 1400's *awful*, *agheful* replaced Old English *egfull* (recorded before 899). —**awesome** *adj.* 1598, formed from English *awe*, *n.* + *-some*¹.

awkward *adj.* Before 1400, in the wrong direction; formed from *awk* untoward, backhanded + *-ward*. The old word *awk*, obsolete by the 1600's, was borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *ofugr* turned the wrong way, and Swedish and Norwegian *avig*). The sense of "clumsy" appeared in 1530.

awl *n.* Old English *awel* (about 700), *æł* (about 885), *awul* (about 1000).

Though the Old English forms *awel* and *awul* have not been explained, the inherited Old English form appears to be *æł*, cognate with Old High German *āla* awl (modern German *Ahle*), Middle Dutch *āl*, from Proto-Germanic **ælō*. Possibly Old English *awel*, *awul* represent a borrowing from a Scandinavian word, as evidenced by the Old Icelandic *alr* and modern Icelandic *alur*, from Proto-Germanic **alás*.

awning *n.* 1624, cover above ship's deck; of unknown origin. The extended meaning of a canvas cover in front of a tent first appeared in American English in 1806, and that of a cover over a window or porch, in 1852.

ax or **axe** *n.* Old English *æces* (before 830); *æcs*, *æx* (before 899); *acas* (about 950, in Northumbrian dialect); cognate with Old Frisian *axa* ax, Old Saxon *akus*, Old High German *achus* (modern German *Axt*), Old Icelandic *œx*, Gothic *aqizi*, from Proto-Germanic forms **akwiz-* and **akus-*. —**v.** 1677, from the noun.

axil *n.* 1794, borrowed from New Latin *axilla*, from Latin *axilla* armpit, related to *axis* axle.

axiom *n.* 1485, borrowed from Middle French *axiome*, from Latin *axiōma*, from Greek *axiōma* something thought worthy or fit, from *axiōn* think worthy or fit, from *axios* worthy, built on a lost noun **ak-tis* weight, from *áein* weigh, pull. —**axiomatic** *adj.* 1797, borrowed from French *axiomatique*, from Greek *axiōmatikós*, from *axiōmatos* (genitive of *axiōma*); for suffix see -IC.

axis *n.* Before 1398, borrowed from Latin *axis* axle (of a wheel), *axis* (of the earth, heavens, etc.); cognates with Old English *eax*, *æx* axle, *axis*, Old High German *ahsa*, from Proto-Germanic **aHsō*, and with Greek *áxōn* axis, axle.

axle *n.* 1367–68, earlier in the compound *axeltre* axletree (1290). The form *eaxl* is found in Old English, but *axle* and *axel* are thought to come by way of the earlier compound *axeltre*, borrowed from Old Icelandic *axultre* (*axull* axis, axle + *trē* tree). Old Icelandic *axull* is from Proto-Germanic **aHsulaz*.

axon *n.* 1899, New Latin *axon*, from Greek *áxōn* AXIS.

ay¹ or **aye¹** *adv.* always, ever. Probably about 1200 *ai*, borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *ei*). The word is cognate with Old English *ā*, *ō* always, ever.

aye² or **ay²** *adv., interj.* yes. 1576, spelled *I*, 1714 *ay*; developed perhaps by alteration of Middle English *yai* (existing before 1225), variant of *ye*, *ya* yea, yes; see YEA. —**n.** affirmative answer or vote. 1589, spelled *I*, 1669 *aye*; from the adverb.

azalea *n.* 1753, New Latin *azalea*, borrowed from Greek *azalēā*, feminine of *azalēos* dry, from *ázein* parch. The plant was so named from the dry soil in which it grows, or, possibly, from its dry, brittle wood.

B

babble *v.* prattle. Before 1250, *babelen*, *bablen*; probably of imitative origin. Similar forms are found in many languages: compare Middle Low German *babbelen* to babble, Icelandic *babbla*, Latin *babulus* babbler, *balbus* stammering, and Sanskrit *balbalā-kr-* to stammer; all probably formed on the repeated syllables *ba*, *ba*, or *bar*, *bar*, sounds typically made by infants and used to express childish prattle.

babe *n.* Before 1393, apparently from *baban* (probably before 1200); perhaps ultimately from a child's word.

baboon *n.* About 1400 *babewyn*; earlier *babeweis* grotesque figures (probably about 1320); borrowed from Old French *babouin* baboon, fool; perhaps related to Old French *babine* lip, and *babiller* to babble, probably ultimately imitative of the chatter of these apes; for ending see -OON.

baby *n.* About 1378, *baby*, *babi*, *abee*, a diminutive form of BABE.

baccalaureate *n.* 1625–49, borrowed from Medieval Latin *baccalaureatus*, from *baccalaureus* student with the first or bachelor's degree; for suffix see -ATE³. The form *baccalaureus* was altered by a play on words from *baccalarius* (see BACHELOR) as if connected with *bacca lauri* laurel berry.

bacchanal *n.* 1536, borrowed from Latin *bacchānālis* having to do with *Bacchus* (Dionysus), the god of wine, from Greek *Bákchos*, a name of unknown origin.

bachelor *n.* Probably before 1300 *bachelor*: a young man, a squire, a young unmarried man; later a young knight (before 1376), a university graduate or a junior member of a guild (1418). The word is borrowed from Old French *bachelor*, *bachelier*, from Medieval Latin **baccalaris*, probably a variant of

azimuth *n.* Before 1388 *azimut* arc of the heavens from the zenith to the horizon which it cuts at right angles; borrowed from Arabic *as-sumūt* the ways, plural of *as-samt* the way, direction (*as-*, variant of *al-* the + *samt* way). Compare ZENITH. The *-th-* spelling arose in the 1500's.

azure *n., adj.* Probably before 1300, borrowed from Old French *azur*, from Arabic *lāzuward*, from Persian *lāzward* lapis lazuli (or its blue color). The word passed from Arabic into the Romance languages (Spanish and Portuguese *azul*, French and Romanian *azur*, etc.) without the initial *l-*, apparently because it was mistakenly thought to be the definite article *l'* or *la* or some variant of it.

baccalarius helper or tenant on a *baccalaria*, section of land; later in Medieval Latin *baccalarius* also had the meaning "junior member of a guild, university student," the latter meaning seen in the pun on *baccalaureus* under BACCALAUREATE.

bacillus *n.* 1883, New Latin *bacillus*, prompted by French *bacille* (1842), from Late Latin *bacillus* little rod, variant of Latin *bacillum*, diminutive form of *baculum* rod, staff. Latin *baculum* is cognate with Greek *bakēterion* small staff.

back *n.* Old English (about 885) *bæc*; cognate with Old Frisian *bek*, Old Saxon and Middle Dutch and Old Icelandic *bak*, Old High German *bah* back, from Proto-Germanic **bakana*, probably related to Old High German *bahho* side of BACON. —**adj.** Probably before 1200. —**adv.** Before 1390. Both the adverb and the adjective developed from *abak*, Old English *on bæc*. —**v.** Before 1376.

Various compounds include: **backache** (1601); **backbiting** (probably before 1200); **backbone** (before 1325); **background** (1672); **backlog** (1684, American English, figurative sense 1883); **backyard** (1659, American English).

backgammon *n.* 1645, probably developed from *back*, *adj.* + Middle English *gamen* to GAME, GAMBLE. Originally called *tables* (1297, but known before 700) because the pieces, when taken up, had to go back and reenter at the table (i.e. the board).

backward or **backwards** *adj., adv.* Before 1325 *bakward*; developed from *abakward*, modeled on *hindeward*, *foreward*, using Old English adjective and adverbial suffix *-weard* expressing direction toward. The word is cognate with Old Frisian *bekward*, *bekwardich* backward.

bacon *n.* About 1330 *bacoun*, borrowed from Old French *bacon*, *bacun* (perhaps through Medieval Latin *baconem*), from a Germanic source (compare Old High German *bahho* side of bacon, Middle High German *bache* ham, bacon, modern German *-backe*, as in *Hinterbacke* buttock, and Middle Dutch *baken* side of bacon, from Proto-Germanic **bakōn-*).

bacteria *n.*, plural of **bacterium**, single-celled organisms. 1847–49, New Latin *bacteria*, plural of *bacterium*, prompted by French *bactérie* (1842), from Greek *baktērion* small staff, diminutive of *báktron* stick, rod.

bacteriology *n.* 1884, formed probably through influence of earlier German *Bakteriologie*, from English *bacteri(um)* + connective form *-o-* + *-logy*.

bad *adj.* 1203 *badde*, in the surname *Baddecheese*; origin uncertain; possibly developed from a shortened form of Old English *bædling* an effeminate man, pederast, from Proto-Germanic **baidlingaz*. The meaning “pederast” in Old English may account for the small number of written examples up to the early 1400’s, the word *evil* being more popular in use until the 1700’s. The forms *badder*, *baddest* occurred from the 1300’s to the 1700’s, though Shakespeare used *worse*, *worrest*.

badge *n.* Probably before 1400 *bage*, *bagge*; borrowed perhaps from Anglo-French *bage* (1334), or Anglo-Latin *bagis*, plural of *bagia* (about 1370), both meaning emblem; of unknown origin.

badger *n.* 1523, perhaps related to *badge* (because of the white blaze on its forehead), but it is *blaze* rather than *badge* that exists in this meaning; so the origin of *badger* is unknown. The Middle English *brok* and Old English *broc* were the terms for this animal, as in Tommy Brock, in Beatrix Potter’s *The Tale of Mr. Tod*. —*v.* 1794, to bait like a badger, pester, tease; from the noun.

badminton *n.* 1874, after *Badminton*, the country seat of the Duke of Beaufort, where the game may have been first played, after British officials stationed in India introduced the game, which in India is often called *poona*.

baffle *v.* confound. 1548, originally Scottish, meaning to disgrace publicly. In the later sense of confound, bewilder (about 1590), probably related to French *bafouer* to abuse, hoodwink, baffle. —*n.* a device for changing the flow of air, water, etc. 1913, developed from earlier meaning of *baffle*, *v.* (1885) to control by changing the flow of air, water, etc.

bag *n.* Probably before 1200 *bagge*; borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *baggi* pack, bundle). Medieval Latin *bagia* and Old French *bague* sack, chest, are probably from a word of Germanic source. —*v.* About 1412 *baggen* to put into a bag, developed from Middle English *bagge*, *n.* —**bagman** *n.* This word, known today primarily as a slang term for “a person who collects graft or protection money,” was also known in Middle English, one of its senses being “tax collector (1377).”

bagatelle *n.* trifle. 1637, borrowed from French *bagatelle*, from Italian *bagatella*, probably a diminutive of *bagata* a trifle, Italian dialect *bagia* berry, from Latin *bāca* berry, pearl.

bagel *n.* ring-shaped roll of bread. 1919 *beigel*, 1932 *bagel*, borrowed from Yiddish *beygl*, from Middle High German *boug-* ring, bracelet, from Old High German *boug*, related to *bïogan* to bend.

baggage *n.* Probably about 1440, borrowed from Old French *bagage*, from *bague* pack, bundle, from Medieval Latin *bagia*, perhaps from a Germanic source (compare Old Icelandic *baggi* pack, bundle); for suffix see *-AGE*.

bail¹ *n.* bond money. 1485, developed from an earlier meaning temporary release from jail or custody (1423), a sense that developed from a still earlier meaning captivity, custody, stewardship (before 1338); borrowed through Anglo-French *bail*, from Old French *baillier* hand over, control, guard, from Latin *bajulāre* bear (a burden for pay), from *bajulus* porter.

bail² *n.* curved handle of a pail or kettle. 1447 *beyl*, borrowed probably from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *beygla* bending, hoop, ring, and *beyla* hump, swelling, and *beyglast* to bend; Danish *bøjle* bar, strap, Swedish *bögel* hoop, ring). The Old Icelandic *beyglast* is probably cognate with Old English *būgan* to BOW¹ bend.

bail³ *v.* throw out (water). 1613, verb use developed from *baille* (1353), *balie* (1336) bucket; borrowed from Old French *baille* bucket, from Vulgar Latin **bajula*, from Latin *bajulus* porter.

bailiff *n.* About 1242, as a surname, later an administrator of a district (about 1300); borrowed from Old French *baillif*, accusative of *baillis* administrative official, deputy, from Vulgar Latin **bajulivus*, from Latin *bajulus* porter. Compare BAIL¹.

bailiwick *n.* district of a bailiff. 1444 *Baillywyke*, apparently by alteration of earlier *baillywyke* (1431), formed from *bailiff* + *wick* village. *Wick* is found in Old English *wīc*, a word surviving mainly in place names, as in *Hardwick* and *Wickham*, ultimately a borrowing of Latin *vīcus* village. The extended sense “one’s field of knowledge, authority, etc.” first appears in American English (1843).

bairn *n.* child. Middle English *barn* (probably about 1150), developed from Old English *bearn* (about 725, in *Beowulf*), probably related to *beran* BEAR² carry, give birth. Though the word resides now chiefly in Scottish, it was once of widespread use in older forms of English.

bait *n.* About 1300, food used to entice prey; borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *beita* food, especially to entice prey, *beit* pasture, related to *bīta* to bite). —*v.* About 1300, to attack or torment with a dog; borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *beita* to cause to bite, hunt, a causative of *bīta* to bite, cognate with Old English *bætan* to cause to bite, related to *bītan* to bite, and with Old and Middle High German *beizen* and Gothic **baitjan* to bait, from Proto-Germanic **baitjanan*; see BITE).

bake *v.* Old English *bacan*, *bōc*, *bacen* (before 893); cognate with Old High German *bahhan* to bake, Middle High German *bachen*, Old Icelandic *baka* (Norwegian *bake*, Danish *bage*, Swedish *baka*) from Proto-Germanic **bakanan*, and with Old High German *backan* (modern German *backen*) and Middle

Dutch *backen* (modern Dutch *bakken*), from Proto-Germanic **bakkanan*. Compare BATCH. —**baker** n. 1177 *bakere* in a surname; developed from Old English *bæcere*, *bæcestre*. —**bakery** n. 1545, work of a baker, from English *baker* + *-y*, and 1826, shop where baked goods are sold, from English *bake* + *-ery*, both formed independently of earlier *bakern* (before 1000), from Old English *bæcern*.

balance n. Probably about 1200 *balauce* instrument for weighing, scale; borrowed through Anglo-French *balance*, variant of Old French *balance*, from Medieval Latin *bilancia*, from Late Latin *bilānx* (accusative *bilancem*) referring to a scale having two plates (possibly Latin *bi-* two + *lānx*, accusative *lancem*, shallow pan; or perhaps a borrowing in Latin from some unknown source). —**v.** 1583, either: borrowed from Old French *balancer*, or formed from English *balance*, n.

balcony n. 1618, borrowed from Italian *balcone*, derived from *balco* scaffold + *-one*, augmentative suffix indicating large and often awkward. Italian *balco* was probably from a Germanic source (compare Old High German *balcho*, *balko* beam, scaffold; related to Old English *balca* beam, ridge); see BALK.

bald adj. 1 wholly or partly without hair on the head. Before 1292 *bal-* in a surname; about 1300 *balled*. 2 having a white spot or blaze on the head, as some animals are marked (before 1325).

It is unclear just how one sense developed from the other; Middle English *balled* probably developed from Celtic *bal* a white mark + *-ed* adjectival suffix (compare Middle Irish, modern Irish, and Gaelic *ball* a spot, mark; Middle Irish *ballach* spotted; Breton *bal* a white mark on an animal's face; Welsh *bal* having a white spot on the forehead, used of horses. The word is also possibly related to Danish *bældet* bald).

There is speculation that *bald* may be related to English *ball* a round protuberance, but examples are wanting, though this path leads to Gothic *bala-* pale (horse), Old High German *belihha* coot, Old Icelandic *bāl* fire, flame, Old English *bæl* fire, flame, Old Slavic *bělŭ* white, and Sanskrit *bhāla-m* luster, forehead.

bale n. About 1380, borrowed from Old French *bale* and Medieval Latin *bala* ball, from a Germanic source (compare Old High German *balla* ball); see BALL¹.

baleen n. About 1312 *balayn* whalebone (about 1300 *bleine*, 1333 *balayn* whale); borrowed from Old French *baleine*, *balaine* whale, whalebone, from Latin *balēna*, dialectal variant of *balæna* whale.

baleful adj. Old English (before 1000) *bealufol*, *bealofol* (*bealu*, *bealo* evil + *ful* full). The now archaic *bale* evil, is found in Old English (about 725, in *Beowulf*) *bealu*, *bealo*, *balu* evil, misfortune, and is cognate with Old High German *balo* destruction, Old Icelandic *böl* misfortune, damage.

balk n. Old English *balca* ridge (before 900); cognate with Old Frisian *balka* beam, Old Saxon *balko*, Old High German *balco*, *balko* (modern German *Balken*), Middle Dutch *balc* (modern Dutch *balk*), and Old Icelandic *bjalki* (compare also Old Icelandic *bälkr* partition), from Proto-Germanic **balkan-*, **belkan-*.

The meaning "hindrance" is first recorded about 1405, and developed as a figurative sense from "ridge, mound" (about 1380); earlier "strip of unplowed land," (1202). —**v.** Before 1393, Middle English *balken* make ridges in plowing; from verb use of Middle English *balke*, n., developed from Old English *balca* ridge.

ball¹ n. round object, ball. Probably before 1200 *bal*; perhaps developed from Old English **beal*, **beall*, borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *boltr* ball), from Proto-Germanic **balluz* (earlier **balnus*), and related to Old High German *ballo*, *balla* ball, from Proto-Germanic **ballōn* (earlier **balnōn*), and Old English *bealluc* testicle.

ball² n. dancing party. 1632, borrowed from French *bal* a dance, from *baller* to dance, Old French *baler* to dance, from Late Latin *ballāre* to dance, from Greek *ballízein* to jump, throw the legs about, dance.

ballad n. Before 1393 *balade* a poem or song in a form of strict or varied stanzas; borrowed from Old French *ballade*, from Old Provençal *balada* song for dancing, dance, from *balar* to dance, from Late Latin *ballāre* to dance. —**ballade** n. About 1386, perhaps a separate borrowing of Old French *ballade*. The meaning of a musical composition was first used by Frédéric Chopin (d. 1849).

ballast n. 1530, borrowed from Low German *ballast*, probably from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Danish and Old Swedish and Norwegian *barlast*, before 1400, possibly a compound of *bar* bare + *last* load; that is, a bare or mere load, for the sake of weight only).

ballerina n. 1792, borrowing of Italian *ballerina*, feminine of *ballerino* a dancer, from *ballare* to dance, from Late Latin *ballāre* to dance.

ballet n. 1667, borrowed from French *ballet*, from Italian *balletto*, diminutive of *ballo* ball (dance), from *ballare* to dance, from Late Latin *ballāre* to dance.

ballistics n. 1753, probably formed in English from Latin *ballista* machine for hurling stones or other missiles (from Greek *ballistēs*, from *ballízein*, in the sense of *balléin* to throw) + English suffix *-ics*, as in *physics*, *athletics*, etc.; see BALL² dance. —**ballistic** adj. 1775, adjective use of *ballistics*, n. with loss of *s*; or perhaps borrowed from earlier French *balistique* (1647), from Latin *ballista* + French adjective suffix *-ique*. Alternatively, formed in English from Latin *ballista* + English suffix *-ic*. —**ballistic missile**, 1954, earlier *ballistic rocket* (1949).

balloon n. 1579, *ballone* game played with a large leather ball; borrowed perhaps partly from earlier French *ballon* (1549), and from Italian dialect *ballone*; from Italian *balla* ball, from a Germanic source (compare Old High German *balla* ball) + Italian *-one* augmentative suffix indicating something large; for ending see *-oon*. The sense of a large gas-filled bag; as one for carrying a basket with a passenger first appeared in 1783 after the flights of the Montgolfier brothers.

ballot *n.* 1549, small ball for secret voting; borrowed from Italian dialect *ballotta*, diminutive form of *balla* ball; see BALLOON. — **ballot box** (before 1680)

balm *n.* 1373 *balme*; before 1300 *baum*; probably before 1200 *basme*; borrowed from Old French *basme* or *baume*, from Latin *balsamum*, from Greek *bálsamon*.

The English spelling with *l* was influenced by the Latin *balsamum*.

baloney *n., interj. Slang.* nonsense. 1928 *boloney*, American English, probably related in meaning to earlier use as a term of contempt for an inferior prizefighter (1920), alteration of *bologna* (1850) type of sausage traditionally stuffed with odds and ends from slaughter, from *Bologna*, Italy, where these sausages were made. *Baloney* and *bologna* are pronounced *bəló'nē*, and the spelling *baloney* is used both for the sausage and to mean nonsense. Why "nonsense" is a matter of conjecture, but it follows a long history of applying names of food to human attributes and conditions: ham, chicken, goose, puddinghead, molasses, vinegar, hot dog.

balsa *n.* 1593, a raft of the South American Indians; 1917, a very light wood; both terms apparently borrowed from Spanish *balsa*.

balsam *n.* The form *balsam* is found in Old English (about 1000), but was superseded by *basme* BALM, until late in the 1300's and by the Latin form *balsamum*. The modern form *balsam* was reintroduced after 1579.

baluster *n.* supporting post of a railing on a balcony, staircase, etc. 1602 (also *ballister*), borrowed from Italian *balaustro*, from *balaustro* wild pomegranate flower, from Latin *balaustium*, from Greek *balaústion*; so called from the resemblance of a baluster to the double-curving calyx tube of the wild flower.

The word was probably later reinforced by French *balustre* (not recorded in French as an architectural term before 1633).

balustrade *n.* banister. 1644, borrowed from French *balustrade*, from Italian *balastrata* balustrade, from *balaustro* BALUSTER.

bamboo *n.* woody grass. 1598, borrowed from Dutch *bamboe*, *bamboes*, from Portuguese *bambu*, from Malay *bambu*, perhaps introduced from Kanarese, a Dravidian language of southern India.

bamboozle *v.* cheat, deceive. 1703, origin uncertain (but compare Scottish *bumbaze*, *bombaze* to confuse, probably from *bombaze* stuff with cotton, pad, borrowed from Old French *bombace*, *n.*; see BOMBAST).

ban¹ *v.* forbid, prohibit. Formed in Middle English about 1378, perhaps from fusion of a word of Scandinavian origin (compare Old Icelandic *banna* curse, prohibit) + Old English *bannan* summon, proclaim (before 800). Old English *bannan* is cognate with Old Frisian *banna*, *bonna* command, proclaim; Old Dutch *bannen* prohibit (modern Dutch, banish, exile); Old High German *bannan*, Middle High German (modern German) *bannen* banish, expel; Gothic **bannan* proclaim, command, forbid.

Also the meaning "forbid, prohibit" could have developed from a fusion of meanings in Middle English: (1) curse, condemn (probably about 1150), and (2) summon (probably before 1200).

ban² *n.* edict, proclamation. About 1300; earlier meaning "a troop of warriors summoned by proclamation" (about 1250); and still earlier in the phrase *bane cruces* crosses marking a boundary (1228). Formed in Middle English by fusion of Old English (1051–52) *ban*, earlier *geban*, *gebann* a summons, proclamation (before 800) + Old North French *ban* a summoning for military service, proclamation, from Frankish **ban* (compare Old High German *ban* proclamation commanding or forbidding, from *bannan* proclaim, command); see BAN¹ in which the cognates listed for the verb occur for the noun, except for the Gothic form. Related to ABANDON.

banal *adj.* 1840, borrowed from French *banal* common, ordinary, from an earlier sense "owned in common," from Middle French *banal* of or belonging to compulsory feudal service, from Old French *ban* a summoning for military service, see BAN²; for suffix see -AL. — **banality** *n.* 1861, borrowed from French *banalité*, from *banal*; for suffix see -ITY.

banana *n.* 1597, borrowed through Portuguese or Spanish *banana*, from a West African word (compare Mandingo and Wolof *banāna*, *barānda* plantain).

band¹ *n.* group acting together. 1490, borrowed from Middle French *bande*, from Old French *bande*, from a Germanic source (compare Gothic *bandwa* sign, signal). The meaning probably derived from the use of a band of cloth as a mark of identification by members of a group of soldiers (before 1470, *band*², variant of *bond*), or from a banner as a sign of the group as a whole (*banere*, probably before 1200); see BANNER. The meaning "a group of musicians" first appeared about 1660. — **v.** to unite, join together in a group. 1530, borrowed from Middle French *bander* to join, from *bande* a group.

band² *n.* strip of material. 1552 *band* a strip; developed from Middle English *band* (1126), dialect variant of *bond*; fusion of a borrowing from a Scandinavian word (compare Old Icelandic *band*, from Proto-Germanic **bandan*), and from Old French *bande* strip, Old North French *bende* flat strip, from a Germanic source (compare Old High German *binta* band, Old English *bindan* to bind); see BIND. — **v.** to bind or fasten with a band or bands. 1530, borrowed from Middle French *bander* to band, from Old French *bande*, *n.*

bandage *n.* 1599, borrowed from Middle French *bandage*, from Old French *bander* to bind, from *bande* a strip, see BAND²; for suffix see -AGE. — **v.** 1774, from the noun.

bandana *n.* 1752, borrowed from Hindi *bāndhnū* way of tying cloth to produce designs when dyed, tie-dyeing, from *bādhna* to tie, bind, from Sanskrit *bādhnāti* binds.

bandit *n.* 1591 *bandito*; 1593 *bandetto*; borrowing of Italian *bandito* outlaw; literally, proscribed, from the past participle of *bandire* proscribe, banish, from Medieval Latin *bannire* proclaim; see BANISH.

bandy *v.* 1577, to throw or hit (a ball) back and forth; borrowed perhaps from Middle French *bandé*, past participle of *bander* return a ball from one's side, to side with, from Old French *bander*, from *bande* side, group; see **BAND**¹ a group.

bane *n.* Old English *bana* slayer, cause of death, (less often) murderer (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Saxon *bano* death, murder, Old Frisian *bana*, *bona*, Old High German *bano*, Middle High German *bane*, *ban*, Old Icelandic *bani*, from Proto-Germanic **banōn*.

bang¹ *v.* to make a loud noise. Probably about 1550, to strike violently often with a resounding blow; perhaps borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *banga* to strike, hammer, Old Swedish *banga* to strike, cognate with Low German *bangen*, *bangeln* to strike, beat). — **n.** Probably about 1550, probably borrowed from a noun of a Scandinavian source.

bang² *n.* Usually, **bangs**, pl. fringe of hair cut squarely across the forehead. 1878, American English, perhaps influenced by adverb use of *bang*¹ (1828), in the meaning of abruptly, as in *hair cut bang off*; some sources offer a relation to earlier *bang-tailed* (1861) of a horse's tail that has been cut horizontally across.

bangle *n.* 1787, borrowed from Hindi *bangrī* wrist- or ankle-ring (originally made of colored glass).

banish *v.* About 1385 *banyssen*, *banysshen* to condemn, exile; earlier, *forbanishen* (about 1300); borrowed from Old French *baniss-*, stem of *banir* proclaim, from Medieval Latin *bannire* proclaim, from *bannum* proclamation, from a Germanic source (compare Old High German *ban* proclamation commanding or forbidding, see **BAN**² edict); for ending see -ISH².

banister *n.* 1851, the handrail and its balusters on a staircase; earlier *bannister* (1667), an unexplained alteration of **BALUSTER**; possibly influenced in formation by the earlier form *barrister* (1662) of the same meaning.

banjo *n.* 1774, earlier *banshaw* (1764), American English; perhaps of African origin, from a Bantu language of West Africa (compare Kimbundu *mbanza* and Tshiluba *mbanzi* stringed musical instruments). The earliest citations for this word associate it with the music of American Black slaves. Whether the word developed from a mispronunciation of *bandore* (an old lutelike instrument) is difficult to establish, but certainly many observers, such as Jefferson, probably equated the *bandore*, which he wrote *bajor*, with the *banjo*.

bank¹ *n.* pile, heap, ridge. Probably about 1200. The development of this word is uncertain. It does not appear in Old English except in a compound Old English *hō-banca*, literally, heel-bench, couch, or footstool. If **banca*, *banc* existed as a variant of *benc* bench, its connection would be through the sense of the turf-covered mounds used for seats in a garden (about 1385).

The word is probably of Scandinavian origin (compare Danish *banke*, Swedish *bank* sandbank), but it has other Germanic cognates, from Germanic **banki-*; see **BENCH**. Its early appearance in northern English dialect, suggest the possibility

of a Scandinavian source. — **v.** 1590, earlier *banked* provided with an embankment (before 1400); from the noun.

bank² *n.* place for keeping money. 1474, borrowed through Middle French *banque*, from Italian *banca*; and 1475, (in a phrase *the banke de Medicys*); borrowed directly from Italian *banca*, perhaps by influence of Middle French *banque*; see **BENCH**. — **v.** 1727–51, in *Chambers Cyclopaedia*, from the noun. — **banking** *n.* 1735, from earlier *banking*, participial adjective (1641).

bank³ *n.* row of things. Probably before 1200, bench; borrowed from Old French *banc*, from a Germanic source (compare Old High German *bank* bench); see **BENCH**.

bankrupt *n.* 1533 *bank roughte*; later *bankrupt* (1543); borrowed through Middle French *banqueroute*, and directly from Italian *banca rotta* bankruptcy, (literally, bank broken; *rotta*, feminine past participle of *rompere* to break, from Latin *rumper* break; the modern form *-rupt* is an alteration of Medieval Latin *ruptus* broken). The original meaning in Italian was the ruin or breaking up of a trader's business because of failure to pay creditors, or the abandonment of business to avoid paying debts. — **bankruptcy** *n.* 1700, formed from English *bankrupt* + suffix *-cy*, as in *insolvency*.

banner *n.* Probably before 1200 *banere*, *baner* (before 1300); borrowed from Old French *banere*, *baniere*, alteration of a Germanic word corresponding to Gothic *bandwa*, *bandwō* sign, signal. The formation of the Old French from the Germanic was influenced by another Old French word *ban* a summoning for military service; see **BAN**².

banns *n.* pl. 549 *bannes*, plural of *banne*, alteration (influenced by Medieval Latin *bannum* ban) of earlier *bane* (about 1440), variant of *ban* proclamation; see **BAN**². A proclamation of intent to marry was made a part of ecclesiastical legislation in 1215.

banquet *n.* Probably before 1475 *banquet*, borrowed from Middle French *banquet*, from Italian *banchetto*, diminutive of *banco* bench, (in reference to benches placed at a table around which people are eating), variant of *banca*; see **BANK**².

bantam *n.* small domestic fowl. 1749, named after *Bantam*, a town in Java, from which these small fowl were supposed to have first been imported. The sense of a small, cocky person first appeared in 1837.

banter *v.* 1676, origin unknown. — **n.** 1690, possibly from the verb.

baptize *v.* About 1280 *baptyzen*, later *baptisen* (about 1300); borrowed from Old French *baptizier*, *baptisier*, *batizier*, learned borrowings from Latin *baptizāre*, from Greek *baptizein* to dip, bathe, from *báptein* to dip; for suffix see -IZE. — **baptism** *n.* About 1303 *bapteme*, later *baptisme* (1357); borrowed from Old French *baptisme*, *batesme*, learned borrowings from Late Latin *baptisma*, from Greek *báptisma*, from *baptizein* to dip; for suffix see -ISM. — **baptist** *n.* Probably before 1200, borrowed from Old French *baptiste*, learned borrowing from Latin *baptista*,

from Greek *baptistēs*, from *baptizein* to dip; for suffix see -IST. Until the 1600's *baptist* was used only in reference to St. John the Baptist. The name of the sect *Baptist* is first recorded in 1654.

bar *n.* Probably before 1200 *barre* barrier, later a bolt for a door or gate (probably before 1300); borrowed from Old French *barre*, from Vulgar Latin **barra*, of uncertain origin. —*v.* fasten with a bar. About 1280 *barren*, borrowed from Old French *barrer*, from *barre* bar.

barb *n.* About 1390 *barbe*; earlier, piece of pleated cloth (1305); borrowed from Old French *barbe* beard, beardlike appendage, from Latin *barba* BEARD. —*v.* 1483, from the noun.

barbarian *n.* Before 1338 *barbaryn* an infidel, especially a Muslim; later, a foreigner (1384); borrowed through Old French *barbarin*, or directly from Medieval Latin *barbarinus*, probably from Latin *barbaria* foreign country, from *barbarus* foreign, from Greek *bárbaros* foreign, rude; originally, stammering. Ultimately the Greek may be of imitative origin like Sanskrit *barbara-s* stammering (applied to non-Aryans) and *balbalā-kr-* to stammer, see BABBLE; for suffix see -IAN.

A related form existed about the same time in Middle English *barbariene*, both as an adjective (probably before 1350) and later, as a noun (1422); borrowed through Anglo-French *barbarie* Barbary Coast or directly from Latin *barbaria* foreign country. —**barbaric** *adj.* About 1395 *barbarik*, borrowed through Old French *barbarique* like a foreigner, or directly from Latin *barbaricus*, from Greek *barbarikós*, from *bárbaros* foreign, rude; for suffix see -IC. —**barbarism** *n.* Before 1447, borrowed through Old French *barbarisme*, or directly from Latin *barbarismus*, from Greek *barbarismós* foreign mode of speech. —**barbarity** *n.* 1570, formed from English *barbarous* + *-ity*. —**barbarous** *adj.* 1405 *barbarus* uncultured, ignorant, gradually replacing *barbar* heathen, non-Christian (about 1390), borrowing of Latin *barbarus*.

barbecue *n.* 1657 *barbycu*, borrowed from Spanish *barbacoa* framework for roasting meat or fish, from Arawak (Haiti) *barbakoa* tree-house, probably in relation to the framework of poles or sticks supporting such a structure. The current sense of an outdoor meal of roasted meat or fish appeared in 1733. —*v.* 1661, to dry or cure on a barbecue; later, to roast or broil meat or fish over an open fire (1690), from the noun.

barber *n.* Probably before 1300 *barbour*, borrowed through Anglo-French *barbour*, from Old French *barbeor* and *barbier*, from *barbe* beard, from Latin *barba* BEARD; so called from the barber's business of shaving. The modern spelling with *-er* is an Anglicization influenced by *barberie* occupation of a barber (about 1400); for suffix see -ER¹.

barberry *n.* Before 1400 *barbaryn*, *barbare*, *berber*, borrowed through Middle French *berbere*, *berberis*; also before 1400 *berberie* fruit of the common barberry; influenced by Middle English *berie* berry; both forms borrowed from Medieval Latin *barbaris* and *berberis*, probably from Arabic *barbārīs* (confirmed by the Spanish scholar Corominas).

barbiturate *n.* 1928, formed from *barbituric acid* + *-ate*² forming nouns and meaning "salt made from a specific acid." *Barbituric acid* (1866) is a loan translation (*barbit-* + *uric acid*) of French *barbiturique acide*, from German *Barbitursäure* barbituric acid, coined in 1863 by the German chemist Adolf von Baeyer.

bard *n.* 1449, Scottish *baird*, probably developed from Gaelic *bàrd*, from an earlier Celtic form (compare Irish *bàrd*, Cornish *bardh*, Welsh *bardd*, Breton *barz*, Middle Irish *bard*, Gaulish *bardos*). Latin *bardus* and Greek *bárdos*, both meaning bard, are borrowings from Gaulish, but as imports from a respected Classical source the Latin and Greek words influenced the use of the word in English literature as a poetic term, where once *bard* had become a term of contempt chiefly by way of the Scots, who considered *bards* itinerant troublemakers for the most part. Among the Welsh, on the other hand, *bardd* was an exalted title of outstanding achievement.

bare *adj.* Old English (probably about 725) *bær*; cognate with Old and Middle High German *bar* bare (modern German *bar*, as in *barfuss* barefoot), Old Saxon *bar*, Old Frisian *ber*, Middle Dutch *baer*, Old Icelandic *berr*, from Proto-Germanic **bazás*. —*v.* Old English **barian*, found in the compound *ābarian* (about 725, in *Beowulf*), possibly verb use of Old English *bær*, *adj.*; cognate with Old High German *barōn*, Old Icelandic *bera*. —**barely** *adv.* About 950.

bargain *n.* Before 1338 *bergayn*, *bargayne*; borrowed through Anglo-French *bargayne*, *bergain*, from Old French *bargaine*, *bargaigne*, from *bargainier*, *bargaignier* to bargain. —*v.* About 1380 *bargeyne*, *bargayne*; borrowed from Old French *bargainier*, *bargaignier*, to haggle, bargain; perhaps from Frankish **borgan-jan* borrow and lend (compare Old High German *borgen* to take care, modern German *borgen* to borrow, lend, from Proto-Germanic **burg-*).

barge *n.* Probably before 1300, borrowed from Old French *barge*, from Vulgar Latin **bārica*, from Greek *bāris*; see BARK³.

bargello *n.* zigzag stitches in needlework. 1972, named after *Bargello*, a museum in Florence, Italy, containing decorative design that inspired stitches used in this needlework. The museum's name comes from Italian *bargello* chief constable, temporary prison in a police station (originally the museum was the residence of a bargello, then a prison).

baritone *n.* 1609, borrowed from Italian *baritono*, learned borrowing from Greek *barýtonos* deep-sounding (*barýs* heavy, deep + *tónos* pitch, sound).

barium *n.* 1808, New Latin, formed from *bar(ytes)* sulfate of barium + suffix *-ium*, as in *sodium*. Sulfate of barium was named *barytes* in 1791, from Greek *barýtēs* weight, from *barýs* heavy. *Barium* was coined by the English chemist Sir Humphry Davy, 1778–1829, on the pattern of *aluminum*, (at first *aluminium*).

bark¹ *n.* outer covering of trees. Before 1325, borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *borrk*, genitive *barkar* bark, and Swedish, Danish, Norwegian *bark*). The word

is cognate with Middle High German and Low German *borke* and Middle Dutch *bart*, all meaning tree bark.

bark² *v.* make the short, sharp sound of a dog. Probably before 1200 *berken*, earlier *borken* (about 1150); developed from Old English *beorcan* (before 899), cognate with Old Icelandic *berkja* to boast, from Proto-Germanic **berkanan*. —**n.** About 1250 *berke*, developed from Old English *beorc*, noun use of *beorcan*, *v.*

bark³ *n.* three-masted ship. About 1420 *barke* a boat, an early synonym for *barge*; borrowed perhaps from Old French *barque*, from Old Provençal *barca*, from Latin *barca* small boat, developed through Vulgar Latin **bārica* from Latin *bāris* flat-bottomed Egyptian boat, from Greek *bāris*, from Egyptian (compare Coptic *barī* small pleasure boat).

barley *n.* 1184–85 *barli* (in compound *barli-bred* bread made of barley flour), form of Old English *bærlic* (966), originally an adjective meaning “of barley” (*bar-* root form of *bere* barley + *-lic* -ly, adjective suffix) and later as a noun in Middle English, appearing as late as 1459 as *barleche*. Old English *bere* (from Proto-Germanic **bariz*) has cognates in Old Icelandic *barr* barley (from Proto-Germanic **baraz*) and Gothic *barizeins* of barley.

barn *n.* Middle English *bern* (probably about 1200), developed from Old English (about 950) *berern*, literally, barley house (*bere* barley + *ærn* house, building, storeroom).

barnacle *n.* Before 1581, developed from earlier *bernacle* (about 1353) and *barnakylle* (1440) referring to a wild goose, now called barnacle goose, because it was believed to be produced by the shellfish whose feathery stalks suggested the plumage of the geese.

The earliest forms included *bernek*, *bernake* (before 1217); borrowed through Anglo-Latin *bernaca*, *berneca* and probably Old French *bernaque*, ultimately perhaps from a Gallo-Romance source, or the origin of the word may be Celtic (perhaps in Gaulish **bernos*). However, Scottish *bairneach* and Irish *báirneac* limpet, Welsh *brennig* limpets, and even Breton *bernic*, *bernique*, *brenique* barnacle, are apparently late borrowings from English.

barometer *n.* 1665, formed in English from Greek *báros* weight + *métron* MEASURE.

The term *barometer* was probably coined by the English scientist Robert Boyle (1627–1691); it was certainly popularized by him. —**barometric** *adj.* 1802, formed in English, perhaps through influence of earlier French *barométrique* (1752), or by clipping of earlier *barometrical* (1665, in writings of Robert Boyle).

baron *n.* Probably before 1200 *baron*, *baroun*, *barun*; borrowed probably through Anglo-French, from Old French *baron*; also probably overlapping with Middle English *bern* nobleman, lord (1190), found in Old English *beorn*.

The Old French *baron* is a noun in the accusative case of *ber* military leader, borrowed from Frankish **baro* king's man (compare Old High German *baro* man, freeborn warrior; cognate with English *BAIRN*). —**baronet** *n.* Probably before

1400, formed in English from *baron* + *-et* (diminutive suffix), perhaps by influence of Medieval Latin *baronetus*.

baroque *adj.* 1765, borrowing of French *baroque*, a term used to describe a style of architecture and to refer to something irregular and grotesque, from Middle French *baroque* irregular, in reference to the surface of a pearl, from Portuguese *barroco* pearl of irregular shape, of unknown origin.

barracks *n. pl. or sing.* 1686, originally a temporary hut, as for soldiers during a siege; borrowed from French *baraque*, originally, wooden hut or a shed, from Italian *baracca* hut, or Spanish *barraza* a tent or hut for soldiers, of unknown origin.

barracuda *n.* 1678, borrowing of American Spanish *barra-cuda*, perhaps from a Carib word.

barrage *n.* 1916, borrowed from French *tir de barrage*, literally, barrier fire; earlier, 1859, the action of barring; borrowed from French *barrage* act of barring, barrier, from *barrer* to bar, block, from *barre* bar, from Old French *barre* BAR, *n.*

barrel *n.* Probably before 1300, borrowed from Old French *baril*, of uncertain origin.

barren *adj.* Before 1200, sterile, said especially of women; borrowed through Anglo-French *barain*, *baraine*, Old French *baraigne*, *brahaine*, feminine forms of *baraign*, *brahain* not fertile (applied especially to barren land), of uncertain origin (perhaps derived from a Germanic source).

barricade *n.* 1642, noun use of earlier English *barricade*, *v.* (1592); or borrowed from Middle French *barricade* (1570), possibly with influence of earlier English *barricado*, *n.* (1590), probably borrowed from Spanish *barricada*. Both French *barricade* and Spanish *barricada* derive either from French *barrique* or Spanish *barrica* cask (from the root of Old French *baril* barrel), in reference to the first barricades put up in the streets of Paris and composed chiefly of casks filled with earth, cobblestones, and other debris. —**v.** 1592, borrowed from Middle French *barricader* (1558), possibly with influence of verb use of earlier English *barricado*, *n.* (1590). The use of *barricado*, *v.* does not appear in English before 1598; so, unless there is a defect in the record of English, *barricado*, *v.* could not be a source for the verb use of *barricade* in English.

barrier *n.* About 1380 *barer*, later *barrer* (before 1420); borrowed through Anglo-French *barrer*, Old French *barriere*, from *barre* obstacle, BAR. The influence of the French spelling with *i* was introduced gradually during the late 1400's and through the 1500's.

barrio *n.* Before 1909, American English, borrowed from Spanish *barrio*, from Arabic *barī* exterior (feminine *barriya* open country), from *barr* outside (of a city).

barrow¹ *n.* handcart, wheelbarrow. About 1300 *barewe* handbarrow, but note earlier *barwer*, *barewer* one who makes barrows (1264); developed from Old English *beanwe* basket; compare *meoxbeanwe* basket for carrying dung (before 1100), *bænwan* baskets (before 1000, perhaps an altered spelling). The Old English is cognate with East Frisian *barwe* barrow (from Proto-

Germanic **barwōn*), Old Icelandic *barar* handcart, bier, and Old High German *beran* to bear; see BEAR² carry.

barrow² *n.* mound of earth. Before 1425 *berwe* hill, mound; earlier *bergh* (probably before 1387); in place names, *Berweham* (1313) and *Bergham* enclosure on a hill (1277); developed from Old English (about 725 in *Beowulf*) *beorg*, *beork* (West Saxon) and *berg* (Anglian) hill, mound. The Old English is cognate with Old Saxon and Old High German *berg* mountain (modern German *Berg*), Middle Dutch *berch* (modern Dutch *berg*), Old Icelandic *bjarg*, *berg* mountain, rock (from Proto-Germanic **berga-*), and Gothic *baīrgahei* mountain region.

barter *v.* About 1440 *bartren*, borrowed from Middle French *barater*, *bareter* cheat, exchange, barter, do business; of uncertain origin. —*n.* 1465, from the verb.

baryon *n.* 1953, formed in English from Greek *barys* heavy + *-on* (suffix for elementary particle, as in *electron*).

basal *adj.* 1610, in the phrase *basal area*, formed from English *base*¹ + *-al*¹. The word was probably re-formed in 1828, the next appearance in print.

basalt *n.* 1601 *basaltes*, borrowed from Late Latin *basaltēs*, a manuscript alteration of Latin *basanītēs* a very hard stone, touchstone, from Greek *basanītēs*, from *básanos* touchstone, test, from Egyptian *bauhan* slate.

bascule *n.* 1678, device that operates on the principle of a seesaw, by levering heavy moving parts with weights, later applied specifically to lift-bridges or drawbridges called *bascule bridge* (1884). Borrowed from French *bascule* seesaw, from *bas* low + *cul* the buttocks (from Latin *cūlus*).

base¹ *n.* foundation. Before 1300 *bas*, borrowed (perhaps through confusion with Old French *bas*, *basse* low), from Old French *bas*, *basse* pedestal, foundation, learned borrowing from Latin *basis* foundation. —*adj.* 1605, from the noun. —*v.* 1587, from the noun.

base² *adj.* low. About 1390 *bace* in imitation of Old French; later, as a separate formation, before 1393 *bass*; borrowed from Old French *bas*, *basse*, from Medieval Latin *bassus* low, Late Latin *bassus* thick, fat, stumpy.

baseball *n.* 1845, American English, formed from *base*¹, *n.* + *ball*¹. According to Mathews in *A Dictionary of Americanisms*, "the first mention so far found of 'baseball' is in *A Little Pretty Book* brought out in London in 1744." But this word, like that cited from Jane Austen's *Northanger Abbey* (1803–1815), refers to the game *rounders*, played by New England colonists in the 1700's. The theory that baseball was originated by Abner Doubleday at Cooperstown, N.Y., in 1839 is now generally part of American folk legend.

basement *n.* 1730, probably formed from English *base*¹, *n.* + *-ment*, and perhaps influenced by French *soubassement* subfoundation. A parallel form also exists in Middle Low German *basement* base, pedestal, and probably Italian *bassamento* abasement.

bash *v.* smash. 1641, of uncertain origin; possibly from a Scandinavian source (compare Swedish *basa* whip, beat, Dan-

ish *baske* beat, strike) or of imitative origin, with the *b* of *beat*, *bang*, etc. + the ending of *lash*, *smash*, etc. Similar words, including *dash*, *flash*, *lash*; compare with words in Scandinavian languages. —*n.* 1805, in Scottish as noun use of *bash*, *v.*

bashful *adj.* 1548, developed from *baishen* abash (before 1338; borrowed from Old French *baissier* bring down, humiliate) + English suffix *-ful*.

basic *adj.* 1842, formed from English *base*¹, *n.* + *-ic*. —*n.* About 1927, American English, from the adjective.

basil *n.* About 1450, borrowed from Middle French *basile*, learned borrowing from Medieval Latin *basilicum*; also influenced by Middle English *basilicon* (1373), borrowed through Anglo-French *basilicon*, from Medieval Latin *basilicum*, *basilicon*, from Greek *basilikōn phytōn* royal plant, neuter of *basilikós* royal, from *basileús* king.

basilica *n.* 1541, borrowed from Latin *basilica* building of a court of justice, from Greek *stoā basilikē* stoa or portico of the archon basileus (the official who dispensed justice in Athens), feminine of *basilikós* royal, from *basileús* king.

basin *n.* Probably about 1200 *basin*, borrowed from Old French *basin*, from Late Latin *bachinus*, *bacchinus*, apparently also spelled *bacchinon* wooden vessel used by the Gauls. Sometimes traced to Latin **baccinus*, **baccinum*, possibly from *bacca* vessel, originally for wine (compare Late Latin *baccarium* wine vessel; perhaps of Gaulish origin).

basis *n.* 1571, borrowed from Latin *basis* foundation, from Greek *básis* a step or stand, from *baínein* go, step.

bask *v.* Before 1393 *basken* to wallow in warm water or blood; perhaps borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *badhask* bathe oneself, reflexive form of *badha* BATHE). The meaning of revel or take great delight in is first recorded in 1647.

basket *n.* 1229, in the compound *basketwricte* basket maker; borrowed from Anglo-French *bascat*, of uncertain origin; compare Old French *baschoe*, *baschoe* wooden or wicker container, and dialectal French (Gascon) *bascojo*, (Béarnais) *bascoyes* kind of basket, all possibly from Latin *bascauda* a kind of basin, thought to be of British, maybe Celtic, origin; the Roman writer Martial refers to Britain as the source of the *bascauda*.

basketball *n.* 1892, American English, after the invention of the game (1891) by J.A. Naismith, physical education instructor in Springfield, Massachusetts.

bas-relief *n.* 1667 *basse relieve*, borrowed first perhaps through influence of French *basse*, from Italian *basso-rilievo* low relief or raised work, and later modified to *bas-relief* (1762) by influence of French *bas-relief* or borrowed from the French as a second source of the word.

bass¹ (*bās*) *adj.* low. About 1390 *bace* low; applied to music before 1450, and later altered in spelling to *bass* (1596) by influence of Italian *basso* bass, from Medieval Latin *bassus* low, short; see BASE². —*n.* Before 1500, noun use of *base*², *adj.*,

later altered in spelling (1674) after the Italian influence of *basso* on the adjective in English.

bass² *n.* a fish. 1602 *basse*, earlier *bace* (about 1410), a variant form of dialectal *barse* perch, found in Old English (about 700) *bærs*, *bears*; cognate with Middle High German *bars*; related to Old English *byrst* BRISTLE.

basset *n.* commonly *basset hound* (since 1883). 1616, borrowed from French *basset* a dog developed from the French bloodhound and short-legged white hounds; in Old French, formed from *bas* low and suffix *-et*.

bassoon *n.* 1727 *basson*, *bassoon*; borrowed from French *basson*, from Italian *bassone*, augmentative form of *basso* BASS¹; for ending see *-oon*.

bastard *n.* About 1300, earlier as an epithet in names Peter *Bastard* (1250); borrowed through Anglo-French, as in William le *Bastard* (1223), from Old French *bastard* child of a nobleman and a woman other than his wife, synonym of *filz de bast* child born in a barn, or more usually child of the packsaddle. Old French *bastard* was probably derived from *bast* pack-saddle (often used as a bed while traveling) and perhaps also meaning "barn" + *-ard* hard, bold, hardy (having the disparaging sense "one who does what is discreditable"). Old French *bast* may ultimately be derived from Proto-Germanic **banstiz*, source of Gothic *bansts* barn, and would emphasize born in a barn or of low origin on the mother's side.

The figurative senses are now largely of adjective use meaning: not genuine, inferior (1530); irregular, unusual (1418); resembling but not identical (1558). —**bastardize** *v.* 1587, formed from English *bastard* + *-ize*, or perhaps from obsolete *abastardize* (1580); borrowed from Middle French *abastardir* to bastardize; for suffix see *-ize*.

baste¹ *v.* drip melted fat on. Probably before 1475, of uncertain origin (compare Old French *basser* to soak).

baste² *v.* sew with loose stitches. Probably before 1400 *basten*; borrowed from Old French *bastir* to baste (sew), from Frankish (compare Old High German *bestan* patch, Middle High German *besten* to lace, tie, sew with bast, from *bast* tough fiber of the inner bark of certain trees), from Proto-Germanic **basta-*.

baste³ *v.* beat soundly. 1533, of uncertain origin; occurring first as *basit*, *baist*, possibly a past tense or past participle of a form such as *bas* or *baste*; borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Swedish *basa* beat; or if *baste* was the original form, compare Icelandic *beysta*, Swedish *bösta*, Danish *baste* beat).

The other possibility may be that *baste³* is a figurative use of *baste¹*, *v.*, perhaps by influence of some Scandinavian word cited above.

bastion *n.* 1562, borrowed from Middle French *bastion* (perhaps influenced by Italian *bastione*), variant of *bastillon*, a diminutive form of *bastille* fortress, from Old French *bastille* fortress, tower, alteration of Old Provençal *bastida* (which as *Bastide* was used in the 1400's to refer to the famous Bastille) from *bastir* to build.

bat¹ *n.* club. Probably before 1200 *batte* mace, cudgel, found in Old English *batt*; probably borrowed from Late Latin *battere*, Latin *battuere* to beat. —*v.* About 1200, from the noun *bat¹*, and also as a borrowing from Old French *battre* to beat, from Late Latin *battere*, Latin *battuere*.

bat² *n.* flying mammal. About 1575 *bat*, replacing earlier *bakee* (before 1325); borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Swedish *-backa* in *natt-backa*, Old Danish *-bakke* in *nath-bakke* night bat). The change from *k* to *t* may have been influenced by confusion with another meaning of *bakee* a kind of nocturnal insect, that derives from Latin *blatta* moth.

bat³ *wink*. 1838, developed from earlier meaning of flutter (1615), variant of *baten* to flutter, beat the wings (before 1333); borrowed from Old French *batre*, *battre* to beat; see BAT¹ stick.

batch *n.* Probably before 1475 *bach* quantity of bread in a baking; developed from Old English **baecce* (represented in Old English *gebaec* baking), from *bacon* to bake. The spelling *batch* developed in the 1500's as a reflection of the pronunciation.

bate *v.* hold back, lessen (in phrases *bate one's breath* or *with bated breath*). Probably before 1300 *baten*, apparently shortened form of *abaten* ABATE.

bateau *n.* 1711, American English *batteau*, borrowed through Canadian French *bateau*, from French *bateau* boat, from Old French *batel*, generally considered to be derived from Old English *bāt* BOAT.

bath *n.* Old English *baeth* (about 725); cognates include Old High German *bad* bath (modern German *Bad*), Old Icelandic *badh*, and Dutch, Swedish, and Danish *bad*, from Proto-Germanic **bathan*. —**bathroom** *n.* (1363) —**bathroom** *n.* (1780)

bathe *v.* Old English *bathian* (before 899); cognate with Old High German *badōn* bathe (modern German *baden*), Old Icelandic *badha*, and Dutch *baden*, Swedish *bada*, Danish *bade*, from Proto-Germanic **bathōn*. The difference in pronunciation of *bath* (bath) and *bathe* (bāth) developed from the additional syllable of the early verbal ending. —**bathing suit** (1873).

bathos *n.* 1727, borrowed, with satirical awareness of the parallel to English *pathos*, from Greek *báthos* depth, of unknown origin. —**bathetic** *adj.* Before 1834, formed in English on analogy of the pattern *pathos*, *pathetic*.

batik *n.* 1880, borrowed probably through Dutch *batik* (because of the Dutch colonial control of Indonesia), from Javanese *mbatik* writing, drawing. The art of *batik* was introduced to Europe by way of the Dutch, but whether it came into English solely from Dutch, or also by way of the French *batik* (1845) is not known.

batiste *n.* 1697, borrowed from French *batiste*, from Middle French *baptiste*, reputedly from the name of *Baptiste* of Cambrai (in Flanders), a textile maker of the 1200's who is said to have made this cloth.

baton *n.* 1548, gradually replacing earlier *baston* (recorded before 1325), and *batoon*; borrowed ultimately from Old French *baston*, cognate with Spanish *bastón*, Portuguese *bastão*, Italian *bastone*, suggesting a Vulgar Latin **bastōnem* a stick, though others cite Late Latin *bastum* stout staff, from **bastāre* beat or drive with a stick. The sense of a conductor's stick to indicate musical time was first recorded in 1785.

battalion *n.* 1589 (perhaps influenced by, and replacing, earlier *bataille* a company of troops; recorded probably about 1225); borrowed from Middle French *bataillon*, *battaillon* a company of troops, from Italian *battaglione* battle squadron.

batten *n.* 1658, an Anglicized variant of *baton*. —*v.* 1775, furnish with battens; 1823 *batten down* fasten with battens; from the noun.

batter¹ *v.* strike repeatedly. About 1330 *bateren* beat repeatedly; borrowed from Old French *batre*, *battre* to beat, strike, from Late Latin *battere*, Latin *battuere* strike. —**battered child** (1962)

batter² *n.* flour and milk mixture. 1381 *batour*, *bater*, *bature*, either borrowed from Old French *batēure*, *n.* a beating, from *batre* to beat, strike; or developed from English *batter*¹, *v.* to strike; for suffix see -ER⁴.

batter³ *n.* player who bats in baseball, cricket, etc. 1773, formed from English *bat*¹, *n.* + -er¹.

battery *n.* 1531 *batrye*, *bateri*, *batterie* act of beating or battering; borrowed from Middle French *batterie* a beating, battering, group of cannon, from Old French *baterie* a beating, from *batre* to beat, Late Latin *battere*, Latin *battuere* beat, strike; for suffix see -ERY. The meaning of set of electrical cells appeared in 1748, in letters of Benjamin Franklin, and the sense of container holding one or more cells that produce electricity in 1801.

batting *n.* cotton fiber. 1875 *batting*, specific use of gerund (1611), or formed from earlier *batt* (1830), obsolete variant of *bat*¹, *n.* felted mass of fur, wool, etc. + -ing, from *bat*¹.

battle *n.* Before 1250 *bataille*, *bataile* single combat, especially for settling an issue; borrowed from Old French *bataille* battle, arrayed troops, from Late Latin *battālia* battle, variant of *battūlia*, neuter plural, fencing exercises, from Latin *battuere* to strike, beat. —*v.* Probably before 1300 *bataillen* to fight; borrowed from Old French *bataillier* to fight, from *bataille* battle.

battlement *n.* Probably about 1380 *batilment*, *batelment*; borrowed from Old French *batillement*, earlier *bastillement* fortification, derived from *bataille* battlement, from *bateiller*, earlier *bastillier* fortify, from *bastille* fortress, tower; for suffix see -MENT.

bauble *n.* About 1330 *babel*, borrowed from Old French *babel*, *baubel* child's toy, trinket, of uncertain origin.

baud *n.* unit of speed in telegraphy and data processing. 1932, borrowed from French *baud* (1929), from J.M.E. *Baudot* (1845–1903), a French engineer.

bauxite *n.* 1868, borrowing of French *bauxite* (1847), after Les Baux, France where the mineral was first found in 1821; for suffix see -ITE¹.

bawdy *adj.* 1513, formed from English *bawd* procurer, pander + adjective suffix -y¹, but probably influenced by an earlier and separate form *bawdy*, Middle English *baudy* dirty, filthy (1378).

Modern English *bawd*, developed from Middle English *baude* a procurer or prostitute (before 1376), probably by shortening of earlier *baude-strote* procurer (about 1300); borrowed from Old French *baudetrot*, *baudrestote* (*baud*, merry, licentious + -*trot* one who runs errands).

bawl *v.* About 1440 *bawlynge* barking (of dogs), a bark; later *baull* cry out, yell (1570); borrowed perhaps from a Scandinavian source (compare Icelandic *baula*, Swedish *böla* to low like a cow, Old Icelandic *baula* cow); all forms apparently of imitative origin. —*n.* 1792, from the verb.

bay¹ *n.* inlet of a sea. Probably before 1400 *bay*, *baye*; borrowed from Old French *baie*, of uncertain origin.

bay² *n.* long, deep bark. Before 1400 *bay* barking of dogs, earlier *bay* cornering of a hunted animal (before 1375), and *abay*, *abai* at bay with barking dogs (probably about 1300); borrowed from Old French *abai* barking, from *abaier*, *baier* to bark, probably imitative. —*v.* Probably about 1390 *bayen*, *baien* to bark, earlier *abayen*, *abaien* bark at someone, speak rudely (probably before 1300), borrowed from Old French *abaier* to bark.

bay³ *n.* space in a wall, barn, warehouse, etc.; compartment. Probably about 1380, borrowed from Old French *baée*, *beée* opening, cave, from *baée*, past participle of *baër*, *beër*, *baïr* stand open, gape, yawn, from Medieval Latin *batare* gape. —**bay window** (1405)

bay⁴ *adj.* reddish-brown. 1341, borrowed through Anglo-Latin and Anglo-French *bai*, from Old French *bai*, from Latin *badius* reddish-brown.

bay⁵ *n.* shrub. 1373, the fruit of various plants; later, bayberry (before 1400) and bay leaf (about 1450); the shrub itself (probably about 1425); borrowed from Old French *baie* berry, seed, from Latin *bāca* berry.

bayonet *n.* 1672, earlier *bayonnette* a short dagger (1611); borrowed from French *baïonnette*, probably derived from *Bayonne*, France where the weapon was first made; for suffix see -ETTE.

bayou *n.* 1766, American English *Bayoue*, later *bayou* (1803), borrowed through American French *Bayoue*, from Choctaw *bayuk* small stream.

bazaar *n.* 1588 *bazar*, perhaps influenced by earlier French *Bathzar* (1432), but borrowed through obsolete Italian *bazarra*, from Persian *bāzār* market.

bazooka *n.* 1942, American English, special use of earlier *bazooka* a trombone-like instrument popularized (about 1935) by the American comedian Bob Burns (1896–1956), and

invented and named possibly in the early 1900's; probably formed by alteration of older *bazoo* a voice or mouth trumpet (1877), from Dutch *bazuin* trumpet, trombone.

BB *n.* 1874, American English, designation of a size of shot. —**BB gun** air rifle that shoots BB shot. 1932, American English, in oral use since about 1928.

be *v.* irregular verb (serving as a linking verb and the chief auxiliary verb of English). One of three distinct verbs of Germanic origin (*be*, *am*, *was*) gradually combined under *be*, because *be* later supplied the infinitive form. Middle English *been* (about 1200), developed from Old English *bēon*, *bēom*, *bīon* *be*, exist, come to be, become (before 830).

In Old English *bēon*, *bēom* was a distinct verb, with no past tense, though through its meaning "come to be," it often served as the future tense of the separate verb *am-was*. Later, in the 1200's, *be*, *been* gradually took the place of the infinitive, participial, and imperative forms of *am-was*; see **AM** and **WAS**.

Later, the plural forms of *be* (we *beth*, ye *ben*, they *be* after 1250), became standard forms in Middle English, and also for a time made inroads on the singular (that is, I *be*, thou or you *beest*, he, she, it *beth*). However, forms of *are* (*aron*, *aren*, *arn*, *are*) in the 1500's began to take over in standard English, and finally replaced *be* in the plural (we, you, they *are*); see **ARE**¹.

In Old English the substantive verb, showing existence (I *am* before 950, he *is* about 885), was derived from a Germanic stem **es-*, whose form existed only in the present tense in Old English; all other parts of that verb were supplied by the form **wes-* meaning "to remain." The two verbs, already coalesced in Old English, supplemented each other and constituted the verb **es-wes-* (*am-was*), showing existence. The form *art* (thou or you *art*) was the singular, second-person present tense for this verb until it became an archaic form in the 1800's. For other parts of this verb see **IS** and **WAS**.

English *be* (Old English *bēon*, *bēom*) is cognate with Old Saxon *bium*, Old High German *bim*, Middle High German and modern German *bin* I am, all derived from a Germanic form **beu-*.

be- prefix meaning: 1 thoroughly, completely, all around or all over, as in *bespatter* = to spatter all over; *becalmed* = thoroughly or completely calmed. 2 to make, cause to seem, as in *belittle* = cause to seem little or unimportant. 3 to provide with, adorn, as in *bejewel* = to adorn with jewels. 4 at, on, to, for, about, against, as in *bewail* = to wail about. 5 (in words from Middle and Old English) *because* Middle English *bi cause* = by cause; *beneath* Old English *beneoþan* = *be-* *be*, in the sense by, about + *neothan* below. Other forms, such as *before* and *behind* are perhaps borrowings from some indeterminate source, as they appear in Old Saxon, Old High German, and other languages contemporary with or antedating Old English.

The prefix *be-* developed from the Old English prefix *bi-*, *be-* an unstressed form of the preposition and adverb *bī* by, and is represented in other Germanic languages (compare Old High German *bi-*, Middle High German and modern German *be-*, Gothic *bi-*).

beach *n.* About 1535, loose, water-worn pebbles of the sea shore; 1596, the sea shore; possibly a transferred sense of

Middle English *bech*, *beche* stream, brook, developed from Old English *bece* brook, stream, cognate with Old Saxon *beki*, from Proto-Germanic **bakiz*; related to Middle English *bek*, *bec* brook, stream, borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *bekkr*); it is also related to Middle English *bach*, *bache*, developed from Old English *bæc* brook, cognate with Old High German *bah* brook.

beacon *n.* 1338, *beken* signal fire; developed from Old English *bēacen* sign, signal (about 725, in *Beowulf*), cognate with Old Frisian *bāken* sign, Old Saxon *bōcan*, and Old High German *bouhhan*, from Proto-Germanic **baukanan*.

bead *n.* About 1175 *bede* prayer, developed from Old English *bed* prayer, (before 900), from Proto-Germanic **bedan*; and earlier *gebed* (about 725), cognate with Old Saxon *gibed* prayer, Old High German *gibet* (modern German *Gebet*), Gothic *bida* prayer, *bidjan* to ask; see **BID**.

The meaning of a bead used in a necklace, bracelet, etc., appeared in the 1300's, when perforated balls, threaded on a string, formed the *rosary* for keeping count of the number of prayers.

beadle *n.* About 1300 *bedel* minor official of a lord, manor, town, or court of law, constable; borrowed from Old French *bedel*, from Frankish (compare Old High German *butil* bailiff, beadle, Middle High German *bütel*; modern German *Büttel*).

Middle English *bedel*, borrowed from Old French, replaced earlier Middle English *bidel* herald, messenger (recorded about 1200) and dialect variants, such as *budel*, which had developed from Old English *hydel* (recorded about 1000), related to *bē-odan* to announce, offer, **BID**.

beagle *n.* Probably about 1475 *begle*, of uncertain origin; possibly borrowed from Old French *beegueille* noisy shouting person (*beër* open wide + *gueulle*, *goule* throat) in allusion to the noise made by a person shouting.

beak *n.* Before 1250 *bec*, later *bek* (about 1380); borrowed from Old French *bec*, from Gaulish *beccus* (possibly related to the Celtic stem *bacc-*, meaning hook).

beaker *n.* Probably about 1380 *bekyr*, borrowed perhaps from Middle Dutch *bēker* goblet, corresponding to Old High German *behhāri* (modern German *Becher*); replacing earlier *biker* (1348), borrowed from Medieval Latin *bicarium*, probably from Greek *bikos* earthen vessel. Compare **PITCHER**.

beam *n.* Old English *bēam* tree, piece of timber, ray (about 725); cognate with Old Frisian *bām*, Old High German *boum* (modern German *Baum*), Middle Dutch *boom*, and perhaps Old Icelandic *badhm*, and Gothic *bagms*, all meaning tree.

The sense "ray of light" apparently developed as a literal translation of Latin *columna lucis* column or pillar of light, found in Bede's writing in Old English. —**v.** Before 1425, from the noun.

bean *n.* Old English *bēan* (about 1000); cognate with Old High German *bōna* bean (modern German *Bohne*), and Old Icelandic *baun*, implying Proto-Germanic **baunō*.

bear¹ *n.* mammal. About 1150 *bere* (genitive *beran*), developed from Old English *bera* (before 893). Cognates appear in Old High German *bero* (modern German *Bär*), Middle Dutch *bere* (modern Dutch *beer*), from Proto-Germanic **beron-*, and Old Icelandic *björn*, all meaning bear, literally, brown (animal), a designation shared with *beaver*. *Bear* in the sense of a speculator (from which we derived *bearish*, 1881), was first recorded in 1709, as a shortening of *bearskin jobber*, supposed to be from the phrase “to sell the bearskin,” in allusion to the proverb “sell the bear’s skin before one has caught the bear” (recorded since the 1500’s); see also **BULL**¹.

bear² *v.* carry. Before 1123 *beren*, developed from Old English *beran* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Saxon *beran*, Old Frisian *bera*, Old High German *beran* to carry, from Proto-Germanic **beranan*, and *giberan* bring forth, give birth to (modern German *gebären*), Old Icelandic *bera* to carry, and Gothic *baíran*. —**bearable** *adj.* About 1454, formed from English *bear* + *-able*². —**bearer** *n.* 1255, developed from Old English, in phrases such as *wæter-berere*. —**bearing** *n.* About 1250 *bering* behavior, conduct, formed from Middle English *beren*, *v.* + *-ing*¹. —**bearings** *n. pl.* 1711, formed from English *bearing* + *-s*¹.

beard *n.* Old English *beard* (before 830). The correspondence in spelling between Old English and modern English is accidental, as the modern form developed from Middle English, first recorded as the surname *Berd* (1165). The word is cognate with Old Frisian *berd*, Old High German *bart* (modern German *Bart*), Middle Dutch *baert* (modern Dutch *baard*), late Old Icelandic *bardh*, from Proto-Germanic **bardaz*. —**v.** About 1303, *berden* to grow or have a beard, reach the age of puberty; later, to face boldly, defy (1525), a meaning already known in the Middle English phrase *rennen in berd* oppose openly, and in *the berd* to one’s face, directly.

beast *n.* Probably before 1200 *beste* (compare English *bestial*, which retained the Middle English spelling); borrowed from Old French *beste*, from Vulgar Latin **besta*, from Latin *bēstia* wild animal, of uncertain origin. Middle English *beste* an animal as distinct from man, was used to translate the Latin word *animal* and took the place of Old English *dēor* deer (which became specialized), just as *beast* was replaced in the 1500’s by *animal*. —**beasty** *adj.* Probably about 1200. Compare **BESTIAL**.

beat *v.* Probably before 1200 *beten*, developed from Old English *bēatan* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old High German *bōzan* to beat, kick, and Old Icelandic *bauta*, from Proto-Germanic **bautanan*. The past tense *beat* developed in the 1500’s as a shortened form from Middle English *beted*. The old past participle *beat* is still found in *dead-beat* all tired out. —**n.** About 1300, from the verb. —**beater** *n.* (1200) —**beat- ing** *n.* (probably about 1200).

beatific *adj.* 1639, borrowed from French *béatifique*, or directly from Late Latin *beatificus*, from Latin *beātus* happy, blessed; see **BEATITUDE**; for suffix see **-FIC**. —**beatification** *n.* 1502, borrowed from Middle French *beatification*, from Late Latin *beatificāre*; for suffix see **-ATION**. —**beatify** *v.* 1535, borrowed from

Middle French *beatifier*, learned borrowing from Late Latin *beatificāre*, from *beatificus* beatific; for suffix see **-FY**.

beatitude *n.* Probably before 1425, borrowed through Middle French *beatitude*, and directly from Latin *beatitūdō* state of blessedness, from *beātus* happy, blessed, past participle of *beāre* make happy; for suffix see **-TUDE**.

beau *n.* 1684, borrowed from French *beau*, noun use of earlier adjective meaning fine, handsome, from Old French *bel*, from Latin *bellus* handsome, fine, originally a diminutive form of *bonus* good; see **BONUS**. The meaning lover, sweetheart is not recorded in English before 1720. Middle English *beau* became obsolete in the early 1500’s, so that the current use is a reborrowing of modern French.

beauty *n.* Before 1325 *bealte*, *beute*, borrowed from Old French *biauté*, *beauté*, *belité* (earlier *beltet*), from Vulgar Latin **bellitātem* state of being handsome, from Latin *bellus* fine, handsome, see **BEAU**; for suffix see **-TY**. —**beautiful** *adj.* About 1443, formed from English *beauty* + *-ful*. —**beautify** *v.* 1526, formed from English *beauty* + *-fy*.

beaver *n.* Old English *beofor* (about 1000), earlier *bebr* (about 720); cognates with Old High German *bibar* beaver (modern German *Biber*), Old Saxon *bibar*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *bever*, Old Icelandic *björ*; from Proto-Germanic **be-brūs*.

bebop *n.* 1944 (but said to go back to the 1920’s), originally imitative of the continually shifting accents in the music of a group of jazz players.

because *conj.* About 1375, *by cause* for the reason (that); later *bycause* (1380), *because* (1425). —**adv.** Probably about 1380, *bi cause* on account (of), for the sake (of); later *because* (about 1385); see **BY** and **CAUSE**.

beck *n.* as in *at one’s beck and call*. Before 1382 *bek*, noun use of Middle English *bekken*, *v.* beckon to; see **BECKON**.

It is possible that formation of *beck* (Middle English *bek*) was influenced by Middle English *bekenen* beckon, which would account for the appearance of *beck*, *n.* before *bekken*, *v.*

beckon *v.* Old English *bēcnian* (before 830), West Saxon *bēacnian*, developed from *bēacen*, *bēcen* a sign, **BEACON**. As alluded to at *beck*, *n.* Middle English had two forms that meant beckon: 1) *bekken* (about 1385) derived from 2) *bekenen* (before 1200), developed from Old English; both related to *beken* a signal fire, beacon.

become *v.* Old English *becuman* happen, come about (about 725, in *Beowulf*), formed from *be-*, *bi-* + *cuman* come; cognate with Old Frisian *bikuma* come about, Old High German *biqueman* obtain, Gothic *biqiman* come upon suddenly. —**becoming** *adj.* About 1475, developed from English *become*, *v.*

bed *n.* Old English (about 700) *bed*, cognates with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *bed*, Old High German *beti* bed, Middle High German *bette*, *bet* (modern German *Bett*), Old Icelandic *bedhr*, and Gothic *badi* bed, from Proto-Germanic **bađja-*.

bedlam *n.* 1667, confusion, figurative use of a lunatic asylum, madhouse (1663, earlier in *bedlamite* 1589), in allusion to *Bedlam*, popular name of St. Mary of Bethlehem, insane asylum in London (founded 1247). *Bethlehem* appeared as *Betelem* (town of Bethlehem in Judea) before 971, and, in reference to the hospital as *Bedlem*, in 1418.

Bedouin *n.* About 1400 *Bedoyn*, borrowed from Old French *beduīn*, from colloquial Arabic *badāwīn*, plural of *badāwī* desert dweller. Later reborrowed (1603) from French *bedouin*.

bee *n.* Old English *bēo* (before 900), earlier *bīo-wyr̥t* bee wort, a plant (about 700) and *Bēo-wulf* Bee-wolf, a personal name (about 725, in *Beowulf*). The word is cognate with Old High German *bīa*, *bini* bee (modern German *Biene*), Old Icelandic *bī* (usually in compounds), Middle Dutch *bīe* (modern Dutch *bij*).

beech *n.* tree. 1296 *beche*, developed from Old English (about 700) *bēce*, later *bēce* (from Proto-Germanic **bōkjōn*), a derivative form of older *bōc* beech (from Proto-Germanic **bōkō*).

The fruit of the tree is an ancient food source for agricultural animals so that the tree was widely known in ancient Europe, and the word is therefore cognate with many of the older Germanic languages, including Old Icelandic *bōk* beech, Old High German *buohha*, Middle High German *buoche* (modern German *Buche*), Middle Dutch *boeke*; see also **BOOK**.

beef *n.* Probably before 1300 *bef*, borrowed from Old French *buf*, *boef* beef, ox, from Latin *bovem*, accusative of *bōs* ox. The Latin *bōs* (actually an Umbrian dialect form) is cognate with Greek *boús* ox and Sanskrit *gāu-s* (*go-*) cow, which in turn is cognate with Old English *cū* cow; thus *cow* is ultimately related to *beef*.

beep *n.* 1929, formed in English in imitation of the sound of a horn, especially of an automobile; later extended to the sound emitted in radar tracking and other signals. —**v.** 1936, from the noun. —**beeper** *n.* 1946, formed from English *beep*, *n.* + *-er*.

beer *n.* Probably about 1225 *ber*, developed from Old English *bēor* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognates with Old Frisian *biar*, *bier* beer, Old High German *bior*, Middle High German *bier* and modern German *Bier*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *bier*, and Old Icelandic *bjōrr* (from West Germanic). The native Scandinavian word, as seen in Old Icelandic *pl*, is cognate with English *ale*.

beet *n.* Old English (about 1000) *bēte*, borrowed from Latin *bēta*, a name adopted into other Germanic languages such as Old Frisian *bete*, Old High German *bieza*, Low German *bete* (modern German *Beete*) and Middle Dutch *bēte*.

Possibility of Celtic origin of Latin *bēta* is remote, because the Irish is borrowed from Latin and the Welsh from Middle English, and there is no Gaulish or other word that is the source of the Latin.

beetle¹ *n.* insect. About 1440 *bytylle*, later *betylle* (before 1500); developed from Old English (about 700) *bitula*, later *bitela*, from *bītan* to bite, and *bīta* a bite, morsel; see **BITE**.

beetle² *v.* project, overhang. 1602, back formation from earlier *beetyl-browde* beetle-browed, having prominent brows (1562), from *bitelbrouwed*, *betilbrowed* (before 1376), Middle English *bitel* sharp-edged, sharp, probably Old English **bitol* sharp, biting + *browed*.

befall *v.* About 1225 *bifallen* to fall out, happen; developed from Old English *befeallan* to fall (probably about 875), formed from *be-* by, about + *feallan* to FALL; cognate with Old Saxon and Old High German *bifallan* (modern German *befallen*), and Old Frisian *bifalla*.

before *prep., adv., conj.* About 1175 *beforen*, developed from Old English *beforan* (about 725, in *Beowulf*) and *biforan* (about 750), both meaning in front, ahead (*be-*, *bi-* by, about + *foran* before, from *fora* FORE); cognate with Old Frisian *bifara*, Old Saxon *biforan*, Old High German *bifora*, Middle High German *bevor* (modern German *bevor*, conj.).

beg *v.* Probably before 1200 *beggen* ask as charity; probably related to or formed from **BEGGAR**. Anglo-French *begger* to beg, is first recorded somewhat later than the Middle English verb, but we cannot exclude the possibility that Middle English *beggen* was from Anglo-French.

beget *v.* About 1250 *begeten*, alteration of earlier *biyeten* (before 1121) through influence of *geten* to GET. Middle English *biyeten* developed from Old English *begietan*, *bigeotan* to get (by effort), acquire.

beggar *n.* Probably before 1200, borrowed perhaps from Old French *begart*, *begard*, originally, a member of the *Beghards*, lay brotherhoods of mendicants that arose in the Low Countries in the early 1200's, from Middle Dutch *beggaert* mendicant; for the suffix *-aert* see **-ARD**.

begin *v.* Old English (about 1000) *beginnan* (*be-* by, about + *-ginnan* to begin), recorded only in compounds, such as Old English *onginnan* and *āginnan* to begin; cognate with Old Frisian *biginna* to begin, Old Saxon and Old High German *biginnan* (modern German *beginnen*), and Gothic *duginnan*.

begonia *n.* 1751, borrowed through French (1706), and from New Latin, formed on Michel *Bégon*, 1638–1710, French governor of Haiti and patron of botany + *-ia*, New Latin suffix used in taxonomy.

behalf *n.* **on** (or **in**) **behalf of**. About 1303 *behalve*; later, *behalf*, literally meaning beside (about 1386); fusion of Old English (*him*) *be healfe* by (his) side, and *on (his) healfe* on (his) side, from *healfe* side, **HALF**.

behave *v.* About 1410, formed from *be-* thoroughly + *have* to have or bear oneself (in a specified way). —**behavior** *n.* Probably before 1425 *behavior*, later *behaviour* (probably before 1475), influenced by synonymous *haver*, *havour* (about 1450); developed from *behave* + *-our* or *-or*¹. The spelling *behavior* with *i* appeared in 1538, influenced by synonymous *havior* (1478), earlier *havour*, *haver* (about 1450), an alteration (by association with Middle English *haven* to have) of Middle French and Old French *avoir*, *aveir*, noun use of verb meaning to have, from

Latin *habere*). —**behaviorism** *n.* 1913, coined by John B. Watson, 1878–1958, American psychologist.

behemoth *n.* Before 1382 *bemoth* an animal mentioned in Job, later *behemot* (1388); borrowed from Latin *behēmōth*, from Hebrew *bəhēmōth* beasts.

behest *n.* Probably before 1200 *biheste* promise, command, request, alteration of Old English *behæc* promise, from *behātan* to promise (*be-* by, about + *hātan* to call, command). Old English *hātan* is cognate with Old High German *heizan* and Gothic *haitan* to order, command, from Proto-Germanic **Haitanan*.

The addition of *-t* to Old English *behæc* was influenced by the *-t* of synonymous *behight*, on a pattern also seen in *amongst*.

behind *prep., adv., adj.* Old English (about 725) *behindan* (*be-*, *bi-* by + *hindan* in back, behind; see HIND¹ back). The word is identical with Old Saxon *bihindan*, and cognate with Old High German *hintana* (modern German *hinten*), and Gothic *hindana* back of, behind of, from the root *hind-* in *hinder* and *hindmost*.

behold *v.* Before 1200 *biholden*, developed from Old English *bihaldan* (before 830), corresponding to West Saxon *behealdan* give regard to, hold in view, watch (*be-*, *bi-* by + *haldan*, *healdan* HOLD). The word is identical with Old Saxon *bihaldan* hold, keep, Old Frisian *bihalda*, Old High German *bihaltan* (modern German *behalten*). The meaning “indebted” as in *beholden* to is first recorded in Middle English probably about 1390.

behoove *v.* Probably before 1200; developed from Old English *behōfian* have use for (about 725, in *Beowulf*), from **behōf* advantage, use, (only recorded in derivatives such as *behōflic* useful); cognate with Old Frisian *behōf* advantage, and Middle High German *behuof* useful thing, *beheben* take, hold.

beige *adj., n.* 1858, borrowing of French *beige*, earlier *baige*, from Old French *bege* of the natural color (of cotton and wool), of uncertain origin. Suggestion of a borrowing of Old French from Italian *bambagia* cotton, from Medieval Latin *bambax* (genitive *bambacis*) raises the problem of the disappearance of the first syllable *bam-*.

being *n.* 1380, from earlier use meaning existence (1340), developed from verbal noun of *be*, *v.*

belay *v.* 1549, developed from Middle English *beleggen* encircle, surround (before 1250); developed from Old English *beleggan* to lay over (about 725), from *be-*, *bi-* by, over, against + *legan* to LAY¹ put down.

belch *v.* An altered form *belchen* (1483) of earlier *belken* (about 1350), both variants of Middle English *bolken* to belch, vomit, overflow; developed from Old English *bilketan* (about 950), later *bealcan*, *balcettan*, *bylcettan* to belch, vomit, utter vehemently (about 1025); cognate with Middle Dutch *belken* belch, roar, cry out, and possibly related to Old English *bellan* to roar (see BELLOW), and almost certainly imitative in origin. The phonetic alteration of *belken* to modern English *belch* came about by palatalization. —*n.* 1513, from the verb.

beleaguer *v.* 1589, probably from Low German *belegeren* (*be-* around + *leger* camp); cognate with Swedish *belägra* to besiege, German *Belagerung* siege, and *belagern* beleaguer, and Dutch *belegeren* besiege.

belfry *n.* bell tower. 1272 *belfrey* bell tower; probably before 1300, *berefrey* movable tower for besieging fortifications; borrowed through Anglo-French *berefrey*, *berfrei*, Old North French *berfrei*, *belfroy*, *belefrei*, probably from Middle High German *berfrit* portable shelter, originally used to protect a besieging force, from Proto-Germanic **berzanan* protect, and **frithuz* peace, shelter, meaning a protective shelter.

The often cited Frankish source is probably not relevant, for according to the scholars Bloch and Wartburg, “The loan cannot go back to the period of the Frankish invasion of France because at that time siege warfare was hardly practiced.”

belief *n.* Before 1400 *belyefe*, earlier *bileve* (before 1225) and *bileave* (probably before 1200); all forms replacing Old English *gelēafa* by influence of later Old English *belȳfan* (about 1000), *belēfan* believe. The Old English *gelēafa* is cognate with Old Saxon *gilōbo* belief, Old High German *giloubo* (modern German *Glaube*), and Gothic *galaubeins* belief, *galaubjan* to believe; see BELIEVE. Old High German *giloubo* is from Proto-Germanic **ga-laubon*.

By the 1400's the distinction in the final consonant was developing to differentiate *belief* and *believe*, as seen in the pattern *proof* — *prove* and *grief* — *grieve*.

believe *v.* Before 1393 *believen*, earlier *beleven* (about 1386) and *bileven* (1225). The Middle English forms developed from Old English *belȳfan* (about 1000) and *belēfan* believe, which replaced a variety of Old English dialectal forms including Mercian *gelēfan*, Northumbrian *gelēfa*, and West Saxon *gelȳfan* believe. These Old English words are cognate with Old Saxon *gilōbian* believe, Old High German *gilouben* (modern German *glauben*), and Gothic *galaubjan* to believe, literally, to make palatable to oneself, accept, approve, from Proto-Germanic **ga-laubjanan*.

belittle *v.* 1781, American English, in writings of Thomas Jefferson, formed from *be-* + *little*.

bell *n.* Old English *belle* (before 900); cognate with Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *belle* bell; perhaps related to Old English *bellan* to roar, BELLOW.

belladonna *n.* 1597, as an Italian term introduced into an English work on plants, literally, fair lady. According to one source (1757), the plant got its name because women made a cosmetic from its juice.

bellicose *adj.* Probably before 1425, borrowed perhaps through influence of Italian *bellicoso* (1363), from Latin *bellicōsus*, from *bellicus* of war, from *bellum* war; see DUEL; for suffix see *-OSE*¹.

belligerent *adj.* 1577 *belligerant*, borrowed perhaps through influence of Italian *belligerante* (1480) from Latin *belligerantem* (nominative *belligerāns*), from *belligerāre* wage war, from *belliger*

waging war (*bellum* war + *gerere* to conduct). —**belligerence** *n.* 1814, formed from English *belliger(ent)* + *-ence*.

bellow *v.* About 1300 *belewen* be enraged, roar; developed from Old English (about 750) *belgan* become angry; cognate with Old Icelandic *belgja* to swell up, Old High German *belgan* swell up, be angry, Old Saxon *belgan* become angry; related to Anglian *bælg* (compare *blæstbælg* a bellows, *bēanbælg* bean pod) and West Saxon *bylg* bag; see BELLOWS, BELLY.

bellows *n.* *sing.* or *pl.* 1372–74 *belowes*, earlier *beliges* (about 1125), plural of *beli* (about 1200) and *bali* (about 1250), both meaning “stomach, abdomen, BELLY.” The Old English word for bellows was *blæstbælg*, literally, blowing bag.

belly *n.* About 1200 *beli* abdomen, bowels; developed from Old English (about 700) *bælg* (with dialect variants *belg*, *bylg*) bag; cognate with Old High German *balg* bag, skin, Old Icelandic *belgr*, Gothic *balgs* wineskin, from Proto-Germanic **balgiz*. Related to BILLOW, BELLOW.

belong *v.* 1340 *belongen*, formed from *bi-* thoroughly + *longen* go along with, be appropriate to, from *long*, *adj.*, dependent (on), belonging (to). Middle English *belongen* was formed after Old English *gelang*, *gelong* (about 725, in *Beowulf*), from *ge-* (prefix expressing completion of action) + **lang* of uncertain meaning. Old English *gelang* is cognate with Old High German and Old Saxon *gilang* nearby, at hand. —**belongings**, *n.pl.* 1603, formed from English *belonging*, verbal noun, + plural suffix *-s*.

below *adv.* About 1325, Middle English *bilooghe* (*bi-*, variant of *be-* by, about + *looghe*, variant of *low*, *lowe* LOW¹, *adj.*). *Below* was very rare in Middle English and began apparently as a variant of the earlier *a-low*, the parallel form to *an-high* (now *on high*); the synonymous forms *a-low*, *be-low* were analogous to *a-fore*, *be-fore*. *Below* gained currency in the 1500's, and is frequent in Shakespeare. —**prep.** 1575, from the adverb.

belt *n.* Old English (about 1000) *belt*, found also in Old High German *balz* and Old Icelandic *belti*, all borrowed ultimately from Latin *balteus* girdle, belt, perhaps of Etruscan origin.

bench *n.* Before 1200, developed from Old English *benc* (about 725, in *Beowulf*), and cognate with Old Frisian *bank*, *benk* bench, Old High German *bank*, and Old Icelandic *bekkr*, in which *-kk-* is the North Germanic correspondence of *-nk-*.

bend *v.* Probably before 1300, developed from Old English (probably about 1000) *bendan* tighten (a bow); originally, constrain; causative of Old English *bindan* to BIND. Old English *bendan* developed from Proto-Germanic **bandjanan*. —**n.** About 1434, from the verb.

beneath *adv., prep.* 1125 *benethan*, developed from Old English (854) *beneoþan* (*be-*, *bi-* by, + *neothan* below; cognate with Old Saxon *nithana* below, Old High German *nidana*, and Old Icelandic *nethan*; related to Old English *nithera*, *niothera* lower, NETHER).

benediction *n.* Probably before 1400 *benediccioun*, borrowed, perhaps by influence of rare Old French *benediccion*, from Latin

benedictiōnem (nominative *benedictiō*), from *benedicere* to bless; literally, speak well of (*bene* well + *dicere* to say); for suffix see *-TION*.

benefactor *n.* 1451, borrowed, probably by influence of Middle French *bienfacteur*, from Late Latin *benefactor*, from the Latin phrase *bene facere* do well + *-tor* the agent suffix. —**benefaction** *n.* Before 1662, from Late Latin *benefactionem* (nominative *benefactiō*), from *benefacere*, in Latin written as two words; for suffix see *-TION*.

benefice *n.* About 1300, borrowed through Old French *benefice*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *beneficium* kindness, promotion, from *beneficus* obliging, kind, from *bene* well + the root of *facere* do. —**beneficence** *n.* About 1454, from Latin *beneficentia*, from a variant stem of *beneficus* kind; for suffix see *-ENCE*. —**beneficent** *adj.* 1616, probably formed in English from *beneficence*, on the pattern of earlier English *benevolent*, *magnificent*; for suffix see *-ENT*.

benefit *n.* Before 1376 *benfet* good deed, borrowed through Anglo-French *benfet*, *benfait*, from Old French *bienfait*, and directly from Latin *benefactum* good deed (*bene* well + *factum*, neuter past participle of *facere* to do). —**v.** 1472, from the noun. —**beneficial** *adj.* 1464, borrowed through Middle French *bénéficial* and directly from Latin *beneficialis*, from *beneficium* a benefit, kindness; for suffix see *-AL*¹. —**beneficiary** *n.* 1611, borrowed probably from French *bénéficiaire*, from Latin *beneficiarius*, from *beneficium*; for suffix see *-ARY*.

benevolent *adj.* About 1443, borrowed from Middle French *benivolent*, and directly from Latin *benevolentem* (*bene* well + *volentem* (nominative *volens*), present participle of *velle* to wish); for suffix see *-ENT*. —**benevolence** *n.* Probably about 1400, borrowed from Old French *benivolence*, and directly from Latin *benevolentia* well-wishing, from *benevolentem*.

benign *adj.* Probably before 1325, borrowed from Old French *benigne*, a learned borrowing from Latin *benignus* good-natured (*bene* good, well + *-gnus*, from *gignere* to bear, beget; see KIN). —**benignant** *adj.* Before 1782, formed in English from Latin *benignus*, on the pattern of earlier *malignant*.

bent¹ *adj.* not straight. Probably before 1300 *ibent*; later *bent* (about 1370), developed from *bent*, past participle of BEND. —**n.** 1586, developed from earlier *bent*, *adj.*, being turned or inclined in some direction (1534), probably as a translation of Latin *inclinātiō* inclination.

bent² *n.* stiff grass. 1364; earlier, “grassy place” 1327 an earlier form *Benet-* (1136 and after, in place names); developed from Old English *Beonet-* (851), as in *Beonet-lēah* Bentley; cognate with Old Saxon *binet* and Old High German *binuz* (early modern German *Bintze*, German *Binse*) rush, marshy grass, from Proto-Germanic **binut-*.

benzene or **benzine** *n.* 1835 *benzine*, borrowed from German *Benzin*, from *Benz(oesäure)* benzoic acid + *-in* *-ine*², chemical suffix.

benzoin *n.* 1562 *benzoin*, earlier *bengewine* (1558), which probably gave rise to the alteration *benjamin* (variant, late

1500's to the 1800's); also English *benjoin* (1601); borrowed from Middle French *benjoin* and Italian *benzoi*, from which English assimilated the *z*. The source of the word in European languages is Arabic *lubān jāwī* incense of Jāwā (Java); *lu* being mistaken as the definite article in Arabic, was omitted in the borrowing.

bequeath *v.* Probably before 1200 *biquethen*, developed from Old English *becwethan* give by will (800–885); earlier, to say, speak (probably about 750), a compound of *be-*, *bi-* by, about + *cwethan* say, from Proto-Germanic **kwethanan*.

bequest *n.* Before 1338 *biqueste*; later occasionally *biquyst*, as in 1378 (*be-*, *bi-* *be-* + *quiste*, about 1300; later *quest*, between 1330 and 1350, developed from Old English **cwis*, **cwiss* something said, utterance (compare Old English *andcwis* an answer, *uncwisse* speechless). The *t* in Middle English is probably due to analogy between *biquethen-biquiste*, *quiste* and pairs such as *give-gift*, *freeze-frost*, etc.

berate *v.* 1548, formed from English prefix *be-* thoroughly + *rate* to scold (about 1390).

bereave *v.* About 1175 *bireaven*, developed from Old English *berēafian*, about 725 (*be-*, *bi-* thoroughly + *rēafian* rob, about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *birāva* despoil, Old Saxon *biroban*, Old High German *biroubōn* (modern German *berauben*), and Gothic *biraubōn*, from Proto-Germanic **raubōjanan*. —**bereavement** *n.* 1731, formed from English *be-reave* + *-ment*. —**bereft** *adj.* About 1375, developed from *bereaved*, *bireved*, later *bereft*, past participle of Middle English *bireaven*.

The forms *bereaved* and *bereft* have existed side by side since the latter 1300's; however, now *bereaved* is applied to loss of a beloved one, *bereft* is applied to circumstances, as in *bereft of hope*.

beret *n.* 1827, borrowed from French *béret*, Old Gascon *berret*, from Medieval Latin *birretum* (diminutive of Late Latin *birrus* cape with a hood), perhaps of Gaulish origin.

berkelium *n.* 1950, New Latin *berkelium*, formed from the University of California at Berkeley, where first produced, + New Latin *-ium* (suffix of chemical elements).

berm *n.* 1729, borrowed from French *berme*, from Dutch *berm* and German *Berme*; see BRIM.

berry *n.* Old English *berie* (about 1000 found in various forms in all Germanic languages, and cognate with Old Saxon *-beri* in *wīnberi* grape, and Old High German *beri* berry (modern German *Beere*), Middle High German and Middle Dutch *bere*, Old Icelandic *ber*, Danish *bær*, Swedish *bär*, and Gothic *-basi* in *weinabasi* grape. —*v.* *berrying* *vbl. n.* 1845, American English, in writings of James Fenimore Cooper.

berserk *adj.* 1851, developed in English either as a shortening of earlier *berserker* (1822) or a back formation of *berserker*, from Scandinavian *berserker* where the *-r* is a case ending of the masculine singular, rather than an agent noun suffix for one who goes *berserk*. *Berserker* is borrowed from a Scandinavian

source (compare Old Icelandic *berserker* wild warrior, literally, bear shirt).

berth *n.* 1622, safe room or space for ships; of uncertain origin; perhaps related to BEAR² in the sense of bearing, made to keep a safe distance from shore. The extended sense of a sleeping place is first recorded for a ship's passenger (1796) —*v.* 1667, from the noun.

beryl *n.* Before 1300, borrowed from Old French *beril*, and from Latin *beryllus*, from Greek *berýllos*, possibly a back formation from *berýllion*.

beryllium *n.* 1863, New Latin *beryllium* (from Latin *berýllus* BERYL + New Latin *-ium*, suffix of chemical elements).

beseech *v.* Probably before 1200 *bisechen*, formed from Middle English *be-*, *bi-* about + *sechen* seek, developed from Old English *sēcan* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); earlier *sōhte* (about 700). *Beseech* is cognate with Old Frisian *bisēka* and modern German *besuchen* to seek out, visit; see SEEK.

beset *v.* Old English *besettan* surround, about 725, in *Beowulf* (*be-*, *bi-* about + *settan* SET); cognate with Old Frisian *bisetta* surround, Old Saxon *bisetjan*, Old High German *bisezzan*, Middle High German *besetzen* (modern German *besetzen* occupy, settle), and Gothic *bisatjan*, from Proto-Germanic **bisatjanan*. The meaning of assail, attack appeared in Middle English before 1200.

beside *prep., adv.* Probably before 1200 *bisiden*, *biside*; formed of Old English *bī sidan* by the side; earlier, *bisidan*, about 725 (*be*, *bi* by + *sīdan*, dative of *sīde* SIDE).

besides *adv., prep.* Probably before 1200 *bisides*, but generally of later use about 1390 and after, formed of Middle English *bisiden* beside + *-s*, variant form of the adverbial genitive ending *-es*.

besom *n.* Old English (about 800) *besma*, later *besema* bundle of twigs (used as a broom or flail); cognate with Old Frisian *besma*, Old Saxon *besmo*, and Old High German *besmo*, *besamo* (modern German *Besen*), from Proto-Germanic **besmōn*.

best *adj., adv.* Probably before 1200 *beste* or *best*, earlier *betste* (before 1121); found in Old English *betst*, *betsta* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognates with Old Frisian, Old Saxon, and Middle Dutch *best*, Old High German *bezzist* best (modern German *best*), Old Icelandic *beztr*, and Gothic *batists*, from the Germanic base **bat-* (see BETTER) + superlative suffix in Old English *-st* *-est*. Old English *betst* was reduced to *best* by assimilation of the *t* to the following *s*.

The relationship of *best* and *better* with *good* and *well* developed outside of Old English. —*n.* Probably before 1200 *best*, earlier *beste*, *betste* (before 1175); from *best*, *adj.* —*v.* 1863, from *best*, *n.*

bestial *adj.* Before 1393, borrowed from Old French *bestial* and from Latin *bēstialis* like a beast, from *bēstia* BEAST; for suffix see *-AL*¹.

bestow *v.* Before 1375 *bestowen*, *bistowen* give (alms, etc.),

mete out (*be-*, *bi-* *be-* + *stowen* to place, STOW). —**bestowal** *n.* 1773, from English *bestow* + *-al*.

bet *v.* The origin of this word is uncertain. The verb is first recorded in 1597, possibly derived from *beet*, *v.*, to make good, developed from Middle English *beten* to mend, make better, replenish (a fire), arouse; stimulate, in Old English *bætan*; cognate with Old Saxon *bētan*, Old High German *beizen* and Old Icelandic *beita*, from Proto-Germanic **baitjanan*.

The shortened *e* of *bet* is due to the presence of short *e* forms in Middle English *beten*, as signaled by rimes and by *tt*-spellings. *Betting* (1599) may have been thought of as “improving a game or contest, stimulating action, etc.” —**n.** 1592, probably from the verb. The later date for the verb (1597) may be a defect in the record of English. With similarity of form, it is tempting to draw a connection between modern English *bet* and Middle English *bet* advantage (noun use of *bet*, *adv.*, the earlier form of BETTER). However, no accepted connection has been established.

beta *n.* Before 1325, borrowed from Latin *bēta*, from Greek *bēta*, from Semitic; compare Hebrew *bēth* the second letter of the Hebrew alphabet, literally meaning a house, originally formed from the hieroglyph of a house.

betray *v.* About 1280 *bitrayen* mislead, deceive, betray (*bi-* *be-*, thoroughly + *trayen* betray, borrowed from Old French *traïr*, from Latin *trādere* hand over). —**betrayal** *n.* 1816, formed from English *betray* + *-al*.

betroth *v.* About 1303 *betrouthen*, variant of *bitreuthen* (*be-*, *bi-* by + *treuth* a pledge, TROTH). —**betrothal** *n.* 1844, formed from English *betroth* + *-al*.

better *adj.*, *adv.* Probably before 1300 *better*, earlier *bettre* (about 1250) and *betre* (1131); developed from Old English *bettra* (before 900), earlier *betra* (about 750) and *betera* (about 725, in *Beowulf*). The word was used as the comparative of *good* in older Germanic languages and is cognate with Old Frisian *betera*, Old Saxon *betiro*, Old High German *bezziro* better (modern German *besser*), Old Icelandic *betri*, and Gothic *batiza*, from Proto-Germanic **batizōn*. —**n.** About 1175, developed in Old English from the adjective in such a phrase as *the better*. —**v.** Before 1400, from the adjective, and analogous to Old English *beterian*, *gebeterian* be or make better.

between *prep.*, *adv.* 1225 *bitwene*, earlier *bitwenen* (probably before 1200) and *betwene* (about 1200); developed from Old English *betwēonum* (about 750); formed from *bi-*, *be-* by + *twēonum* two each (about 725, in *Beowulf*).

betwixt *prep.*, *adv.* Before 1333 *bytwiſte*, earlier *betwix* (1127); developed from Old English *betweox* (before 899), formed from *bi-*, *be-* by + *twox* for two.

The final *t* in *betwixt* developed in Old English but was infrequently used until after 1500 when it gradually became the regular spelling.

bevel *n.* 1677 *bevil*, earlier *beville*, *adj.* (1562), possibly preserved as a technical term, borrowed from Old French **bevel*, a form implied by *biveau*, *béveau* (in which Middle and modern

French *-eau* come from Old French *-el*). The Old French **bevel* may have developed from *baif* gaping.

The problem here lies in the dates of borrowing. Since the word is first recorded in English (1562), there appears to be a gap of about 150 years between the assumed borrowing from Old French (a period ending in 1400) and the appearance of *beville* in English. —**v.** 1677, probably from the noun.

beverage *n.* About 1300, earlier as a surname (1237); borrowed from Old French *bevrage*, from *bevre* to drink, variant of *boivre*, from Latin *bibere*, see IMBIBE; for suffix see *-AGE*.

bevy *n.* About 1425, applied to quails; before 1450, applied to a group of ladies; borrowed from Anglo-French *bevé*, of unknown origin.

beware *v.* Developed from the imperative phrase *be ware* (probably about 1200, in the plural *beth warre*), from *be*, *v.*, and *ware*, *adj.*, careful; see AWARE.

Old English had the compound *bewarian* to defend, not found in Middle English, and the verb *warian* to guard, keep clear of, which survived only in certain phrases; such as *ware holes*, in the sense of keep clear of the holes, mistaken as a contraction of *beware*. Middle English *war*, *ware* appeared regularly in the phrase *to be ware* to be on one's guard. From such constructions *be ware* soon began to be treated as a single word.

bewilder *v.* 1684, first occurring in the past participial form *bewildered* (*be-* thoroughly + now archaic *wilder* lead astray or into the wilds, probably back formation from *wilderness*, on the analogy of *wander*).

beyond *prep.*, *adv.* Before 1325 *biyond*, earlier *beionde* (1154); developed from Old English *begeondan* (probably about 885), from *bi-*, *be-* by + *geond* yonder, *prep.* + *-an* from or at (a place); see YONDER.

bi-, prefix meaning: 1a twice, as in *bimonthly* = twice each month. b once every two, as in *bimonthly* = once every two months. 2 having two, or doubly, as in *bipolar* = having two poles, *biconvex* = doubly convex. 3 two, as in *bisect* = section or divide in two. About 1250, borrowed through Old French *bi-*, and directly from Latin *bi-*, from Old Latin *dvi-* (*dui-*).

bias *n.* 1530, borrowed from Middle French *biais* slant, from Old Provençal *biais*, of uncertain origin. —**v.** 1622, from the noun. —**biased** *adj.* 1649, prejudiced, earlier (1611) as a participial of *bias*, *v.*, suggesting that the earlier use of *biased* was influenced by the French verb *biaisier* (1402).

bib *n.* 1580, developed from earlier verb *bibben* to drink (probably about 1380), perhaps borrowed from Latin *bibere*; see IMBIBE.

Bible *n.* Before 1325, borrowed in part through Anglo-Latin *biblia* (replacing Old English *bibliotheca* the Scriptures) from Medieval Latin *Biblia*, and in part from Old French *bible*, a learned borrowing from Medieval Latin *Biblia*, neuter plural, interpreted as feminine singular of Late Latin *biblia* (usually *biblia sacra* holy books).

Late Latin *biblia* was borrowed from Greek *biblia*, plural of *biblōn* (often *byblōn*) originally, little book, but later “book,”

and so diminutive of *býblos* book, writing, scroll (literally meaning "paper," *býblos* Egyptian papyrus; compare similar formation in Latin *liber* book, from *liber* the inner bark of a tree, and English *book*, from Old English *bōc*, related to *bōc* beech tree).

The general meaning of book or treatise, especially a lengthy one is recorded 1387. —**biblical** adj. 1790, replacing earlier *Biblic* (1684), from which it was formed + *-al*¹.

biblio- combining form meaning: 1 book or books, as in *bibliophile* = lover of books. 2 the Bible, as in *bibliolatry* = excessive reverence for the Bible. *Biblio-* has been an element of a few English words since about 1000. As a naturalized combining form in English it began to appear with some frequency in the 1800's, in imitation of the Greek element *biblio-* from *biblōn* book.

bibliography *n.* 1678, borrowed perhaps through influence of French *bibliographie* (1633), from Greek *bibliographiā* the writing of books (*biblōn* book + *-graphiā* record, account, from *gráphein* write). —**bibliographer** *n.* 1656, formed in English from Greek *bibliographiā* + English suffix *-er*¹. —**bibliographical** adj. 1679, formed possibly from English *bibliography* + *-ical*.

The form *biblio-* was already known in English through *bibliothēke* library (1549), and *bibliothēca* the Scriptures (about 1000) so that it is quite possible *biblio-* was a natural formation from Greek elements in the literary flowering of England after the mid-1500's, and became a naturalized combining form in English by the early 1800's when most words in *biblio-* are first recorded in English.

bicameral adj. Before 1832, formed in English from *bi-* two + Late Latin *camera* chamber + English suffix *-al*¹; see CAMERA.

biceps *n.* 1634, borrowed probably from French *biceps* (1562), and from Latin *biceps* (genitive *bicipitis*) two-headed (*bi-* two + *-ceps*, *-cipit-*, *caput* HEAD).

bicker *v.* Probably before 1300 *bikeren* (*bikering*) to attack; formed in English perhaps from Middle Dutch *bicken* to slash, stab, attack + English suffix *-er*¹ again and again. The suggested Middle Dutch *bicken* is supported by Middle English *biker*, *n.*; see noun below. —**n.** Probably before 1300 *biker* battle, attack; later, quarrel (1350), probably developed from *bikeren*, *v.*

bicycle *n.* 1868 (perhaps 1866, in U.S. Patents), probably formed in English from *bi-* two + *-cycle* wheel, on the pattern of earlier *tricycle* carriage, (1828). According to most, *bicycle* is borrowed from French; however, it is not recorded in French until 1869 and is held by French scholars to be a borrowing from English (see *Petit Robert*, 1978). The confusion apparently comes from the fact that it was a workman, Lallemand, in a French carriage works who, in 1865, made the improvements in Macmillan's version (1839) of the pedal velocipede and went to America with his invention. —**v.** 1869, from the noun.

bid *v.* Before 1121 *bidden* beg, request, influenced by and often confused in meaning with *beden* offer, announce, command,

but developed from Old English *biddan* ask for, demand (about 725, in *Beowulf*). Of the two forms, Middle English *bidden* (Old English *biddan*) is cognate with Old Frisian *bidda*, Old High German *bitten* ask for, beseech (modern German *bitten*), Old Icelandic *bidhja*, and Old Saxon and Gothic *bidjan*, from Proto-Germanic **bidjanan*. Middle English *beden* (Old English *bēoðan*) is cognate with Old Frisian *biada*, Old High German *biotan* to offer (modern German *bieten*), Old Icelandic *bjōðha*, Old Saxon *biodan*, and Gothic *anabiudan* to command, from Proto-Germanic **biuðanan*. —**n.** 1788, from the verb.

bide *v.* Old English *bīdan* stay, wait (about 725); cognate with Old Saxon *bīdan*, Middle Dutch *bīden*, Old High German *bītan* to wait, Old Frisian *bīda*, Old Icelandic *bidha*, and Gothic *beidan* to wait. Except in such use as *bide one's time*, the word has been largely displaced by *abide*.

biennial adj. 1621, borrowed perhaps from French *biennal* (1550), and formed in English from Latin *biennium* two-year period + English suffix *-al*¹.

bier *n.* Probably before 1200 *bere*, developed from Old English (before 900) West Saxon *bær* stretcher; earlier, Anglian *bēr*, formed from the stem of *beran* to bear; see BEAR² carry.

Since about 1600 the spelling *bier* developed, influenced by French **bière* coffin, from Old French *biere* litter, bier, ultimately from Frankish **bēra* (compare Old High German *bāra* bier), from Proto-Germanic **bārō*.

bifocal adj. 1888, formed from English *bi-* + *focal*. —**bifocals** *n.* pl. 1888 or 1889, from noun use of *bifocal*, adj. + *-s*. Though bifocals were conceived by Benjamin Franklin, he used the term *double spectacles* (1784), the name *bifocals* appearing over 100 years later.

big adj. About 1300, strong or sturdy; of obscure origin, perhaps borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Norwegian dialect *bugge* strong man).

Its use much before 1400 is rare, the general sense "of great size, large" appearing about 1380. —**adv.** 1563, from the adjective.

bigamy *n.* About 1250, borrowed from Old French *bigamie* and from Medieval Latin *bigamia*, from Late Latin *bigamus* twice married (a hybrid of Latin *bi-* two, twice + Greek *gámos* marriage). —**bigamous** adj. 1864, formed from English *bigamy* + *-ous*, after Medieval Latin *bigamus*.

bight *n.* 1278, in a place name (*Syde biht* in Lancashire); developed from Old English (825) *byht* a bend, related to *būgan* to bend, bow; see BOW¹ bend. Old English *byht* is cognate with Middle Low German *bucht* (modern German *Bucht*), Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *bocht* bend, bight; from Proto-Germanic **buhtis*.

bigot *n.* 1598, hypocrite, borrowed from Middle French *bigot* hypocrite, of uncertain origin. —**bigoted** adj. 1645, formed from English *bigot* + *-ed*². —**bigotry** *n.* Before 1674, borrowed from French *bigoterie*, from *bigot*; for suffix see *-RY*.

bijou *n.* 1668, borrowing of French *bijou*, from Breton *bizou*, earlier *besou* finger ring, from *biz* finger.

bike *n.* 1882, American English, shortened and altered form of *bicycle*.

bikini *n.* 1948, borrowed from French *bikini*, after *Bikini* atoll in the Marshall Islands of the Pacific.

The name of the bathing suit has been attributed to various analogies, but no concrete evidence is available.

bile *n.* 1665, borrowed from French *bile*, a learned borrowing from Latin *bilis* bile, anger. —**bilious** *adj.* 1541, of or having to do with bile; later, ill-tempered (1561); borrowed from Middle French *bilieux*, a learned borrowing of Latin *biliōsus* full of bile, from *bilis* bile; for suffix see -OUS.

bilge *n.* 1513, probably variant of earlier *bulge* a ship's hull, a leather bag (about 1200); borrowed from Old North French *boulge*, originally meaning leather sack, from Late Latin *bulga* leather sack, apparently from Gaulish *bulga*.

bilk *v.* 1672, developed as an extended sense of the earlier meaning to balk or spoil one's score in the game of cribbage (1651), perhaps as a verb use of *bilk*, *n.* (1633), either the verb or the noun possibly being an alteration in the pronunciation of the verb BALK.

bill¹ *n.* written statement. About 1370 *bille* a formal plea or charge in law, and about 1378, a petition or legislative measure; borrowed from Anglo-French *bille* list, schedule, account (blend of Old French *bille* stick of wood, with *bulle* a decree) and Anglo-Latin *billa* (similar blend of Medieval Latin *billia* tree trunk, with *bulle* seal, document); both *bille* and *billa* ultimately derive from Gaulish; see BILLET¹,² and BULL² decree.

The meaning "account or invoice" is first recorded in 1404; paper money, note from *paper bill* (1670).

bill² *n.* beak. Probably before 1200, developed from Old English (about 1000) *bile* beak; possibly related to another form, *bill* spear with a hooked blade, developed from Old English *bil* a kind of sword (about 725, in *Beowulf*) and earlier in the compound *wudu-bil* pruning hook (about 700).

billet¹ *n.* 1644, written order for soldier's food and lodging; earlier, an official record or register (probably before 1425); borrowed from Anglo-French *billette* list, schedule (a diminutive form of *bille*; see BIL¹), perhaps influenced by Middle French *billette*, variant of Old French *bullette* certificate (a diminutive form of *bulle* document; see BIL¹ and BULL² decree).

billet² *n.* 1437, thick stick of wood; borrowed from Middle French *billette*, a diminutive form of *bille* stick of wood, from Medieval Latin *billia* tree trunk, possibly of Gaulish origin; see BLADE.

billiards *n.* 1591, earlier used as an adjective in *billiard stick* (1588); borrowed from Middle French *billard* cue stick (a diminutive form of *bille* stick of wood). The -s added to the English word parallels use in the names of *checkers*, *skittles*, and *bowls*.

billion *n.* 1690, (in Great Britain) second power of a million; borrowed from French *billion*, formed from *bi-* two + (*m*)il

lion, from Old French *million* MILLION. —**billionaire** *n.* 1860, American English, patterned on *millionaire*.

billow *n.* 1552, probably borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *bylgja* billow, Danish *bølge*, and Swedish *bölja*); cognate with Old Dutch *bolghe*, *bulghe*, Middle Dutch *bulge* bubble, blister, Middle High German *bulge* billow, probably related to Old High German *bulga* (modern German *Bulge* leather bag), from Proto-Germanic **bulg-*. —*v.* 1597, from the noun. —**billowy** *adj.* About 1615, formed from English *billow* + -y¹.

billy *n.* 1848, American English (burglar's slang), a crowbar; 1856, a policeman's club; probably from *Billy* nickname of William; like *Jack* and *Jenny*, used to name implements and machines as early as 1795, and recorded as a common appellation about 1500.

bin *n.* Old English *binne* manger (about 750), probably of Celtic origin (compare Medieval Latin *benna* basket and Late Latin *benna* cart with a basket top, the latter form said to be a Gaulish word for a kind of vehicle, perhaps a wicker or basket cart, and Welsh *ben* wagon, cart).

binary *adj.* Before 1464, borrowed through Anglo-Latin *binarius*, from Late Latin *binārius* (from Latin *binī* two at a time; related to *bis* twice; for suffix see -ARY). —**binary number** (before 1796) —**binary system** (1835, of biological classification; 1802, of a binary star).

bind *v.* Old English *bindan* (about 725); cognate with Old Saxon *bindan* to bind, Old Frisian and Old Icelandic *binda*, Old High German *bintan* (modern German *binden*), and Gothic *bindan*; ultimately related to BAND² fasten. —*n.* 1295, developed from Old English *binde* band (about 1000), probably from the verb. *Band* and *bind* were probably confused; until Middle English *band* (1126) supplanted *bind* except in specialized usages and in the popular usage to *be in a bind* (1950's and later). —**binder** *n.* 1218, in surnames, earlier *bindere* (before 1000), formed from Old English *bindan*, *v.* + -ere -er¹. —**bindery** *n.* 1810, American English, formed from *bind* + -ery.

binge *n.* 1854, English dialect, apparently a special use of dialectal *binge* to soak (a wooden vessel); and so by extension "to drink heavily" in allusion to soaking up alcohol, perhaps reminiscent of a popular and long-established connection between alcoholic drink and *soak* in such phrases as *an old soak* for a drunk.

binnacle *n.* 1762, alteration of earlier *bittacle* (1622); borrowed from French *bitacle* binnacle, from Old French *binnacle*, earlier *habitable* dwelling, from Latin *habitaculum* dwelling place, from *habitare* dwell. Contrary to traditional sources the Spanish term *bitácula* (now *bitácora*) is derived from French.

binocular *adj.* 1738, perhaps developed from the earlier meaning having two eyes (1713); borrowed from French *binoculaire*, ultimately from Latin *binī* two at a time + *oculī* eyes; for suffix see -AR. —**binoculars** *n.* pl. 1877, from earlier singular *binocular* (1871), noun use of *binocular*, *adj.*

binomial *n.* 1557, borrowed from New Latin *binomialis*, from Medieval Latin *binomius* having two names, alteration of Latin *binōminis* (*bi-* two + *nōmen*, genitive *nōminis* NAME); for suffix see -AL¹. —**adj.** 1570, from the noun.

bio- a combining form meaning: 1 life, living things, as in *biology* = science of life or living things. 2 biological, as in *biochemistry* = biological chemistry. The combining form probably entered English through New Latin *bio-* as a borrowing of Greek *bio-*, combining form of *bios* life, way of living; cognate with Latin *vīvus* living, and with Old English *cwīc*, *cwicu* quick, in the archaic sense “living,” and Gothic *gius*.

biography *n.* 1683, borrowed perhaps through New Latin *biographia*, from Late Greek *biographiā* (from Greek *bio-* life + *-graphiā* record, account, from *gráphein* write). —**biographer** *n.* 1715, probably formed from English *biography* + *-er*¹, perhaps by influence of Medieval Greek *biográphos* writer of lives. —**biographical** *adj.* 1738, formed from English *biography* + *-ical*.

biology *n.* 1819, borrowed from German *Biologie*, from *bio-* (from Greek *bios* life, way of living) + *-logie* study of (from Greek *-logiā*, from *-lógos* one who treats of). The word appears earlier in English with the now obsolete meaning “study of human life and character” (1813), perhaps as an independent borrowing of Greek elements cited above. —**biological** *adj.* 1859, formed from English *biology* + *-ical*. —**biologist** *n.* 1874, formed from English *biology* + *-ist*, perhaps by influence of earlier French *biologiste* (1836), and earlier English *biologist* (1813) but in reference to the study of human life and character.

bionics *n.* 1959, formed from English *bio-* living, life, biological + *-onics*, as in *electronics*. —**bionic** *adj.* (1970)

biopsy *n.* 1895, borrowed from French *biopsie* (*bio-* living, life + Greek *ópsis* a viewing). —**v.** 1964, from the noun.

biped *n.* 1646, borrowed, perhaps through French *bipède*, or directly from Latin *bipedem* two-footed (*bi-* two + *pedem*, nominative *pēs* FOOT).

birch *n.* About 1385, developed from Old English (about 700) *birce*; cognate with Old Saxon *birka*, *berka*, Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *berke* (modern Dutch *berk*), Old High German *biricha*, *birca* (modern German *Birke*), from Proto-Germanic **berkjōn*, Old Icelandic *björk*, from Proto-Germanic **berkō*, all meaning “birch.” —**birchbark** *n.* (1643, American English).

bird *n.* 1353 *bird*, variant of *brid* (before 1200, the form predominating until the later 1400's); found in Old English *brid* young fowl (probably about 750); of uncertain origin, with no corresponding form in any other Germanic language.

birth *n.* About 1250 *birthe*; earlier *burthe*, *burde* (probably before 1200) and *birde* (probably about 1200), influenced by, and perhaps borrowed from, a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *burthr*, Old Swedish *byrth* birth), that affected the previously Old English *gebyrd* birth (cognate with Old High German *giburt*, modern German *Geburt*, and Gothic *ga-*

baúrths), from Proto-Germanic **(ga)burðs*. —**v.** About 1250, from the noun. —**birthday** *n.* About 1384, replacing earlier Old English *byrddæg*.

biscuit *n.* A spelling reborrowed from French in the 1800's to replace English *bisket*, developed in the 1500's from *besquite* (before 1338); borrowed from Old French *bescuit*, literally meaning “twice-cooked” in reference to how it was prepared (*bes-* twice, from Latin *bis* + Old French *cuit*, past participle of *cuire* to cook, from Vulgar Latin **cocere*, from Latin *coquere*; see COOK). The American use “a soft bun” is first recorded in 1818.

bisect *v.* 1646, formed in English from *bi-* two + Latin *sectus*, past participle of *secāre* to cut; see SECTION.

bishop *n.* Old English *biscop* (before 830) and *bi-sceop* (before 900); cognate with Old Saxon *biscop* and Old High German *bischof*; all borrowed from Late Latin *episcopus* bishop, overseer, from Greek *episkopos* overseer (*epi-* over + *skopós* watcher, related to *sképtesthai* look at). —**bishopric** *n.* Old English (about 890) *bisceoprice* (*bisceop* bishop + *rice* realm, province, dominion, power).

bismuth *n.* 1668, borrowed from earlier German *Bismuth*, from *Wismuth*, *Wismut* (the forms to which the modern German has reverted).

bison *n.* 1611 (although the Latinized plural form *bysontes* appeared before 1398), borrowed through French *bison*, or more likely directly from Latin *bisōn* (accusative *bisontem*), from a Germanic source (compare Old High German *wisunt* aurochs, a species of wild ox, modern German *Wisent*, Old English *wesend*, and Old Icelandic *visundr*).

bisque¹ *n.* soup. 1647 *bisk*, later *bisque* (1731), borrowed from French *bisque* a soup; said to be an altered form of *Biscaye* Biscay.

bisque² *n.* pottery. 1664, alteration of English *biscuit*.

bissextile *adj.*, *n.* (containing or designating) the extra day of leap year. 1581 *n.*, 1594 *adj.*; borrowed from Late Latin *bissextilis*, *bisextilis*, *adj.*, from Latin *bisextus diēs* intercalary day (*bi-* two + *sextus* sixth).

The Julian calendar added an extra day after the sixth day (thereby doubling it) before the calends of March, or the 24th of February.

bistro *n.* 1922 *bistrot*, 1924 *bistro*, borrowed from French *bistrot*, *bistro* (1884), originally Parisian slang for “little wineshop or restaurant”; origin uncertain.

bit¹ *n.* small piece. Probably about 1200 *bite*, developed from Old English *bita* piece bitten off, morsel, mouthful (before 1050), from *bitan* to bite; see BITE. Old English *bita* is cognate with Old Frisian *bita*, Old Icelandic *biti* bit, and Old High German *bizzo* biting (modern German *Bissen* a bite), from Proto-Germanic **bitōn*.

bit² *n.* drill; part of a bridle. About 1150, a bite, biting, found in Old English *bite* a bite (about 725, in *Beowulf*), (compare modern German *Gebiss* horse's bit, from *beissen* to BITE).

Old English *bite* is cognate with Old Frisian *bit*, *bite*, *biti*, Old Saxon *biti*, Old High German *biz* piece bitten off (modern German *Biss* a bite), Old Icelandic *bit* bite, biting, from Proto-Germanic **bitiz*.

bit³ *n.* binary digit. 1948 (a word coined by J.W. Tukey), short for *bi(nary) (digi)t*. Compare BYTE.

bitch *n.* Probably about 1150 *bicche*, developed from Old English (about 1000) *bicce*, cognate with and, perhaps borrowed from, a Scandinavian word such as Old Icelandic *bikkja* female dog or Old Danish *bikke*.

The oath *bikkeju-sonn* in Old Icelandic and *biche sone* in Middle English (probably before 1300) further establish a close connection between the English word and a possible borrowing from Scandinavian. —**v.** Before 1930, probably by extension from an earlier verb meaning, such as to bungle, spoil (1823).

bite *v.* Probably about 1150 *biten*, developed from Old English *bītan* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Saxon *bītan* to bite, Old Frisian *bīta*, Middle Dutch *bīten* (modern Dutch *bijten*), Old High German *bīzan* (modern German *beissen*), Old Icelandic *bīta*, (Swedish *bita*, Danish *bide*), and Gothic *beitan*, from Proto-Germanic **bītanan*. —**n.** Probably before 1200; see BIT¹.

bitter *adj.* About 1175, developed from Old English *biter* (about 725, in *Beowulf*) and *bitre*, *bittreste* (before 830); cognate with Old Saxon and Old High German *bittar* bitter (modern German, Dutch, Swedish, and Danish *bitter*), Old Icelandic *bitr* (from Proto-Germanic **bitrás*). —**bittersweet** *adj.* 1611, adjective use of *bittersweet*, *n.* a kind of tree, its fruit, or a drink made from it (before 1393).

bittern *n.* 1515, alteration of *bitore* (about 1395); earlier *butur* (about 1353) and *botor* (probably before 1300); borrowed probably from Anglo-Latin *butorius*, *bitorius*, and Old French *butor*, both apparently from Gallo-Romance **būtitauros*, from Latin *būtītō* bittern + *taurus* bull, so called from its booming voice (compare the popular English name for this bird, *bull of the bog*, 1815; also Pliny's use of *taurus* to designate the bittern of southern France).

bitumen *n.* Before 1464 *bitumen* mineral pitch used as mortar; borrowed from Latin *bitūmen* asphalt, probably from a Celtic source (compare Gaulish *betulla* birch, a name used by Pliny for the tree that was supposedly the source of bitumen). —**bituminous** *adj.* 1620, borrowed through French *bitumineux*, or directly from Latin *bitūminōsus*, from *bitūmen*; for suffix see -OUS.

bivouac *n.* 1702, a night watch by an army; borrowed from French *bivouac*, probably from Low German *bīwake* (*bi-* by + *wake* watch; related to English WAKE). Some suggest the French word came from Swiss German *Biwacht* extra night patrol. The sense of an outdoor camp in 1853. —**v.** 1809, to post troops or remain in the open during the night; verb use of *bivouac*, *n.* The meaning "camp outdoors" first appeared in 1814.

bizarre *adj.* Before 1648, borrowed from French *bizarre* odd, fantastic; formerly, brave, from Italian *bizzarro* angry, wrathful and Spanish *bizarro* brave.

black *adj.* About 1150 *blac*, developed from Old English (about 700) *blæc*, *blec*; cognate with Old High German *blah*, *blach* and Old Icelandic *blakkr* black, dun-colored, from Proto-Germanic **blak-*. —**n.** Probably before 1200; Old English *blæc*, *n.* —**v.** Also, *blacken*. Probably about 1200; from the adjective; for suffix of *blacken* see -EN¹. —**blackberry** *n.* Probably about 1125. —**blackbird** *n.* 1279 (in a surname). —**black eye** *n.* 1327 (in a surname). —**blackguard** *n.* (1535, kitchen help; 1736, scoundrel) —**blackmail** *n.* 1552, money paid outlaws for protection (*black*, *adj.* + *mail* tax, tribute, Old English *māl*); payment extorted by threats (before 1826). —**blacksmith** *n.* 1248 (in a surname).

bladder *n.* About 1200 *bladdre*, earlier *bladre* (about 1150); developed from Old English *blædre* (West Saxon) and *blēdre* (Anglian, about 700); cognate with Old Saxon *blādara*, Old High German *blātara* bladder, and Old Icelandic *blādhra* bladder, blister, from the same base as Old English *blāwan* to BLOW² puff.

blade *n.* About 1380 *blad*, earlier in compound *shuldre blade* shoulder blade (about 1300), found in Old English *blæd* leaf, (but usually) any leaflike part (about 725).

The Old English is cognate with Old Frisian *bled*, Old Saxon *blad*, Old and Middle High German *blat* leaf (modern German *Blatt*), Old Icelandic *bladh*, from Proto-Germanic **bladān*.

blame *v.* Probably before 1200, borrowed from Old French *blamer*, earlier *blasmer*, from Vulgar Latin **blastēmāre*, alteration of Late Latin *blasphemāre* revile, reproach. According to the OED the word was introduced into Latin in language of the New Testament which used Greek *blasphēmēn*. —**n.** Probably about 1200, borrowed from Old French *blame*, earlier *blasme*, from *blamer*, *v.*

blanch *v.* Before 1398 *blanchen* to remove the hull of (almonds, etc.) after soaking; borrowed from Old French *blanchir*, from *blanche*, *blanc* white BLANK.

The Anglo-French *blanche*, feminine of *blaunk*, and the earlier Middle English *blauncher* cosmetic powder for whitening (about 1303), suggest the possibility of earlier use of the verb *blanchen*.

bland *adj.* 1667, soft, mild, gentle; perhaps borrowed from Italian *blando* delicate; 1661, smooth in manner, suave, an extension of earlier English "flattering," now seen in *blandish*, also in French as far back as Old French *bland* flattering. All forms are ultimately borrowings from Latin *blandus* smooth-tongued, flattering, soothing, pleasant; of uncertain origin.

blandish *v.* About 1340, earlier *blaundishing*, verbal noun (about 1300); borrowed from Old French *blandiss-*, stem of *blandir*, from Latin *blandīrī* flatter, from *blandus* smooth-tongued, flattering, BLAND; for suffixal ending see -ISH². —**blandishment** *n.* 1591; probably formed from English *blandish* + -ment, or borrowed from Middle French *blandissement*.

blank *adj.* 1230 *Blanc-heved* (a surname), white, pale, colorless; borrowed from Old French *blanc* white, shining, of West Germanic origin (compare Old High German *blanch* bright, shining, Old English *blanca* white horse), from Proto-Germanic **blank-* shining, pale. The meaning having empty spaces to be filled in is first recorded in 1399. —**n.** Before 1392, in the obsolete sense referring to a small French coin; later, a blank space (about 1570).

blanket *n.* About 1300 *blaunket* white woolen stuff used for clothing, also bed covering (1303); borrowed from Old French *blanchet*, *blanquet*, from *blanc* white, BLANK; for suffix see -ET.

blare *v.* About 1400 *blaren* to cry, bellow, wail; earlier *bleren* (1390). Though probably developed from Old English **blæren*, it is also possible that *bleren* was borrowed from Middle Dutch *blēren* to bleat, cry, bawl, shout, roar; or from Middle Low German *blarren* (Low German *blarren*) and is cognate with Middle High German *blēren* to shout, yell, scream (modern German *plärren* cry, whine, bellow). Whatever the immediate source, the word is probably of imitative origin. —**n.** 1809, from the verb.

blarney *n.* 1766, *Lady Blarney* (for *Blarney*), a smooth-talking flatterer in Goldsmith's *The Vicar of Wakefield*, her name being a literary contrivance in allusion to *Blarney Stone*, in a castle near Cork, Ireland.

blasé *adj.* 1819, borrowed from French *blasé*, past participle of *blaser* exhaust with pleasure, satiate.

blaspheme *v.* 1340 *blasfemen*, in *Ayenbite of Inwyt*, borrowed from Old French *blasfemer*, learned borrowing from Late Latin *blasphemāre*, from Greek *blasphēmēin* to speak profanely (*blas-* probably with the meaning "false" + *phēmē* speech, related to *phānai* speak). —**blasphemy** *n.* Probably before 1200, borrowed from Old French *blasfemie*, *blasphemie*, learned borrowing from Late Latin *blasphēmia*, from Greek *blasphēmīa* profane speech, slander, formed beside the verb *phēmēin*; for suffix see -Y³. —**blasphemous** *adj.* Before 1415 *blasfemouse*, borrowed from Medieval Latin *blasphemus*, from Late Latin *blasphēmus*, or perhaps immediately through Middle French *blasphemeus* from Medieval Latin; for suffix see -OUS.

blast *n.* Probably before 1200, the call of a trumpet; developed from Old English *blæst* strong gust of wind (about 725); cognate with Old High German *blāst* blast, gust of wind, *blāsan* to blow (modern German *blasen*), Old Icelandic *blāstr* blast, *blāsa* to blow, and Gothic *-blēsan* blow (in compounds). —**v.** to blow. Probably before 1300, developed from Old English *blæstan*, perhaps from the noun. —**blastoff** *n.*, **blast off** *v.* (1951).

blatant *adj.* 1596 *blatant*, *blattant*, used in the phrase "blatant beast" or "blattant beast" in Spenser's *Faerie Queene*, apparently his invention to describe a monster representing slander with a thousand tongues.

Some suggest a connection with Latin *blatire* to babble, or compare English *blatter* to chatter (recorded before 1555), borrowed from Latin *blaterare* to babble.

blather *v.* 1524 *blether* (in Scottish use); borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *bladhra* to chatter, babble). —**n.** foolish talk. 1787 *blether*, noun use of *blether*, *v.*

blaze¹ *n.* bright flame. Probably before 1200 *blase*, developed from Old English *blæse* torch (before 893), from Proto-Germanic **blasōn*. The word is cognate with Middle High German *blas* torch, candle, fire. —**v.** Probably before 1200 *blasen*, from the noun.

blaze² *n.* white mark on face of an animal. 1639; later, mark made on a tree by cutting off bark (1662, American English); of uncertain origin. The word may have been borrowed in a north English dialect from Old Icelandic *blest* white mark on the forehead of an animal, and later came into general use. Another possibility is that *blaze*² was borrowed from Middle High German *blasse* white spot on the forehead of an animal, related to Middle Low German *blesse*, *bles* (modern German *Blässe*, *Blesse*) and cognate with Old Icelandic *blesi*, Gothic *bala-* pale (horse), and Middle High German *blas* BALD. —**v.** 1750, American English, to mark a tree or trail; from the noun.

blaze³ *v.* About 1380, to blow (as a musical instrument); borrowed probably from Middle Dutch *blāsen* to blow; cognate with Old Icelandic *blāsa* to blow, Old High German *blāsan* (modern German *blasen*), related to Old English *blāwan* to BLOW², and *blāst* BLAST. The current sense of proclaim is also associated with *blaze*¹, *v.* and *blazon*, *v.* as if to expose to the blaze of publicity.

blazer *n.* 1880, formed from English *blaze*¹, *v.* (from the red color of the original jackets worn by a boating club of Cambridge University) + -ER.

blazon *n.* 1278 *blazoun* shield (especially with a crest); borrowed from Old French *blason* shield, of uncertain origin. —**v.** Before 1420, enscribe with a crest, from the noun, probably influenced by English *blaze*³ in obsolete sense of describe heraldically. The meaning of proclaim, boast appeared between 1513 and 1577.

bleach *v.* Probably before 1200 *blechen*, developed from Old English *blæcan* to bleach (before 899), from *blāc* pale, shining; cognate with Old High German *bleih* pale, shining (modern German *bleich* pale), and Old Icelandic *bleikr* pale. Old English *blæcan* is cognate with Old High German *blīhhan* (modern German *bleichen*) and Old Icelandic *bleikja* to bleach. For an explanation of the spelling see CH. —**n.** Before 1425, probably as a noun use of earlier and now obsolete adjective. —**bleachers** *n.pl.* 1889, American English; so called from the bleaching of the benches (called *bleaching boards*, 1888) by the sun.

bleak *adj.* About 1300 *bleike* pale; borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *bleikr* pale); see BLEACH. The extended sense of bare, windswept appeared in 1538, and the figurative sense of cheerless, dreary appeared before 1719.

blear *v.* Probably before 1325 *bleren* have watery eyes, of uncertain origin (but compare Middle High German *blerre*

having blurred vision). The Middle English compound *bleareighed* blear-eyed (about 1378) corresponds in form and meaning to Low German *bleer-oged*. The adjective *blear* arose probably before 1387, and *bleary* in 1495. The word *blear* is perhaps related to *BLUR*.

bleat *v.* Before 1300 *bleten*, developed from Old English (before 800) *blætan*; cognate with Old High German *blāzan* to bleat and modern Dutch *blaten*. —**n.** 1590, from the verb. The earlier noun use *blet* (1382) refers to a ewe.

bleed *v.* Old English (about 900) *blēdan*; cognate with Old Frisian *blēda*, Old High German *bluotēn* (modern German *bluten*), and Old Icelandic *blēdha*, from Proto-Germanic **blōðjanan*; related to Old English *blōd* BLOOD. The sense of feel pity or sympathy for is first recorded in 1377.

blemish *v.* About 1380 *blemishen*; earlier *blemis* (probably before 1350); borrowed from Old French *blemiss-*, stem of *blemir*, from earlier *blesmir* make pale, harm, probably from Frankish; for suffixal see -ISH². —**n.** 1526, from the verb.

blench *v.* Probably before 1200 *blenchen* move suddenly, wince, dodge; developed from Old English (before 1000) *blencan* deceive; cognate with Old Icelandic *blekka* to cheat, from Proto-Germanic **blankjanan*. For an explanation of the spelling see CH.

blend *v.* Before 1325 *blenden*, developed from Old English *blondan* to mix (a form in Mercian corresponding to West Saxon **blandan*) and a Scandinavian form (compare Old Icelandic *blanda* to mix); cognate with Old High German *blantan* to mix and Gothic *blandan*. —**n.** 1883, from the verb.

bless *v.* Probably about 1225 *blesen*, developed from Old English *blēdsian* (an early form, preserved in Northumbrian about 950), and also found in various other forms, such as *blēdsian* (before 830 from Proto-Germanic **blōdisōjanan*), *blētsian* (about 725), *blesian* (about 1000); all meaning to make holy or sacred by some sacrificial rite, originally, to mark with blood and hence related to *blōd* BLOOD.

The sense development was probably influenced by the use of this verb in versions of the English language Bible to translate Latin *benedicere* to bless, literally, speak well of, resulting in such meanings as to praise or extol, as in *bless God* and to speak well of or wish well to, as in *bless them for their kindness*. —**blessed** *adj.* Probably before 1200, adjective use of *blessed*, past tense of *bless*, *v.* —**blessing** *n.* 1123, developed from Old English *blēdsung* (before 830), later *blētsunge* and *bletsunga* (1070).

blight *n.* 1611, plant disease; a word of uncertain origin, apparently first used by farmers and gardeners; perhaps ultimately related to Old English *blāc* pale, shining (from the appearance of blighted plants). The sense of anything that withers, destroys, or mars, is first recorded before 1661. —**v.** 1695, from the noun.

blimp *n.* 1916, of uncertain origin; possibly from (British) Type *B-limp*, limp dirigible, without a rigid internal structure, as opposed to the Type *A-rigid* with a rigid framework.

blind *adj.* Old English *blind* (about 725); cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *blind*, Old High German and Middle Dutch *blind* blind (modern German and Dutch *blind*), Old Icelandic *blindr* (modern Swedish, Danish, and Norwegian *blind*), Gothic *blinds* blind, from Proto-Germanic **blindaz*. —**n.** About 1200, from the adjective. —**v.** Middle English *blinden* (about 1225); gradually, probably by influence of *blind*, *adj.*, replacing earlier *blenden* (before 1200, developed from Old English *blendan*). Middle English *blinden* is cognate with Old Frisian *blindia*, modern Dutch *verblinden*, Danish *forblinde*, Gothic *gabljindjan*.

blindfold *v.* 1526, alteration (influenced by *fold*¹ wrap) of earlier *blindfeld*, *blindfelled* (1483), past participle of *blindfellen* to strike blind, to blindfold (probably before 1200), developed from Old English (about 1000) *geblindfellan* (*blind* + *gefeollan* to strike down, *FELL*¹; an Anglian form corresponding to West Saxon *gefyllan*). —**n.** 1880, from the verb.

blink *v.* 1590, borrowed from Middle Dutch *blinken* to glitter, of uncertain origin. —**n.** 1594, from the verb.

blip *n.* 1945, perhaps from earlier meaning a quick popping sound, sudden blow (1894, in writings of Mark Twain). —**v.** 1924. Both the noun and verb are of uncertain origin, perhaps imitative of a sound.

bliss *n.* Old English *blis* (about 725), alteration of *blīths* (a form not recorded earlier but associated with *blithe*; compare archaisms *bliths* (900's), and *blithsian*, *v.* (before 899)). The Old English is cognate with Old Saxon *blīdsea*, *blīzza* bliss; derived from the root of *BLITHE*.

blister *n.* Before 1325 *blester*, *blister*, borrowed from Old French *blestre* a boil, lump, from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *blāstr* a blowing, dative *blāstri* swelling, from *blāsa* to blow); or possibly the Old French is derived from a West Germanic source (compare Old High German *blāst* blowing, from *blāsan* to blow *BLAST*). —**v.** Probably before 1425, from the noun, influenced by Middle French verb.

blithe *adj.* About 1175, joyful, gentle, and by 1200, bright, beautiful, found in Old English *blithe* joyous, kind (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old High German *blīdi* joyous, bright, Old Saxon *blīdhi*, Middle Dutch *blide* (modern Dutch *blijde*), Old Icelandic *blīdhr* cheerful, bright, and Gothic *bleiths* kind, merciful, from Proto-Germanic **blīthiz*.

blitz *n., v.* Probably before 1940 (noun), 1939 (verb); borrowing of German *Blitz* lightning, and originally short for German *Blitzkrieg* (before 1939) rapid warfare (*Blitz* lightning + *Krieg* war).

blizzard *n.* 1859, American English, possibly from dialectal *blizz* violent rainstorm (1770) + *-ard*. The origin of *blizz* is uncertain. In the sense of a violent blow *blizzard* is recorded in American English in 1829.

bloat *v.* Probably a fusion of two words: 1) *bloat* (1611) to half-cure herring (leaving them soft), from earlier *blote*, *adj.* (as in *blote herring*, before 1586), developed from Middle English *blot*, *blout* soft, pliable (about 1300); borrowed from a Scandinavian

source (compare Old Icelandic *blautr* soft, Old Swedish *blöter*); and 2) *bloat* (1677) to inflate, from earlier *blowt*, adj. puffed up (1603), also developed from Middle English *blot*, *blout* in form, but with meaning developed from Middle English *blouen* to blow (probably about 1175) and later to inflate (about 1380), developed from Old English *blāwan* BLOW² puff.

blob *n.* 1725, a drop or globule; earlier, pimple or spot (1597), and bubble (1536); from the verb. —**v.** 1429, make or mark with blobs. Some relation may exist between *blob* and *bubble* in the meaning “blister,” through such forms as Middle English *blober* a bubble (about 1438), bubbling (1296).

bloc *n.* 1903, borrowed from French *bloc* group, block, from Old French *bloc* piece of wood; see BLOCK.

block *n.* 1 solid piece. 1390; earlier, in the compound *block-bord* (1323) and in the derivative form *Blocker* as an Anglo-French surname (1212); borrowed from Old French *bloc* piece of wood, from Middle Dutch *blok*. Alternatively, it may be that Old French *bloc* is borrowed from Old High German *bloh* block, cognate with Middle Dutch *blok*, both cognate with Middle Low German *block* (sometimes cited as the source of English *block*), Swedish *block*, and Danish *blok*. The meaning of group of buildings, as in a city block, is first recorded in 1796. 2 an obstruction. 1649, earlier in the literal sense of a lump of wood, stone, etc. that obstructs the way (before 1500); developed from noun use of English *block*, *v.* —**v.** 1 form into blocks. 1585, developed from verb use of *block*, *n.* (def. 1). 2 to obstruct. 1580, borrowed from French *bloquer* block, stop up, from Old French *bloc* block, barrier. —**blockade** *n.* 1693 (but probably used before 1680, when the verb appeared), from *block*, *v.* + *-ade*; perhaps formed by influence of French *blocus* blockade, from Middle Dutch *blochhus* blockhouse.

blond or **blonde** *adj.* 1481, borrowed from Old French *blonde*, *blont*, *adj.*, from Medieval Latin *blindus*, probably from Frankish (compare Middle High German *blunde*, *blunt*). —**n.** 1822, noun use of *blonde*, *adj.*; earlier, *blond*, referring to a type of silk lace (about 1755).

blood *n.* About 1150 *blod*, developed from Old English *blōd* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *blōd*, Dutch *bloed*, Old High German *bluot* (modern German *Blut*), Old Icelandic *blōðh*, and Gothic *blōth*, from Proto-Germanic **blōðan*.

Old English *blōd* would normally change in Middle English to a pronunciation that rhymes with *food*, but in the early 1500's the vowel was shortened to rhyme with *good* and later with *flood*. —**bloody** *adj.* Probably before 1200 *blōdi*, developed from Old English *blōdig* (about 725), from *blōd* blood; for suffix see -Y¹.

bloom *n.* Probably about 1200 *blom*, *blome*; borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *blóm* blossom, *blómi* prosperity).

The word does not appear in Old English, which had *blōstma*, *blōstm* flower, blossom, but has cognates in other Germanic languages including late Old Frisian *blōem*, *blam*, Middle Dutch *bloeme* (modern Dutch *bloem*), Old Saxon

blōmo, Old High German *bluomo*, *bluoma* flower, blossom (modern German *Blume*), and Gothic *blōma*, from Proto-Germanic **blōmōn*. The word is further related to the technical sense *blow* to blossom or flower, found in Old English *blōwan* to flower, from which we retain such common collocations as *full blown* meaning fully developed. —**v.** Probably about 1200 *blomen* to flower, blossom, from *blome*, *n.*, influenced by and perhaps in part borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *blōmandi* blooming).

bloomers *n. pl.* 1895, earlier *bloomer* (1889), American English, from *Bloomer* (1851) a woman's garment of loose trousers gathered at the ankles and worn under a short skirt (after Amelia J. Bloomer, 1818–1894, who promoted this garment as an equivalent to male attire; but introduced earlier by E.S. Miller).

blooper *n.* 1937, American English, a fly ball not caught by a fielder and considered a fielding error; 1926, radio receiver that emits a signal interfering with nearby sets. Either use providing for the extended sense of a blunder or howler (1940's).

blossom *n.* Probably before 1200 *blosme*, *blostm*, developed from Old English (probably about 725) *blōstm*, *blōstma*; cognate with Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *bloesem* blossom, Middle Low German *blōsem*, *blossem*, and Old High German *bluomo*, *bluoma* blossom, *bluoen* to bloom; all apparently derived from the same base as English BLOOM. —**v.** About 1378 *blosmen*, developed from Old English (about 900) *blōstmian*, from *blōstm*, *blōstma*, *n.*, blossom.

blot *n.* 1373 *blot* spot; 1375, disgrace, blemish, of uncertain origin (compare Old Icelandic *bletr* blot, stain, spot of ground, though phonetic relationship is wanting; also compare Old French *blotre*, *blostre* a boil, lump, variant of *blestre* a boil; see BLISTER). —**v.** Before 1420 *blotten*, from the noun. —**blotter** *n.* 1591. The meaning in American English of an arrest record in a police blotter (1887) is derived from the meaning of a day book (1678).

blotch *v.* 1604 *blotched* marked with spots, of uncertain origin, perhaps a blend of *blot* and *botch* (1530, to spoil). —**n.** 1669, probably from the verb. —**blotchy** *adj.* 1824, formed from English *blotch* + *-y*¹.

blouse *n.* 1828, a workman's short tunic or smock; borrowing of French *blouse* (1788), of uncertain origin; compare Provençal (*lano*) *blouso* short (wool).

blow¹ *n.* stroke. Before 1500: 1) *blow* a blow with the fist, in East Midland dialect, and 2) *blaw* a blast of wind, in Northern dialect (before 1460). The word is in part developed from Middle English *blouen* to blow a current of air, and in part borrowed from Middle Dutch *blouwen*, *blauwen* to beat; cognate with Old High German *bluiwan* (modern German *bleuen*) beat.

blow² *v.* puff. Before 1250 *blouwen*, earlier *blawen* (1127); developed from Old English (probably about 725) *blāwan* to produce a current of air, sound a wind instrument. The word is cognate with Old High German *blāen* to blow, (from Proto-

Germanic **blā-anan*), and Middle High German *bloewen* (modern German *blähen*) to blow, swell. —**n.** 1660, from the verb. —**blower** **n.** Before 1131, a horn blower; later, a blowing device (before 1398).

blubber **n.** Probably about 1380 *bluber* bubble, foam, and perhaps earlier in *Blobermere*, a surname (1296), with some reference to bubbling water or foaming waves, from which a derivation of imitative origin is perhaps justified. The sense of whale fat or fish oil is first recorded in 1467. —**v.** Probably about 1380 *blubren* to bubble, probably from the noun. The figurative meaning of to weep copiously is first recorded about 1400.

bludgeon **n.** 1730; of unknown origin. —**v.** 1868, verb use of *bludgeon*, **n.** The sense of to bully or threaten is first recorded in 1888.

blue **adj.**, **n.** Probably before 1300 *bleu*, taking the place of Old English *blāw*. Middle English *bleu* was borrowed from Old French *blo*, *bleu*, from Frankish (compare Old High Germanic *blāo* blue, modern German *blau*; cognate with Old Frisian *blaw* blue, Middle Dutch *blaeww*, and Old Icelandic *blā* livid, where the meaning survives in English *black and blue*, and *blår* blue; all developing from Proto-Germanic **blāwaz*). The spelling *blue* developed largely by influence of French in the 1700's, though it is occasionally seen as early as 1220 in the form *blu* and 1366 in the form *blue*. —**blues** **n.** 1905 (but known in jazz circles about 1895, perhaps by influence of earlier *blue-devil* to make despondent, 1817), from earlier *blues* low spirits, despondency (1741), from the adjective *blue* low-spirited, depressed, dejected (about 1385), as in the phrase *to look blue*, originally, to look livid or leaden-colored from anxiety, depression, etc. (about 1600).

bluegrass **n.** 1958, traditional country music, in allusion to the *Bluegrass* Boys, a country-music band of 1940's and 1950's, after the *Bluegrass* State (Kentucky, where *bluegrass*, a kind of grass with a bluish-green stem, is widely grown, though it did not originate there).

blue jeans or **bluejeans** **n. pl.** 1901, American English; from earlier a twilled cotton cloth dyed blue (1843); see **JEANS**.

bluff¹ **n.** cliff. 1687, American English, from the adjective. —**adj.** 1627; origin uncertain (but compare obsolete Dutch *blaf* broad, flat, a connection with English favored by the nautical use in Captain John Smith's *Seaman's Glossary*).

The figurative meaning of good-naturedly blunt is first recorded in 1808.

bluff² **v.** deceive. 1839, American English, perhaps developed from earlier English *bluff* to blindfold (1674); probably borrowed from Dutch *bluffen* to make a trick at cards; but possibly borrowed from Low German *bluffen*, *bluffen* to frighten by menacing conduct. —**n.** 1873, from the phrase *the game of bluff* (1859) in figurative reference to *bluff* the game of poker (1845).

blunder **v.** Before 1378 *blondren* act blindly or irrationally; borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *blunda* to shut the eyes, Norwegian and Swedish *blundra* act blindly; related to Old English *blind* BLIND); for suffix see

—**ER**⁴. The meaning of to make a stupid mistake is first found in 1711. —**n.** Probably about 1390, confusion, bewilderment, trouble; from the verb. The meaning of stupid mistake is first recorded in 1706.

blunt **adj.** Probably about 1200, dull, obtuse, later meaning dull-edged, not sharp, in the surname *Blundspure* (about 1285); probably borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *blunda* shut the eyes, doze, *blundr* dozing, related to *blindr* BLIND). —**v.** Before 1398, from the adjective.

blur **n.** 1548, a smear, stain; origin uncertain; commonly considered to be a possible variant of BLEAR. —**v.** 1581, in the phrase *blur out* erase or darken by a smear, from the noun. The meaning of to make dim or indistinct appeared in 1611.

blurb **n.** 1914, American English, possibly coined in 1907 by Gelett Burgess, 1866–1951, American humorist, to satirize excessive praise found on book jackets.

blurt **v.** 1573, apparently imitative of a discharge of breath with the *bl-* element of *blow* or *blast* combined with another element of *spurt*, *squirt*, and the like.

blush **v.** Probably about 1350 *blissen*, *blishen* to glance, look, stare; later, *blussen*, (about 1405), and *blisshen* (before 1450). These Middle English forms apparently developed from: 1) Old English **blyscan* (found in compound *āblyscan* blush); cognate with Middle Dutch *blōzen* (modern Dutch *blozen*) blush, and Middle Low German *blosen*, *bloschen*; and from: 2) Old English *blyscan* (earlier **bluskejan*) become red, glow, also cognate with Middle Low German *blōsen* blush. —**n.** 1593, a reddening of the face; earlier, a rosy color or glow (1590), and a glance, glimpse (probably about 1350, now obsolete except in the phrase *at first blush*); from the verb. —**blusher** **n.** 1665, one who blushes; later, a cosmetic to give the cheeks a rosy color (1965).

bluster **v.** 1463, to blow violently; earlier, to speak or shout noisily or threateningly (about 1400), and to stray blindly, wander blunderingly (before 1376); borrowed probably from Middle Low German *blüstern* blow violently; related to Old Icelandic *blāsa* to blow; see **BLAST**. —**n.** 1583, noisy blowing; from the verb. —**blusterer** **n.** 1597, formed from English *bluster* + *-er*¹.

boa **n.** Before 1398, borrowed from Latin *boa* type of serpent (mentioned in Pliny's *Natural History*); of unknown origin.

boar **n.** About 1209 *Bor* as a surname, and before 1250 *bor*; earlier *bar* (1150); developed from Old English (about 700) *bār*; cognate with Old Saxon and Old High German *bēr* boar (modern dialectal German *Bär*), Middle Dutch and Dutch *beer* male pig, and Langobardic (the West Germanic language of the Lombards) *-pair* boar, from Proto-Germanic **bairaz*.

board **n.** 1228 *bord* board, plank; earlier, table, shield, side of a ship (probably before 1200); found in Old English *bord* board, plank (about 1000); earlier *bord* table, shield, side of a ship (about 725); cognate with Old Saxon *bord* table, shield, Old High German *bort* side of a ship, rim, border, Middle High German *bort* board, plank, table, Old Icelandic *bordh* board,

plank, table, side of a ship, rim, and Gothic *baúrd* (in compound *fōtubaúrd* footstool), from Proto-Germanic **burdan*. The development of *bord* was reinforced in Middle English by the presence of Anglo-French *bord*; Old French *bort* border, side of a ship, table, from Germanic. The shift in spelling to modern *board* came about in the 1500's. —**v.** Before 1475 *borden* to come up alongside a ship, and *borden* board up (probably 1440); verb use of *bord*, n.; also evidenced by the past participle *bordid* a bedstead (1387). —**boarder** n. 1201, in a surname *Border* signifying a feudal tenant, earlier *bordario* (1130); borrowed from Old French *bordier*.

boast n. 1265 *bost* arrogance, bragging, ostentation; possibly borrowed through Anglo-French *bost* boasting, ostentation, from a Scandinavian source (compare Norwegian *baus* proud; cognate with Old High German *bōsi* wicked, bad, modern German *böse*). —**v.** About 1350 *bosten* to show off, brag; probably from the noun. —**boaster** n. About 1280, probably formed from *bost*, v. (though as of 1280 unrecorded) + *-er*¹.

boat n. About 1200 *bote*; earlier *bat* (probably before 1200); developed from Old English *bāt* (about 725, in *Beowulf*). The West Germanic languages have no corresponding form, but it is supposed that a Proto-Germanic form **baita-* is probably preserved in Old Icelandic *beit* and Old English *bāt* and was adopted in Middle Low German *bōt* (modern German *Boot*) and Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *boot*.

Some form of *bot*, *bote* must have existed before the first recorded date, because the word is seen in the surname *Botere* (boater, boatman) by 1168. —**v.** 1613, developed from the noun.

boatswain n. 1304 *botswayn*, found in late Old English *bātsweigen* (*bāt* boat + **swegen*, probably borrowed from Old Icelandic *sveinn* boy; see SWAIN).

bob¹ v. move up and down. About 1390 *bobben*; perhaps the same word as earlier Middle English *bobben* to strike or beat (probably before 1325), in expressing short jerking or rebounding motion of striking. —**n.** About 1550, from the verb.

bob² n. short hair. 1688, a knot of hair; earlier *bobbe* cluster, as of leaves or flowers (probably about 1390); of uncertain origin; perhaps from Celtic (compare Irish *babán* bobbin, Gaelic *bab* tassel, cluster). —**v.** 1822, American English, verb use of *bob*², n.

bobbin n. 1530, borrowed from Middle French *bobine*, *babine* small instrument used in sewing or tapestry making, from Old French *balbiner*, probably an alteration of *baubier*, *balbeier*, *baboier* to stutter, stammer (the name of the instrument being due, perhaps, to the rattling noise it made), from *baube*, adj. stuttering, stammering, from Latin *balbus*; see BABBLE.

bobby n. 1844, as a nickname *Bobby* in allusion to Sir Robert Peel, who as Home Secretary in 1829 organized the Metropolitan Police Force of London (originally called *peelers*, after *Peel*, replacing the earlier *Charlies* or watchmen).

bobolink n. Before 1801, American English, alteration of earlier *bob-o-Lincoln* (1774), probably a fanciful rendering of the call of the bird.

bode v. Before 1200 *boden* to be an omen; developed from Old English *bodian* announce, foretell (about 725), from *boda* messenger; cognate with Old Frisian *boda*, Old Saxon *bodo*, Old High German *boto* (modern German *Bote*), and Old Icelandic *bodhi*, all meaning a messenger, from Proto-Germanic **budōn*.

bodice n. 1566 *bodies*, plural of *body* tight-fitting part of a garment covering the trunk of the body (originally in a pair of *bodies* analogous to a pair of stays). The spelling changed to *bodice* in the late 1600's, though the word was treated as a plural (like *pence* and *dice*) until the late 1800's; meanwhile the spelling pronunciation (bod' is) became established.

body n. Before 1200 *bodi*, developed from Old English *bodig*, with substitution of *-ig* for *-ag*, *-æg* in earlier *bodæi*, *bodeg* (about 700); cognate with Old High German *botah*, potach, botch body, Middle High German *botech*, *botich*.

Some sources observe an apparent discrepancy between the final consonants of Old English *bodig* and Old High German *botah*, but for the High German development of the final consonant, compare Old High German *balg*, *palc*, *balch* bag, cognate with Old English *belg*, *bylg* bag. —**bodily** adj., adv. About 1300, formed from Middle English *bodi* + *-ly*¹².

Boer n. 1824 *Boor*, 1834 *Boer* South African of Dutch descent; earlier, *Boor* Dutch and German peasant (1581) and countryman, peasant (1551). Both forms are related to Middle Dutch *boer* farmer, but the South African use is derived from modern Dutch *boer* farmer, from Middle Dutch *boer*, earlier *geboer*, cognate with Old English *gebūr* dweller, farmer, peasant, and *būr* dwelling; see BOWER.

bog n. Before 1450 *bog*, earlier *Bogge* (1327, as a surname); borrowed from Irish and Gaelic *bog-* (in *bogach* marsh), from *bog* soft, from Old Irish *bog*, *boc*. —**v.** 1603, especially in the passive to be *bogged* to be mired; from the noun. —**boggy** adj. 1586, formed from English *bog*, n. + *-y*¹.

bogey n. 1 goblin. 1836 *Bogey* the Devil, as in *old Bogey* the Devil; see BOGY goblin. 2a a system of scoring in golf equal to par. About 1892, said to be a description of the system, thought of as an imaginary adversary, that is as a "real bogey man," from a popular song of the day entitled "The Bogey Man." b in American golf (after 1918), *bogie* one stroke over par, probably from the idea of losing holes to Bogey (par) in playing.

boggle v. 1598, to startle, scare, alarm, probably related to BOGY as a variant of Scottish *bogill* goblin, bugbear; or perhaps a variant of *bogle* a ghost, specter (at which horses were reputed to shy). The meaning of overwhelm (as in *boggle the mind*) is an extended use of the original sense.

bogus adj. 1838, American English, adjective use of earlier *Bogus* a machine for making counterfeit money (1827), and probably of *bogus* counterfeit money made on a Bogus (first recorded 1839, but probably used earlier). The origin of *bogus* as a noun has been traced to *tantrabobus* and *tantarabobus* a name for the devil or bogie, and to a variant *trantrabogus*.

bogy n. 1857, goblin, bugbear; earlier, 1836, *Bogey*, as in *old Bogey* the Devil. The word is of uncertain origin, though connections have been proposed with *bogle* a phantom, goblin

common in Scottish (first recorded about 1505) as *bogill*, perhaps ultimately from *bogge*, variant of *bugge* terror, BUGBEAR; and possibly related to Welsh *bug* (obsolete) ghost, goblin, *bugwl* fear.

bohemian *n.* 1848 possibly influenced by or even a borrowing of the same meaning that existed in French *bohémien* (1559). The name of the country (Middle English *Beeme*, *Boeme* 1449) is a borrowing from Middle French *Boheme*; the sense of a native of Bohemia was recorded in English before 1398 as a gloss of Latin *Boiohaemum*, from *Boii* a people of ancient Gaul who settled in Bohemia.

boil¹ *v.* bubble up. About 1300 *boillen*, borrowed from Old French *boillir*, *bolir*, *boullir*, *buillir*, from Latin *bullire* to bubble, seethe, from *bullā* a bubble. —**n.** Probably about 1425, from the verb. —**boiler** *n.* 1305 *Boylltur* surname of a cook; borrowed from Old French *boillir*. The meaning of a container in which to boil is recorded in 1725.

boil² *n.* swelling. 1529, alteration (perhaps influenced by *boil*¹ in the sense “inflammation” found in Middle English *boillinge*) of earlier *bile* a festering sore (about 1300); developed from Old English *byl*, *byle* (about 1000); cognate with Old High German *bulla* lump, swelling (modern German *Beule*), Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *bule* (modern Dutch *buil*), Icelandic *beyla* hump, Swedish *bula*, Danish *bule*, *bugle* swelling, from Proto-Germanic **būlja-*.

boisterous *adj.* About 1400 *boistreous* rough in manner, variant of earlier *boistous* crude, awkward, rough, brutal (probably before 1300); of uncertain origin; possibly borrowed from Old French *boistos*, *boisteus* limping, rough, clumsy; alternatively from Anglo-French *boistous* rough *boistousement* roughly, noisily, either related to Old French *boitous* noisy, or to Old French *boiteaux* curved. Connections with *boast* are generally rejected by modern sources.

bold *adj.* About 1250, developed from Old English *bald* (about 725, Anglian), and *beald* (before 893, West Saxon); cognate with Old Saxon and Old High German *bald* bold, swift (modern German *bald* quickly, soon), Old Dutch *baldo* confidently, Old Icelandic *ballr* terrible, dangerous, and Gothic *balþaba* boldly, from Proto-Germanic **balþaz*.

bole *n.* Probably about 1300, borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *bolr* bole); cognate with Middle Dutch *bolle* bole, Middle Low German *bolle* plank, from Proto-Germanic **bulás*.

boll *n.* Probably before 1450, earlier a round vessel, such as a bowl or cup (probably before 1200); developed from Old English *bolla* bowl (about 700); cognate with Old Saxon *bollo*, Old Icelandic *bolli*, and probably influenced in meaning by Latin *bullā* bubble, ball; see BOWL¹ dish. —**boll weevil** 1895, American English.

bologna *n.* 1850, variant of *Bologna sausage* (1750); from earlier *Bolognian sausage* (1596).

Bolshevik or **bolshevik** *n.* 1917, borrowed from Russian *bol'shevik* (*ból'she* greater, a comparative form of *bol'shói* great, as

in *Bolshoi Ballet* + *-evik* one that is). The name is in allusion to the radical group within the Russian Socialist Democratic Party which held a temporary majority in 1903, in contrast to the *Mensheviks*, the members of the more moderate wing. The meaning “Communist” developed in 1918 when the *Bolsheviks* became the Communist Party and the extended meaning “extreme radical” appears in the works of William Inge in 1926.

bolster *n.* Old English *bolster* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old High German *bolstar*, *polstar* bolster (modern German *Polster*), Middle Dutch *bolster*, *bulster*, Old Icelandic *bolstr* (Swedish *bolster* bed, Danish *bolster* bed ticking), from Proto-Germanic **bulHstran*. —**v.** 1508, from the noun, but implied in earlier verbal use in *bolstering* (1451) and *bolstered* (about 1460).

bolt¹ *n.* rod for fastening. 1425; earlier, part of a door lock (1396); a length of cloth (1310); a bundle (1266), and the blunt-headed arrow for a crossbow, found in Old English *bolt*, about 950; cognate with Old High German *bolz* (modern German *Bolzen*) short arrow, bolt, Dutch *bout*, Danish *bolt*, Swedish *bult*, from Proto-Germanic **bultás*. The idiom *shoot one's bolt* echoes the saying *A fool's bolt is soon shot*, referring to the arrow of a cross-bow (probably about 1150). —**v.** About 1425, in Scottish use; later, to fasten with a bolt (1580). The earliest meaning of restrain, fetter (1378) is from the noun.

bolt² *v.* sift. Probably about 1200 *bulten*, borrowed from Old French *bulter*, earlier *buleter*, probably from a Germanic source (compare Middle High German *biuteln* to sift, from Old High German *būtil* sack, modern German *Beutel*).

bomb *n.* 1684, explosive projectile filled with gunpowder (earlier *bome*, 1588, as a translation of Spanish *bomba* in a history of China); the current use is borrowed from French *bombe*, from Italian *bomba*, from Latin *bombus* a booming sound, from Greek *bómbos* a deep hollow sound. The meaning “atomic bomb” in *the bomb* is first recorded in 1945. —**v.** to attack with bombs. 1688, from the noun. —**bomber** *n.* 1915, formed from English *bomb*, *v.* + *-er*. —**bombshell** *n.* (1708)

bombard *v.* 1598, to fire a cannon; probably verb use of earlier *bombard*, *n.* 1436, a catapult; borrowed from Old French *bombarde* (1363) a siege weapon, catapult, probably from Latin *bombus* booming sound; see BOMB. A parallel French verb *bombarder* to attack with cannon or catapult, is recorded from 1515. —**bombardment** *n.* 1702, formed from English *bombard*, *v.* + *-ment*.

bombast *n.* 1589, inflated language, either noun use of earlier archaic *bombast*, *v.* to inflate with grandiose language (1573); or figurative use of earlier obsolete noun meaning cotton wadding (1547), a variant of *bombace* (1553); borrowed from Middle and Old French *bombace* cotton, cotton wadding, from Medieval Latin *bambacem*, accusative of *bambax* cotton. The first syllable of French *bombace* was influenced by Latin *bombŷx* silk.

The *t* may have been supplied to earlier *bombace*, *n.* by influence of a past participial *bombast* of obsolete *bombace*, *v.* to

stuff with cotton (1558). —**bombastic** adj. 1704, earlier *bombastical* (1649), formed from English *bombast*, n. + *-ic, -ical*.

bona fide 1542–43, in good faith, and later in adjective use (1788, as in *bona fide purchaser*); borrowed from Latin *bonā fidē*, the ablative form of the noun phrase *bona fidēs* good faith. This Latin noun phrase later came into English as *bona fides* in the original Latin sense of good faith (1845), but was mistakenly analyzed as a plural, because of the *s* in *fides*, and has come to mean guarantees of good faith.

bonanza n. 1844, American English, borrowing of American Spanish *bonanza* a rich lode, from Spanish *bonanza* fair weather at sea, prosperity, from Vulgar Latin **bonacia* (from Latin *bonus* good + *-acia* in *malacia* calm at sea, mistakenly believed to derive from *malus* bad, but actually from Greek *malakia* calm at sea).

bond n. Probably about 1200; earlier variant of *band* (1126), presumably also influenced by *bond*, n. serf, tenant farmer developed from Old English *bōnda* householder, farmer; see BONDAGE. The meaning of binding agreement appeared as early as 1303. —v. Before 1460; from the noun. —**bonded** adj. 1597. —**bondsman** n. 1713, one who gives a bond for another.

bondage n. 1303, borrowed from Anglo-French *bondage* and from Anglo-Latin *bondagium*. The Anglo-Latin word appeared before 1221, possibly a Latinized form of Old French **bondage* or based on Middle English *bond* a serf, tenant farmer, developed from Old English *bōnda* householder, farmer (about 1025); borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic **bōnda*, *bōndi* free-born farmer, householder, landowner; earlier *būandi*, noun use of present participle of *būa* dwell, live).

bone n. Probably before 1200 *bone*, and *bon* (also before 1200) from earlier *ban* (about 1150), developed from Old English (about 700) *bān*; cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *bēn* bone, Old High German *bein* (modern German *Bein* leg; but “bone” in compounds using *-bein*), Old Icelandic *bein* bone, from Proto-Germanic **bainan*. —v. 1494, from the noun (compare *boned*, adj. 1297). —**boneless** adj. Probably about 1200.

bonfire n. 1556, open-air fire; earlier, a fire to burn corpses (1552), and *banefire* a fire to burn bones (before 1415), a compound of *bone* (or its northern dialectal form *bane*) + *fire*. The spelling *bonfire* became more common and the etymological sense was forgotten, as evidenced by Johnson’s derivation from French *bon* good + English *fire*.

bongo n. 1920, borrowed from American Spanish of the West Indies *bongó*, a word of West African (Bantu) origin (compare Lokele, a Bantu language in Zaire, *boungu*, *bongungu*).

bonnet n. 1375 (Scottish) *bonat* brimless hat for men; later, *bonet* brimless hat for men and women (before 1425); borrowed from Old French *bonet* hat, fabric for hats, in the phrase *chapel de bonet* hat or cap of “bonet,” from Medieval Latin *boneta*, *bonetus* material for hats, perhaps from Germanic (compare Middle High German *bonit* bonnet).

bonus n. 1773, borrowed from Latin *bonus*, adj., good, from Old Latin *dvonos*, earlier *dvenos* and related to Latin *bene* well, *bellus* fine.

The use of Latin *bonus*, adj. in place of *bonum*, n., a good thing (intending to refer to a *boon* or gratuity) was perhaps an ignorant or humorous application coined in traders’ parlance of the London Exchange.

boob n. 1909, American English, probably a shortening of *booby*, n. —**booby** n. 1599–1603; of uncertain origin; possibly borrowed from Spanish *bobo* fool, seabird.

boogie-woogie n. 1928 (as a song title), but current among black jazzmen since about 1920; of uncertain origin, perhaps a reduplication of a word from a West African language (compare Hausa *buga*, as an attributive, *bugi* and Mandingo *bugu*, both meaning to beat drums).

book n. Before 1121 *boke*, *bok*, developed from Old English *bōc* writing tablet, written document; collectively, writings, a written work (about 725); cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *bōk*, Old High German *buoh*, Middle High German *buoch* written work, book (modern German *Buch*), Old Icelandic *bōk* (Swedish *bok*), and Gothic *bōka* letter of the alphabet, *bōkōs* (plural) books; Proto-Germanic **bōks*. Traditionally related to Old English *bēc*, *bēce* beech, on the supposition that early inscriptions were made on tablets of beech wood; see BEECH. The modern spelling *book* appeared as early as 1375 for the noun about 1390 for the verb. —v. Probably before 1200 *boken*, *bocken* to record; developed from Old English (966) *bōcian* assign land, etc. by charter, from Old English *bōc*, n.

boom¹ v. make a loud, deep sound. About 1430; earlier *bommen* drink with a gurgling sound (before 1376), of imitative origin (compare German *bummen*, Dutch *bommen*, etc.); see BOMB. —n. Before 1500, from the verb.

boom² n. long pole. 1543 (Scottish) *boun*, borrowed from Dutch *boom* tree, pole, beam, from Middle Dutch. The analogous form in Old English was *bēam* and in modern English is also *beam*, the sense of *boom* in English being borrowed from Dutch to supply meanings for which English *beam* was not used; see BEAM.

boom³ n. a sudden increase. 1879, American English; noun use of earlier *boom*³, v. 1873, to increase suddenly in value, activity, price, etc.; of uncertain origin but traditionally connected with *boom*¹ though more closely connected semantically to a meaning of *boom*², v. to rush with violence, as of a ship under full sail.

boomerang n. 1827, an adoption or modification of a name for this weapon in the language of the aborigines of New South Wales, Australia. The form *wo-mur-rang* was recorded in a glossary of aboriginal words (1798) by an official of the Port Jackson colony.

boon¹ n. Probably about 1350 *bone* benefit; earlier, prayer, request, grant, (probably before 1200); borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *bōn* petition; cognate with Old English *bēn* prayer), from Proto-Germanic **bōniz*.

boon² *adj.* jolly, as in *boon companion*. Probably about 1380 *bone*, *boon* good; borrowed from Old French *bon* (feminine *bone*) good, from Latin *bonus*; see BONUS.

boondocks *n. pl.* 1944, American English, borrowed (through American soldiers' contact in the Philippines during World War II) from Tagalog *bundók* mountain. Since 1965 often altered to **boonies**.

boondoggle *n.* 1935, American English, origin uncertain; said to have been coined about 1925, for the braided lanyard made by boy scouts; however, the braiding of leather scraps was also known among cowboys.

boor *n.* Probably before 1410 *boveer* peasant, countryman; earlier, as a surname in *Buver* (1236) and *Bover* (1268); borrowed from Old French *bovier* herdsman (compare Old French *buf* ox; see BEEF), from Latin *bovis*, genitive of *bōs* cow, ox.

The later forms *bour* (1551) and *boor* (1581) were probably borrowed from Dutch *boer* farmer, peasant; see BOER. The current sense of a rude, ill-bred person appeared in 1598. —**boorish** *adj.* 1562, formed from English *boor*, *n.* + *-ish*.

boost *n., v.* 1815 verb, 1825 noun, American English, of unknown origin. —**booster** *n.* 1890, formed from English *boost*, *v.* + *-er*¹.

boot¹ *n.* large shoe. About 1300 *bote*, borrowed from Old French *bote* (modern French *botte*), corresponding to Provençal, Spanish, and Portuguese *bota*; of uncertain origin. —**v.** 1468, to put boots on; later, in American English, to kick or remove as if by kicking (1877) and to kick out, eject (1880).

boot² *n.* profit; use (an archaism that survives in the phrase *to boot* meaning in addition, besides, which appeared in Old English *bōt* before 1000); cognate with Old Frisian *bōte* compensation, atonement, Old High German *buoz*, *buoza* improvement, remedy, Old Icelandic *bōt* remedy, compensation, and Gothic *bōta* advantage, benefit, good, from Proto-Germanic **bōtō*.

booth *n.* About 1145 in a proper name *Bouthum*; later *Buthum* (about 1150) and *Bothon* (about 1449). The word as a common noun is first recorded about 1200, with the spelling *bothe*; probably borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *būð* dwelling, Old Swedish and Old Danish *bōth* booth, stall). Cognates exist in Middle High German *buode* hut, tent (modern German *Bude* booth, hut), Middle Dutch *boede* booth, from Proto-Germanic **bōthō*, and the word is ultimately related to Old English *būr* dwelling.

bootleg *n.* Before 1889, American English, coined in reference to the practice of smuggling liquor as if in the tall legs of boots. —**v.** 1903, from the noun. —**bootlegger** *n.* (1889)

booty *n.* 1474 *botye*; later *buty* (1491), perhaps developed from earlier *boti*, *adj.* profiting by plunder (probably about 1439) or from *bottyne* booty (about 1450); borrowed from Old French *butin* booty, and directly from Middle Low German *būte*, *buite* exchange, barter, booty; or borrowed from earlier Dutch *buyt*, *buet* booty.

booze *v.* 1768, probably a variant of earlier *bouse* (pronounced *büz*), with the same meaning (probably before 1325); borrowed from Middle Dutch *būsen* drink heavily, related to Middle Low German *būsen* to revel, carouse, drink heavily, both of uncertain origin. —**n.** 1732, from the verb.

borax *n.* 1543 *borax*, an alteration (influenced by Anglo-Latin *borax*) of earlier Middle English *boras* (about 1387); borrowed from Anglo-French *boras*, which itself is a learned borrowing from Anglo-Latin *borax*, Medieval Latin *aurach*, *borac*, *borax*, from Arabic *būraq*.

border *n.* Probably about 1400, variant spelling (by weakening of *-ure* to *-er*) of earlier *bordure* (about 1350); borrowed from Old French *bordēur* seam, edge, border, from *bord*, *bort* side, boundary, from Frankish (compare Old High German *bort*; cognate with Old English *bord* border, side; see BOARD). —**v.** About 1400, put a border on; from the noun.

bore¹ *v.* drill. Before 1200 *boren*, developed from Old English *borian* (about 1000); cognate with Old High German *borōn* to bore (modern German *bohren*), Old Icelandic *bora*, from Proto-Germanic **burōjanan*. —**n.** a hole. Probably before 1300, partly developed from Old English *bor* (before 800); cognate with Old High German *bora* auger, gimlet (modern German *Bohr*), Old Icelandic *borr* (Swedish *borr*, Danish *bor*); probably in part derived from Middle English *boren* to bore, and partly a borrowing from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *bora* a hole). —**borer** *n.* 1318, as a surname *Boriere*; later, a tool for making holes; formed from English *bore*¹, *v.* + *-er*¹.

bore² *v.* make weary by being dull or tiresome. 1768, of unknown origin. —**n.** 1766, a fit of boredom or ennui (suggested as a specifically French malady); later, a tiresome person or thing (1778). Suggestions that the word is a figurative use of BORE¹, cannot be established in fact. —**boredom** *n.* 1852, formed from English *bore*², *n.* + *-dom*.

boreal *adj.* 1450; borrowed perhaps through Italian *boreale* from Latin *boreālis*, from *boreās* the north wind, from Greek *Borēās* north wind; for suffix see *-AL*¹.

boric *adj.* 1869, perhaps borrowed from French *borique* (1818), or formed from *bor(on)*, *n.* + *-ic*, as in *boric acid*, replacing earlier *boracic acid* (1801).

born *adj.* Old English *boren* (and *geboren*) brought forth (about 725), past participle of *geberan*, *beran* to carry, bring forth; see BEAR² carry.

boron *n.* Probably before 1812, formed from English *bor(ax)* + *(carb)on*. The element was first isolated from *boracic acid*.

borough *n.* 1100 *burg*; later *burgh*, in proper name *Goldeburgh*, and probably before 1350 *borough* town, city, dwelling, refuge, stronghold, castle. Old English *burh*, which carried over into Middle English for about 200 years, and *burg*, both meaning city, fortress (recorded about 725 in *Beowulf*) are cognate with Old High German *burg* fortress, citadel (modern German *Burg* castle), Old Saxon *burg*, *burug*, Old Frisian *burch*, *burich*, Old Icelandic *borg* wall, fortress, Gothic *baúrgs* city, from Proto-

Germanic **burgs*; and are related to Old English *beorg* hill, mound; see *BARROW*² mound.

Of the early spellings, Old English *burg* is still evident, as in *Gettysburg*, while *burgh* is established in Scotland (accounting for the American and English pronunciation of *Edinburgh* as if it were "*Edinborough*," though natives say *ed' ɔn brə*), and the dative case of Old English *burg* (*byrig*) resulted in *-buri*, *-bury*, as in *Canterbury*.

borrow *v.* Probably before 1300 *borowen*, and *borwen*; earlier *boruwen* (before 1250); developed from Old English *borgian* (about 950), from *borg* pledge, surety. Old English *borgian* is cognate with Old High German *borgēn* take heed, give surety (German *borgen* borrow, lend), Old Frisian *borga* borrow, Old Icelandic *borga* guarantee, from Proto-Germanic **burg-*. —**borrower** *n.* Before 1415, English *borrow*, *v.* + *-er*¹.

bosh *n.* nonsense. 1834, as the Turkish word *bosh* empty, worthless, introduced into English in the novel *Ayesha* by J.J. Morier (1780–1849), British novelist and diplomat who traveled in Asia Minor and wrote popular romances with settings there. —**interj.** 1852, in Dickens' *Bleak House*, from *bosh*, *n.*

bosom *n.* breast. Probably before 1200 *bosum*, developed from Old English *bōsm* (about 725); cognate with Old Frisian *bōsm*, Old Saxon *bōsom*, Old High German *buosam* breast (modern German *Busen*), from West Germanic **bōsm-*. —**adj.** 1590, from the noun.

boss¹ *n.* employer. Before 1649 *base*, 1653 *basse*, American English, borrowed from Dutch *baas* master; further connections are doubtful (German *Baas*, Swedish, Danish, and Norwegian *bas* are all borrowed from Dutch). The modern spelling was thoroughly established in English by the beginning of the 1800's. —*v.* 1856, from the noun. —**bossy** *adj.* 1882, formed from English *boss*¹, *n.* + *-y*¹.

boss² *n.* raised ornament. Before 1325 *boce* swelling; later, a raised ornament (1382); borrowed through Anglo-Latin *boci* and Anglo-French *bose*, *busse*, from Old French *boce*, *boche* hump, either from Frankish **botja* swelling caused by a blow, or from Vulgar Latin **bottia*, represented by Old Provençal *bossa* swelling, ball, Italian *bozza*, *boccia*, and Romanian *bot* ball, but of uncertain origin. —*v.* Probably before 1400 *bocen*, *bosen* stand out, borrowed from Old French *bocier*, from *boce* hump.

botanical *adj.* 1658, variant of earlier *botanic* (1656); borrowed from French *botanique*, from Greek *botanikós* of herbs, from *botanē* plant; for suffix see *-ICAL*. —**botanist** *n.* Before 1682, borrowed from French *botaniste*; for suffix see *-IST*. —**botany** *n.* 1696, formed from *botanic*, *botanical*, on the analogy of *history*, *historic*, *historical*, etc.

botch *v.* Before 1382, to mend or patch; later, to spoil by unskillful work (1530); of uncertain origin. —*n.* 1605, a botched part; from the verb.

both *adj.*, *adv.* 1124 *bathe*; later, about 1225 *bothe*; probably developed from Old English **bā thā* both those (compare *bā the*, replacing *bū tū* or *bā twā* both two, in early manuscripts).

The word is cognate with Old Saxon *bēthie*, *bēthe* both, Old High German *beide*, *bēde* (modern German *beide*), Old Icelandic *báðhir*, and Gothic *bai thai* both those.

The Scandinavian word represented by Old Icelandic *báðhir* affected the native expression and helped to fix its form to the extent that Middle English *bathe*, *bothe* are a blend of the Old English and Scandinavian forms.

bother *v.* 1718, bewilder with noise, confuse; of uncertain origin. Earliest use is by Irish writers: Sheridan, Swift, Sterne, suggesting Irish origin (compare Irish *bodar* deaf, confused, annoyed, with *d* pronounced as *th* in *withier*, Gaelic *bodhar* deaf, *bodhair* to deafen, with *dh* pronounced like the Irish *d*, and Old Irish *bodar* deaf, cognate with Cornish *bodhar*, Welsh *byddar*, and Breton *bouzar*). The meaning pester, annoy appeared before 1745. —*n.* 1834; from the verb, earlier, possibly meaning nonsense, meaningless chatter (1803); from the verb. —**bothersome** *adj.* (1834)

bottle *n.* About 1380 *botel*; earlier in compound *botelmaker* (1346), also related to *boteler* one who serves wine, and as early as 1171 *butiller* bottlemaker. Middle English *botel* was borrowed from Old French *bouteille*, *bouteille* wine vessel, from Medieval Latin *butticula*, diminutive of Late Latin *buttis* cask, *BUTT*⁴ barrel. —*v.* 1622, to store up as if in a bottle; later, to put in bottles (1641).

The spelling with two *t*'s appears in the late 1400's.

bottom *n.* 1294–95 *butme*; earlier, in place names referring to a valley floor or land along a stream *bothem*, in *Keldebothem* (1153) and *botme*, in *Botmeshil* (1190); developed from Old English *botm* lowest part, bottom (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *bodem* bottom, Old Saxon *bodam*, Old High German *bodam* (modern German *Boden*), Old Icelandic *botn*, from Proto-Germanic **buthm-*, *buthn-*. The spelling with *-tt-* is found in *bottom* as early as 1399. —**adj.** 1561, developed from attributive use of noun, 1175. —*v.* 1544, from the noun (implied in the verbal noun *bottoming*, 1526).

botulism *n.* 1887, Anglicizing of earlier *botulismus* (1878), borrowed from German *Botulismus*, from Latin *botulus* sausage (because the disease was associated with eating tainted sausages); for suffix see *-ISM*.

The root form of *botulism* was already familiar in English language scientific circles in *botuliform* (1861).

boudoir *n.* 1777, as a French term introduced into English; the French, literally meaning a place to sulk in, derives from *bouder* to sulk, pout.

bouffant *adj.* puffed out, as a skirt (1880) or hairdo (1955). 1880, a French term introduced into writing about fashion, from the present participle of *bouffer* to puff or swell out, from Old French *bouffer*.

bough *n.* About 1385 *bough*; earlier *bogh* (1305) and *bowe* (before 1250); developed from Old English *bōg* bough, shoulder (probably about 875) and *boog* (about 700). The Old English is cognate with Old High German *buog* shoulder (modern German *Bug* shoulder joint, ship's bow), Old Icelandic *bōgr* shoulder, ship's bow, from Proto-Germanic **bōgaz*.

bouillon *n.* clear, thin soup. 1725, borrowed from French *bouillir* to boil, from Old French *boillir*; see BOIL¹ bubble.

boulder *n.* 1421 *bulder*, shortened from earlier *bulderston* (about 1300); borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Swedish *buldersten* large stone in a stream causing the water to make noise, a compound of *bultra* roar, rumble + *sten* stone).

boulevard *n.* 1769, a French term introduced into English in correspondence of Walpole; originally the French meant the passageway along a rampart, from Middle Low German *bolwerk* or Middle Dutch *bolwerk* BULWARK.

bounce *v.* Probably before 1225 *buncin* to beat, thump; later, *bonchen* (before 1376); extended to various actions producing a noise, especially to the action of moving with a sudden bound (1519, in which sense the use was probably influenced by *bound*² leap); perhaps ultimately of an imitative origin, like Dutch *bonzen* to thump, *bons* a thump. —*n.* 1523, a leap, from the verb.

bound¹ *adj.* fastened. Before 1449 *bound*, earlier *bounde* (probably before 1300), shortened from *bounden*, past participle of BIND.

bound² *v.* leap, spring. 1586, borrowed from Middle French *bondir* to rebound, spring, from Old French *bondir* make a resounding noise, from Vulgar Latin **bombiūre*, from Late Latin *bombitāre*, a frequentative form of Latin *bombire* to buzz, from *bombus* a buzzing sound. —*n.* Before 1553, borrowed from Middle French *bond* leap, from *bondir* to leap.

bound³ *n.* Usually, **bounds**. boundary, limit. About 1380; earlier *bounde* boundary marker (probably before 1300); borrowed through Anglo-Latin *bunda*, probably from Old French (compare *bonde*, *bodne*, variant forms of Old French *borne*, *bone*), perhaps from Gaulish. The word is also related to Middle English *bourne* a boundary stone (probably before 1200), also borrowed from Old French (compare Old French *bodne*, *bourne* boundary stone). —*v.* 1391, from the noun, or perhaps borrowed from Old French (compare *bodner* to bound). —**boundary** *n.* 1626, formed from English *bound*³, *n.* + *-ary*.

bound⁴ *adj.* ready or intending to go. Before 1400 *bounde*; earlier *bun* (probably about 1200); borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *búinn*, past participle of *búa* dwell, live, get ready, and Old Danish *bøen*, Old Swedish *boin*).

bounden *adj.* Before 1325 *bunden*, past participle of *bind*; see BOUND¹.

bounteous *adj.* 1542, alteration, on analogy of *bounty*, of earlier *bountevous* (about 1385); borrowed from Middle French *bonitif*, *bontive*, from *bonté* goodness, gift; see BOUNTY; for suffix see -OUS.

bounty *n.* Before 1325 *bounte*; earlier *bunte* (about 1275), also meaning goodness; borrowed through Anglo-French *bunté*, Old French *bonté* goodness, bounty, gift, from Latin *bonitatem*

(nominative *bonitās*), from *bonus* good; see BONUS; for suffix see -TY². —**bountiful** *adj.* 1508, formed from English *bounty* + *-ful*.

bouquet *n.* 1716–18, as a French word introduced in correspondence of Lady Mary Montagu, from Middle French *bouquet* thicket, from Old French *boschet*, *boschet*, *bosket*, originally diminutives of Old French *bois* forest or Medieval Latin *boscus*, from Frankish (compare Old High German *bosc*, *busc* BUSH¹ shrub).

bourgeois *adj.* 1564–65, borrowed from Middle French *bourgeois*, from Old French *borjois*, *burgeois* citizen of a town or village, from *borc* town, village, from Latin *burgus* fortress, castle, influenced by Germanic (compare Old High German *burg* fortress); see BOROUGH. —*n.* Before 1562, from the adjective. —**bourgeoisie** *n.* middle class. 1707, borrowed from French *bourgeoisie* the French middle class, from *bourgeois*.

bout *n.* 1575, a spell of any kind of work or other activity; probably a variant of obsolete *bowt* a bend or curve, loop (1468), *bought* (probably before 1400), developed perhaps from Old English **buht*, (from Proto-Germanic **buhta-*) variant of *byht* a bend; see BIGHT.

bovine *adj.* 1817, borrowed from French *bovin*, *bovine*, learned borrowing from Late Latin *bovinus*, from Latin *bōs* (genitive *bovis*) ox, COW¹.

bow¹ *v.* bend. Before 1325 *bowen*, earlier *bowen* (1300), *buwen*, *buhen* (1250); developed from Old English *būgan* to bend (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old High German *biogan* to bend (modern German *biegen*), Old Icelandic *baginn* bent, *bjūgr* bent, bowed, Gothic *biugan* to bend. —*n.* Before 1656, from the verb.

bow² *n.* weapon. Probably before 1200 *bowe*; developed from Old English *boga* bend (only in compounds, such as *elmboga* elbow, and *rēnboga* rainbow); also a weapon, bow (about 725, in *flanboga* arrow bow), and something curved, arch, vault (about 700). Old English *boga* is cognate with Old High German *bogo* and Old Icelandic *bogi* a bow, from Proto-Germanic **buzōn*.

The sense of “a looped knot” is not found in English before 1671.

bow³ *n.* prow. 1342, in the name of a ship *Swetebowe*, later 1409–11 *bowe*; perhaps borrowed from a Low German or Scandinavian source (compare Middle Dutch *boech*, modern Dutch *boeg*, Low German *būg*, and Old Icelandic *bōgr*, all meaning bow of a ship and shoulder of an animal).

bowdlerize *v.* 1836, formed from *Bowdler* (English editor, 1754–1825, of an expurgated edition of Shakespeare published in 1818) + *-ize*.

bowel *n.* **bowels**. Probably before 1300, borrowed from Old French *bōel*, *boueile*, from Medieval Latin *botellus* intestine, from Latin *botellus*, diminutive form of *botulus* sausage (borrowed from Oscan-Umbrian).

bower *n.* Probably before 1400; earlier *boure* small room

(before 1325), *bure* dwelling, bedroom (probably before 1200), and *bur-* (1121, in compounds: *burthenas* chamberlain); all developed from Old English *būr* dwelling (about 725, in *Beowulf*) thereby related to *neighbor*, also related to Old English *būan* dwell. Old English *būr* is cognate with Old High German *būr* dwelling (modern German *Bauer* cage, also *-beuren* in place names: *Benediktbeuren* dwellings of the Benedictines), Old Icelandic *būr* chamber, storeroom, from Proto-Germanic **būra-*. The spelling *bower* began to appear after 1350.

bowie knife 1836, American English, in allusion to Jim Bowie, American pioneer.

bowl¹ *n.* dish. 1471 *bowle*; earlier, about 1150 *bolle*; developed from Old English (about 700) *bolla*; cognate with Old Frisian *bolla* (in compounds), Old Icelandic *bolli* bowl (Danish *bolle* bowl), Old High German *bolla* blister, bowl, bud (modern German *Bolle* bulb, onion), from Proto-Germanic **bullōn*.

Middle English *bolle* is still evident in modern English *boll* a round seed pod, but the shift in spelling of *-owl* for *-oll*, that reflects an early modern English change in pronunciation and the confusion with *bowl*² has created the modern spelling.

bowl² *n.* wooden ball. Probably before 1400 *boule*, borrowed from Middle French *boule*, from Gallo-Romance *bulla* ball, from Latin *bulla* bubble. The name of the game is *bowls* (1495). —*v.* 1440, either verb use of *bowl*², *n.*, or borrowed from Middle French *bouler* to bowl, from *boule* bowl. —**bowling** *n.* About 1500, from *gerund* of *bowl*², *v.*

bowsprit *n.* 1296 *bousprete*, probably borrowed from Middle Low German *böchsprēt* (*böch* bow + *sprēt* pole).

box¹ *n.* container. About 1150, a jar; but found in Old English *box* (before 1000); probably borrowed from Late Latin *buxis* box, corresponding to Latin *pyxis*, from Greek *pyxis* box, as if of the wood of the box tree, from *pyxos* BOX³ tree. —*v.* About 1450, from the noun.

box² *n.* blow. Probably about 1300; of unknown origin (often compared with Middle Dutch *bōke*, Middle High German *buc*, and Danish *bask* all meaning blow; another supposition is based on possible figurative use of *box*¹, *n.*). —*v.* 1390 *boxen* to beat an animal; later, to strike with the fist, beat, thrash (1519); from the noun. The sense of fight with the fists appeared in 1567 but is implied earlier in *boxer*. —**boxer** *n.* 1472, a person who engages in the sport of boxing, formed from English *box*², *v.* + *-er*¹. —**boxing** *n.* 1711, the sport of fighting with the fists (popularized in the early 1700's by the English athlete James Figg).

box³ *n.* evergreen tree. Old English *box* (before 800), borrowed from Latin *buxus*, from Greek *pyxos* box tree, of unknown origin.

boy *n.* Probably before 1300 *boye* male child; earlier, servant (about 1225) and *boi*, *boie* (1154); of uncertain origin: 1) compare Frisian *boi* boy, young man, though not easily connected with Middle Low German *bove* boy, knave; cognate with Middle Dutch *boef* boy (modern Dutch "knave"), Middle High German *buobe* boy (modern dialectal German *Bube*). The relation of Old English *Bōia*, *Bōfa*, *Bōba* a masculine

personal name, to any of these forms or to the Middle English forms is obscure. 2) the variety of vowels in the Middle English forms (*boi*, *bey*, *beye*, *bay*, *bye*) suggests by form and meaning (servant) that the word is possibly a borrowing of Old French *buié* (*embuié*), *boié* (*emboié*) fettered, shackled, past participial forms of *embuiier*, from *buie* shackle, from Latin *boia* leg iron, yoke.

boycott *v.* 1880, in allusion to Captain Charles Boycott, 1832–1897, English land agent over Irish tenant farmers, who refused to lower rents and was subjected to an organized campaign by local people who refused to have any dealings with him. Widely instituted towards others, the term was quickly adopted by newspapers in many European and non-European languages: French *boycott*, *boycotter*, German *Boykott*, *boykotieren*, Russian *boikót*, *boikotirovat*, Spanish *boicoteo*, *boicotear*, Polish *bojkot*, *bojkotować*, Croatian *bojkotirati*, Japanese *boikotto*. —*n.* 1880, from the verb.

boysenberry *n.* 1935, American English, in allusion to Rudolph Boysen (American horticulturist who developed it in California) + *berry*.

brace *n.* 1313–14, a fastening; later, armor covering the arms (1333); borrowed from Old French *brace* the two arms, from Latin *brachia*, *brachia*, plural forms of *brachium* arm, from Greek *brachion* upper arm, from *brachys* short (as being shorter than the forearm). The meaning of a support is first recorded in 1348. —*v.* Probably about 1350, borrowed from Old French *bracier* embrace, gird tightly, from *brace* the two arms. —**bracing** *n.* (1461); *adj.* (1750)

bracelet *n.* 1437, borrowed from Middle French diminutive form of Old French *bracel* bracelet, from Latin *brachiale*, from *brachium* arm, see *BRACE*, *n.*; for suffix see *-LET*.

bracken *n.* Probably before 1300 *brakan*, apparently borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Swedish *bräken* fern, Danish *bregne* and, by alteration, Icelandic *burkeni*; also English *BRAKE*³ *bracken*).

bracket *n.* 1627, alteration of earlier *bragget* (1580); borrowed probably from Middle French *braguet* codpiece (because of the resemblance to the architectural bracket), diminutive form of *brague* breeches, from Provençal *braga*, from Latin *brāca*, from Gaulish, which had borrowed it from Germanic (compare Old English *brōc* garment for the legs and trunk); see *BREECHES*. Also possibly influenced by Spanish *braguet* meaning "codpiece" and "bracket," from Spanish *bragas* breeches.

The meaning of marks to set off written matter appeared in 1750. —*v.* 1823, implied in *bracketing*; later 1861, from verb use of *bracket*, *n.*

brackish *adj.* 1538, formed from earlier English *brack* (1513, probably borrowed from Dutch *brak* brackish, possibly the same as Middle Dutch *brak* worthless) + *-ish*¹.

bract *n.* 1770, borrowed from New Latin *bractea*, variant spelling of Latin *brattea* thin plate or leaf of metal, gold leaf; of uncertain origin.

brad *n.* 1455 (in *bradsmyth* maker of nails or goads), variant of

brod (1295); earlier, a sprout or shoot (probably about 1200); borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *broddr* spike, shaft; cognate with Old English *brōd* spike, point, spire, Old High German *brōt* edge, margin, apparently from Proto-Germanic **brozda-*).

brag *n.*, *v.* 1387 (noun); 1378 (verb); both perhaps developed from *brag*, *adj.*, *adv.*, boastful, boastfully (about 1325), of unknown origin. — **bragger** *n.* Before 1376, probably formed from *braggen*, *v.* + *-er*¹.

braggadocio *n.* 1590 *Braggadocchio*, a name coined by Spenser for a character personifying boastfulness in *The Faerie Queene* (from *brag* + *-occio* the Italian suffix showing increased importance or size, probably reformed by Spenser as *-ochio*).

braggart *n.* Before 1577, borrowed from Middle French *bragard*, from *braguer* to brag, show off clothes, especially breeches, from *brague* breeches, see BRACKET; for suffix see -ARD (*-art* variant).

Though related to *brag* in meaning, *braggart* and its French sources *bragard* and *braguer* are not related as underlying forms of English *brag* because *braguer* appears in French almost 300 years after English *brag*.

Brahmin *n.* 1859, in allusion to *Brahman* (1481) the name for a member of the highest of priestly Hindu caste; borrowed from Sanskrit *brāhmaṇa-s*, from *brahmān-* sacrifice-priest.

braid *v.* Probably before 1200 *breiden* move quickly; later, to plait, braid (about 1200), the forms *breide*, present tense, and *braide*, past tense, being merged about 1300; both developed from a form *breyden* of Old English *bregdan* move quickly, draw (a sword, etc.), twist in and out, intertwine (about 725, in *Beowulf*). The Old English is cognate with Old Saxon *bregdan*, Old High German *brettan* draw (a sword etc.), Old Icelandic *bregða* move quickly, draw (a weapon), braid, from Proto-Germanic **bregðanan*. — **n.** Probably before 1200 *brede* a deceptive act; later, *breide* (before 1250) and, a quick movement (about 1300). Some meanings developed from *breiden*, *v.*; others developed from Old English *brægd* craft, fraud, cognate with Old Icelandic *bragd* deed, trick.

Braille or **braille** *n.* 1853, in allusion to Louis Braille, 1809–1852, a blind French musician and teacher of the blind who developed this system of writing and printing for the blind and published it in 1829.

brain *n.* Probably before 1200; developed from Old English (about 1000) *brægen*; cognate with Old Frisian *brein* brain, Middle Low German *bregen* brain (dialectal German *Brägen*), from Proto-Germanic **braznan*. — **v.** dash one's brains out. Before 1382, from the noun. — **brainwashing** *n.* 1950, American English, possibly a loan translation of Chinese *xī wash* + *nao* brain.

braise *v.* 1797, borrowed from French *braiser*, from *braise* hot charcoal, from Old French *brese* embers (source of Middle English *brase* embers, found in *in brase*, before 1399, in an early cookbook); of uncertain origin (but compare Swedish *brasa* stake, fire; ultimately perhaps from West Germanic **brasa*). Compare BRAZE² solder.

brake¹ *n.* 1772–82, device to stop motion, possibly an extended sense of a bridle or curb (1552); borrowed probably from Middle Low German or Middle Dutch *brake* nose ring to control draft animals, and a toothed machine for breaking up flax into fibers (a meaning also known in Middle English about 1450); related to Middle Dutch *breken* to break, cognate with Old English *brecan* to BREAK. Alternatively, *brake* may be an application of earlier *brake* a lever or handle for working a device, such as a crossbow (about 1380), or a pump (1626); borrowed from Old French *brac*, a form of *bras* arm from Latin *brachium*; see BRACE. — **v.** 1868, from the noun.

brake² *n.* thicket. About 1440, in compound *ferne-brake* a fern thicket; later, a clump or thicket of ferns (probably about 1450); borrowed from Middle Low German *brake*, related to *breken* to break (cognate with Old English *brecan* to BREAK) and originally meaning tree stumps or broken branches.

brake³ *n.* bracken. Before 1325, probably a variant of *bracken*, which may have been taken (dialectally) as a plural, shortened to *brake* (as *chick*, from *chicken* plural).

bramble *n.* About 1390 *brambel*; earlier *brembel* (before 1325), and in place names *Brambeley* (about 1128); developed from Old English (about 1000) *bræmbel*, variant of *brēmel*, from *brōm* BROOM; for suffix see -LE¹.

The pattern of development follows that of *thimble*, *mumble* and dialectal *chimby* for *chimney*.

bran *n.* Before 1325; borrowed from Old French *bran*, *bren*, from a Gaulish word (probably surviving in Vulgar Latin **brennus*; also compare Breton *brenn*, but not recorded in other Celtic languages).

branch *n.* About 1300 *braunche*, borrowed from Old French *braunche*, *branche*, from Late Latin *branca* paw of an animal, from a Gaulish word of unknown origin. — **v.** Before 1375, from the noun.

brand *n.* Before 1325, northern Middle English *brand*; earlier, *brond* (probably before 1200, not replaced by *brand* until the 1500's); found in Old English *brond*, *brand* piece of burning wood, firebrand, blade of a sword, in allusion to its glint (about 725, in *Beowulf*). The Old English is cognate with Old Frisian *brand*, Old High German *brant* brand, sword (modern German *Brand*), and Old Icelandic *brandr* (Swedish, Danish *brand*), from Proto-Germanic **brandaz*, earlier **brandás*, Gothic *brinnan* burn (*bran* in past tense).

The meaning of a sign or mark of ownership, made by burning with a hot iron (appeared in 1552), evolved into trademark (1827), and to a particular sort or class of goods, indicated by a trademark (1854). — **v.** 1422, to set on fire; from the noun. — **brandy** *n.* 1657, shortened from earlier *brand-wine*, *brandy-wine* (1622); borrowed from Dutch *brandewijn* burnt (i.e., distilled) wine.

brandish *v.* About 1340 *braundishen*, borrowed from Old French *brandiss-*, stem of *brandir*, from *brand*, *brant* sword, from Frankish (compare Old High German *brant* sword); see BRAND; for suffix see -ISH².

brand-new *adj.* About 1570, formed from English *brand* + *new*, apparently as if fresh from the fire.

brash *adj.* 1824, perhaps connected with the older *brash* fragile, brittle (used to describe timber as early as 1566), possibly in association with *break* and *rash* or *crash*; alternatively, the association may be with earlier *brash* an attack or assault (1573), a Scottish use (compare Gaelic *bras* hasty, impetuous).

brass *n.* Probably about 1200 *brass*, developed from Old English *bræs*, originally meaning an alloy of copper and tin, now called "bronze" (about 1000); of uncertain origin (probably cognate with Old Frisian *bras*, in compound *bras-penning* copper penny, and Middle Low German *bras* metal). —**brassy** *adj.* 1576, forward in manner; later, strident (1865); formed from English *brass*, *n.* + *-y*¹.

brat *n.* About 1505, also in dialects of northern, midlands, and western England meaning an apron, woman's or child's pinafore, a rag, perhaps a special use of Middle English *brat* coarse garment (about 1395); developed from Old English *bratt* cloak, covering (about 950); probably borrowed from a Celtic source (compare Old Irish *bratt* cloak, cloth, Welsh *brethyn* cloth, Breton *broz* petticoat).

bravado *n.* 1583, also *bravade* (1579); borrowed from French *bravade* bragging, boasting, though *bravado* is assumed to be borrowed from Spanish *bravada*, *bravata*; both were borrowed from Italian *bravata* bragging, boasting, from *bravare* brag, boast, be defiant, from *bravo* BRAVE.

brave *adj.* 1485, borrowed from Middle French *brave* splendid, valiant, from Italian *bravo* fine, splendid, bold, and from Spanish *bravo* wild, savage, possibly from Latin *barbarus* foreign; or possibly through Medieval Latin *bravus* cutthroat, daring villain, from Latin *prāvus* crooked, depraved (since derivation from Latin *barbarus* is phonetically unlikely). —**v.** 1546, borrowed from Middle French *braver* to brave, affront, defy, from *brave*. —**bravery** *n.* 1548, borrowed probably from Middle French *braverie* action of braving, from *braver* to brave.

brawl *v.* About 1378 (implied in *brauling* and *brawler*), of uncertain origin (compare Dutch *brallen* to brag, boast, German dialect *brallen* to shout, roar, perhaps from the same ultimate source). —**n.** Probably 1445 *braule*, from the verb.

brawn *n.* Before 1325, strong muscles, earlier, side of pork (1290); borrowed from Old French *brāon*, *brāoun* fleshy part for roasting, Old Provençal *brazon* fat on the arm, from Frankish **brādo* ham (compare Old High German *brātan* to roast, modern German *braten*, and *brāt*, *brāto* meat without bones or fat, Old English *brædan* to roast, and Old Icelandic *brædha* to melt), from Proto-Germanic **bræd-*. —**brawny** *adj.* Before 1400, formed from *brawn* + *-y*¹.

bray *v.* About 1303, borrowed from Old French *braire* cry out, from Gallo-Romance **bragere* cry, perhaps from a Celtic source cognate with Latin *frangere* to break (compare Middle Irish *braigid* he breaks wind, Gaelic *bragh* explosion). —**n.** Probably before 1300, borrowed from Old French *brait*, from *braire* cry out.

brazel *v.* 1602, harden like brass; earlier, *brasen* to cover with brass or bronze (before 1400); developed from Old English *brasian* (about 1000), probably from *bræs* BRASS, on the analogy of *grass* and *graze*.

brazel *v.* solder with brass. 1581, probably borrowed from Middle French *braser* to solder, from Old French *braser* to burn, possibly from, or at least related to, *brese* embers; see BRAISE.

brazen *adj.* Probably before 1200 *brasen* made of brass; developed from Old English (about 1000) *bræsen* made of brass (*bræs* BRASS + *-en*²). The meaning shameless, bold is a figurative extension (about 1573) of hardened like brass. —**v.** **brazen** (out or through). Before 1555, from the adjective.

brazier *n.* metal container to hold burning coals. 1690, borrowed from French *brasier* a pan of hot coals, from Old French *brasier*, from *brese* embers; see BRAISE.

brazier *n.* person who works with brass. 1307 *brasier*, formed from *bras* + *-ier* (as in *glazier*, *clothier*).

breach *n.* 1237–38 *breche*, earlier in proper name (1208), formed from a fusion of: 1) Old English *brēc* a breaking, breach (about 750, in compound *unbrēc* unbroken, unblemished; cognate with Old High German *brācha*, Middle Low German *brāke*, from Proto-Germanic **brāekō*; related to Old English *bryce* breaking and *brecan* BREAK); and 2) Old French *breche* breach, fracture, from Frankish (compare Old High German *brecha*, *brehha*, related to *brehhan* BREAK). —**v.** 1547, from the noun.

bread *n.* Old English *brēad* bit, piece, morsel (about 950); cognate with Old Frisian *brād*, Old Saxon *brōd*, Old High German *brōt* (modern German *Brot*), Middle Dutch *broot* (modern Dutch *brood*), and Old Icelandic *braudh*, all meaning bread, from Proto-Germanic **braudan*; related to Old English *brēowan* to BREW, apparently by virtue of the fermenting action of yeast in leavening. In Old English this word was rare (though it is found to refer to food in the compound *bēobrēad*, modern *beebread*); the common word was *hlāf*, which survives in modern LOAF. But by about 1200 *bread* had displaced *loaf* as the name for a piece of the substance.

The pronunciation of Middle English *bread* (*brēd*) began to shift in Shakespeare's time until it was fully established as (*bred*) in the middle of the 1700's. —**v.** 1629, to cover with bread crumbs; from the noun.

breadth *n.* Probably before 1425 *breadeth*, alteration of earlier *brede* breadth (probably before 1300); developed from Old English *brēd*, *brædu*, from *brād* BROAD. Old English *brēd*, *brædu* derive from Proto-Germanic **bradījōn*. The final *-th* was probably added on the analogy of earlier *length*.

break *v.* Before 1121 *breken*, developed from Old English *brecan* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *breka*, Old Saxon *brekan*, Old High German *brehhan* to break (modern German *brechen*), Gothic *brikan*. The relationship to BRAKE¹ device, comes probably by way of popular etymology with *break* in a variety of meanings, such as to tame an animal and to apply force suddenly, through the old past tense *brak*. The form

broke began to appear in the 1500's as a replacement for the past tense *brak* by influence of the past participle *broken*.

The original short vowel of the present tense and past participle was lengthened in Middle English. —**n.** 1296–97 *breck*, from Middle English *breken* to break.

breakfast *n.* 1472 *brekefaste*; earlier variant *breffast* (1463), from the earlier verb phrase *breken faste* (before 1393), in reference to *break* and *fast*², in the sense of ending one's fast of the night before. —**v.** 1679, from the noun, and probably influenced by the earlier verb phrase.

breast *n.* 1380 *breest*, earlier *brest* (probably about 1200); developed from Old English *brēost* (about 725); cognate with Old Frisian *briast* breast, Old Saxon *breost*, *briost*, Old Icelandic *brjóst* (from Proto-Germanic **breustan*), and Old High German *brust* (modern German *Brust*), Gothic *brusts* breasts.

In Old English the spelling represented by *eo* normally became *ee* in Middle English (with the sound of *ee* in *feet*); but in this word the sound was shortened in Middle English to *e* (*brest*). —**v.** Probably before 1200 *bresten* to overcome, conquer; developed from Old English *berstan* burst.

breath *n.* Probably before 1200 *breth* (pronounced *brēth*); developed from Old English *bræth* odor, exhalation as of something cooking or burning (before 900). Old English *bræth* (from Proto-Germanic **bræthaz*) is cognate with Old High German *brādam* breath, steam (modern German *Brodem* steam). —**v.** **breathe** About 1300 *brethen*; earlier, *breathen* (probably before 1200), from *breth* breath. The verb retains the original Old English vowel (*ē*) while; the vowel of the noun was gradually shortened to (*e*) probably through the 1500's.

breeches *n.pl.* Probably before 1200, *breches*, a later plural formed from *brech*, *breche* breeches; developed from Old English (before 1000) *brēc*, plural of *brōc* garment for the legs and trunk (before 900); cognate with Old High German *bruoh* and Old Icelandic *brök*, both meaning breeches, from Proto-Germanic *brōkiz*, plural of **brōks*.

breed *v.* Old English *brēdan* bring young to birth, carry (a child), hatch (before 1000) from earlier *brōdan* (before 850), from Proto-Germanic **brōdjanan*; related to *brōd* BROOD. *Breed* and *brood* are related in the same way as *feed*, *food*, and *bleed*, *blood*. —**n.** 1465 (in compound *breedgoose* goose for breeding), from the verb. —**breeder** *n.* 1531, formed from English *breed* + *-er*¹. —**breeder reactor** (1948)

breeze *n.* 1565 *brise* a northeast wind; later applied to the trade winds of the American tropics (1595), and a gentle wind (1626); apparently borrowed from Old Spanish and Portuguese *briza* (now *brisa*) northeast wind; but compare Italian *brezza* cold wind, French *brize* (now *brise*) a breeze, German *Brise*. The slang "something easy to do," appeared in American English about 1928. —**v.** 1907, to move quickly and casually; earlier, to blow gently (1682, implied in participial adjective *breezing*), from *breeze*, *n.* —**breezy** *adj.* 1718, exposed to breezes; later, having a carefree manner (1873); formed from English *breeze*, *n.* + *-y*¹.

brevity *n.* 1509 *brevitie*, borrowed from Middle French *brieveté*

(earlier, *briété*), or directly from Latin *brevitatem*, (nominative *brevitās*), from *brevis* short, see BRIEF; for suffix see *-ity*.

brew *v.* About 1250 *brewen*, developed from Old English *brēowan* (before 900); cognate with Old Frisian *briūwa*, Old Saxon *breuwan*, Middle Low German *brüwen*, Old High German *briuwan* to brew, modern German *brauen*, and Old Icelandic *brugga* to brew. See also BREAD, BROTH. —**n.** About 1510, from the verb. —**brewer** *n.* 1203–04, formed from *brewen* + *-er*¹. —**brewery** *n.* 1166, formed from *brewen* + *-ery*.

bribe *n.* About 1425, something given to a beggar; later, a gift given to influence corruptly (probably before 1439); borrowed from Old French *bribe* morsel of bread given to a beggar, of uncertain origin. —**v.** About 1390, to extort, steal; borrowed from Old French *briber* to go begging, from Old French *bribe*, *n.* The meaning of influence corruptly by giving a gift, is recorded in 1528. —**bribery** *n.* Before 1387, borrowed from Old French *briberie* mendicancy, or perhaps formed from Middle English *briber* a vagabond, strolling vagrant + *-y*³.

bric-a-brac *n.* 1840, borrowing of French *bric-à-brac*, perhaps related to the phrase *à bric et à brac* any old way.

brick *n.* 1416 *bryke*, borrowed from Middle Dutch *bricke* a tile, brick; cognate with Middle Low German *bricke* disk, plate, Old Danish *bricke* wooden plate.

The Middle French *brigue* a form of loaf, from Old French *brique*, *briche* is probably derived from Middle Low German *bricke* or a Frankish word. —**v.** 1648, from the noun. —**bricklayer** *n.* (1443)

bridal *n.* About 1200 *bridale*, developed from late Old English *brýdealo* wedding feast (about 1075, a compound of *brýd* bride + *ealo* ale, because ale was drunk at such feasts).

In the 1500's the spelling adopted final *-al* or *-all*, reflecting the loss of the (*ā*) sound and the sense of "ale." The word then became thought of as *bride* + *-al*² (noun suffix), as in *espousal*, and later as *bride* + *-al*¹ (adjective suffix), as in *nuptial*, which gradually led to adjective use (1748, but earlier as an attributive 1596).

bride *n.* Probably before 1200 *brid*, *brude*, developed from Old English *brýd* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *breid*, Old Saxon *brūd*, Old High German *brūt* bride (modern German *Braut*), Old Icelandic *brúðr* bride, young woman, and Gothic *brūths* daughter-in-law, from Proto-Germanic **brūdiz*. —**bridegroom** *n.* 1526 *bridegrome*, an alteration (influenced by *grome* groom, boy, lad) of earlier *bridegome* (before 1300), and *bridegum* (probably about 1200); developed from Old English *brýdguma* (about 750, a compound of *brýd* bride + *guma* man); see BRIDE, GROOM; cognate with Old Saxon *brūdigumo* bridegroom, Old Frisian *breid-goma*, Old High German *brūtigomo* (modern German *Bräutigam*), and Old Icelandic *brúðgumi*, from Proto-Germanic **brūdigumōn*.

bridge¹ *n.* structure. Before 1114 *brigge*, developed from Old English *brycg* (about 1000); cognate with Old Frisian *bregge*, *brigge*, Old High German *bruca* bridge (modern German *Brücke*), Old Icelandic *bryggja* gangway (from Proto-Germanic

**bruʒjō*. —*v.* 1375 (Scottish) *briggen*, developed from Old English *brycgian* (probably about 750), from *brycg*, *n.*, bridge.

bridge² *n.* card game. Possibly 1843, as an alteration (influenced by *bridge*¹) of *biritch*, a word of unknown origin. The word *biritch* appeared in a pamphlet "Biritch, or Russian whist" (London, 1886), in which *biritch* was a call of "no trumps."

bridle *n.* About 1175, found in Old English *brīdel* (before 900), earlier *brīdels* (about 750), and *brīdels*, (probably about 700); related to *bregdan* move quickly; for suffix see -LE¹; also found in other West Germanic languages; compare Old Frisian *brīdel*, Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *breidel*, Old High German and Middle High German *brittel*, from Proto-Germanic **bregdīlaz*. —*v.* Probably before 1200, developed from Old English (*ge*)*brīdlian* (before 900); probably from Old English *brīdel* bridle, *n.*

brief *adj.* Probably before 1300 *bref*, borrowed through Old French *bref*, *brief*, and directly from Latin *brevis* short. —*n.* Before 1338 *bref* a letter, borrowed through Old French *bref*, *brief*, and directly from Late Latin *breve* (genitive *brevis*) letter, summary, originally in *breve scriptum* short written note, from Latin *breve* (neuter of *brevis* short). This word passed from the official Latin used in European countries into all the Germanic languages, except perhaps Old English, where it entered only later into Middle English. —*v.* 1837, put (information) in the form of a lawyer's brief; later, to give information (1866); from the noun.

brier¹ or **briar**¹ *n.* thorny bush. Probably before 1200 *brer*, developed from Old English (about 1000) *brær* (West Saxon), *brēr* (Anglian), of unknown origin.

brier² or **briar**² *n.* heath used in making pipes. 1868, borrowed from French *bruyère* (dialectal *brière*) heath plant, from Old French *bruyere*, from Gallo-Romance **brūcāria*, from **brūcus* heather, from Gaulish (compare Breton *brug* heath, and Welsh *brug* a thicket).

brig *n.* 1720, short for *brigantine*; later, a ship with two masts. The sense of a place of detention (1852) is possibly from such ships originally used as prison ships.

brigade *n.* 1637, borrowing of French *brigade* (since 1300's), from Italian *brigata* company, crew, from *brigare* to brawl, fight, from *briga* strife; possibly of Germanic origin. —**brigadier** *n.* 1678, probably borrowing of French *brigadier*, from *brigade*.

brigand *n.* Probably before 1400 *bregaund*, earlier, *brigant* (probably before 1387); borrowed from Old French *brigand* (originally) foot-soldier, from Italian *brigante* trooper, skirmisher, from *brigare*.

brigantine *n.* 1553 (probably influenced by later French spelling *brigantin*), but earlier *brigandyn* (1525); borrowed from Middle French *brigandin*, from Italian *brigantino* perhaps meaning skirmishing vessel, a pirate ship, from *brigante* skirmisher, pirate, brigand, from *brigare* fight; BRIGADE; for suffix see -INE¹.

bright *adj.* Before 1325 *bright*; earlier *briht* (probably before 1200), developed from Old English *bryht* (about 1000), by metathesis of *r* in an altered form *beorht* (before 900) and *berht* (before 830); earlier in names *Erconberht* (before 800) and *Erconberct* (about 737). The Old English is cognate with Old Saxon *berht*, *beraht*, Old High German *beraht* bright, Middle High German *berht* (surviving in the altered form of modern German proper names *Albrecht*, etc.), Old Icelandic *bjartr* Gothic *bairhts*, from Proto-Germanic **berhtaz*. —*adv.* Before 1385 bright; earlier *brighte*; developed from Old English *beorhte* (about 725, in *Beowulf*). —**brighten** *v.* Before 1450 *bryghten*; earlier *brihten* (probably before 1200); possibly developed from Old English *gebrehntian* to shine (about 950), and Anglian *gebrihtan* to make bright.

brilliant *adj.* 1681, borrowed from French *brillant* shining, present participle of *briller* to shine, from Italian *brillare* to glitter, probably from obsolete *brillo* brilliant, imitation diamond, from *berillo* beryl, from Latin *beryllus* BERYL. —**brilliance** *n.* 1755, formed from English *brilliant* + *-ance*.

brim *n.* Probably before 1200 *brimme* edge of the sea, coast; of uncertain origin, but related to Middle High German *brēm* and Old Icelandic *brimr*, both meaning edge (and the Old Icelandic being itself cognate with German *Berge*, Dutch *berg*, and English *berg*). The form was perhaps influenced by Old English *brim* sea, surf (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Icelandic *brim* sea, surf.

brimstone *n.* About 1250 *brimeston*; earlier, *brynstan* (1125), literally, burn-stone (*brin-*, stem of *brinnen* to BURN + *stan*, *ston* STONE); compare Old Icelandic *brennusteinn*, *brennisteinn*, German *Bernstein*, of similar formation, meaning "amber."

brindled *adj.* 1678, alteration of earlier *brinded* (1589), probably by influence of *kindled*, *mingled*, etc.; *brinded* was an alteration of earlier *brended*, found in Middle English *brend* brown color, horse of this color (about 1426, and in surname *Brendeskyn*, 1262) noun use of past participle of *brennen* to BURN. —**brindle** *adj.* 1676; *n.* 1696, apparently shortening of *brindled*, *adj.*

brine *n.* Before 1325, found in Old English *brīne* (before 1000); cognate with Middle Dutch *brīne* brine. —**briny** *adj.* 1608, formed from English *brine* + *-y*¹.

bring *v.* Old English *bringan* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *bringa*, *brenga* to bring, Old Saxon *bringian*, Old High German *bringan* (modern German *bringen*), Gothic *bringan*, from Proto-Germanic **bringanan*.

brink *n.* Probably about 1225 *brinke* seashore, bank of a stream, borrowed probably from a Scandinavian source (compare Danish *brink* edge, and Old Icelandic *brekka* steep hill, with *-kk-* from *-nk-*, from Proto-Germanic **brenkōn*); cognate with Middle Low German *brink* edge, and Middle Dutch *brinc* (modern Dutch *brink*).

brisk *adj.* 1560; of uncertain origin (perhaps a variant of BRUSQUE, the two words, according to the OED, appearing to have influenced each other in early use).

brisket *n.* 1338 *brusket*; cognate with Middle High German *brüsche* lump, swelling, and Old Icelandic *brjōsk* gristle, related to *brjōst* BREAST; for suffix see -ET.

The Old French *bruschet*, *brichet* is widely attested as early as 1385, and may have been borrowed from English, or more likely from Scandinavian.

bristle *n.* Probably before 1300 *brustel*, *bristel*; developed, with diminutive form -el, from Old English (about 700) *byrst* bristle, by metathesis of *r*. Old English *byrst* is cognate with Old High German *burst* bristle (modern German *Borste*), Old Icelandic *burst* bristle; for suffix see -LE¹. —**v.** 1480 *brustelen*, from the noun.

britches *n.pl.* 1905, originally an old variant of *breeches*, also *briches* (1727) and found in *britch* (1630).

British *adj.* Old English *Brittisc*, *Brettisc*, *Bryttisc* of or relating to the ancient Britons (before 855), developed from *Brittas*, *Brettas*, *Bryttas* natives of ancient Britain, BRITON.

Briton *n.* Before 1387 *Briton*; earlier *Bretoun* (probably before 1300) and *Bruton* (probably before 1200) one of the Celtic people who occupied Britain to the southern part of Scotland before the Anglo-Saxons; borrowed through Anglo-French *Bretun*, *britun*, *bruton*, and Anglo-Latin (plural) *Brittonēs*, from Latin *Brittō* (from the Celtic name of the people).

The forms in Middle English were generally reshaped through the influence of Old English *Brittas* and its variants; see BRITISH. The word acquired its current sense after the union of England and Scotland in 1707.

brittle *adj.* Before 1382 *britil* easily broken, feeble; earlier, *brotil* (probably before 1325); developed through Old English *bryttian* tear to pieces, shatter, from Proto-Germanic **brutilo-*, also the source of Old English *brēotan* to break; cognate with Old High German *brōdi* fragile, and Old Icelandic *brjōta* to break, from Proto-Germanic **breutanan*; for suffix see -LE². The vowel in Middle English *brotil* suggests development from Old English *brēotan* + suffix -le², and that it fused in later Middle English *britil*.

broach *n.* About 1310 *broche* skewer, spit; earlier, an ornament, clasp (probably before 1200, as an older variant of Middle English *brooch*); borrowed from Old French *broche* a spit, awl, from Vulgar Latin **brocca* pointed tool, originally feminine of Latin *broccus* projecting, perhaps of Gaulish origin (compare Gaelic *brog* awl). —**v.** begin to talk about. 1579, figurative use of the earlier verb *brochen* to pierce (about 1380), as in broaching a cask and to spur into action (before 1338); probably from the noun, but influenced by Old French *brochier* to spur.

broad *adj.* Probably before 1200 *brod*, developed from Old English *brād* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); earlier, in compound *brādlastæcus* a broadax (about 700). The Old English is cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *brēd* broad, Middle Dutch *breet*, *breed* (modern Dutch *breed*), Old High German and modern German *breit*, Old Icelandic *breidhr*, and Gothic *braiths*, from Proto-Germanic **braidaz*. —**broaden** *v.* 1726, implied in past participle *broadened*, formed from English *broad*,

adj. + -en¹. —**broadcloth** *n.* (about 1412) —**broadcast** *v.* 1813, formed from English *broad* wide across + *cast*, *v.*, on the basis of earlier *broadcast*, *adj.* (of seeds) scattered (1767), itself formed from *broad*, *adj.* + *cast*, past participle. —**n.** 1796, developed from *broadcast*, *adj.* The meaning (noun and verb) relating to transmission of radio waves is first recorded in 1921.

brocade *n.* 1563–99, borrowed from Spanish *brocado*, from Catalan *brocat*, and possibly reinforced by Middle French *brocat*, corresponding to Italian *broccato* embossed cloth, originally past participle of *broccare* to stud, set with nails, from *brocco* small nail, protruding tooth, sprout, from Latin *broccus* projecting; for suffix see -ADE.

broccoli *n.* 1699, borrowing of Italian *broccoli*, plural of *broccolo* cabbage, sprout, diminutive form of *brocco* sprout, shoot, protruding tooth, from Latin *broccus* projecting.

brochure *n.* 1748, borrowed from French *brochure* a stitched work (because originally these were pages stitched together), from *brocher* to stitch, from Old French *brocher* to prick, from *broche* pointed tool, awl, see BROACH; for suffix see -URE.

brogue¹ *n.* accent. 1705, of uncertain origin. Most sources conjecture a special use of *brogue*² in the sense of speech characteristic of those who call their shoes brogues.

brogue² *n.* shoe. 1586, rough, stout shoe worn by the rural Irish and by Scottish highlanders; borrowed from Irish *bróg* or Gaelic *bròg* shoe, from Old Irish *brōce* shoe.

broil¹ *v.* grill. About 1387–95 *broillen*; earlier *brulen* (about 1350); borrowed from Old French *bruller*, earlier *brusler* to burn, alteration (by influence of Germanic *br-*, as in Old High German *brant* BRAND and *brinnan* to BURN), of Latin *ustulāre* to scorch, from *ustus*, past participle of *ūrere* to burn.

The vowel shift in Middle English from *brulen* to *broillen* is paralleled by *fullen*, *foilen* to foil, borrowed from Old French *fouler* to trample, and by *reculen*, *recoilen* to recoil, borrowed from Old French *reculer*.

broil² *v.* quarrel. 1402, mix up, borrowed through Anglo-French *broiller* mix up, confuse, Old French *broïllier*, from *breu*, *bro* broth, brew, from Frankish (compare Old High German *brod* broth); see BROTH. —**n.** 1525, from the verb.

broker *n.* About 1378 *brokour* commercial agent, middleman; earlier *Brokur* (1260 as surname); borrowed through Anglo-French *abrokeur*, *brocours* retailer of wine, tapster, from Old North French *brokeor*, variant of Old French *brocheor*, from *brochier* to tap, pierce (a keg), from *broche* pointed tool; see BROACH.

bromide *n.* 1836, formed from English *brom(ine)* + -ide. The pair *bromine*/*bromide* parallel *chlorine*/*chloride* (about 1816). The figurative sense of a dull, conventional person or a trite saying was popularized by American humorist Gelett Burgess (1866–1951) in his book *Are You A Bromide?* (1906).

bromine *n.* 1827, formed in English from French *brome* (from Greek *brōmos* stench) + English -ine².

bronchi *n.pl.* of **bronchus**. 1782, New Latin plural of *bronchus*, from Late Latin *bronchus* windpipe, from Greek *brónchos* windpipe, throat. *Bronchi* is parallel with older *bronchia* (1674), borrowed from Late Latin *bronchia* the bronchial tubes. —**bronchial** *adj.* Before 1735, probably formed from English or New Latin *bronchia* + *-al*, also found in New Latin *bronchialis*, from Late Latin *bronchium* branch of the bronchi in the lungs; or possibly borrowed from earlier French *bronchial* (1666). —**bronchitis** *n.* inflammation of bronchial tubes. Before 1814, New Latin, formed from *bronchi*, *bronchia* + *-itis* inflammation.

bronco *n.* Probably 1850, American English, borrowed from American Spanish *bronco*, from Spanish *bronco* rough (applied to wood), rude, and, as a noun meaning a knot in wood, from Vulgar Latin **bruncus* knot, projection, apparently a blend of Latin *brocus* projecting, and *truncus* trunk of a tree.

bronze *n.* Before 1721, work of art done in bronze; borrowing of French *bronze* from Italian *bronzo*, bell metal, brass, of uncertain origin (possibly from Latin *aes Brundisium* copper of Brundisium, ancient seaport in southeastern Italy).

The concept of *bronze* as an alloy of copper and tin was not differentiated in Middle English from *brass* an alloy of copper and zinc, for both alloys were described by Middle English *bras* (1200). This is not surprising, as the ancient alloying was often achieved by mixing in tin, lead, zinc, etc., with copper without distinction. —**v.** make or become like bronze. 1645, borrowed from French *bronzer*, from French *bronze*, *n.*

brooch *n.* Before 1382 *brooch*; earlier *brouche* (before 1333) and *broche* (probably before 1200). This is the same word as *broach* (with specialized meaning).

brood *n.* Before 1387, earlier *brod* (before 1250); developed from Old English *brōd* (about 1000), from Proto-Germanic **brōd-*; cognate with Middle Dutch *broet* (modern Dutch *broed*), Old High German *bruot* heat, warmth, brood (modern German *Brut* brood), appearing in English with formative *-d* from the Proto-Germanic base **brō-* to warm, heat. —**v.** sit on to hatch. 1440, Middle English *brodyn*, from the noun. The figurative meaning of meditate moodily or closely from the idea of nursing (anger) appears in 1571.

brook¹ *n.* stream. Probably before 1200, *brok*, developed from Old English (about 847) *brōc*, originally, a flowing stream; is cognate with Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *broek*, Middle Low German *brōk* and Low German *brook* marsh, Old High German *bruoh* (modern German *Bruch* marsh), from Proto-Germanic **brōka-*.

brook² *v.* tolerate. 1530, earlier *bruken*, *broken* to use, enjoy (probably before 1200); developed from Old English (about 950) *bruccan*; earlier *brūcan* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Saxon *brūkan* to use, Old Frisian *brūka*, Old Icelandic *brūka* (Swedish *bruka* use, be accustomed to), Middle Dutch *brūken* to use, Old High German *brūhhan* (modern German *brauchen*), Gothic *brūkejan* to use, enjoy, from Proto-Germanic **brūk-* to make use of, enjoy.

broom *n.* 1346, *brome* implement for sweeping, originally

made of twigs of a shrub abundant in Britain and also called *broom*, Middle English *brom* (probably about 1125); developed from Old English *brōm* the shrub (about 700). The word is cognate with Old High German *brāmo*, *brāma* bramble (modern German *Brom-*, in the compound *Brombeere* blackberry), Middle Dutch *brāme* (modern Dutch *braam*), and Old Saxon *brāmal-*, in the compound *brāmalbusk* blackberry bush, from Proto-Germanic **brāma-z*. Related to **BRAMBLE**. —**v.** sweep with a broom. 1838, from the noun. —**broomstick** *n.* 1683, concurrent with, but eventually replacing, earlier *broomstaff* (1613).

broth *n.* Old English (before 1000); cognate with Old High German *brod* broth, Old Icelandic *broðr*, from Proto-Germanic **bruthan*, related to Old English *brēowan* to BREW.

brothel *n.* Before 1593, house of prostitution; by confusion of Middle English *bordel* (also *bordel house*), house of prostitution (about 1300), and *brothel's house* wherein *brothel* had the meaning prostitute (1493), earlier, a worthless, abandoned person (1376), from *brothen* ruined, degenerate (probably before 1325); developed from Old English *brothen*, past participle of *brēothan* go to ruin, from Proto-Germanic **breuthanan*, variant of **breutanan* to break.

brother *n.* Before 1121, developed from Old English *brōthor* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *brōther* brother, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *broer*, Old Saxon *brōthar*, Old High German *bruoder* and modern German *Bruder*, Old Icelandic *brōðhir*, and Gothic *brōthar*, from Proto-Germanic **brōthar*.

The special plural *brethren* appeared in early Middle English, before 1200, and became standard until *brothers* replaced it in the 1600's. *Brethren* then acquired the specialized meaning of fellow members of a church, sect, etc. —**brotherhood** *n.* (probably about 1300) —**brother-in-law** *n.* (probably before 1300) —**brotherly** *adj.* (about 1325)

brouhaha *n.* 1890, borrowed from French *brouhaha* (1552), of uncertain origin (compare Hebrew *bārūkḥ habbā'* blessed be the one who comes, used on public occasions; and in Italian dialect *barruccaba* confusion, disorder).

brow *n.* Before 1325 *browes*, *brues* brow, forehead, eyebrows; earlier *brouwes* (about 1300) and *bruwen* (probably before 1200), developed from Old English *brū*, probably originally "eyebrow," but extended at an early date to "eyelash" and then to "eyelid," by association of the hair of the eyebrow with the hair of the eyelid, the eyebrow then becoming Old English *ofer-brūa* over-brows.

The earliest recorded meanings in Middle English (probably before 1200) refer to the eyelid and to movement of the eyebrows or forehead that shows emotion or attitude; but the general word for "eyebrow" in Middle English was *brew*, *browen* (probably before 1200); developed from West Saxon *brēw*; cognate with Old Frisian *brē* in *āg-brē* eyebrow, Old Saxon *brāwa*, *brāha*, Middle Dutch *brauwe*, *brouwe* eyelid, Old High German *brāwa* eyebrow, and Old Icelandic *brā* eyebrow.

Old English *brū*, from the Proto-Germanic base **brū-* is cognate with Old Icelandic *brūn*. —**browbeat** *v.* to bully. 1581, formed from English *brow* + *beat*.

brown *adj.* Probably before 1300 *broun*; earlier *Brunloc* brown-haired (before 1130, in surname); developed from Old English *brūn* (about 700); cognate with Old Frisian *brūn* brown, Middle Dutch *bruun* (modern Dutch *bruin*), Old High German *brūn* (modern German *braun*), Old Icelandic *brūnn* (Swedish *brun*, Danish *brun*), from Proto-Germanic **brūnaz-*. —**n.** About 1300 *browne*, from the adjective. —**v.** Probably before 1300 *brounen*, from the adjective.

The Germanic word was adopted in Medieval Latin as *brunus*, by Italian, Spanish, and Portuguese as *bruno*, and by Provençal and French as *brun*. —**brownstone** *n.* (1836, American English)—**brown sugar** (1704)

brownie *n.* 1513, formed as a diminutive (Scottish) of English *brown*; for suffix see -IE.

browse *v.* 1523, probably borrowed from Middle French *brouster* (modern French *brouster*), from Old French *broster* to sprout, bud, from *brost* sprout, shoot, probably from a Germanic source (compare Middle High German *broz* a bud, Old Saxon *brustian* to sprout).

Loss of final -t in English may be because *broust* was considered the past participle, so that *brouse* (which is recorded) was the infinitive, etc.

The figurative meaning of look through a book casually first appeared in American English in 1870.

bruin *n.* bear. 1481, borrowed from Middle Dutch *Bruin*, *Bruun*, the name of the bear in the fable *Reynard the Fox*, literally meaning "Brown," from *bruun* brown; cognate with Old English *brūn* BROWN.

bruise *v.* Probably before 1200 *brisen*; developed from Old English *brýsan* to crush (appearing before 900), from Proto-Germanic **brūsjanan*. Also in surname *Brusebarre*, (1203), and *bruse*; borrowed through Anglo-French *bruser*, *bruiser*, *briser* to break, smash, from Old French *bruiser*, *brisier*. The two forms (*brise* from English, and *bruse* from French) existed side by side, till the form *bruise* was generally established by the mid-1600's. —**n.** 1541, injury, earlier, a breaking (1441); from the verb.

brunette or **brunet** *n.* 1669, borrowing of French *brunette*, *brunet*, from Old French *brunet*, feminine diminutive of *brun* brown, from Germanic (compare Old High German *brūn* BROWN); for suffix see -ET.

brunt *n.* Probably about 1380 *brunt* a sharp blow; later, main force or violence (probably about 1420); of uncertain origin.

brush¹ *n.* implement. About 1378, borrowed from Old French *brousse*, *brouesse* a brush, usually regarded as derived from Vulgar Latin **bruscia* bunch of new shoots, used to sweep away dust, from Latin *bruscum* excrescence on a maple. —**v.** use a brush (on). Before 1475, from the noun.

brush² *n.* shrubs, etc. Before 1338, borrowed through Anglo-French *bruce* brushwood, bushes, Old North French *broche*, and Old French *brosse*, earlier *broce*, from Gallo-Romance **brocia*, perhaps from **brūcus* heather; see BRIER² heath.

The presence of many forms in English and French and the concurrent Anglo-French *bruce* and Anglo-Latin *brusca*, *bruscia* suggests a confusion of meaning among the various forms and

perhaps points to an artificial separation of the words *brush*¹ and *brush*² in modern English.

brusque *adj.* 1651, borrowing of French *brusque* and abrupt; earlier, tart (1601), from Italian *brusco* coarse, rough, of uncertain origin, but also found in Spanish and Portuguese *brusco* rude, peevish.

brute *adj.* Probably before 1425, borrowing of Middle French *brute*, *brut* coarse, brutal, from Latin *brūtus* heavy, dull, stupid, from an Oscan word probably cognate with Latin *gravis* heavy. —**n.** 1611, lower animal, borrowed from Medieval Latin *brutus*, from Latin *brūtus* dull, stupid. —**brutal** *adj.* About 1450 (Scottish), borrowing of Middle French *brutal*, from Medieval Latin *brutalis*, from *brutus* brute; for suffix see -AL¹. —**brutality** *n.* 1549, formed from English *brutal* + -ity. —**brutalize** *v.* Before 1704, formed from English *brutal* + -ize.

bubble *n., v.* About 1325 *bobel*, *n.*, borrowed from Middle Dutch *bobbel*; about 1440 *bobelen*, *v.*, from the noun or borrowed from Middle Low German *bubbeln* to bubble.

bubonic *adj.* 1871, formed in English from Latin *būbō* swelling of the lymph glands in the groin, genitive *būbōnis*, (from Greek *boubōn* groin, swelling in the groin) + English -ic. The term *bubo* was borrowed in Middle English as early as 1398 but the adjective *bubonic* did not appear until almost 500 years later.

buccal *adj.* 1831, probably borrowing of French *buccal*, from Latin *bucca* cheek, mouth; for suffix see -AL¹. A noun use meaning "mouthpiece" is recorded in English in 1605, but probably did not influence the adjective.

buccaneer *n.* 1661, a French settler employed as a hunter of wild oxen on the Spanish coasts of America; borrowed from French *boucanier* one who dries and smokes meat on a *boucan*, a barbecue, after the manner of the Indians, from an Indian word of the Caribbean area (perhaps Tupi *mocaém*, transcribed as *mukem* in a Portuguese travel account, 1587); for suffix see -EER. By 1690 the word was applied to French and then to British piratical rovers who were driven from their business of hunting wild oxen by the Spanish authorities and turned to plundering goods. In the 1800's it was extended to any pirate or sea rover.

buck¹ *n.* male deer, goat, etc. Before 1375 *bucke* male deer; earlier *bocke* (about 1300), new application of meaning derived from *bucke* male goat (probably before 1200), also found in surname *Buckeshorn* (1184–85); developed from Old English *bucca* male goat (before 830). The often-cited Old English *buc* is a ghost word, or scribal error, and so it is Old English *bucca* (from Proto-Germanic **bukkōn*) that is cognate with Old Saxon *buck* male goat, Middle Dutch *boc*, *buc* (modern Dutch *bok*), Old High German *boc* (modern German *Bock*), Old Icelandic *bukkr*. —**buckskin** *n.* 1306, also found in the surname *Bucskin* (1274–75), formed from *bucke* + *skin*.

buck² *v.* (of horses and mules) jump. 1848, verb use of BUCK¹, originally apparently in the sense of jump like a buck. In 1857 the sense of fight against, resist stubbornly arose as a figurative use, possibly influenced by the earlier meaning of butt, push or

hit with the head (1750). The idiom **buck up** is probably also related; in 1844 it meant to cheer up, encourage.

buck³ n. dollar. 1856, American English, probably development of the sense of a deerskin used as a unit of exchange, especially among Indians and frontiersmen (1748); hence special use of BUCK¹ male deer.

buck⁴ n. pass the buck. 1912, American English, from an earlier meaning in the game of poker, *buck* article put in the jackpot and taken by the winner as a reminder to order another jackpot.

buck⁵ n. sawhorse. 1817, American English, apparently borrowed from Dutch *bok* trestle; see SAWBUCK. —**bucksaw** n. (1856)

buckaroo n. 1889, American English, alteration (influenced by *buck¹*) of earlier *bakhara* (1827), borrowed from Spanish *vaquero* cowboy, from *vaca* cow, from Latin *vacca*. The end of the word (*-aroo*) is a modification of the Spanish *-ero*.

buckboard n. 1839, American English, formed from dialectal English *buck* body of a cart (1691) + *board*.

bucket n. 1248 *buket*, borrowed from Anglo-French *buket* bucket, pail, influenced by Middle English *buc*, *buk* belly, trunk, body (probably before 1200), developed from Old English *būc* vessel, pitcher, belly (about 700); cognate with Old High German *būh* belly (modern German *Bauch*), Old Icelandic *būkr* belly, body, from Proto-Germanic **būkaz*.

buckle n. 1300 *bukel*, also later Middle English *bokel*; borrowed from Old French *bucle*, *bocle*, from Latin *buccula* cheek strap on a helmet, diminutive form of *bucca* cheek. —**v.** About 1386 *bokelen*, from the noun. The sense of bend out of shape appeared about 1525, and may be a separate borrowing from Middle French *boucler* to bulge.

buckler n. Probably before 1300 *bokler*, *bokeler*, borrowed from Old French *bocler*, *bucler*, from *bocle*, *bucle* boss of a shield, BUCKLE.

buckram n. 1222 *bukeram* fine linen or cotton, borrowed from Old French *bouquerant*, and Italian *bucherame*, probably from *Bukhara* (city in central Asia where it was imported from).

bucolic adj. 1613, earlier *bucolical* (1523); borrowed, perhaps by influence of earlier French *bucolique* (1265), from Latin *būcolicus*, from Greek *boukolikós* rustic, from *boukólos* herdsman, from *bōs* COW + *-kólos* tending; for suffix see -IC.

bud n. Before 1398 *budde*, and *bodde* (about 1450); of uncertain origin; but possible cognates exist in Middle Low German *buddech* thick, swollen, Old Saxon *būdil*, Old High German *pūtil*, Middle High German *biutel* bag, sack (modern German *Beutel*). —**v.** Probably about 1408 *budden*; verb use of *budde*, n.

buddy n. 1850, American English, possibly a variant of earlier *butty* companion (1802), itself a possible alteration of *booty* in *booty fellow* a confederate who shares plunder (1530). The short form *bud* appeared in 1851 in American English.

budge v. 1590, borrowed from Middle French *bouger*, *bougier* to stir, from Vulgar Latin **bullicāre* to bubble, boil, from Latin *bullire* to bubble, seethe.

budget n. Probably before 1425 *bougette* small bag, wallet; borrowed from Middle French *bougette*, diminutive form of Old French *bouge* leather bag, from Latin *bulga*, probably from Gaulish (compare Old Irish *bolc*, *bolg* bag); related to BULGE and BELLY. The sense of estimate of money appeared in 1733. —**v.** 1618, from the noun.

buff¹ n. dull-yellow leather. 1580 *buffe* leather, earlier, *buffalo* (1552); apparently borrowed from Middle French *buffle*, from Italian *bufalo*, probably because this leather was originally obtained from the BUFFALO. The sense of bare skin, naked appeared in *in or to the buff*, about 1602. —**adj.** 1599, from the noun. —**v.** polish. 1885, from the noun.

buff² n. devotee. 1903, American English, an enthusiast about fighting fires, so called because the uniforms of the volunteer firemen (in New York City at the time) were buff-colored; see BUFF¹; by 1931 extended to any enthusiast.

buffalo n. 1588, borrowed from Italian *bufalo* or possibly from Spanish *búfalo*, from Late Latin *būfalus*, variant of Latin *būbalus* wild ox, (earlier) African gazelle, from Greek *boúbalos* African gazelle, wild ox, of uncertain origin. The spelling *buffalo* gradually replaced the earlier *buffel*, *buffle* (about 1511–1808); borrowed from Middle French *buffle*; cognate with Dutch *buffel*, Middle High German *buffel* (modern German *Büffel*). —**v.** intimidate. 1903, American English, from the noun, paralleling the verb *cow* to frighten.

buffer¹ n. thing that softens. 1835, apparently formed from obsolete verb *buff* (before 1550) make a dull sound when struck + *-er¹*. The verb *buff* developed in Middle English from *buff* a blow (about 1420), borrowed from Middle French *buffe* a blow, from Old French.

buffer² n. a polisher. 1854, formed from English *buff¹*, v. + *-er¹*.

buffet¹ n. blow. Probably before 1200, borrowed from Old French *buffet*, diminutive of *bufe* a blow, of uncertain origin. —**v.** Probably before 1200, borrowed from Old French *buffeter*, from *buffet¹*, n.

buffet² n. furniture. 1718, borrowing of French *buffet*, possibly from Italian *buffeto*, of uncertain origin. The sense of a meal set out on buffets as in a *buffet dinner* or *luncheon* appeared in the late 1800's.

buffoon n. 1585, clown; earlier, 1549, a pantomime dance; borrowed from Middle French *bouffon*, from Italian *buffone* jester, from *buffa* a jest, from *buffare* blow out the cheeks (as a comic gesture), of imitative origin; for ending see -OON. Compare BOUFFANT. —**buffoonery** n. 1621, formed from *buffoon* + *-ery*.

bug n. 1622, in reference to the bedbug, though of uncertain origin, but probably influenced by Middle English *bugge* bug-bear, hobgoblin (1395); see BUGBEAR. It has been suggested

that *bug* a crawling insect is a dialectal alteration of earlier *budde* beetle (1440), developed from Old English *budda*; cognate with Low German dialect *budde* louse, grub, and Middle Low German *buddech* thick, swollen; see BUD.

The slang sense of a defect or flaw in a machine, plan, etc., originated in American English in 1889, probably from the idea of a small insect getting inside machinery and interfering with its action. —**v.** 1 put a concealed microphone in. 1919, American English, verb use of *bug*, *n.* (from the resemblance of the microphone to a small insect). 2 annoy, irritate. 1949, American English, probably originally in allusion to insect pests.

bugaboo *n.* 1843, alteration of earlier *buggybow* (1740), possibly related to BUGBEAR.

bugbear *n.* 1580, a compound formed from obsolete English *bug* goblin, scarecrow (earlier *bugge*, about 1395) + *bear* BEAR¹. Middle English *bugge* is of uncertain origin, though Celtic origin has been suggested (compare Middle Irish *bocánach* supernatural being, perhaps a goatlike creature, apparently from *bocán* he-goat, Irish and Gaelic *bocan* hobgoblin); the often-cited Welsh *bug* goblin, ghost (1500's) is now generally assumed to be a borrowing from Middle English *bugge*.

buggy¹ *n.* light carriage. 1773 *Buggies* light one-horse vehicles; of unknown origin.

buggy² *adj.* infested with bugs. 1714, formed from English *bug*, *n.* + *-y*¹.

bugle *n.* Probably about 1350, shortened from earlier *bugle horn* (probably before 1300), from *bugle* wild ox, borrowed from Old French *bugle* wild ox, instrument made from the horn of the ox, learned borrowing from Latin *būculus*, diminutive form of *bōs* ox. —**v.** 1862, earlier *bugling* (1847), from the noun. —**bugler** *n.* 1840, formed from English *bugle*, *n.* + *-er*¹.

build *v.* About 1330 *bilden*; earlier *bulden* (probably before 1200); developed from late Old English *byldan* (1016), from *bold* dwelling (from Proto-Germanic **buthlan*); cognate with Old Frisian *bōdel* dwelling, Old Saxon *bodl*, Old Icelandic *bōl*, and related to Old English *būan* to dwell; see BOWER. The modern spelling *build* (1550, and an earlier spelling *buylden*, 1395) are not accounted for, unless they represent a composite of the two earlier spellings *bilden* and *bulden*. —**n.** 1667, from the verb, replacing the now obsolete noun *built* (about 1615), also from the verb in the sense of something *built* (past participle). —**builder** *n.* (about 1280) —**building** *n.* (about 1300)

bulb *n.* 1568, onion; borrowed perhaps through Middle French *bulbe*, from Latin *bulbus* bulb, onion, from Greek *bolbós* bulbous plants, possibly cognate with Latin *bulla* bubble. The sense of an object with a swollen end appeared about 1800, and *electric bulb* in 1856. —**bulbous** *adj.* 1578, borrowed from Latin *bulbōsus*, from *bulbus* bulb; for suffix see -OUS.

bulge *n.* Probably about 1200, pouch, borrowed from Old French *bouge*, *boulge*, from Latin *bulga*, probably from Gaulish (compare Old Irish *bolc*, *bolg* bag, Breton *bolc'h*); related to BUDGET. —**v.** 1677, from the noun.

bulk *n.* About 1454 *bulk*; earlier *bolke* a heap (1440) and the cargo of a ship (before 1350); probably borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *bulki* cargo or hold of a ship). —**v.** 1540, swell out (*bulk out*); probably a confusion of *bolken* spill over (before 1352) and *bulken* of undetermined meaning (before 1325), but reinforced by *bulked* having bulk, big (probably 1440). —**bulky** *adj.* About 1450, plump, stout, formed from English *bulk*, *n.* + *-y*¹.

bull¹ *n.* male animal. Probably before 1200 *bule*, earlier *Bule* and *Bulla* (1130, 1166, in surnames); developed from Old English (972) *bula* (from Proto-Germanic **bulōn*), related to *bulluc* young bull and cognate with Middle Low German *bulle* bull, Middle Dutch *bul*, *bulle* (modern Dutch *bul*), and Old Icelandic *boli*. The sense of a speculator on the stock exchange appeared in 1714, probably in contrast to *bear*; see BEAR¹ animal. —**v.** 1884, from the noun. —**bullish** *adj.* 1882, formed from English *bull*¹ + *-ish*¹.

bull² *n.* decree. About 1300, borrowed from Old French *bulle* and Medieval Latin *bulła* papal decree, document, seal, from Latin *bulła* amulet, bubble (in reference to the seal on the paper); of uncertain origin.

bulldoze *v.* 1876, American English, to intimidate by violence; of uncertain origin. The word *bulldozer*, meaning one who intimidates by violence, appeared also in 1876, a machine for clearing or leveling in 1930. The etymology usually suggested is a compound of *bull* (the animal) and an altered form of *dose*, i.e. a whipping to coerce voters was a dose suitable for a bull. The reference is a supposed practice during the Tilden campaign, especially among Blacks in the South.

bullet *n.* 1557, borrowed from Middle French *boullette* small ball, diminutive form of *boule* ball; see BOWL² ball. The idiom **bite the bullet** is first recorded in 1923 (earlier, 1891 *bite on the bullet*), perhaps in reference to giving a person something to bite down on while undergoing a painful operation.

bulletin *n.* 1651, official certificate; borrowed from French *bulletin*, from Old French *bullette* certificate, from *bulle* document, BULL². French *bulletin* was modeled after Italian *bollettino*, *bullettino* note or pass, diminutive form of *bulletta*, itself a diminutive form of *bulła* papal decree, from Medieval Latin; see BULL² decree. The earliest uses of *bulletin* are apparently borrowed directly from Italian and use the Italian spelling, but modern senses are an adoption of the French. The meaning of a short account of news appeared in English in 1791.

bullion *n.* 1429 *billon* a bar of precious metal, also, *bullion* a mint (1433); borrowed through Anglo-French *bullion*, *billon* a bar of precious metal, or a mint, and *buillir* to melt down, from Old French *boillir* to boil, in reference to the practice of melting down gold or silver and casting it into bars; see BOIL¹ to heat.

Pronunciation of modern English *bullion* and *bouillon* is often confused, which reflects the close historical connection of both words, ultimately from Old French *boillir* to boil (*bouillon* is boiled soup, *bullion* is "boiled" metal).

bullock *n.* Old English *bulloc* (901) young bull, from Proto-Germanic **bull-*, earlier **buln-*; see BULL¹.

bully¹ *n.* person who teases or hurts the weak. 1688, probably extracted from such earlier terms as *bully-huff* a boaster who bullies (1680), and *bully-ruffian* (1653), on the pattern of *bully boy* good friend, fine fellow (1609). Earlier (1538), *bully* was applied to both men and women as equivalent to “sweetheart, darling.” By popular etymology associated with *bull*, but originally probably a borrowing from Dutch *boel* lover, brother, from Middle High German *buole*, of uncertain origin. —*v.* 1710, from the noun, also influenced by *BULL*¹. —*adj.* 1681, worthy, admirable, developed from the noun sense “good fellow,” and abstracted from such phrases to mean worthy or admirable; popularized in part by Theodore Roosevelt’s phrase describing the presidency as a *bully pulpit* because of its prestige and power.

bully² *n.*, or **bully beef** canned or pickled beef. 1753, perhaps borrowed from French *boeuf bouilli* boiled beef; *bouilli*, past participle of *bouillir* to boil, from Old French *boillir*; see *BOIL*¹ bubble up.

bulwark *n.* Probably about 1416 *bulwerke* rampart, fortification; borrowed from Middle Dutch *bolwerc* or Middle Low German *bolwerk* (*bolle* plank, tree trunk + *werc*, *werk* work). The figurative sense appeared in English in 1577.

bum *n.* 1864, in American English, possibly identical with earlier Scottish *bum* (1540) lazy, dirty person (a special use of *bum* rump, before 1387, perhaps borrowed from Middle Dutch *bonne*, modern Dutch *bom* bung) and fusing with a shortened form of earlier English *bummer* loafer, idle person (1855), apparently alteration of German *Bummeler*, from *bummeln* to loaf showing influence of German immigrants at the time. —*v.* 1863, American English, perhaps back formation from *bummer* loafer, or from the noun (reinforced by *bumming*, *n.*, 1857). —*adj.* of poor quality. 1859, American English, apparently from the noun; also in *bum steer* bad advice (1920’s), and in *bummer* bad experience or situation (1969).

bumble *v.* 1532 *bumble*, *bomble* to blunder about, flounder, referring to the noise of booming or buzzing about, in a disparaging way. Middle English *bumblen*, *bomblen* to boom, as a bitter doer, and to buzz, are first recorded about 1395. For suffix see *-LE*³. —*n.* 1648, confusion, jumble; probably from the noun.

bumblebee *n.* 1530, formed from *bumblen*, *bomblen* to buzz, boom (about 1395) + *bee*. *Bumblebee* is a partial replacement of the earlier term *humbulbe* *HUMBLEBEE* (before 1475).

bump *v.*, *n.* 1611 *bumpe* blow, strike or knock, both verb and noun, of imitative origin, and possibly related to obsolete *bum* to make a booming noise; to strike. —**bumper** *n.* 1676, a cup or glass of wine filled to the brim, formed from English *bump* (in the sense of a bumping or thumping large glass) + *-er*¹. By 1759 extended to anything unusually large or abundant, as in *bumper crop*. The sense of a bar of metal to protect an automobile appeared in 1926, from the earlier sense of a device on railroad cars (1839). —**bumpy** *adj.* 1865, formed from English *bump*, *n.* + *-y*¹.

bumpkin *n.* 1570 *bunkin*, of uncertain origin, possibly bor-

rowed from Middle Dutch *bommekeijn* little barrel, used in a humorous sense.

bumptious *adj.* 1803, probably derived from *bump* + ending *-tious* from *-ous*, on the pattern of *captious*, *fractious*, etc., some humorous formations and others borrowings into English.

bun *n.* 1371 *bunne*, of uncertain origin; perhaps an altered borrowing from Old French *buignet* a fritter, originally a diminutive form of *buigne* swelling from a blow, bump on the head, probably of pre-Roman origin; also, compare Spanish *buñelo* a fritter, apparently of the same ultimate origin as the French.

bunch *n.* About 1350 *bunche* a little bundle; borrowed from Old French (Walloon) *bonge* bundle, from Flemish *bondje* little bundle. —*v.* Before 1398 *bunchen* form a bunch, developed from *bunche*, *n.*

bundle *n.* About 1331 *bondell* collection of things bound, probably borrowed from Middle Dutch *bondel*, or perhaps alteration (influenced by Middle Dutch) of Old English *byndele* a binding, (from Proto-Germanic **bundilīn*); related to *bindan* *BIND*. —*v.* Before 1628, from the noun.

bung *n.* About 1440, borrowed (probably because of the wine trade) from Middle Dutch *bonge*; cognate with Middle High German *bunge* stopper. —*v.* 1589, to stop or stop up, later (by 1829) said of the eyes after a boxing match, and in modern times extended to a dilapidated or injured condition.

bungalow *n.* 1676 *bungales*, as a native word introduced into English from Hindi *bangla* one-story thatched cottage, literally, of Bengal.

bungle *v.* 1530, probably borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Swedish dialect *bangla* work ineffectually, related to Old Swedish *bangla* to strike). —*n.* 1656, from the verb. —**bungler** *n.* 1533, formed from English *bungle*, *v.* + *-er*¹.

union *n.* Before 1718 *bunnian*, apparently alteration of earlier *bunnye* lump, hump, swelling (1552); probably borrowed from Middle French *buigne* swelling from a blow, from Old French *buigne*; see *BUN*.

bunk¹ *n.* bed. 1758, probably shortened from *BUNKER* seat or bench. —*v.* 1840, from the noun. —**bunkhouse** *n.* (1876, American English)

bunk² *n.* nonsense. 1900, American English, shortened from *BUNKUM*.

bunker *n.* Before 1758, Scottish, seat or bench, of uncertain origin; possibly a variant of *banker* bench (1677). The sandy hollow on a golf course appeared in 1824, and by 1939 (but probably as early as 1915–1918) was extended to a dug-out fortification.

bunkum or **buncombe** *n.* 1847, American English, originally (1828, 1841) in the phrase *talk to or for Bunkum* (or *Buncombe*) talk long-windedly about nothing, in allusion to a long and pointless speech given by Felix Walker, congressman

(1817–23) from Buncombe County, who excused himself by explaining that he had to make it “for Buncombe.”

bunny *n.* 1690, earlier a term of endearment for a woman or child (1606), perhaps formed from Scottish *bun* tail of a hare (about 1538) + *-y*².

bunt *v.* 1889, American English, probably from earlier *bunt* (1825) strike, push; also, to strike with the head as a goat does, alteration of BUTT³ hit. —*n.* 1889, possibly from the verb, though the noun meaning “a push, butt” is recorded in American English in 1767.

bunting¹ *n.* thin cloth. 1742, perhaps derived from an earlier verb *bonten* (1340) to sift meal, because the cloth was used for sifting; of uncertain origin; for suffix see *-ING*¹.

bunting² *n.* bird. Probably before 1300, of uncertain origin; perhaps derived from *buntin* plump, as in *baby bunting*, or from an unrecorded word referring to speckled plumage (compare Middle High, Middle Low German, and modern German *bunt* speckled, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *bont*).

buoy *n.* 1296 *boye*, borrowed either from Old French **boie*, *buie* (compare later Old French *boue*, Middle French *bouée* buoy, dialectal *bowie*), or from Middle Dutch *boye*, *boeye*, both the French and Dutch forms probably derived from West Germanic **bauken* (compare Dutch *baken* beacon, buoy, Old High German *bouhhan* signal, BEACON). —*v.* 1596, mark with a buoy, from the noun. The senses of rise up, uplift, sustain appear in the 1600's, perhaps influenced by Spanish *boyar* to float, from *boya* buoy, *n.*, from Dutch *boei*, from Middle French *bouée*. —**buoyant** *adj.* 1578, floating, perhaps borrowed from Spanish *boyante*, from the present participle of *boyar* to float. The sense of light, cheerful, appears about 1748. —**buoyancy** *n.* 1713, formed from English *buoyant* + *-cy*.

bur *n.* Probably before 1300, borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *burst* bristle, related to Dutch *burre* bur, Old English *byrst* BRISTLE).

burden¹ *n.* load. Probably before 1200 *burthen*, *birden*; later *burden* (about 1250); developed from Old English *byrthen* (before 830); derived from the root of *beran* to carry, BEAR², and cognate with Old Saxon *burthinna* burden (from Proto-Germanic **burthinjō-*), Old High German *burdi*, Old Icelandic *byrdhr*, and Gothic *baúrthei*. —*v.* 1541, from the noun. —**burdensome** *adj.* 1578, English *burden*, *n.* + *-some*¹, and replacing *burdenous* (1529).

burden² *n.* idea. 1591, fusion of *burden*¹ and earlier *burdoun* (probably about 1300) low undersong or accompaniment, borrowed from Old French *bourdon* bumblebee, bagpipe, drone.

The figurative sense of chief theme, idea, appeared in 1649, in *the burden of my song*.

bureau *n.* 1699, desk with drawers; borrowed from French *bureau* office, desk, originally, covering cloth for a desk, from Old French *burel* woolen cloth (used as a covering), diminutive form of *bure* coarse woolen cloth, of uncertain origin; possibly from Vulgar Latin **būra*, variant of Late Latin *burra* coarse

wool; alternatively, Old French *bure* may be related to *buire* dark brown, from Vulgar Latin **burreus*, **burrius*, from Latin *burnus* red. The sense of an office or division of a government department appeared in 1720. —**bureaucracy** *n.* 1818; borrowed from French *bureaucratie* (from *bureau* + *-cratie* *-cracy*).

burg *n.* 1843, American English, a spelling alteration of Middle English *burgh* BOROUGH, but also abstracted from the names of numerous American cities ending in *-burg*, such as *Plattsburg*, *Hartsburg*.

burgeon *v.* About 1350 *burjunen*, either borrowed from Anglo-French *burjuner*, Old French *borjonner* to bud, sprout; or developed from the earlier noun *burjoin* a bud, sprout (probably before 1300), borrowed from Anglo-French *burjun*, Old French *borjon*, of uncertain origin.

burger *n.* 1939, American English, by shortening of *hamburger* and appearing in *beefburger* (1940) and *cheeseburger* (1938).

burgess *n.* Probably before 1200 *burgeis* inhabitant of a borough; borrowed from Old French *borgeis*, *borjois* citizen of a town or village, from *borc* town, village; see BOURGEOIS. The sense of a member of a legislature appeared in English in 1472.

burgh *n.* 1375, Scottish and obsolete English variant of BOROUGH. In Scotland the original pronunciation corresponding to *borough* is retained from *burgh*, accounting for the pronunciation of *Edinburgh*. —**burgher** *n.* 1590, inhabitant of a borough or town; borrowed from Middle Dutch *burgher*, from Middle High German *burger*, *burgere* (modern German *Bürger*), from Old High German *burgari* inhabitant of a fortress, from *burg* fortress, citadel; see BOROUGH.

burglar *n.* 1541, borrowed as Anglo-French *burgler* (1516), alteration of earlier *burgessour*, *burgeysour* burglar, by influence of Anglo-Latin *burglator* (before 1260), itself a contributing source of English *burglar* and an altered form of Medieval Latin *burgator* burglar from *burgare* to break open, commit burglary in, from Latin *burgus* fortress, castle. —**burglarize** *v.* 1871, American English, formed from *burglar* + *-ize*. —**burglary** *n.* 1532–33, borrowed as a legal term from Anglo-French *burglarie*, alteration of Anglo-Latin *burgaria*, *burgeria* (early 1200's); for suffix see *-ry*¹. —**burgle** *v.* 1872, back formation from *burglar*.

burial *n.* Probably before 1400 *beryll*, *biriel* burial place, tomb, formed as a singular from earlier *buriles* (about 1200), *berieles* (before 1225), these forms being taken as plurals, though developed from Old English (725) *byrgels* burial place (*byrgan* to bury + the suffix *-els*, as in *hydels* hiding place, *fætels* bag, etc; from Proto-Germanic **burzisli-*); see BURY. The sense of interment, funeral, is not recorded before 1250.

burlap *n.* 1695–96 *borelapp*, of uncertain origin; possibly borrowed from Dutch **boerenlap* (*boeren* coarse + *lap* piece of cloth).

burlesque *n.* 1667, from adjective meaning droll, jocular (1656); borrowed from French *burlesque*, from Italian *burlesco*, from *burla* a jest, ridicule, from Spanish *burla*, of uncertain origin (possibly an alteration of Late Latin *burnae* trifles, nonsense); for suffix see *-ESQUE*.

The modern sense of a variety show, frequently with striptease acts, appeared in 1870 in American English. —**v.** 1676, from the noun or adjective.

burly *adj.* Probably before 1400, Northern dialectal *burli* noble, stately, variant of earlier *borlich* (before 1250), developed from Old English adjective with corresponding adverb *borlice* excellently, verily, related to Old English *beran* to BEAR² carry.

burn *v.* Probably before 1200 *burnen*, representing two forms originally distinct: a strong intransitive verb *bernen* (probably about 1175) and *brinnen* (before 1325) found in Old English as *beornan*, *biornan*, *byrnan* to be on fire; and a weak transitive verb *brennen* (probably before 1160), found in Old English as *bernan*, *baernan* to set on fire, consume with fire. The distinction between the two verbs began to break down even in late Old English, and metathesis (reversal of the *r*) became frequent.

Both verb forms had cognates respectively in Old Saxon, Old High German, and Gothic *brinnan* to be on fire, from Proto-Germanic **brenwanan*, and Old Saxon and Old High German *brennian*, Old Icelandic *brenna*, and Gothic *-brannjan* to set on fire. Compare RUN for a similar development. —**n.** 1523 *brenne* mark made by burning, noun use developed from Middle English *brennen* to set on fire, replacing the original noun *bryne*, *brene* a burn (probably before 1200); developed from Old English *bryne*, from the root of Old English *byrnan* to burn. —**burner** *n.* 1280, as a surname Brenner person who makes bricks, formed from Middle English *brennen* burn + *-er*¹.

burnish *v.* About 1330 *burnishen*, borrowed from Old French *burniss-*, stem of *brunir*, *burnir* make bright, polish, from *brun* brown, polished, from a Germanic source (compare Old High German *brūn* and Old Icelandic *brúnn*, both meaning either bright, polished or brown; see BROWN); for suffixal ending see -ISH².

burp *n., v.* Informal. 1932, American English, apparently imitative of the sound of belching.

burrl *n.* rough edge. 1611, variant of BUR. The sense of a tool shaped like a bur appeared in 1794.

burrl *n.* rough pronunciation. 1760, probably imitative.

burro *n.* 1800, borrowing of Spanish *burro*, back formation from *borrico* donkey, from Late Latin *burricus* little horse.

burrow *n.* About 1300 *borewe*, earlier *borugh* (probably before 1200); developed from Old English *burg* stronghold, fortress, town (about 725, in *Beowulf*), possibly related to Old English *beorg* hill, mound; see BARROW² mound, and BOROUGH. —**v.** 1614, from the noun.

bursar *n.* 1857, earlier, in Scottish schools, a student with a scholarship (1567), perhaps Middle English *bouser* treasurer (1450), earlier in Anglo-Latin *burser* treasurer (1234) and *burser* purse maker (in the surname *Rob le Burser*, 1208), borrowed from Medieval Latin *bursarius*, and Old French *borsier*, *boursier*, from *bourse* purse; both the Medieval Latin and the Old French forms ultimately derived from Medieval Latin *bursa* PURSE; see also BURSITIS.

bursitis *n.* 1857, formed from English *bursa* + *-itis*, also found in New Latin *bursitis*. The English *bursa* (1803) was apparently abstracted from the New Latin phrase *bursa mucosa* mucous pouch, from Medieval Latin *bursa* bag, purse, from Late Latin *bursa*, a variant of *byrsa* hide, from Greek *býrsa*.

burst *v.* About 1300 *bursten*; earlier *bersten* (about 1150); developed from Old English *berstan* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *bersta* to burst, Old High German *brestan* (modern German *bersten*), and Old Icelandic *bresta*, from Proto-Germanic **brestanan*. —**n.** 1611, earlier *berst* (probably about 1300); from the verb.

bury *v.* Probably before 1200 *burien*; earlier, probably before 1160 *birien*; developed from Old English (before 1000) *byrgan*; cognate with Old High German *bergan* protect, shelter, conceal (modern German *bergen*), Old Icelandic *bjarga*, Gothic *baigran* protect, save; from Proto-Germanic **burzjanan*.

bus *n.* 1832, short for OMNIBUS. —**v.** 1838, from the noun. —**busing** *n.* 1888, transportation by bus, verbal noun from *bus*, *v.*; later, transporting of students to integrate schools, is first recorded in 1964, though *bussed* appeared in 1961.

bush *n.* Before 1375 *bussh*, earlier *busk* (about 1250), in part developed from Old English *busc* (recorded only in *Withibuscemære*, before 1022); and, in part a borrowing from a Scandinavian source (compare Norwegian, Danish *busk*, Swedish *buske* bush); and in part probably borrowed from Old French *busche* firewood, apparently from Frankish (compare Old High German and Old Saxon *busc* bush, modern German *Busch*, and Middle Dutch *busch*, *bosch*, bush); also perhaps reflecting Anglo-Latin *bosca*, *busca* firewood, from Medieval Latin *busca*. The sense of woodland or open forest appeared in 1657 in American English. —**v.** 1870, American English *bushed*, perhaps figurative use of earlier (1856) *bushed* lost in the bush. —**bushy** *adj.* Before 1382, formed from English *bush*, *n.* + *-y*¹.

bushel *n.* About 1330 *busshel* a dry measure; borrowed from Old French *boissel*, probably a derivative of *boisse* a measure of grain (attested only in Middle French), from Gallo-Romance **bostia* handful, from Gaulish (compare Middle Irish *bas*, *boss* palm of the hand, handful, and Breton *boz*).

bushing *n.* 1839, metal lining for a hole; earlier, the fitting of a metal lining in a hole (1794), gerund of *bush*, *v.* and *busch* provide with a bushing (1566), apparently from *busch*, *n.*, borrowed from Middle Dutch *busse* box, from Late Latin *buxis*; see BOX¹ container.

bushwhack *v.* 1841 (implied in *bushwhacking* ambushing or marauding; earlier grasping, undergrowth to move a boat, 1826); back formation from *bushwhacker*. —**bushwhacker** *n.* 1809, formed in American English from *bush* + *whacker*, possibly after the Dutch *bosch-wachter* forest keeper.

business *n.* Before 1325 *bisines* state of being busy, eager, or anxious; developed from Old English (about 950) *bisignisse* care, anxiety, from *bisig* careful, anxious, busy, occupied (see BUSY); for suffix see -NESS. The sense of work, occupation, profession appeared before 1387, still closely related to *busy*

and pronounced as (bu.si.ness); the present pronunciation in two syllables developed in the 1600's.

bust¹ *n.* sculpture. 1691, borrowed from French *buste*, from Italian *busto*, from Latin *bustum* funeral monument, tomb; originally, funeral pyre, probably shortened from *ambustum*, neuter of *ambustus* burned around, past participle of *ambūre* burn around, scorch (*amb-* around + *ūre* to burn; see COM-BUSTION).

The sense development from funeral pyre, in Latin to sculpture, in Italian *busto* resulted from the Etruscans' custom of keeping the ashes of the dead in an urn shaped like the person when alive. The sense of the bosom appeared in English in 1727–51.

bust² *v., n.* burst. 1764 noun, 1806 verb, American English, alteration of BURST. The sense of an arrest or raid (1938) and to arrest (about 1953, especially in the past participle *busted*), were perhaps influenced by an earlier sense to demote or dismiss (1918).

bustle¹ *v.* be noisily busy. About 1350 *bustelen* to act vigorously, thrash about, from earlier *bisten* to thrash, beat; developed, in part, from Middle English *bresten* to rush, break, from Old English *bersten*, and, in part, as a borrowing from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *beysta* to beat); for suffix see -LE³. —*n.* stir, fuss. 1634; from the verb.

bustle² *n.* pad to puff out a skirt. 1788, perhaps a special use of *bustle¹*, *n.* as something that makes a stir or fuss.

busy *adj.* Before 1375 *busy*; earlier *bisi* (probably before 1200); developed from Old English (before 1000) *bisig* careful, anxious, busy, occupied; cognate with Middle Low German *besich* occupied, busy, and Middle Dutch *bezig* (modern Dutch *bezig*) busy.

The spelling with *u*, *busy*, became common in the 1500's perhaps by spelling convention. —*v.* Probably about 1380 *busy* (and variant *bisien* about 1390); developed from Old English (before 725) *bisgian*, derived from *bisig*, *n.*, busy.

but *conj., prep., adv.* Old English *būtan* unless, without, on the outside, used as an adverb and preposition, about 725, in *Beowulf* (*bī*, *be by* + *ūtan* outside, from *ūt* out). —*n.* About 1390, from the conjunction.

butane *n.* 1875, formed from English *but(yl)* + *-ane*; *butyl*, a hydrocarbon from *butyric* (acid) a product of fermentation found in rancid butter, borrowed from Latin *būtīrum* BUTTER; for suffix see -ANE.

butcher *n.* Probably before 1300 *bocher* slaughterer of animals; borrowed from Old French *bochier*, *bouchier* slaughterer of he-goats, from *bouc* he-goat, buck, apparently a fusion of a Celtic and a Frankish word (compare Old Irish *boc*, *bocc* male goat, deer, and Old High German *boc* male goat, deer). The modern spelling begins to appear after the 1550's. —*v.* 1562, from the noun. —**butchery** *n.* About 1450, borrowed from Old French *bochierie*, *bouchierie*, from *bochier*, *bouchier* slaughterer.

butler *n.* About 1250 *butuler* chief servant in charge of the wine; earlier, *butiller* (1171); borrowed through Anglo-French

butiller cupbearer, variant of Old French *bouteillier*, from *bouteille* wine vessel.

butt¹ *n.* thicker end. About 1400 *botte* thicker end of a spear opposite the head, later, 1422 *butte*, related to Old English *butuc* end, small piece of land, which may be cognate with Old Icelandic *bútr* short, and possibly *bútr* log of wood, stump, block, Middle Low German *but* and Middle Dutch *bot* blunt, short, stumpy.

butt² *n.* target of ridicule or scorn. 1345–46 *but* mark for target practice; a fusion of Old French *bout*, *bot* end (from Frankish; compare Old High German *bōzan* and Old Icelandic *bauta* to beat), and of Old French *but* aim, goal, end, also from Frankish (compare Old Icelandic *bútr* log of wood, stump, block).

butt³ *v.* strike with the head. Probably about 1200 *butten*, borrowed from Old French *bouter*, earlier *boter* to thrust, from Frankish (compare Old High German *bōzan* and Old Icelandic *bauta* to strike, beat). —**butt in** 1900, American English. —*n.* 1647, from the verb.

butt⁴ *n.* barrel. 1393 *butt*, earlier *bote* (1385); borrowed from Old French *bot*, *bout*, from Late Latin *buttis* cask, probably of Greek origin.

butte *n.* 1805 *butte*, as a French word introduced into Clark's *Journals of the Lewis Expedition*.

butter *n.* Old English (about 1000) *butere*, borrowed from Latin *būtīrum*, from Greek *boútēron*, apparently meaning originally cow's milk curds, formed from *boús* ox, cow¹ + *týrós* cheese. —*v.* Before 1475, from the noun.

butterfly *n.* Before 1325 *buterfleie*, earlier *buterflige* (about 1250); developed from Old English *buturfligæ*, *buturfligo*, *buterflege* (about 700), all forms being a compound of *butere* butter + *flēoge* fly; the origin of this name for the insect is obscure.

buttocks *n.pl.* About 1300 *buttok*, *buttokes*, earlier (in surname *Briddebuttok*, 1268), probably related to Old English *butuc* end, small piece of land; see BUTT¹.

button *n.* Before 1325 *botoun* a button; earlier, something insignificant or small (probably before 1300); borrowed from Old French *bouton*, *boton* bud, knob, from *bouter*, *boter* to thrust; see BUTT³ strike. Note that *botouner* a maker or seller of buttons, is recorded as early as 1265, suggesting that "button" existed at least 50 years before the meaning "something small or insignificant." —*v.* About 1380, either borrowed from Old French *boutonner* to button, earlier meaning to bud, from *bouton* bud; or developed from Middle English *botoun*, *n.* —**buttonhole** *n.* (1561)

butress *n.* About 1330 *butras*, 1344–45 *boterace*; borrowed from Old French *bouterez*, from *bouter* to thrust against; see BUTT³ strike. —*v.* About 1378, from the noun.

buxom *adj.* About 1250 *buxum*; earlier *buhsum* (probably before 1200) pliant, compliant, obedient, found in Proto-Germanic **būHsamaz*, but refashioned in English from the

native elements *buh-*, stem of Old English *būgan* to bend + *-sum* *-some*¹; see BOW¹ bend. The meaning of plump, comely which appeared in 1589, evolved from the obsolete sense (before 1375) "indulgent, obliging, gracious," later "jolly, lively, wholesome."

buy *v.* About 1300 *beyen*; earlier *biggen* get or redeem for a price, purchase (probably about 1200, past tense *boghte*); developed from Old English *bycgan* (past tense *bohte*); cognate with Old Saxon *buggian* buy, Old Icelandic *byggja* lend, buy, and Gothic *bugjan* buy, from Proto-Germanic **buzjanan*.

The spelling *buy*, standard near the end of the 1500's, originated in a dialectal variant from southwestern England *buggen* (probably about 1175) and *buyen* (about 1300). Middle English *-gg-* and Old English *-cg-* in this word were pronounced *-dg-* (j) as in *bridge*. —**n.** 1879, American English, from the verb. —**buyer** *n.* 1303 *byer*; earlier *biggere* (probably before 1200), from the Middle English *biggen*, *v.*

buzz *v.* 1495 (implied in *bussing*), imitative of the sound made by bees and other insects. The sense of fly low and close (in an aircraft) appeared in 1941. —**n.** 1605, a fancy, whim; later, busy talk, hum (1627), and a humming sound (1645); all from the verb.

buzzard *n.* Probably before 1300 *bosard*, *busard*, borrowed from Old French *buisart*, *busart*, from *buson*, *buison*, from Latin *buteōnem*, accusative form of *buteō* a kind of hawk.

by *prep., adv.* Old English *bī*, unstressed *be* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Saxon and Old Frisian *bī*, *be* by, near, Old High German *bī*, *bi* (modern German *bei*), Gothic *bi* about, by, from Proto-Germanic **bi*. —**bygone** *adj.* (1442) —**bypath** *n.* (probably before 1325) —**byway** *n.* (before 1338)

bylaw *n.* 1370 *bilawe*, earlier *bilage* local ordinance (1280), alteration of still earlier *birelage* body of local ordinances (1257), probably influenced by *bī* dwelling, village, town, and *lawe*, *lage* law (late Old English *bī*, and Old English *lagu*), both forms borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *býr*, genitive *býar*, dwelling, town, related to *búa* dwell, and Old Icelandic *lög* laws).

The current meaning of a secondary or subordinate law appeared in 1541, through confusion of the element *by-* with English *by*, *adv.*, aside, near.

byte *n.* 1964, American English, irregular blend of *bit* binary digit, and *bite* morsel; and *byte* may be an acronym formed from *b*(inar)*y* (digi)*t* *e*(ight).

C

cab *n.* 1826, horse-drawn carriage, shortened from *cabriolet* (1763), borrowed as French *cabriolet*, from *cabrioler* to caper, leap; so called for its bouncing motion. French *cabrioler* was an alteration (influenced by *cabri* kid) of obsolete French *caprioler* to caper, leap, from Italian *capriolare*, from *capriolo* roebuck, from Latin *capreolus* wild goat, diminutive of *caprea* wild she-goat, from *caper* (genitive *capri*) he-goat. The word was first applied to motor-driven vehicles in 1899 and to a locomotive where the engineer sits in 1859. —**cabby** *n.* 1859, formed from English *cab* + *-y*².

cabal *n.* 1660, small group plotting in secret; earlier, an intrigue (1646–47), a secret tradition or private interpretation, as of the Old Testament (1616); borrowed from French *cabale* secret group, intrigue, or tradition, from Medieval Latin *cabala*, *cabbala*, from post-Biblical Hebrew *qabbālāh* received teachings, tradition.

The word *cabala*, *cabbala* is also recorded in English as early as 1521 meaning mystical interpretation of the Old Testament, with the extended sense of mystery, esoteric doctrine or art appearing in 1665.

cabaret *n.* 1655, tavern, borrowing of French *cabaret*, probably from Middle Dutch *cabret*, *cabret*, *cameret*, from Old Picard

(dialect of Picardy) *camberete*, diminutive of *cambre* room, from Late Latin *camera*. The meaning was extended to entertainment (floor show) in the 1920's.

cabbage *n.* Before 1475 *cabage*, earlier *caboge* (before 1450), *caboché* head of cabbage (1391); borrowed from Middle French *caboché*, variant of Old French *caboce*, from Medieval Latin *caputium* head-cabbage, from Latin *caput* HEAD. Originally the plant may have been *cabbage cole* (compare Dutch *kabuis-kool*); *cole* was a general term for a variety of leafy vegetable greens including kale and mustard and is found in Old English *cāl* (modern English *cole*).

cabin *n.* 1346 *caban*, borrowed from Old French *cabane*, *cabine* hut, cabin, from Old Provençal *cabana*, from Late Latin *capanna* hut. The spelling *cabin* was established in the 1600's.

cabinet *n.* 1549, secret receptacle, case used especially for safekeeping; private chamber (1565); borrowed from Middle French *cabinet*, diminutive of Old Picard *cabine* a house or room for gambling, variant of Old French *cabane* cabin; but perhaps influenced by earlier Italian *gabinetto* closet, chest of drawers, suggesting the Middle French form *cabinet*; for suffix

see -ET. The sense of a group of persons meeting in a private chamber appeared in 1607–12.

cable *n.* Probably before 1200, borrowed through Anglo-French and Old North French *cable*, from Medieval Latin *capulum* rope, line, bridle, from Latin *capere* to seize, take.

A cable conducting electricity is recorded in 1854; cable transmission of television on *cable television* or *cable TV* (1963) was shortened to *cable* (1972). —*v.* About 1500, tie up; from the noun. The sense of transmit (a message) by cable appeared as an Americanism in 1871.

caboodle *n.* Before 1848, American English, of unknown origin. English *boodle* was probably borrowed as *boedel* (1699) from Dutch *boedel* goods, property. *Kit and boodle* (before 1861) and *the whole kit and caboodle* (1888) are the only examples of use.

caboose *n.* 1747, American English, ship's cookhouse; probably borrowed from Early Modern Dutch *kabuyse*, from or related to Middle Low German *kabüse* wooden cabin on ship's deck (modern German *Kabuse*, *Kombüse* ship's mess).

The sense of rear car on a freight train, used by the crew appeared in 1861.

cacao *n.* 1555, borrowed from Spanish *cacao*, from Nahuatl *cacāua*, root form of *cacāuatl* cacao seed.

cache *n.* 1797, American English, borrowing of French *cache* hiding place, from Old French *cacher* to hide; see CACHET. The meaning "anything stored in a hiding place," is first recorded in the 1830's or perhaps earlier as a borrowing from French Canadian *cache* (about 1669). —*v.* 1805, American English, borrowed from French *cacher* to hide, from Old French.

cachet *n.* Before 1639, borrowed from French *cachet* seal, stamp (as in *lettre de cachet* letter under seal of the French king), from Old French *cacher* press on or crowd together (later, to hide), from Northern Gallo-Romance **coāctīcāre*, a frequentative form of Latin *coāctāre* constrain, from *coāctus*, past participle of *cōgere* bring together, compel; see COGENT.

cachinnation *n.* 1623, borrowed from Latin *cachinnātiōnem* (nominative *cachinnātiō*), from *cachinnāre* laugh loudly; for suffix see -TION.

cackle *v.* Probably before 1200 *cakelin* to cackle like a hen, probably imitative, but compare possible earlier Middle Dutch *cakelen*. —*n.* 1676, probably developed from the verb. Earlier use of *cakele* (probably before 1200) is adjectival.

cacophony *n.* 1656, borrowed from Greek *kakophōnía*, from *kakophōnos* ill-sounding (*kakós* bad + *phōnē* sound); perhaps influenced by earlier French *cacophonie* (1587). —**cacophonous** *adj.* 1797, borrowed from Greek *kakophōnos* ill-sounding; for suffix see -OUS.

cactus *n.* 1607, Spanish artichoke or cardoon; borrowed from Latin *cactus* cardoon, from Greek *kákτος* a prickly plant. Later (1767) the current sense of a kind of succulent plant, often with sharp spines, appeared (as the genus name given by Linnaeus in his system of plant classification, using New Latin *Cactus*).

cad *n.* 1790, passenger on a coach who pays the driver privately; shortened from Scottish *caddie* errand boy, porter, an earlier variant (1730) of CADET. The modern meaning (1838) may have originated at Oxford University (1831) in referring to one of the townspeople.

cadaver *n.* About 1500, borrowed from Latin *cadāver*, from *cadere* to fall, fall dead, die. Earlier occurrence of *cadaver* (before 1398) is probably Latin. —**cadaverous** *adj.* Probably before 1425, from Latin *cadāverōsus*, from *cadāver*; for suffix see -OUS.

caddie or **caddy**¹ *n.* 1634–46, Scottish use of *cadet* a young gentleman who entered the military without a commission; borrowed from French *cadet* younger brother; see CADET. The meaning of golfer's porter (1857) is from earlier Scottish sense of messenger, errand boy (1730). —*v.* 1908, from the noun.

caddy² *n.* small box for tea. 1792, apparently from a transfer of the name for the measure of tea to the chest it was carried in; alteration of English *catty* (1598) the measure set by the East India Company (1770) for tea and other commodities in China and Malaysia, from Malay-Indonesian *kati*.

cadence *n.* About 1380, rhythm of prose or poetry, a rhetorical passage; borrowed from Old French *cadence* rhythm, from Italian *cadenza* conclusion of a movement in music; literally, a falling, from Vulgar Latin **cadentia* a falling, from Latin *cadere* to fall.

cadet *n.* 1610, younger son or brother; borrowed from French *cadet*, from Gascon (a Gallo-Romance dialect) *capdet* chief, from Latin *capitellum* small head, diminutive form of *caput* (genitive *capitis*) head.

Gascon officers in the French army were usually younger sons or lesser heads of noble families; thus the meaning of young career officer in the army came into English in 1651 and led to the current sense of a student in a military academy (1775).

cadge *v.* 1812, a slang verb of uncertain origin; perhaps related to earlier *cadge* to carry, as a peddler does (1607), apparently a back formation from *cadger* (about 1450) itinerant peddler.

cadmium *n.* 1822, New Latin, from Latin *cadmīa*, earlier *cadmēa* zinc ore, from Greek *Kadmēā gē*, literally, Cadmean or Theban earth, from *Kádmōs* Cadmus, the legendary founder of Thebes.

cadre *n.* 1830, framework; later, group of people (1851); borrowing of French *cadre* frame (as of a picture), officers' group, from Italian *quadro* framework, from Latin *quadrum* a square, related to *quattuor* FOUR.

caduceus *n.* 1591, borrowed from Latin *cādūceus*, variant of *cādūceum*, alteration of Doric Greek *kārykeion* herald's staff, from *kāryx* (genitive *kārykos*) a herald.

caecum *n.* See CECUM.

Caesar *n.* Probably before 1200 *kaisere*, *cæiser*, *keiser*, *kaiser*, corresponding to Old English *Cāsere*, but probably reborrowed from Medieval Latin *Caesar* and Old French *Cesar*, the surname of the Roman general and statesman Caius Julius

Caesar, 102?–44 B.C. — **Caesarean** or **Caesarian** adj. 1615 *Caesarian* section, surgical delivery of young through the abdominal wall; so called from the belief (often disputed) that Julius Caesar was born by means of this operation.

cafe or **café** n. 1802, borrowed as French *café* coffee house, coffee, from Italian *caffè* COFFEE.

cafeteria n. 1839, American English, coffee house; borrowed from Mexican Spanish *cafetería* coffee shop (*café* coffee, from Italian *caffè* COFFEE + Spanish *-tería* place where something is done usually as a business).

caffeine or **cafein** n. 1830, borrowed from French *cafféine*, from *caffè* COFFEE; for suffix see *-INE*².

cake n. Probably before 1200, borrowing of Old French *cake*, from Latin *cavea* coop, cage, from *cavus* hollow, CAVE. Related to JAIL. —v. 1577, from the noun.

cagey adj. 1893, American English, of uncertain origin.

cahoots n. Usually, in **cahoots**. partnership. 1829 *cohort*, American English, of uncertain origin; thought to be borrowed from French *cahute* cabin.

cairn n. 1535, Scottish *carne*, developed from Gaelic *carn* heap of stones, rocky hill, from Old Irish *caran*. Also found in Welsh *caran* heap, hoof and handle of a knife, the latter suggesting an earlier sense horn and therefore to Gaulish *karnon* horn, and top or horn of a mountain.

caisson n. 1704, borrowing of French *caisson*, from Middle French *caisson* large box, alteration of *casson* box, from Italian *cassone* large box, augmentative form of *cassa*, from Latin *capsa* box, CASE².

cajole v. 1645, borrowed from French *cajoler* persuade by flattery, possibly a blend of Middle French *cajoler* chatter like a jay, and Old French *gaioler* to cage, entice into a cage. The French word, if a blend, was probably influenced in spelling by *enjôler* coax, imprison. — **cajoler** n. 1677, formed from English *cajole* + *-er*¹. — **cajolery** n. 1649, borrowed from French *cajolerie* persuasion by flattery.

cake n. Probably about 1200 *kake* kind of flat cake or loaf, probably borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *kaka* cake). The word is cognate with Old English *cæcel* small cake, Old High German *kucho* cake (modern German *Kuchen*), and Middle Dutch *kōke*. —v. 1607, from the noun.

cakewalk n. 1863, American English, probably originally in allusion to a cake given as a prize for the fanciest steps in a procession. The figurative meaning of something easy appears about 15 years before the literal meaning (1879). —v. Before 1909, from the noun.

calabash n. 1596, either the gourd or the tree it grows on; borrowed from French *calebasse*, from Middle French *calabasse*, from Spanish *calabaza*, and possibly from **calapaccia*, of pre-Roman (Iberian) origin.

calaboose n. 1792, American English, borrowed from Louisi-

ana French *calabouse*, from Spanish *calabozo* dungeon, probably from Vulgar Latin **calafodium*, (pre-Roman **cala* protected place, den + Latin *fodere* to dig, see BED).

calamine n. 1598, borrowed probably from French *calamine*, in Old French *calemine*, learned borrowing from Medieval Latin *calamina*, alteration of Latin *cadmia* zinc ore, from Greek *kadmeia*; see CADMIUM.

calamity n. About 1425 *calamite*, borrowed from Middle French *calamité*, from Latin *calamitatem* (nominative *calamitās*) damage, disaster, adversity; for suffix see *-ITY*. — **calamitous** adj. 1545, borrowed from Middle French *calamiteus*, from Latin *calamitosus*, contraction of **calamitōsus*, adjective to *calamitatem*.

calcareous adj. 1677 *calcarious*, borrowed from Latin *calcārius*, from *calx* (genitive *calcis*) lime, see CHALK; for suffixes see *-ARY* and *-OUS*.

calci-, or (before vowels) **calc-**, a combining form meaning lime, limestone, calcium, or calcium salts, as in *calci*, *calcify*. Borrowed from Latin *calx* (genitive *calcis*) lime; see CHALK.

calcify v. 1836, to change into lime, formed in English from Latin *calx* (genitive *calcis*) lime + English *-fy*. — **calcification** n. 1849–52, formed from English *calcify*, on the analogy of *petrify*, *petrification*, etc.; for suffix see *-ATION*.

calcium n. 1808, New Latin *calcium*, from Latin *calx* (genitive *calcis*) lime, limestone, see CHALK + New Latin *-ium* (chemical suffix); so called because calcium is found in limestone.

calculate v. 1570, probably in part a back formation from *calculation*, and in part borrowed from Late Latin *calculātus*, past participle of *calculāre*, from Latin *calculus* reckoning or account, originally, small stone used in counting, diminutive of *calx* (genitive *calcis*) small stone, limestone; for suffix see *-ATE*¹. In the late 1500's and 1600's *calculate* replaced earlier *calculen* (before 1378); borrowed from Old French *calculer* and Late Latin *calculāre*. Another form *calk*, Middle English *calken* (probably before 1400) existed, originally, as a shortened form of *calculen*, and was in use at least into the 1650's. — **calculation** n. Before 1393, borrowed from Anglo-French *calculation*, from Late Latin *calculātiōnem* (nominative *calculātiō*), from *calculāre* calculate; for suffix see *-TION*. — **calculator** n. Before 1425 *calcelatour* mathematician; borrowed from Latin *calculātor* person versed in arithmetic; for suffix see *-OR*². The meaning of a calculating device appeared in English in 1784.

calculus n. 1666, borrowed from Latin *calculus* pebble, small stone used in counting, counting; see CALCULATE.

caldron or **cauldron** n. Before 1393, alteration (influenced by Latin *caldus* hot) of earlier *caudron* (about 1300); borrowed from Anglo-French *caudron* or Old North French *caudron*, diminutive form of *caudiere* cooking pot, from Late Latin *caldāria* cooking pot, (originally) *calidāria*, feminine of Latin *calidārius* for heating, from *caldus*, *calidus* hot, from *calere* be warm or hot.

calendar n. Probably before 1200 *kalender* system of divisions

of the year, about 1350, table showing the divisions; borrowed from Anglo-French *calender*, corresponding to Old French *kalendrier* list, register, learned borrowing from Latin *calendārium* account book, from *calendae* calends, first day of the month (in English usage, day bills were due), signifying the day Romans proclaimed the order of the days to follow, Latin *Calendae*, ultimately derived from *calāre* call out, proclaim. The spelling *-ar* from Latin was introduced in the 1600's to differentiate the system of time from the pressing of cloth.

calender *n.* 1513, person who presses cloth, paper, etc., borrowed probably through Anglo-French *kalender* (1278), from Old French *calandre*, *calendre*, from Vulgar Latin **colondra*, alteration (influenced by Latin *columna* column) of Latin *cylindrus* roller, CYLINDER. — *v.* 1513, borrowed from Middle French *calander*, from Old French *calandre*.

calf¹ *n.* young cow, etc. Old English *cælf* (before 800), *cealf* (before 830), plural *calfur*, Anglian forms corresponding to West Saxon *cealf* (about 1000), plural *cealfu*; cognate with Old Saxon and Middle Dutch *calf* (modern Dutch *kalf*), Old High German *kalb* calf (modern German *Kalb*), from Proto-Germanic **kalban*.

calf² *n.* part of the leg. Before 1325, borrowed from Old Icelandic *kálfi*, related to *kálfr* calf¹.

caliber or **calibre** *n.* 1567, degree of merit or importance; later inside diameter of a gun barrel (1588) borrowed from Middle French *calibre*. Italian *calibro* (1606) and Spanish *calibre* (1594) appear too late to act as intermediate forms between Middle French and Arabic *qālib* mold for casting metal. — **calibrate** *v.* 1864, formed from English *caliber* + *-ate*¹. — **calibration** *n.* (1871)

calico *n.* 1540 *kalyko*, 1541 *Callicutt*, from *Calicut*, port in southwestern India, from which various cotton cloths were imported by European merchants.

californium *n.* 1950, New Latin, formed from *California* (in reference to the University of California, where it was discovered) + *-ium*.

calipers or **callipers** *n.pl.* 1627, from earlier *calliper compasses* device used to measure caliber (1588); variant of CALIBER.

caliph *n.* Before 1393, borrowed from Old French *calife* and Medieval Latin *califa*, from Arabic *khalīfa* successor, vicar, from *khalafa* he succeeded. — **caliphate** *n.* 1614, formed from English *caliph* + *-ate*¹, perhaps by influence of French *caliphat*.

calisthenics or **callisthenics** *n.pl.* 1847, formed in English from Greek *kalli-* (combining form of *kállos* beauty) + *sthénos* strength (of unknown origin) + English *-ics*. The earliest use in English was *calisthenic* (1839) and the derivative *callisthenical* (1837). — **calisthenic** *adj.* 1847, from *calisthenic*, *n.*, or possibly from *calisthenics*, on the analogy of *gymnastics*, *gymnastic*.

calk or **caulk** *v.* About 1378 *cauken* to tread, 1495 (implied in *calker*) to seal seams of a ship; borrowed from Old North French *cauquer* to tread, press in, from Latin *calcāre* to tread, stamp, press in, from *calx* (genitive *calcis*) heel.

call *v.* Old English (about 725) **callian* (implied in *hilde-calla* war herald), variant of Old English (before 1000) *ceallian*. The Old English **callian* is cognate with Old Icelandic *kalla* to call, Old High German *kallōn* talk much, chatter, from Proto-Germanic **kallōjanan*. Middle English *callen*, *kallen* (probably about 1200) is thought to be a fresh borrowing from Scandinavian (compare Old Icelandic *kalla* to call). — *n.* Before 1325, developed from *callen*, *v.*, to call. — **caller** *n.* 1435, from *callen* to call + *-er*¹. — **calling** *n.* occupation (1551) from earlier meaning summons to a way of life (probably before 1250), from *callen* to call + *-ing*.

calligraphy *n.* 1613, borrowed ultimately from Greek *kalligraphiā*, from *kalligraphos* good penman (*kalli-*, combining form of *kállos* beauty + *gráphein* write), but perhaps coming into English through French *calligraphie* or directly from New Latin *calligraphia*.

calliope *n.* 1858, in allusion to *Calliope* the ninth and chief Muse of eloquence and epic poetry, borrowed from Latin *Calliopē*, from Greek *Kalliopē* (*kalli-*, a combining form of *kállos* beauty + **ōps*, genitive *opós* VOICE).

callous *adj.* Before 1400, borrowed through Middle French *calieux*, or directly from Latin *callōsus*, from *callus*, *callum* hardened skin; for suffix see *-OUS*.

The figurative sense unfeeling, not sensitive appeared in English in 1679.

callow *adj.* Before 1230 *calewe* bald; developed from Old English (before 1000) *calu* bald; cognate with Old High German *kalo*, *kalwer*, *kalaue* bald, bare (modern German *kahl*), and Middle Dutch *calu* bald, bare (modern Dutch *kaal*). In spite of the coincidence in form and meaning, the Germanic words are apparently not borrowed from Latin *calvus* bald.

The sense of young and inexperienced appeared in English in 1580 as a synonym of unfledged (being bald, without feathers, like a young bird).

callus *n.* 1563, borrowed as Latin *callus*; see CALLOUS.

calm *adj.* 1380. — *v.* Probably before 1400. — *n.* Probably before 1400. Traditionally said to be borrowed through Old French *calme*, from Italian *calma*, from Vulgar Latin **calma* or directly from Medieval and Late Latin *cauma* (with substitution of *al* for *au* by possible influence of Latin *calēre* be warm or hot), from Greek *kálma* heat of the day; hence, time for rest, stillness, from *kalein* to burn.

calorie *n.* 1866, borrowing of French *calorie*, learned borrowing from Latin *calor* (genitive *calōris*) heat, from *calēre* be warm or hot, see CALDRON; for suffix see *-Y*³. — **caloric** *adj.* 1853, in *caloric-engine* heat or hot-air engine; borrowed from French *calorique*, *n.* (1791), from Latin *calor* (genitive *calōris*) heat + *-ique* *-ic*.

calque *n.* 1937, loan translation of a foreign word or phrase; borrowed from French *calque*, literally, a copy, from *calquer* to trace (a design, etc.) by rubbing a pencil on paper placed over an object (a meaning also found in English *calke* 1662), from Italian *calcāre* to press under, from Latin *calcāre* to tread; see CALK¹.

calumet *n.* 1665, Canadian English, borrowing of Canadian French *calumet*, special use of Norman French *calumet* pipe, related to *calumo* (corresponding to French *chalumeau*, Old French *chalemel*), from Late Latin *calamellus*, diminutive of Latin *calamus* reed.

calumny *n.* 1447 *calumnye*, borrowed from Middle French *calomnie* and from Latin *calumnia* trickery, artifice, false accusation, ultimately from *calvi* to trick, deceive. —**calumniate** *v.* 1554, borrowed from Latin *calumniatus*, past participle of *calumniari* to slander, from *calumnia* calumny; for suffix see -ATE¹. —**calumnious** *adj.* 1490, borrowed from Latin *calumniōsus*, from *calumnia*; for suffix see -OUS.

calve *v.* About 1395 *calven*, developed from Old English *cealfian* (about 1000), from *cealf* CALF¹.

calypso *n.* 1934, in Aldous Huxley's *Beyond Mexique Bay*, of uncertain origin. No connection has been found with the name *Calypso*, a nymph in Greek mythology who detained Odysseus.

calyx *n.* 1693, borrowed from Latin *calyx*, from Greek *kályx* seed pod, husk.

cam *n.* 1777, borrowed probably from Dutch *kam* cog, comb, from Middle Dutch *cam* comb, toothed wheel, cog (see COMB); and from French *came* cam or cog (itself from German *Kamm*); possibly influenced by or even a shortened form of, English *camber* (1618) having a slight arch, from the eccentric form of a *cam* that has an arch, as its outside surface projects from the circular form of a wheel.

camaraderie *n.* 1840, borrowed from French *camaraderie*, from *camarade*, from Middle French, from Spanish *camarada* COMRADE; for suffix see -ERY.

camber *n.* Before 1618 (*camber-keeled* in reference to ship construction); borrowed from Middle French (North) *cambre* bent, from Latin *camurum*, accusative of *camur* crooked, related to *camera* vault; see CAMERA. —**v.** 1627, borrowed from French *cambrier* arch slightly, from Middle French *cambre*.

cambium *n.* 1671, layer of tissue between the bark and wood, developed from earlier sense (1643), in reference to sap that exchanges form with vegetative cambium, New Latin *cambium* exchange, Medieval Latin *cambium* exchange, from Latin *cambire* to exchange; see CHANGE.

cambric *n.* 1385, borrowed from Flemish *Kameryk*, *Kamerijk* (French *Cambrai*), city in Flanders where the cloth was originally made. Compare CHAMBRAY.

camel *n.* Old English *camel*, *camella* (about 950); borrowed from Latin *camēlus*, from Greek *kāmēlos*, of Semitic origin (compare Hebrew *gāmāl* camel, Assyrian *gammalu*, Arabic *jamal*).

camellia *n.* 1753, borrowed from New Latin *Camellia*, Latinized after G.J. *Kamel*, 1661–1706, who described the flora on the island of Luzon.

cameo *n.* 1670, borrowing of Italian *cameo*, *cammeo*; earlier

camfeo (1554, from Spanish *camafeo*) and *cameu* (1437, from Middle French *camahieu*, Old French *cameu*), all ultimately from an unidentified source.

The sense of a short literary or dramatic sketch appeared in English in 1851.

camera *n.* 1708, an arched roof or vaulted room, as in the Camera, a building at Oxford; later, a legislative or council chamber (1712), borrowed from Italian and Spanish; later still, in the Latin phrase *camera obscura* dark chamber (1727), applied to the Daguerreotype photographic process (1840); all borrowed from Late Latin *camera* chamber, from Latin *camera* vault, arch, from Greek *kamārā* thing with an arched cover.

camisole *n.* 1816, sleeved jacket, borrowed from French *camisole*, from Provençal *camisola*, diminutive of *camisa* shirt, from Late Latin *camisia* shirt, nightgown.

camomile *n.* Before 1398 *camomil*, borrowed through Anglo-French *camemille*, or directly from Late Latin *camomilla*, alteration of Latin *chamaemēlon*. Also found in Old English *camemalon*, borrowed from Latin *chamaemēlon*, from Greek *chamaimēlon*, literally, earth apple (*chamai* on the ground + *mēlon* apple; named from the apple-like scent of the blossoms).

camouflage *n.* 1917, borrowing of French *camouflage*, from *camoufler* to disguise, from Italian *camuffare* (with influence of French *camouflet* snub; earlier, smoke blown in someone's face), probably from Medieval Latin *muffula* manipulation; for suffix see -AGE. —**v.** 1917, from the noun.

camp¹ *n.* group of shelters. 1528, borrowed from Middle French *camp*, from Italian *campo*, from Latin *campus* plain, field of battle or other contest, from which probably came an earlier Old English word *camp* contest (about 725, in *Beowulf*) that existed in Middle English until about 1440, also found in Old Frisian *camp*, Middle Dutch *camp* (modern Dutch *kamp*), Middle Low German *kamp*, Old High German *champf* (modern German *Kampf*) combat, Old Icelandic *kapp* (*pp* from *mp*) contest, and West Germanic **kampaz*. —**v.** 1543, borrowed from Middle French *camp* to encamp, from *camp*, *n.* —**camper** *n.* (1631) —**campfire** *n.* (1675) —**campground** *n.* (1805)

camp² *adj.* artistically unsophisticated. 1909, actions or gestures of exaggerated emphasis (applied to homosexuals); of unknown origin, popularized in 1964 by the American writer Susan Sontag. —**n.** 1931, a homosexual; 1964, something artificially unsophisticated. —**v.** especially in *camp it up* 1931. —**campy** *adj.* 1959, formed from English *camp*² + -y¹.

campaign *n.* 1647, operations of an army in the field or open country; borrowed from French *campagne* open country, from Italian *campagna*, from Late Latin *campānea*, *campānia* level country, from Latin *campus* plain, field. Earliest use in English (1591, 1598) is *campania* from the Latin in reference to open country. By 1770 *campaign* was applied to actions to obtain an end, and in 1809, in American English, to activities to get someone elected. —**v.** 1701, participate in a military campaign, from the noun.

campanile *n.* 1640, borrowed through French *campanile*, and

directly from Italian *campanile*, from *campana* bell, from Late Latin *campāna* bell, originally bronze ware of *Campania* (ancient territory around Naples).

camphor *n.* Probably about 1425 *camphor*, alteration of earlier spelling *caumfre* (1313), borrowed from Anglo-French *camphor*, learned borrowing from Medieval Latin *camphora*, from Arabic *kāfir*, from Malay *kāpūr*. —**camphorated** *adj.* 1641, formed in English as if from New Latin *camphoratus*, from Medieval Latin *camphora* camphor; for suffix see -ATE¹ and -ED².

campus *n.* 1774, American English, borrowed from Latin *campus* plain, field, first used at Princeton University in New Jersey.

can¹ *v.* be able. Old English (about 725, in *Beowulf*) *can*, *con* know, know how, can (infinitive *cunnan*). *Can* is an irregular verb that belongs to a group of Germanic verbs (chiefly auxiliary verbs, such as *may* and *shall*) which have a present tense that was originally a form of the past tense. This shift in use was accompanied by development of a new form for the past tense: for *can* (*cunnan*) the new form became in Old English *cūthe*, Middle English *coud*, *coude* (before 1325) and later *could* (about 1500), on analogy of earlier *should*, *would*.

The original past participle *cūth* known, remains today as *couth*, principally found in *uncouth* unmannerly, strange. Old English *cūth* developed from **cunth* (from Proto-Germanic **kunthaz*) parallels the loss of *n* in *mūth* mouth, *iōth* tooth.

The present participle and the gerund *cunning* (about 1300) survive in English meaning "clever or cleverness in deceiving," "skillful" and "expertness."

The meaning "know," from Old English, was current in Middle English and remained so into the 1600's; the meaning "be able to" evident throughout Middle English from at least 1123, is rare in Old English, that use being supplied by *mæg* may.

Old English *can* (infinitive *cunnan*) know, is cognate with Old Saxon *can* (*cunnan*) and Old Frisian *kan* (*kunna*), Old High German *kan* (*kunnan*) and modern German *kann* (*können*), Old Icelandic *kan* (*kunna*), Gothic *kann* (*kunnan*); also related to Old English *cnāwan* KNOW, perceive, get knowledge of.

can² *n.* container. Old English (before 1000) *canne* container, vessel; cognate with Old Saxon *kanna* container, vessel, Old High German *channa* (modern German *Kanne*), Middle Dutch *kanne*, and Old Icelandic *kanna*, all probably early borrowings from Late Latin *canna* container, vessel, from Latin *canna* reed, tube, CANE. —*v.* 1861, American English developed from the noun.

canal *n.* Probably before 1425, pipe for liquid; borrowed from Middle French *canal*, learned borrowing from Latin *canālis* trench, pipe, from *canna* CANE. The sense of a waterway is first recorded in 1673.

canard *n.* Before 1850, borrowing of French *canard*, false rumor literally, duck, from Old French *quanart*, from *caner* to cackle, quack, of imitative origin. The sense of a false or exaggerated story comes from the late 1500's, *vendre un canard à moitié* to half-sell a duck (i.e., not to sell it at all), hence to take in, deceive.

canary *n.* 1584, light wine of the Canary Islands; 1655, a songbird of the Canary Islands, earlier *canary bird* (1576); borrowed from French *Canarie* (the chief island of the group), from Spanish *Canaria*, from Latin *Canāria Insula* Isle of Dogs, because of the large dogs found there, from *canis* dog.

cancan *n.* 1848, borrowed from French *cancan*, of uncertain origin, possibly from the the dance imitating a duck's waddle.

cancel *v.* 1399, cross out or strike with lines; borrowed through Anglo-French *canceler*, Old French *canceler* cross out, or directly from Latin *cellāre* to strike out writing with crossed lines, from *cellati* crossbars, grating, diminutive form of *cancri* lattices, barriers, plural of *cancer* lattice or barrier, an alteration of *carcer* barrier, prison, (originally) network, grating. The figurative meaning "nullify an obligation" appeared shortly before 1443. —**cancellation** *n.* Probably before 1425, borrowing of Old French *cancellation*, from Medieval Latin *cancellationem* (nominative *cancellatio*), from Latin *cellāre* cancel; for suffix see -TION.

cancer *n.* 1 malignant tumor, carcinoma. 1601, found in Old English (about 1000) in the sense of spreading sore, either malignant or benign, and reinforced by Anglo-French *cancre* after 1100. 2 sign of the Zodiac representing the constellation of the Crab (about 1380). In both senses borrowed from Latin *cancer* crab, tumor, constellation Cancer, a form patterned after and cognate with Greek *karkinos* crab, tumor, constellation Cancer.

The meaning of a spreading sore developed, according to the Greek physician Galen, from a resemblance of swollen veins around a sore to the legs of a crab. —**cancerous** *adj.* 1563, borrowed from Middle French *cancereux*, and directly from Medieval Latin *cancerosus*, from Latin *cancer*; for suffix see -OUS. The form is also found as *cancrose* (probably before 1425); borrowed from Medieval Latin *cancrosus*, variant of *cancerosus* cancerous.

candelabrum *n.* 1811, reborrowed from Latin *candelābrum* candlestick; originally meaning candlestick (before 1400) with the spelling *chaundelabre*, borrowed from Old French *chaundelabre* from Latin *candelābrum*, from *candēla* CANDLE.

candescent *adj.* 1824, borrowed from Latin *candēscens* (nominative *candēscens*), present participle of *candēscere* begin to glow, from *candēre* to shine; glow.

candid *adj.* 1630, white, borrowed from Latin *candidus* white, clear; hence, pure, sincere, from *candēre* to shine, glow. The meaning of frank, sincere is first recorded in English in 1675.

candidate *n.* 1600, borrowed from Latin *candidatus*, (originally) clothed in white (in ancient Rome candidates for political office wore white togas), from *candidus* white, see CANDID; for suffix see -ATE¹.

In Middle English (before 1460), *candidate* was used in the special sense of a class of soldiers in the Roman army. —**candidacy** *n.* 1864, formed from English *candidate* + -acy.

candle *n.* Probably before 1160, developed from Old English *candel* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); earlier, in the compound *candel-*

twist an instrument for snuffing candles (about 700); borrowed from Latin *candēla*, from *candēre* to shine, glow. *Candle* came into English probably with the adoption of Christianity. —**candlelight** *n.* (before 1000) —**candlestick** *n.* (about 970)

candor *n.* 1610, purity, integrity; earlier *candoure* extreme whiteness (before 1500); borrowed, perhaps before 1398, from Latin *candor* sincerity, purity; originally, whiteness, from *candēre* to shine; for suffix see -OR¹. Middle French *candeur* (1488) may have influenced the use in English.

candy *n.* 1274, borrowed from Anglo-Latin and Old French *candi*, from Arabic *qandī* crystallized into sugar, from *qand* cane sugar. —**v.** 1533, from the noun, by influence of French *candir* to candy (*candi* was considered a past participle in *sucre candi* sugar candy). —**candied** *adj.* 1600, formed from English *candy* + -ED².

cane *n.* Before 1398 *canne*; borrowed through Anglo-French *cane*, Old French *canne*, *cane*, from Old Provençal *cana*, and directly from Latin *canna* reed, cane, from Greek *kánna* reed, from Babylonian-Assyrian *qanū* reed, from Sumerian *gin* (compare Hebrew *qāneh* and Arabic *qanāh* reed). The meaning of stick for walking or beating appeared in English in 1590. —**v.** Before 1667, from the noun.

canine *adj.* 1607, borrowed from Latin *canīnus*, from *canis* dog, HOUND; for suffix see -INE¹. —**n.** pointed tooth like that of a dog. Before 1425, possibly by influence of earlier use of Latin *canīnus* (before 1398). The informal sense of a dog appeared in 1869.

canister *n.* Probably 1474, basket, borrowed from Latin *canistrum* basket for bread, flowers, etc., from Greek *kánastron* wicker basket, from *káneon* basket made of reed, from *kánna* reed, CANE.

canker *n.* About 1150 *cancor*, later *cankre* (before 1400); developed from Old English *cancer* CANCER (about 1000). —**cankerous** *adj.* 1541, formed from English *canker* + -ous.

cannabis *n.* 1798, borrowing of earlier New Latin *Cannabis* the genus name (1728), from Latin *cannabis* hemp, from Greek *kánnabis*, perhaps of Scythian or Thracian origin and related to the source of English HEMP.

The sense of a hallucinatory or intoxicating preparation appeared in 1848.

cannibal *n.* 1553, borrowed from Spanish *caníbal*, *caríbal*, from *Caniba*, *Carib*, names cited by Columbus as belonging to the Indians of Cuba and Haiti, thought to eat human flesh; apparently local variant forms of Carib *Galibi* the Caribs, literally, brave men. —**cannibalism** *n.* 1796, probably borrowed from French *cannibalisme* (1796), from *cannibale* cannibal (1515), from Spanish *caníbal* + French -isme -ism.

cannon *n.* 1400, borrowed through Anglo-French *canon* tube for projectiles, Old French *canon*, from Italian *cannone* barrel, great tube, an augmentative form of *canna* tube, from Latin *canna* reed, tube, CANE. The differentiation in spelling *cannon* and *canon* was not firmly fixed before 1800.

canny *adj.* 1637, Scottish and Northern English, apparently formed as a variant from English CAN¹ in the older sense “to know, know how” + -y¹.

canoe *n.* 1590 *canow*, earlier *canoa* (1555); borrowed from Spanish, from Arawakan (Haiti) *canoa* (cited by Columbus), from Carib *canoua*, *canaoua*. In the 1600's various forms appeared in English from modern European languages (*cano*, *canoe*, *canoe*, etc.) of which English adopted *canoe*, in a translation from French in 1600. —**v.** 1842, from the noun.

canon¹ *n.* law of a church. Old English *canon* (before 900); borrowed from Late Latin *canōn*, from Latin *canōn* rule, model; and in part borrowed from Old French *canon*, learned borrowing of Latin *canōn*, from Greek *kanōn* rule, (straight) rod, probably from *kánna* reed, CANE. The sense of a standard of judging appeared in English in 1601. —**canonical** *adj.* Probably before 1425, borrowed from Medieval Latin *canonicalis*, from Latin *canonicus* according to rule, (in Late Latin, according to church law), from Greek *kanonikós*, from *kanōn* (genitive *kanónos*) rule; for suffix see -AL¹ and -ICAL. —**canonize** *v.* About 1384, borrowed from Old French *canonisier* and directly from Medieval Latin *canonizare*, from Late Latin *canōn* church law; for suffix see -IZE.

canon² *n.* clergyman. Probably before 1200, borrowed probably through Anglo-French *canun*, from Old North French *canonie*, from Late Latin *canonicus* clergyman living under a rule, from Latin *canonicus*, *adj.*, according to rule, canonical, from Greek *kanonikós*, from *kanōn*, (genitive *kanónos*) rule, CANON¹; for suffix see -IC.

canopy *n.* Before 1382, borrowed from Old French *canapé*, *conopé*, learned borrowing from Medieval Latin *canapeum*, *canopeum*, and directly from Latin *cōnōpēum*, *cōnōpium* couch with curtains of mosquito netting, from Greek *kōnōpion*, *kōnōpēōn*, an alteration of **kanōpion*, influenced by *kōnōps* mosquito, gnat, of uncertain origin. —**v.** About 1600, from the noun.

cant¹ *n.* insincere talk. 1709; earlier, a whining manner of speaking, especially of beggars (1640), developed from *cant*, *v.* (1567) to speak in a whining or singsong tone used by beggars; borrowed from Old North French *canter* to sing, chant, from Latin *cantāre*, a frequentative form of *canere* sing.

The meaning “special language of a group, jargon” is recorded in English in 1681.

cant² *n.* slant. About 1375 (Scottish), edge, brink; borrowed probably from Middle Dutch or Middle Low German *cant* border, edge, side, or directly from Old North French *cant*, from Vulgar Latin **cantus*, **canthus* corner, edge, possibly from Latin *cantus*, *canthus* rim of a wheel, tire; see DECANT. —**v.** 1542–43, from the noun.

cantaloupe or **cantaloup** *n.* 1739, borrowing of French *cantaloup*, apparently from Italian *Cantalupo* or *Cantaluppi*, former papal estate near Rome, where it was cultivated.

cantankerous *adj.* 1772, probably dialectal alteration (influenced by *rancorous*) of Middle English *conteckour* troublemaker, quarrelsome person (about 1300); borrowed through Anglo-French *contecker*, perhaps from Old North French *contekier* to

touch, feel (with the hands), Old French *contechier* (*con-* with + *teche*, related to *atachier* hold fast, ATTACH); for suffix see -OUS.

canteen *n.* Before 1744 (probably 1710–11), borrowed from French *canteen* sutler's shop; also (1737) small case for carrying bottles, from Italian *cantina cellar*, perhaps from *canto* corner (for storage), from Vulgar Latin **cantus*; see CANT² slant.

canter *v.* 1706, shortened from earlier *Canterbury*, *v.*, to gallop gently (1673), from the noun phrase *Canterbury gallop* or *pace*, the easy pace of pilgrims riding to *Canterbury* (1631). —**n.** 1755, from the verb.

canticle *n.* Before 1225, borrowed from Latin *canticulum*, diminutive of *canticum* song, from *cantus* song; see CANTO.

cantilever *n.* 1667, a support that projects from a wall to hold up a beam, balcony, etc. Probably formed from English *cant*² slant + connecting *-i-* + *lever*. The meaning applied to a bridge (1850) echoes *flying lever bridge* a cantilever bridge that appeared in a book on bridges, 1811.

canton *n.* 1522, probably borrowed from Middle French *canton* piece, portion of a country, from dialectal Italian (Lombard) *cantone* region, especially in the mountains, an augmentative form of *canto* corner, from Vulgar Latin **cantus*; see CANT². —**cantonment** *n.* (1756, borrowed from French *cantonnement*).

cantor *n.* 1538, borrowed from Latin *cantor* singer, from *canere* sing, see CHANT; for suffix see -OR².

canvas *n.* cloth. 1354 *canevace*, borrowed from Anglo-French *canevaz*, Old French *canevas* (fusion of Old North French *canevach* and Old French *chenevas*), and from Medieval Latin *canavasium*, *canebaccium*; from Vulgar Latin **cannapaceus* made of hemp, from *cannapus*, variant of Latin *cannabis* hemp, from Greek *kánnabis*.

canvass *v.* solicit. 1508 *canvas* or *canvass*, from CANVAS, *n.* The spelling with two *s*'s developed in the 1500's and from that came the verb *canvass* to toss in a canvas sheet as a sport or punishment, from which developed the sense of shake out, discuss, examine carefully (1530) and to solicit votes (before 1555). —**n.** 1608–11, from the verb.

canyon or **cañon** *n.* 1834 *cañon*, American English, borrowed from Mexican Spanish *cañón*, an extended sense of Spanish *cañón* tube, pipe, of uncertain origin. Since the Spanish word was attested in 1560–75 as *callón*, it is possible that it comes from *calle* street (from Latin *callis* a rough track, path), in the sense "narrow way."

cap *n.* Probably before 1200 *cappe*, developed from Old English *cæppe* (about 1000); borrowed from Late Latin *cappa* cap, hood, mantle, of uncertain origin (perhaps related to Latin *caput* head). —**v.** Probably about 1400 *cappen* put a cap on, (the verbal noun appears in a surname, 1270), developed from *cappe*, *n.* The meaning of cover, as with a cap appeared in 1602 and to excel, outdo, surpass (in Northern dialectal use) in 1821.

capable *adj.* 1561, borrowed through Middle French *capable* capable, or directly from Late Latin *capābilis* capacious, capable

of, fit, from Latin *capere* to take, contain, hold. —**capability** *n.* 1587, formed in English from Late Latin *capābilis* + English *-ity*.

capacious *adj.* 1614, borrowed from Latin *capāx* (genitive *capācis*) able to take in, from *capere* to take, hold, contain; for suffix see -OUS.

capacity *n.* Probably before 1425, borrowed from Middle French *capacité*, from Latin *capācitatem* (nominative *capācitā*), from *capāx* (genitive *capācis*) able to take in; for suffix see -ITY.

caparison *n.* 1579, borrowed from Middle French *caparasson*, *caparaçon*, from Spanish *caparazón*, perhaps from Old Provençal *caparasso* cape with hood, from *capa* CAPE¹ garment. —**v.** 1594, probably borrowed from Middle French *caparaçonner*, from *caparaçon* caparison.

cape¹ *n.* garment. Probably before 1200 (not distinguished from *cope* the ecclesiastical garment, but in 1565–78 and 1611 set apart as a sleeveless garment). Early use was borrowed from Medieval Latin *cappa* cloak, but the sense of sleeveless garment was borrowed from, or influenced by, Middle French *cape*, partly from Old Provençal *capa* hooded mantle, partly from Spanish *capa*, *cape* cloak, both from Late Latin *cappa* CAP.

cape² *n.* land. About 1387–95, borrowed from Middle French *cap* cape, head, from Old Provençal *cap*, literally, head, from Latin *caput* head.

caper¹ *v.* prance; frolic. 1588, apparently short for earlier English *capriole* to leap, skip, caper (1580); borrowed from Italian *capriolare*, from *capriolo* roebuck; see CAB. —**n.** 1592, playful leap or jump, probably from the verb. The sense of a prank, trick, or scheme appeared in 1840.

caper² *n.* shrub. Before 1398 *capar*, back formation from earlier *caperis*, taken as plural (before 1382); borrowed from Latin *capparis*, from Greek *kápparis*, of uncertain origin. Possibly *caper* came into English twice: borrowed from Latin *caparis*, and later (about 1551), borrowed from Middle French *câpre*, from Italian *cappero*, from Latin *capparis*.

capillary *n.* 1667, blood vessel, noun use of *capillary*, *adj.* —**adj.** 1664, hairlike, very slender; earlier, of or having to do with hair (1656); borrowed from French *capillaire*, and replacing earlier *capillar* (before 1400), both borrowed from Latin *capillāris* of hair, from *capillus* hair (of the head); for suffix see -ARY. —**capillary attraction** (1813)

capital¹ *adj.* principal. Probably before 1200, of or relating to the head; borrowed from Old French *capital*, from Latin *capitālis* relating to the head, chief, from *caput* (genitive *capitis*) HEAD; for suffix see -AL¹. Other senses soon developed: chief, principal (*capital city*), probably before 1425; deadly, mortal (*capital punishment*), 1395; upper-case (*capital letter*) before 1387. —**n.** Probably before 1430, a capital letter, from the adjective; later, fund of money (1611), from Medieval Latin *capitale* assets, from Latin *caput* principal, money laid out. —**capitalism** *n.* 1854, formed from English *capital*¹ + *-ism*. —**capitalist** *n.* 1791, formed from English *capital*¹ + *-ist*.

capital² *n.* top part of a column. Before 1300, borrowed through Anglo-French *capitel*, Old French *chapitel*, or directly from Latin *capitellum* small head, diminutive of *caput* (genitive *capitis*) head.

Capitol *n.* 1793, in writings of Jefferson, referring to the Congressional building then under construction; earlier, colonial Statehouse of Virginia (1699), from earlier *capitol* (about 1450), and *capitolie* (about 1375) referring to the Temple of Jupiter in Rome; borrowed from Old North French *capitolie*, Old French *capitoile*, both learned borrowings from Latin *Capitolium* temple of Jupiter on the Capitoline Hill in Rome.

capitulate *v.* 1580, make conditions, stipulate, agree; probably developed in English in part as a back formation of *capitulation*, and in part from *capitulate*, *adj.* stipulated, borrowed from Medieval Latin *capitulatus*, past participle of *capitulare* arrange in chapters; and probably borrowed directly from the Medieval Latin past participle of *capitulare*, from Latin *capitulum* chapter, section, diminutive of *caput* (genitive *capitis*) head; for suffix see -ATE¹. —**capitulation** *n.* 1535, borrowed from Middle French *capitulation*, from *capituler* agree on specified terms, from Medieval Latin *capitulare*; for suffix see -TION.

capon *n.* Before 1250 *capun*, developed from Old English *capūn* (about 1000), probably reinforced by Old North French *capon*, from Latin *cāpōnem* (nominative *cāpō*), perhaps better **cappōnem*; cognate with Greek *kóptein* to strike, cut off.

caprice *n.* 1667, borrowed from French *caprice* whim, from Italian *capriccio* whim, sudden start; earlier, shiver, horror, raising of hackles, possibly a blend of *capo* head (from Latin *caput* head) and *riccio* frizzled (hair), hedgehog, from Latin *ēricius* hedgehog. —**capricious** *adj.* 1594, borrowed from French *capricieux* whimsical, from Italian *capriccioso*, from *capriccio* caprice; for suffix see -OUS.

Capricorn *n.* Before 1387 *Capricorne* sign of the Zodiac; southern constellation; borrowed through Old French *capricorne*, or directly from Latin *Capricornus*, literally, having horns like a goat (*caper*, genitive *caprī*, goat + *cornū* horn).

capsize *v.* 1788, of uncertain origin (apparently originally sailor's cant, a possible borrowing of Spanish *cabezar* pitch, as a ship does, and *capuzar* sink a ship by the head).

capstan *n.* Probably about 1380, borrowed from Old French *cabestant*, from Old Provençal *cabestan*, from *cabestran*, present participle of **cabestrar* roll up cables, from *capestre* pulley cord, from Latin *capistrum* halter, from *capere* to hold, take.

capsule *n.* 1652, borrowed from French *capsule* a membranous sac, from Latin *capsula* little box, diminutive of *capsa* box, CASE². The sense of a gelatin case enclosing a dose of medicine appeared in 1875. The aerospace use (space *capsule*) was first recorded in 1958. —**adj.** 1938, American English, from the noun.

captain *n.* About 1375 *capitayn*, borrowed from Old French *capitain*, *capitaine*, learned borrowing from Late Latin *capitāneus* commander, noun use of *capitāneus*, *adj.*, prominent, chief, from Latin *caput* (genitive *capitis*) head. The sense of a naval

officer (*captain* of the fleet) appeared in 1554; master of any vessel, before 1649; army officer, 1567; pilot of an aircraft, 1929; head of a team, 1857. —**v.** 1598, from the noun.

caption *n.* 1789, American English, borrowed from Latin *captiōnem* (nominative *captiō*) a taking, from *capere* to take; for suffix see -TION. The meaning was strongly influenced by Latin *caput* head, as well as by the earlier (1670) legal use of *caption*, in the phrase "certificate of caption," sometimes interpreted as "the beginning or heading of a warrant, indictment, etc." The word originally appeared in Middle English (about 1384) as *capcioun*, borrowed from Anglo-French and Old French *caption* seizure or capture.

captious *adj.* Probably about 1408 *capcyus*; borrowed from Middle French *captieux*, from Latin *captiōsus*, from *captiō* a deceiving, fallacious argument; literally, a taking (in), from *capere* to catch, take; for suffix see -OUS. The meaning of designed to entrap, fallacious, appeared in 1447.

captive *adj.* Probably about 1425 *captif*, borrowed from Latin *captivus*, from *captus*, past participle of *capere* to take, hold, seize; for suffix see -IVE. —**n.** Probably before 1400 *captif*, from the adjective. —**captivate** *v.* About 1526, hold captive; borrowed from Late Latin *captivātus*, past participle of *captivāre*, from Latin *captivus* captive; for suffix see -ATE¹. —**captivity** *n.* About 1380, borrowed from Old French *captivité*, from Latin *captivitatē* (nominative *captivitas*, from *captivus* captive); for suffix see -ITY.

capture *n.* 1541–42, borrowed from Middle French *capture* a taking, catching, learned borrowing from Latin *captūra* a taking, from *captus*, past participle of *capere* to take, capture; for suffix see -URE. —**v.** 1795, from the noun. —**captor** *n.* 1688; earlier meaning "censor" (1646), borrowed from Latin *captor*, from *capere* to take, capture; for suffix see -OR².

car *n.* 1301 (in surname) *Careman*; later, *carre* any wheeled vehicle (about 1350); borrowed through Anglo-French *carre*, Old North French *carre*, and directly from Latin *carra*, plural of *carrus*, *carum* two-wheeled vehicle for carrying loads, wagon, of Gaulish origin (compare Old Irish *carr* wagon, chariot).

The word was first applied to the automobile in 1896.

carafe *n.* 1786, borrowing of French *carafe*, either from Italian *caraffa*, or possibly from Spanish *garrafa*, perhaps from Arabic *gharrāf*, from *gharafa* draw water.

caramel *n.* 1725, borrowing of French *caramel* burnt sugar, from archaic Spanish *caramel* sugar candy, alteration of Provençal *canamel* sugar cane, from Medieval Latin *cannamellis* (apparently by folk etymology from Latin *canna* CANE + *mel*, genitive *mellis* honey). The Spanish *caramel* was influenced in its formation by *caramillo* reed, from Late Latin *calamellus*, a diminutive form of Latin *calamus* reed, cane.

carapace *n.* 1836, borrowed from French *carapace* tortoise shell, from Portuguese *carapaça*, of uncertain origin.

carat or **karat** *n.* 1469 *carat* measure of the fineness of gold; borrowing of Middle French *carat*, from Italian *carato*, from Arabic *qīrāt*, from Greek *keratōn* carat, the small carob seed

used as a weight, originally, the horn-shaped pod of the carob tree; diminutive form of *kéras* (genitive *kératos*) HORN. The unit of weight for precious stones is first recorded in English in 1555.

caravan *n.* 1588, borrowed from Middle French *caravane* or from Medieval Latin *caravana*, both from Persian *kārwān*.

caravansary *n.* 1712, inn where caravans rest; earlier *cavanzara*, *carvanzara* (1599); borrowed from Middle French *caravansera*, from Persian *kārwānsarāī* (from *kārwān* caravan + *sarāī* inn).

caravel *n.* 1527, borrowed from Middle French *caravelle*, from Portuguese *caravela* a kind of small vessel, diminutive form of *cávaro* kind of ship, from Late Latin *cārabus*, from Late Greek *kārabos* kind of light ship, Greek *kārabos* horned beetle, spiny lobster, probably used in allusion to the outline of the ship. *Caravel* replaces the earlier *carvel* (about 1425) which still exists in the compound *carvel-built* a type of ship construction in which the planks of the hull are flush rather than overlapping.

caraway *n.* 1281–82, spicy seed of a plant; later, the plant itself (1373), borrowed through Anglo-Latin *carvi*, *carvi* or Old French *carvi*, *caroi*, both probably from Old Spanish *alcarahueya*, variant of *alcaravea*, from Spanish-Arabic *karawīa*, Arabic *karawīyā*, perhaps from Greek *karō*, variant of *káron* caraway.

carbide *n.* About 1865, formed from English *carb-* (combining form of *carbon*) + *-ide*.

carbine *n.* 1605, eventually replacing earlier *carabin* (1590); *carbine* was a borrowing of French *carabine* a small harquebus; *carabin* was borrowed directly from Middle French *carabin* cavalryman armed with this weapon; origin uncertain.

carbo-, or (before vowels) **carb-**, a combining form meaning carbon, as in *carbohydrate* = a hydrate of carbon. 1810, coined from CARBON.

carbohydrate *n.* 1869, formed from English *carbo-* carbon + *hydrate* a compound produced when certain substances combine with water, borrowed from Greek *hýdōr* water + English *-ate*².

carbon *n.* 1789 *carbone*, borrowing of French *carbone*, coined by Lavoisier from Latin *carbō* (genitive *carbōnis*) charcoal.

In Middle English (1415) *carbon* was borrowed in the sense of charcoal from Anglo-French, but this usage did not survive into the modern period.

carbonate *n.* 1794, borrowed from French *carbonate* salt or ester of carbonic acid, from New Latin *carbonatum* a carbonated substance (Latin *carbō*, genitive *carbōnis* + *-ātum* -ate²). —*v.* 1805, from the noun, probably by influence of French *carbonater* transform into a carbonate. —**carbonation** *n.* 1881, formed in English from *carbonate* + *-ion*.

carboniferous *adj.* 1799, formed in English from Latin *carbō* (genitive *carbōnis*) coal + *-iferous* combining form of English suffix *-ferous* producing, containing. —*n.* **Carboniferous** After the 1940's the noun use, shortened from the phrase *Carboniferous period*.

carbonize *n.* 1806, formed as a back formation of earlier English *carbonization* (1804), or from *carbon* + *-ize*.

carborundum *n.* 1892, American English, *Carborundum*, a trademark formed from *carbo(n)* + *(co)rundum*.

carbuncle *n.* Before 1300, fiery colored jewel; also *charbugle* (about 1250) and *charbucle* (about 1200); borrowed from Old French *charboucle*, *carbuncle*, from Latin *carbunculus* a gem, and a red tumor or boil; literally, a little coal, diminutive of *carbō* (genitive *carbōnis*) charcoal.

The meaning of inflamed tumor, in allusion to the fiery red color of the jewel, appeared probably before 1425.

carburetor *n.* 1866, device to enhance a gas flame; formed from English *carburetor* combine with *carbon* (*carb-* + *-ure*, an archaic suffix, from New Latin *-uretum*, after French words in *-ure*) + English suffix *-or*².

carcass *n.* Probably before 1400 *carcas*, earlier, *carkas* (before 1330); borrowed from Anglo-French *carkeis*, *carcois*, Old French *charcois*, and Anglo-Latin *carcasium*, *carcosium*, dead body, of uncertain origin.

carcinoma *n.* 1721, borrowed from Latin *carcinōma*, from Greek *karkīnōma* a cancer, from *karkīnos* crab; see CANCER. —**carcinogen** *n.* cancer-producing substance. 1936, back formation from *carcinogenic*, *adj.* (1926, formed from English *carcino(ma)* + *-genic*).

card¹ *n.* paper. Probably before 1425 *cardes* playing cards; borrowed from Middle French *carte*, from Latin *charta*, *carta* leaf of paper or papyrus. The sense of a piece of paper to write on, etc., is first recorded in 1596. —*v.* 1548, from the noun. —**cardboard** *n.* (1848; earlier, *card paper*, 1777). —**card table** (1713)

card² *n.* tool. 1375 *kard*, earlier, 1351 (in surname *Cardmaker*); borrowed from Anglo-Latin *cardo*, from Medieval Latin *cardo* a teasel, from Latin *carduus* thistle, related to *carrere* to clean or comb with a card. —*v.* About 1378 *karden* to comb (wool, etc.), from *kard*, *n.*

cardiac *adj.* 1601, borrowed, perhaps by influence of French *cardiaque*, from Latin *cardiacus*, from Greek *kardiakós*, from *kardiā* heart. Middle English *cardiac*, *n.*, about 1440, a vein associated with the heart, dropped out of use in the 1500's, and the meaning of a medicine for the heart disappeared in the 1800's.

cardigan *n.* 1868, named after Brudenell, Earl of Cardigan (1797–1868), who wore such a jacket during the charge of the Light Brigade.

cardinal *n.* Before 1126, high official of the Roman Catholic Church; borrowed from Medieval Latin *cardinalis* a cardinal, from *episcopus cardinalis* chief bishop, from Late Latin *cardinālis*, *adj.*, chief, pivotal. —*adj.* Probably before 1325, borrowed from Old French *cardinal*, from Late Latin *cardinālis* chief, or pivotal in the figurative sense of turning or hinging on, in Latin *cardinālis* of a door hinge, from *cardō* (genitive *cardinis*)

pivot, turning point; for suffix see -AL¹. —**cardinal bird** (1678)

cardio- a combining form meaning heart, as in *cardiogram* (1876), *cardiology* (1847). Borrowed from Greek *kardio-*, combining form of *kardiā* heart.

care *n.* Old English *caru*, *cearu* sorrow, anxiety, grief (about 725). The word is cognate, in the primary sense of inward grief, with Old Saxon *kara* care, Old High German *chara* wail, lamentation, Middle High German *kartac* day of mourning (modern German *Karfreitag* Good Friday), and Gothic *kara* sorrow, trouble, care, from Proto-Germanic **karō*. —**v.** Old English *carian*, *cearian* to be anxious (about 725, in *Beowulf*), from *caru*, *cearu*, *n.* The Old English verb corresponds to Old Saxon *karōn* to care, Old High German *karōn*, *karēn* to lament, and Gothic *karōn* to care, *ga-karōn* be concerned about, from Proto-Germanic **karōjanan*. —**careful** *adj.* Old English *carful* (about 1000); earlier, *cearful* (before 750), formed from *caru*, *cearu* care + *-ful* full. —**careless** *adj.* Old English *carlēas* (before 1000), formed from *caru*, *cearu* care + *-lēas* -less.

careen *v.* 1600, lean (a ship) on its side, from earlier *careen*, *n.* (1591), position of a ship when laid on one side; borrowed from Middle French *carène* keel, from Italian (Genoese) *carena*, from Latin *carīna* keel; originally, nutshell.

career *n.* About 1534, a run, usually at full speed, course of action, borrowed from Middle French *carrière* race course, stretch, from Old Provençal *carriera* road for vehicles, from Medieval Latin *via carraria* carriageway, from Latin *carrum* cart, *CAR*. The sense of occupation or profession appeared in 1803. —**v.** 1594, to charge at a tournament; from the noun. In 1647 the sense of run at full speed is first recorded.

caress *n.* 1651, affectionate touch or stroke; earlier, a show of regard (1647); borrowed from French *caresse* a caress, from Italian *carezza* endearment, from *caro* dear, from Latin *cārus* dear. —**v.** 1658, borrowed from French *caresser* to caress, from Italian *carezzare*, from *carezza* caress, endearment.

caret *n.* 1681, mark (A) to show insertion; borrowed from Latin *caret* there is lacking, 3rd person singular present indicative of *carere* to be without, lack.

cargo *n.* 1657, borrowed from Spanish *cargo* a loading, burden, and *carga* load, cargo, from *cargar* to load, from Late Latin *caricāre* to load on a cart, from Latin *carrum* cart, *CAR*. The older term was *charge* (about 1300).

caribou *n.* About 1665, American English, borrowed through Canadian French *caribou*, from Algonquian *xalibā*, literally, pawer, scratcher, in reference to the animal's habit of pawing snow to find grass.

caricature *n.* 1748, borrowed from French *caricature*, from Italian *caricatura*, from *caricare* overload, exaggerate, from Late Latin *carricāre* to load. The Italian spelling *caricatura* appeared frequently in English into the 1800's. —**v.** 1749, from the noun, probably by influence of French *caricaturer* to represent in caricature. —**caricaturist** *n.* 1798, formed from English *caricature*, *n.* + *-ist*.

caries *n.* 1634, borrowed, perhaps by influence of French *carie* (1537), from Latin *caries* decay.

carillon *n.* 1775, borrowing of French *carillon*, from Old French *quarellon* a chime of bells, alteration of *quarregnon*, *carignon* set of four bells, from Northern Gallo-Romance *quadriniōnem*, and corresponding to Latin *quaterniōnem* a set of four. —**carillonneur** *n.* 1772, a French term introduced in an English work on music.

carmine *n.* 1712, borrowed from French *carmin*, from Medieval Latin *carminium*, from a fusion of Arabic *qirmiz* the kermes insect, and Latin *minium* red lead. —**adj.** 1737–59, from the noun.

carnage *n.* 1600, borrowing of Middle French *carnage*, from Italian *carnaggio* slaughter, from Medieval Latin *carnaticum* flesh, often as meat in tribute to a feudal lord, from Latin *carō* (accusative *carnem*) flesh; for suffix see -AGE.

carnal *adj.* Probably about 1400, borrowed through Old French *carnal*, and directly from Medieval Latin *carnalis* natural, of the same blood or descent, Latin *carnālis* of the flesh, from *carō* flesh; for suffix see -AL¹.

carnation *n.* 1538, borrowed from Middle French *carnation* person's color or complexion, probably adapted from Italian (originally Northern dialect) *carnagione* flesh color, from Late Latin *carnātiōnem* (nominative *carnātiō*) fleshiness, from Latin *carō* flesh; for suffix see -TION.

carnival *n.* 1549, time of feasting and merrymaking before Lent, borrowed from Italian *carnevale* the last three days before Lent, alteration of dialectal (Milanese) **carnelevale* and (Old Pisan) *carnelevare* a leaving off of eating meat (*carne* flesh, meat, from Latin *carne* + Italian *levare* + to remove, from Latin *levāre* lift up). The Italian dialect forms were influenced by Medieval Latin *carnelevamen*, *carnilevamen* a form equivalent in use to English Shrove-tide.

carnivorous *adj.* 1646, borrowing of Latin *carnivorus* flesh-eating (*carō* flesh + *vorāre* devour). English use was patterned after earlier *carnivora* a name applied to a large order of flesh-eating mammals (1627).

carol *n.* Probably before 1300, borrowed from Old French *carole*, probably alteration of Latin *choraula* one that accompanies a choral dance on a flute, from Greek *choraúlēs* (chorós dance + *aúlós* hollow tube, flute). The meaning of hymn of joy, sung at Christmas appeared in 1502. —**v.** About 1303, borrowed from Old French *caroler*, from *carole*, *n.*

carom *n.* 1779, shortened from earlier *carambole* (1775), apparently borrowed from French *carambole*, from Spanish *carambola* a red ball in billiards, originally meaning a snare, trap, or trick, of uncertain origin; perhaps from earlier Spanish *carambola* name of an orange fruit from tropical Asia. —**v.** glance off, rebound. 1860, from the noun.

carotid *adj.* 1543, *carotides*, borrowed directly from Greek; later 1667, borrowed, by influence of French *carotide*, *n.* (1541), from Greek *karōtídes* carotid arteries, from *karōún* stupefy,

whence *káros* stupor, state produced by compression of carotid arteries. —**n.** 1741, probably developed in English from the adjective.

carouse *v.* 1567, drink freely, drain; probably borrowed from Middle French *carousser* drink, quaff, swill, from *carous* a bout of drinking. Also possibly abstracted from the phrase *drink carouse* in which *carouse* appears as an adverb meaning to the bottom, all up. Both English and French are said to derive from German *garaus*, adv. all out, from a German phrase (*trink gar aus!* (drink) all up! —**n.** 1559, probably borrowed from French *carous* bout of drinking. —**carousal** *n.* 1765, formed from English *carouse*, *v.* + *-al*.

carp¹ *v.* complain. About 1225 *carpen* to talk, borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *karpa* boast; *karp* boasting). The sense of find fault with developed about 1378, apparently influenced by Latin *carpere* to pluck, tear to pieces, (figurative) to slander, revile. —**carper** *n.* 1440, talker, from earlier *carp*, *n.* (probably about 1350).

carp² *n.* fish. 1393, borrowed through Old French *carpe*, from Old Provençal *carpa*, and directly from Medieval and Late Latin *carpa*, probably from a Germanic source; compare Old High German *karpfo* carp (modern German *Karpfen*), Middle Dutch *carpe* carp (modern Dutch *karper*).

carpel *n.* 1835, borrowed from New Latin *carpellum* (1817), diminutive from Greek *karpós* fruit.

carpenter *n.* About 1300; earlier, as a surname (1175); borrowed from Anglo-French *carpenter*, Old French *charpentier*, from Late Latin *artifex carpentarius* carriage maker, from Latin *carpentum* two-wheeled carriage, from Gaulish. —**carpentry** *n.* About 1378, borrowed from Anglo-French *carpenterie*, from *carpenter* carpenter.

carpet *n.* 1345 *karpete* cloth to cover floors, tables, beds, etc.; borrowed from Old French *carpite* and from Medieval Latin *carpita*; both from Old Italian *carpita* (thick cloth, used for a cover, originally made of shreds), derived from past participle of Vulgar Latin **carpire* pluck, card (wool), for Latin *carpere* pluck. —**v.** Before 1626, from the noun. —**carpetbagger** *n.* 1868, American English, formed from *carpetbag*, *n.* (1830), originally, a traveling bag made out of carpet + *-er*¹.

carriage *n.* Before 1387, *cariage* wheeled vehicles collectively; earlier in the compound *carriageman* carter (1374); borrowed through Anglo-French *cariage*, Old North French *cariage*, from *carier* CARRY; for suffix see -AGE. The word was used about 1398 to refer to an individual wheeled vehicle; in 1596 the sense of a way of carrying one's body, bearing appeared, paralleling earlier act or condition of carrying, and a feudal duty to provide transportation, first recorded in 1253.

carriion *n.* Before 1325 *carion*, alteration of earlier *caroine*, *charoine* (probably before 1200); borrowed through Anglo-French *careine*, *caroine*, Old French *charoigne*, *caroigne*, from Vulgar Latin **carōnia*, from Latin *carō* flesh. —**carriion crow** (1528).

carrot *n.* 1533, borrowed from Middle French *carotte*, learned

borrowing from Latin *carōta*, from Greek *karōtōn* a carrot, possibly from *kārā* head, top.

carrousel or **carousel** *n.* 1673, merry-go-round; developed from "tournament in which companies of knights engaged in exercises, including chariot races" (1650), borrowed from French *carrousel* a tilting match, from Italian *carosello* a kind of joust on horseback, of uncertain origin.

carry *v.* Before 1338 *carien*, borrowed from Anglo-French or Old North French *carier* to transport in a vehicle, Old French *charier*, from Gallo-Romance **carriare* (= **caridiare*), from Latin *carrum* cart. —**n.** 1605, from the verb. —**carrier** *n.* Before 1398 *cariere*, formed from Middle English *carien*, *v.* to carry and, in part, borrowed from or at least influenced in formation by Anglo-French *carior* one who carries, from Old North French *carier* to carry.

cart *n.* About 1200 *carte*, borrowed probably from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *kartr* cart) and replacing Old English (before 800) *craet* cart. Middle English and Old English *craet* are cognate with Middle Dutch *craete* woven mat, wagon basket, and Old High German *kratto* basket; further, Old English *craet* is related to Old English *cradol* CRADLE. —**v.** Probably about 1387 *carten*, from the Middle English noun. —**cartage** *n.* (1305) —**carter** *n.* (1193, in part borrowed from Anglo-French *careter*, and in part formed from English *cart* + *-er*¹). —**cartwheel** *n.* (about 1395)

cartel *n.* 1560, written challenge, borrowed from Middle French *cartel*, from Italian *cartello* little card, diminutive of *carta* paper, letter, bill, from Latin *charta* CHART. In 1889, extended to mean "written agreement between challengers," and in 1902 to mean "agreement between rival businesses," under influence of German *Kartell*, from French *cartel*.

cartilage *n.* Probably before 1425, borrowed through Middle French *cartilage*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *cartilāgō* (genitive *cartilāginis*) cartilage, gristle, possibly related to Latin *crātis* wickerwork, CRATE. —**cartilaginous** *adj.* 1541, borrowed from French *cartilagineux*, and directly from Latin *cartilāginōsus*, from *cartilāgō*; for suffix see -OUS.

cartography *n.* Before 1843, borrowed from French *cartographie*, from Medieval Latin *carta* + French *-graphie* -graphy. —**cartographer** *n.* (before 1843)

carton *n.* 1816, borrowed from French *carton* pasteboard, from Italian *cartone* pasteboard, an augmentative form of *carta* paper, from Latin *charta* paper. —**v.** 1921, implied in the past tense *cartoned* used as an adjective.

cartoon *n.* 1671, drawing or painting used as model for another work; borrowed from French *carton* pasteboard (because it was originally drawn on paper), from Italian *cartone* pasteboard; see CARTON; for suffix see -OON. The meaning of amusing sketch, is first recorded in 1843. —**v.** 1884, from the noun. —**cartoonist** *n.* (1880)

cartridge *n.* 1626, alteration of earlier (1579) *cartage*; borrowed from French *cartouche* a full charge for a pistol, held in

paper, from Italian *cartuccia* a cartridge, cylinder or cone of paper, from *carta* paper, from Latin *charta* paper.

carve *v.* cut into slices. Probably before 1200 *kerven*, partly developed from Old English (about 725) *ceorfan* and *becceorfan*, and partly borrowed from or influenced by a Scandinavian word (compare Old Icelandic *kurfla* cut to pieces, Norwegian *karve* to carve). The word is cognate with Old Frisian *kerva* to notch, carve, Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *kerven* to cut, carve, and Middle High German *kerben* to notch, carve, from Proto-Germanic **kerbanan*. — **carver** *n.* (about 1275, in a surname). — **carving** *n.* (probably before 1200) — **carving knife** (about 1415)

caryatid *n.* 1563, *cariatide*, borrowed from Middle French *cariatide*, from Latin *caryatides*, from Greek *Karyátides* priestesses of Artemis (Diana) at Caryae (Greek *Karyai*), a town in Laconia where dance festivals were held in the temple of Artemis.

casaba *n.* 1889, American English, from *Kasaba*, the place from which the fruit was first imported (now Turgutlu, near Izmir, Turkey).

cascade *n.* 1641, borrowed from French *cascade*, from Italian *cascata* waterfall, from *cascare* to fall, from Vulgar Latin **cāsicāre*, from Latin *cāsum*, past participle of *cadere* to fall; for suffix see -ADE. — **v.** 1702, from the noun.

cascara *n.* 1903, American English, from Spanish *cáscara* sacred bark (*cáscara* bark, from *casar* to crack, break + *sagrada* sacred, feminine of *sagrado*, from Latin *sacrātus* consecrated).

case¹ *n.* instance, example. Before 1250, state of affairs, situation; borrowed from Old French *cas* circumstance, event, chance, learned borrowing from Latin *cāsus* (genitive *cāsius*) a falling, event, chance, from *cās-*, past participle stem of *cadere* to fall. The meaning of instance or example is first recorded about 1300.

case² *n.* container. Before 1325, borrowed from Anglo-French *cas*, Old French *chasse*, from Latin *capsa* container, from *capere* to take, hold. — **v.** 1575, from the noun. The meaning of examine, inspect is first recorded in 1915. — **casings** *n.* covering (1839).

casein *n.* 1841, borrowed from French *caséine*, formed from Latin *cāseus* cheese + French *-ine* *-ine*².

casement *n.* Before 1420, hollow molding; borrowed from Anglo-Latin *casementum*, from *cas* frame, *CASE*² box; for suffix see -MENT.

cash *n.* 1593, borrowed from Middle French *caisse* money box, coffer, from Provençal *caissa*, from Vulgar Latin **capsea* box, from Latin *capsa* box. — **v.** 1811, from the noun. — **cash book** (1622) — **cash register** (1879, American English).

cashew *n.* 1703; earlier *caju*; borrowed from French *cajou*, *acajou*, from Brazilian Portuguese *cajú*, *acajú*, from Tupi-Guarani *acajú* the tree producing this nut.

cashier¹ *n.* person in charge of money. 1596, borrowed from Middle French *caissier* treasurer, from *caisse* money box; see CASH; for suffix see -IER.

cashier² *v.* dismiss. 1592, *cassee*, borrowed from Middle Dutch *casseren*, to cast off, discharge, from French *casser* to discharge, annul, from Late Latin *casāre* annul, from Latin *casus* void, empty; see QUASH² annul.

cashmere *n.* 1684, originally a shawl made of cashmere, from *Cashmere*, variant of *Kashmir*, region in north India where the wool was obtained from a breed of long-haired goats.

casino *n.* 1744, building or room for dancing, etc.; borrowed from Italian *casino*, diminutive of *casa* house, from Latin *casa* hut, cabin, of uncertain origin.

cask *n.* 1458, borrowed from Middle French *casque* a cask, helmet, from Spanish *casco* skull, helmet, cask; originally, fragment, from *casar* to crack, break, from Vulgar Latin **quassicāre*, a frequentative form of *quassāre* to break, shake.

casket *n.* 1461, small box for valuables, perhaps formed from English *cask* + *-et* or, possibly, an alteration of Middle French *casset* small box or chest; see CASSETTE. The meaning of coffin appeared in 1849 in American English, as a figurative sense.

casava *n.* 1565 *casava*, borrowed from Middle French *casave*, from Spanish *casabe*; earlier *cazabbi* (1555), borrowed from Spanish, from Taino (Haiti) *caşábi*.

casserole *n.* 1706, borrowing of French *casserole* stew pan or saucepan, a diminutive form of Middle French *cas* pan, from Provençal *cas*, from Medieval Latin *cattia* pan, vessel, possibly from Greek *kyáthion*, diminutive of *kyáthos* cup, formed from *kýar* hole.

cassette *n.* 1793, small box, casket; borrowing of French *cassette* little box, from Middle French *casset*, diminutive of Old North French *cas* box, from Latin *capsa* box. The meaning of cartridge of photographic film appeared in 1875 and container of tape in a tape recorder in 1960.

cassock *n.* About 1550, borrowed from Middle French *casaque* long coat, perhaps from Arabic *kazāgand*, from Persian *kazhāgand* padded coat (*kazh*, *kaj* raw silk + *āgand* stuffed).

cast *v.* Probably before 1200 *casten*, borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *kasta* to throw, related to *kps* heap thrown up, pile). — **n.** About 1250, partly developed from *casten*, *v.*, and, in part, borrowed from Scandinavian (compare Old Icelandic *keast*, *n.*). The earliest sense was "a throw," with the idea of the form into which a thing is thrown, which was applied in such varied senses as arrangement, plan, design, conformation, bearing, appearance, and the like. — **castaway** *n.* (probably before 1475). — **casting** *n.* (before 1300; later, with the meaning of a metal casting, before 1398).

castanet *n.* 1647, borrowed from Spanish *castañeta* a castanet, diminutive of *castaña* chestnut, from Latin *castanea* CHESTNUT.

caste *n.* 1555, race, breed, lineage; borrowed from Spanish and Portuguese *casta* (earlier *casta raça* unmixed race) originally

feminine of *casto* chaste, from Latin *castus* pure, related to *castrare* to cut off, *CASTRATE*. The sense of one of the hereditary classes in India appeared in 1613.

castellated *adj.* 1679, formed in English after Medieval Latin *castellatus*, past participle of *castellare* to fortify as a castle (from Latin *castellum* CASTLE) + English suffix *-ed*².

caster *n.* 1 a small wheel (1748). 2 bottle (1676). 3 person or thing that casts (before 1382). Formed from English *cast*, *v.* + *-er*¹.

castigate *v.* 1607, in part, borrowed from Latin *castigatus*, past participle of *castigare* to correct, chastise, formed (perhaps by influence from *fatigare* to weary), from *castus* pure, CHASTE, for suffix see *-ATE*¹ and also developed as a back formation from *castigation*. — **castigation** *n.* punishment. About 1390 *castigacioun*, borrowed from Latin *castigatiōnem* (nominative *castigatiō*), from *castigare* to chastise; for suffix see *-TION*.

castle *n.* Old English *castel* (about 1000); first borrowed from Latin *castellum* fortified village, and later, as a re-borrowing from Old North French *castel* fortress, castle, from Latin *castellum*, diminutive of *castrum* fort (plural *castra* camp), related to Latin *castrare* cut off.

castor *n.* Before 1398, borrowed through Old French *castor*, or directly from Latin *castor* beaver from Greek *kástōr*, from *Kástōr* Castor (originally, he who excels), one of the Twins of Greek mythology.

Castor was worshipped by women of Ancient Greece as their healer and preserver from disease. It was because of the healing effect of the beaver's secretion (known as *castoreum*) in the treatment of diseases that the name of Castor was carried over to the beaver, completely displacing the native Greek word and almost entirely eliminating the native Latin one (*fiber*).

The name of another substance, *castor oil* (the extract of a plant), appeared in 1746, and though never obtained from a beaver, was associated with the "oil of a castor," i.e., *castoreum*, perhaps because both have similar medicinal properties and were noted for their bitter or acrid taste.

castrate *v.* 1633, probably developed from earlier English *castrate*, *n.* a castrated man (1639), from *castrated*, participial *adj.*, gelded, diminished (1613); borrowed from Latin *castratus*, past participle of *castrare* cut off, curtail, castrate (formed from **castrum* knife); for suffix see *-ATE*. It is also possible that *castrate* is a back formation of earlier *castration*. — **castration** *n.* Probably before 1425 *castracioun*, borrowed from Latin *castratiōnem* (nominative *castratiō*), from *castrare* castrate; for suffix see *-TION*.

casual *adj.* About 1384 *casuel* accidental, fortuitous; borrowed from Old French *casuel*, learned borrowing from Latin *cāsualis*, from *cāsus* (genitive *cāsūs*) chance; see *CASE*¹ instance; for suffix see *-AL*¹. — **casualty** *n.* 1422 *casueltee* a casual or incidental charge or payment; later, chance, accident, misfortune (1442); formed from Middle English *casuel* + *-tee* *-ty*², by influence of earlier Old French *casualité*, and Medieval Latin *casualitas*, from Latin *cāsualis* depending on chance. The sense of one killed or wounded appeared in 1844.

casuist *n.* In 1609, a person who resolves questions; borrowed from French *casuiste* or directly from Spanish *casuista*, from Latin *cāsus* (genitive *cāsūs*) a falling, chance, *CASE*¹ instance; for suffix see *-IST*.

The pejorative meaning developed in the mid-1600's, and probably led to formation of **casuistry** *n.* 1725, formed from English *casuist* + *-ry*.

cat *n.* Old English (before 800) *cat*, *catte*, corresponding to Old Frisian *katte* cat, Old High German *kazza* (modern German *Katze*), and Old Icelandic *köttur* (Danish *kat*, Norwegian and Swedish *katt*) all of which probably came from the same source as Late Latin *catus*, *cattus*, *catta* cat, perhaps ultimately from an Afro-Asiatic source (compare Nubian *kadīs* and Berber *kad-diska* cat).

cata- or (before vowels) **cat-** a prefix meaning: 1 down, downward, as in *cataract* = violent rush, downpour (Greek *kata-* down + *rhāttein* to dash). 2 against, as in *catapult* = a weapon for hurling darts or missiles (Greek *kata-* against + *pallein* hurl). 3 wrongly, amiss, as in *catagresis* = misuse of words (Greek *kata-* amiss + *chrēsthai* to use). 4 completely, as in *catalog* = complete list of (things) counted or said (Greek *kata-* completely + *legein* to count or speak).

Most English words with *cata-* were borrowed, often through Latin, after the 1500's as part of Greek words. Other words in English that have *cata-* as a prefix are made on analogy with Greek words or follow similar forms of compounding as derivatives. Though *cata-* was known in Latin (as in *catagomb*), it is a borrowing from Greek *kata-*, from *katá* down, against, over.

catabolism *n.* 1889; earlier, *katabolism* (1876), probably formed in English after *metabolism*, with substitution of *cata-* down, for *meta-* (bolism thereby being taken as a derivative combining form in English, formed of Greek *bolé* a throw + English *-ism*).

catadysm *n.* 1633, borrowed from French *catadysme*, from Latin *catadysmos*, from Greek *kataklysmós* flood, ultimately from *kata-* down + *klýzein* to wash.

catadomb *n.* Usually, **catadombs**. underground burying place. Old English (before 900) *catadombas*; borrowed from Late Latin *catadombae*, plural, possibly alteration (influenced by Latin *-cumbere* to lie) of the phrase *cata tumbās* among the tombs (*cata* among, from Greek *katá* down, over) + (*tumbās*, plural accusative of *tumba* TOMB).

catadique *n.* 1641, borrowing of French *catadique*, from Italian *catadico* scaffold, from Vulgar Latin **catadicalum* (Latin *cata-* down + *fala* scaffolding).

catadipsy *n.* Before 1398 *catadipsia*, borrowed from Medieval Latin *catadipsia*, alteration of Late Latin *catadēpsia*, from Greek *katadēpsis* seizure, ultimately from *kata-* down + *lambánein* to take, seize.

catalog or **catalogue** *n.* Probably before 1425 *catadologie*, borrowed from Old French *catadologie*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Late Latin *catalogus*, from Greek *katálogos* list,

ultimately from *kata-* completely + *légein* to count, speak. —v. 1598, from the noun.

catalysis *n.* 1655, dissolution, borrowed from Greek *katálysis*, ultimately from *kata-* completely + *lyein* loosen. Use of the term in chemistry was introduced in 1836 by the Swedish chemist Jöns Jakob Berzelius.

catalyst *n.* 1902, formed from English *catalysis*, on the pattern of *analysis*, *analyst*. —**catalytic** *adj.* 1836, borrowed from Greek *katalytikós*, from *katálysis* catalysis; for suffix see -IC. —**catalyze** *v.* 1890, formed from English *catalysis*, on the pattern of *analysis*, *analyze*; probably influenced in its formation by French *catalyser* (1842).

catamaran *n.* 1673, borrowed from Tamil *kaṭṭu-maram*, literally, tie-wood (*kaṭṭu* to tie + *maram* tree, wood).

catamount *n.* 1664, short for *cat-o'-mountain* (1616), and for *cat of the mountain* (probably before 1425).

catapult *n.* 1577, borrowed from Middle French *catapulte*, and directly from Latin *catapulta* war machine for throwing, from Greek *katapēlētēs*, alteration of earlier *katapālētēs*, ultimately from *kata-* against + *pállēin* to hurl. —v. 1848, from the noun.

cataract *n.* Before 1420, floodgate, portcullis, waterfall; borrowed from Latin *cataracta* and *catarrhācta* waterfall; Latin *cataracta* derives from Greek *katarraktēs* (ultimately from *kat-*, down + *aráttein* to strike hard), and Latin *catarrhācta* derives from Greek *katarraktēs* (ultimately from *kata-* down + *rháttein* to dash, break).

The meaning of an eye disease appeared probably before 1425, and was borrowed from Middle French *cataracte* and Medieval Latin *cataracta* (both from Latin *cataracta*), supposedly from the sense of portcullis, as of an obstruction to one's eyesight.

catarrh *n.* Probably before 1425 *catarre*; borrowed from Medieval Latin *catarrus*, from Late Latin *catarrhus*, from Greek *katarrhōus* a catarrh; literally, a flowing down, earlier *katarrhōus*, ultimately from *kata-* down + *rhēin* to flow.

catastrophe *n.* 1540, concluding action of a drama, often a reversal of what is expected; borrowed from Greek *katastrophē* an overturning, ultimately from *kata-* down + *stréphein* to turn.

The meaning of sudden disaster appeared in 1748. —**catastrophic** *adj.* 1837, formed from English *catastrophe* + -ic.

catatonic *adj.* 1908, formed in English from New Latin *catatonía* (earlier in English *katatonía*, 1880's, from Greek *kata-tonos* + *tónos* tone) + English -ic.

catch *v.* Probably before 1200 *cacchen*, *cahten* capture, ensnare, receive, chase; borrowed from Anglo-French or Old North French *cacher*, *cachier* catch or capture (animals), chase, hunt, from Vulgar Latin **captiāre*, (attested only in the form of Medieval Latin *caciare*, from Latin *captiāre*), try to catch, seek, chase, frequentative form of *capere* to take. —*n.* 1399, earlier, a trap in the compound *mouscaccache* (before 1382); from the verb.

The past tense of the verb, *caught*, is a rare instance of a

strong verb in a root of French origin. Its development probably stems from the influence of the native verb *latch* (Middle English *lachen*) which also had the meaning of to catch, ensnare, lie in wait for and was treated as a synonym of *catch*, replacing Middle English forms of the verb after 1300. Hence the Middle English past tense *cahte*, *cauhte*, *caughte*, *caught* was apparently patterned on *lahte*, *lauhte*, *laughte*, *laught*. But in modern English *latch* became a weak verb (*latched*, *latching*), and the regular past tense form of *catch* (*cached*, *catchte*, *catched*) was superseded in the 1800's by the earlier form *caught*. In the noun *catch* and *latch* are still synonymous as a thing that catches, as in "The catch on the gate is not fastened." —**catcher** *n.* 1200 (in a surname); borrowed from Anglo-French *cachëour*, from *cacher*.

Catch-22 *n.* 1961, *Catch-22*, title of a novel by Joseph Heller. The allusion to the story involves a rule that a pilot is judged insane if he flies combat missions without asking to be relieved; if he does make such a request, he is considered sane and may not be relieved.

catchup *n.* 1690, borrowed from Malay *kěchap*, with the spelling influenced by English *catch* and *up*, later, *cat* and *sup*.

catechism *n.* 1509, book of questions and answers about religion; earlier, instruction in principles of Christianity (1502); borrowed from Late Latin *catēchismus* book of instruction, from *catēchizāre* CATECHIZE; for suffix see -ISM. —**catechize** *v.* Probably about 1425, borrowed, from Latin *catēchizāre*, from Greek *katēchízein* teach orally, variant of *katēcheîn* (*kata-* toward, + *ēcheîn* to sound); for suffix see -IZE. —**catechist** *n.* Before 1563, borrowed from Late Latin *catēchista*, from Late Greek *katēchistēs* one who teaches orally; for suffix see -IST.

category *n.* 1588, borrowed from Middle French *catégorie*, learned borrowing from Late Latin *catēgoria*, from Greek *katēgoriā* assertion, ultimately from *kata-* down to + the root of *agoreúein* to speak (in the assembly), from *agorá* place of assembly. Originally in English the term was used of Aristotle's *Categories* (ten classes of terms, things, or nations) as early as 1450. —**categorical** *adj.* 1598, borrowed from Late Latin *catēgoricus*, from Greek *katēgorikós*, from *katēgoriā*; for suffix see -ICAL. —**categorization** *n.* 1886, probably formed from English *categorize* + -ATION, perhaps influenced by French *catégorisation* (1845). —**categorize** *v.* 1705, formed from English *category* + -ize.

cater *v.* 1600, developed from Middle English *catour*, *n.*, buyer of provisions, borrowed from Anglo-French *catur*, short for *acatur*, from *acater* to buy, Old French *acheter*, *aceter*, from Vulgar Latin **accaptāre* (from Latin *ac-*, variant of *ad-* to before *c*) + Latin *captāre*, frequentative form of *capere* to take. —**caterer** *n.* 1469 *catourer* (1469) and *catour* (about 1350, earlier, *Katur* 1270 as a surname) borrowed from Anglo-French.

cater-cornered or **catty-cornered** *adj.*, *adv.* 1838, formed from English *cater* to set or move diagonally (1577; earlier four, probably before 1400; borrowed from Middle French *catre*, *quatre* four, from Latin *quattuor* FOUR) + *cornered*.

caterpillar *n.* About 1440 *catyrypel*, alteration of Old North French **catepelose*, literally, hairy cat, Old French *chatepelose* (from Late Latin *catta* cat + *pelose* hairy, from Latin *pīlōsus*, from *pīlus* hair). Alteration of the original English form *catyrypel* was probably influenced by obsolete *pillier* plunderer.

caterwaul *v.* 1610 *catterwall*, 1630 *cattenwaul*, formed from English *cater-* (from Middle Dutch *cater* tomcat) + *waul* to yowl (1557), from Middle English *wrawlen*, *wrawen* be angry, from *wrah*, *wrau* angry, apparently from Old English **wrag*, **wrah*, of uncertain origin. Chaucer used *a-caterwawed*, (*a-caterwrawed*) as an adverbial phrase in *gon a-caterwawed go caterwauling*, suggesting a Middle English verb **caterwawen*, **caterwrawen*.

catharsis *n.* 1803, New Latin *catharsis*, from Greek *kátharsis* purging, cleansing, from *kathairein* to purge, cleanse, from *katharós* clean, pure. The sense of a purging of emotions through drama appeared in 1872. —**cathartic** *adj.* 1612, borrowed from Latin *catharticus*, from Greek *kathartikós* purgative, from *kathairein* to purge; for suffix see -IC.

cathedral *n.* 1587, church of a bishop; earlier in the phrase *cathedral church*, translation of Medieval Latin *ecclesia cathedralis* (before 1387). —**adj.** About 1300, of a bishop's throne or church; borrowed from Old French *cathedral* and from Medieval Latin *cathedralis* of or belonging to the (bishop's) chair, from Latin *cathedra* chair, from Greek *kathédra* chair; for suffix see -AL¹.

catheter *n.* 1601, borrowed from French *cathéter*, replacing earlier *cathirum* (probably before 1425), a borrowing of Medieval Latin *cathirum*; both French and Medieval Latin derived from Late Latin *cathetēr* a catheter, from Greek *kathetēr* a catheter, plug (*kata-* down + *he-*, stem of *hiēnai* to send + agent suffix -*tēr*).

cathode *n.* 1834, borrowed from Greek *káthodos* a way down (*kata-* down + *hodós* way); so called from the path that the electric current was thought to take from the negative pole. —**cathode ray** (1880, but first known in 1859) —**cathode-ray tube** (1905)

catholic *adj.* About 1350, of or pertaining to the doctrines of the ancient Christian Church, universally accepted; borrowed from Medieval Latin *catholicus*, from Late Latin *catholicus* relating to all, universal, from Greek *katholikós* universal, general, from *kathólou* in general, from the phrase *kath' hólou* (*katá*, about + the genitive of *hólos* whole); for suffix see -IC.

The specific sense, since the Reformation, "of or pertaining to the Church of Rome, Roman Catholic," appeared about 1554. The general sense "of interest to all, universal, common" appeared in 1551. —**n.** 1594, one faithful to the beliefs of the ancient Christian Church. A member of the Roman Church appeared by 1570. —**catholicism** *n.* (1609).

cation *n.* 1834, positively charged ion, borrowed from Greek *katiōn* (thing) going down, neuter present participle of *katiēnai* go down (*kata-* down + *iēnai* go; see EXIT). For semantic connection see *cathode*.

catkin *n.* 1578, borrowed from Dutch *kátteken*, literally, little

cat; so called from the soft downy appearance suggesting a kitten's fur.

catnip *n.* 1712, American English, a compound of *cat* + *nip*, English dialect variant of *nep* a name for catmint and a variant of Old English *nepte*, borrowed from Latin *nepeta* calamint (an aromatic herb). The older name is Middle English *catmint* (before 1300).

cattle *n.* About 1250, property; later, livestock (before 1325); borrowed through Anglo-French, Old North French *catel* property, from Medieval Latin *capitale*, *capitale* property, cattle; originally neuter of Latin *capitālis* of the head, principal. The meaning of cows, bulls, and steers appeared in 1555. —**cattleman** *n.* (1864)

Caucasian *n.* 1807, after New Latin *Caucasianus*, from *Caucasus* name of mountains between the Caspian and Black seas. The connection with "white race" came from division of mankind by physical features and the belief that these people came originally from this region.

caucus *n.* 1763, meeting of a political party; earlier *Corcus* (1745); American English, possibly borrowed from an Algonquian source (compare Algonquian *caucaus* elder, adviser, a dialect term of Virginia). —**v.** 1850, from the noun.

caudal *adj.* 1661, borrowed from New Latin *caudalis*, from Latin *cauda* tail, of uncertain origin; for suffix see -AL¹.

cauliflower *n.* 1597 *cole florée*, perhaps a fusion of New Latin *cauliflora* with Middle English *cole*, *coul*, *caul* cabbage. New Latin *cauliflora* was formed from Latin *caulis* cabbage, *COLE*, (originally) stalk + *flōs* (genitive *flōris*) FLOWER.

caulk *v.* = *calk*¹.

cause *n.* Probably before 1200, borrowed from Old French *cause* matter, thing, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *causa* reason, purpose, cause. —**v.** About 1385 *causen*, from *cause*, *n.*, or possibly borrowed from Old French *causer*, from *cause*, *n.* —**causative** *adj.* (about 1412)

causeway *n.* 1571, variant of Middle English *cauceweye* (about 1440), a compound of *cauce*, *cauci* causeway (probably before 1330) + *weye* way. The older Middle English *cauce*, *cauci* was borrowed through Anglo-French *calcee*, *cauce*, perhaps from Old North French, from Vulgar Latin **calciāta* via paved way, ultimately from Latin *calcis*, genitive of *calx* limestone.

caustic *adj.* Before 1400, borrowed, perhaps through Old French *caustique*, from Latin *causticus*, from Greek *kaustikós* capable of burning, from *kaustós* combustible, from *kalein* to burn; for suffix see +IC. The sense of biting, sarcastic appeared in 1771. —**n.** Before 1425, probably from the adjective.

cauterize *v.* Before 1400 *cauterizen*, borrowed through Old French *cauteriser* and directly from Late Latin *cautērizāre*, from Latin *cautērium* branding iron, from Greek *kautērion*, diminutive of *kautēr* burner, from *kalein* to burn; for suffix see -IZE. —**cauterization** *n.* Before 1400, borrowed from Old French *cauterisation* (1314), and directly from Late Latin *cautērizātiōnem* (nominative *cautērizātiō*), from *cautērizāre*; for suffix see -TION.

caution *n.* About 1300 *caucoun precaution*, guarantee or pledge; borrowed through Old French *caution*, and directly as a learned borrowing of Latin *cautiō* (accusative *cautiōnem*), from *cautus*, past participle of *cavēre* to beware; for suffix see -ION. The meaning of taking care to be safe, is first recorded in 1605. —**v.** 1641, from the noun, perhaps by influence of earlier French *cautionner* (1360). —**cautionary** *adj.* 1597, formed from English *caution* + *-ary*. —**cautious** *adj.* Before 1640, formed from English *caution* + *-ous*.

cavalcade *n.* 1591, a ride, march, raid on horseback; borrowed from Middle French *cavalcade*, from Italian *cavalcata*, from *cavalcare* to ride on horseback, from Late Latin *caballīcāre*, from Latin *caballus* horse, nag; for suffix see -ADE.

cavalier *n.* 1589, a courteous gentleman, usually one trained to arms; borrowed originally in the form *cavaliere*, *cavallero*, from Spanish and Italian; later adopting the French spelling in the 1640's, from Middle French *cavalier* horseman, from Italian *cavaliere* knight, horseman, from Late Latin *caballārius* horseman. —**adj.** Before 1641, gallant, from the noun. The meaning of disdainful, haughty, and offhand appeared in 1657.

cavalry *n.* 1546 *cavallery*, borrowed from Middle French *cavallerie*, from Italian *cavalleria* + mounted militia, horsemanship, knighthood, from *cavaliere* knight, horseman. The Italian word developed from Late Latin *caballārius* horseman, from Latin *caballus* horse, nag; for suffix see -RY, -ERY.

cave *n.* Before 1250, borrowed from Old French *cave* a cave, learned borrowing of Latin *cava* hollow (places), neuter plural of *cavus* hollow, *adj.* —**v.** 1 usually *cave in*, to collapse. 1707, American English, probably from the noun, though associated with *cave* to fall in a heap (1513). The figurative sense of yield to pressure is first recorded in 1837. 2 usually *caving*, gerund, the action exploring caves as a sport (1932). —**cave man** (1865)

caveat *n.* 1549, earlier, in *caveat emptor* (1523); borrowed from Latin *caveat* let him beware, 3rd person singular present subjunctive of *cavēre* to beware.

cavern *n.* About 1380, borrowing of Old French *caverne* cave, learned borrowing from Latin *caverna* cave, cavity, from *cavus* hollow, *adj.* —**cavernous** *adj.* Before 1400, borrowed from Latin *cavernōsus* full of cavities, perhaps by influence of Old French *caverneux*; for suffix see -OUS.

caviar or **caviare** *n.* About 1560, borrowed from French *caviar*, from Turkish *havyār*.

cavil *v.* 1548, borrowed from Middle French *caviller* to mock, jest, learned borrowing from Latin *cavillārī* to jeer, from *cavilla* a jeering, scoffing, alteration of **calvilla*, related to *calumniā* CALUMNY. Earlier use of the now rare or literary *cavillation* is attested probably in 1388. —**n.** 1570, from the verb.

cavity *n.* 1541, borrowed from Middle French *cavité*, learned borrowing from Late Latin *cavitās* hollowness, cavity, from Latin *cavus* hollow, *adj.*, see CAVE; for suffix see -ITY.

cavort *v.* 1829, earlier *cauvaut* (1793), American English, perhaps alteration of still earlier CURVET leap about, frisk.

caw *v.* 1590, imitative of the cry. —**n.** 1666, from the verb.

cayenne *n.* 1756 *cayan* associated with *Cayenne*, city in French Guiana, but apparently borrowed from Tupi (Brazil) *qui'ynha* or *ky'ynha*.

cayman or **caiman** *n.* 1577, borrowed probably through Spanish *caimán* and French *caïman*, from a native Guianan or Carib name meaning "crocodile."

cayuse *n.* 1841, American English, any horse, especially an Indian pony; originally a kind of pony bred by the *Cayuse* Indians (1825).

cease *v.* Probably about 1300 *cesen*, borrowed from Old French *cesser*, from Latin *cessāre* to cease, go slowly, frequentative form of *cēdere* go away, withdraw. —**cease-fire** *n.* (1918) —**ceaseless** *adj.* (1586)

cecum or **caecum** *n.* 1721, first part of the large intestine. New Latin *intestinum caecum* blind intestine (because it is closed at one end), from Latin *caecum* neuter of *caecus* blind.

cedar *n.* 1325 *cedre*, blending with and partially replacing Old English *ceder* (about 1000), but found earlier in *ceder-beam* cedar tree (before 830). The Middle English was borrowed from Old French *cedre*, learned borrowing from Latin *cedrus*, from Greek *kédros* cedar, juniper.

cede *v.* 1633, borrowed from Latin *cēdere* to go, proceed, yield, withdraw.

cedilla *n.* 1599, borrowed from Spanish *cedilla*, *zedilla* little *z*, from Latin *zēta*. Association with *z* comes from a mark derived from *z* and formerly written after *c* to indicate the sound of *s* (in French) and *ts* (in Spanish).

ceiling *n.* About 1380 *celynge* paneling, from earlier *celyng* act of paneling (1347–48), gerund of *celyn* to cover with paneling; borrowed from Middle French *celer*, *cieler*, from *ciel* canopy, sky, from Latin *caelum* sky. The meaning of the word (the ceiling of a room) is first recorded in 1535.

celebrate *v.* 1465, borrowed from Latin *celebrātus*, past participle of *celebrāre*, originally, attend in great numbers, from *celeber*, *celebris*, *celebre* thronged, frequented, well-known, perhaps related to Latin *celer* swift. —**celebrant** *n.* 1839, borrowed through French *célebrant*, or directly from Latin *celebrantem* (nominative *celebrāns*), present participle of *celebrāre*. —**celebrated** *adj.* (1586) —**celebration** *n.* 1529, probably borrowed from Latin *celebratiōnem* (nominative *celebratiō*), from *celebrāre*; or formed from English *celebrate* + *-tion*. —**celebrity** *n.* About 1380 *celebrete* fame, notoriety; borrowed from Old French *celebrité*, from Latin *celebritātem* (nominative *celebritās*) a multitude, fame, renown, from *celeber*, *celebris*, *celebre* well-known; for suffix see -ITY.

celerity *n.* 1483, borrowed from Middle French *celérité*, from Latin *celeritatem* (nominative *celeritās*), from *celer*, *cleris*, *celere* swift; for suffix see -ITY.

celery *n.* 1664, borrowed from French *céleri*, from Italian (Lombard dialect) *seleri* (plural), from Late Latin *selinon* parsley, from Greek *selinon*.

celestial *adj.* About 1380, borrowed from Old French *celestial*, from Latin *caelestis* heavenly, from *caelum* sky, heaven, of uncertain origin; for suffix see -AL¹.

celibate *adj.* 1829, formed in English from Latin *caelebs*, *caelibis* unmarried + English -ate. —**n.** 1869, from the adjective, but perhaps influenced by another use of *celibate* state of celibacy (1614); borrowed from Latin *caelibātus*, from *caelebs* (genitive *caelibis*) unmarried. —**celibacy** *n.* 1663, formed in English from Latin *caelibātus* state of being unmarried + English -acy.

cell *n.* Before 1131, small monastery; later, probably before 1300, small room, found in Old English *cell*; borrowed from Latin *cella* small room, and later reinforced as a borrowing from Old French *celle*, from Latin *cella* (in Late Latin, monk's cell). Latin *cella* especially in the sense of a cloistered cell, is related to Latin *cēlāre* to hide, conceal.

The sense in biology appeared in 1672–73 as one of a number of cavities, but was not recorded in its scientific application to living organisms as the basic structure before 1845. The figurative sense of brain cells in relation to reason was used as early as 1393 in reference to the compartments into which the brain was believed to be separated. —**cell membrane** 1870, replacing earlier *cellular membrane* (1773). —**cellular** *adj.* 1753, borrowed probably from New Latin *cellularis* of little cells, from *cellula*, diminutive of Latin *cella*, perhaps by influence of earlier French *cellulaire* (1740, though not recorded in use in biology before 1860). —**cell wall** (1847–49)

cellar *n.* Probably before 1200 *celer*, borrowed through Anglo-French *celer*, Old French *celier*, from Latin *cellārium* storeroom, from *cella* small room, CELL.

cello or **'cello** *n.* 1876, shortened from VIOLONCELLO. —**cellist** *n.* 1888, formed from English *cello* + -ist.

cellophane *n.* 1912 *Cellophane*, a trademark, probably formed in French from *cell(ulose)* + connecting -o- + -phane substance having a (specified) appearance, from Greek -phanēs appearing, shining.

celluloid *n.* 1871, American English, formed from English *cellul(ose)* + -oid. The transferred sense of motion pictures, films appeared in 1934.

cellulose *n.* 1835, noun use of earlier *cellulose*, *adj.*, consisting of cells (1753); borrowed from New Latin *cellulosus*, from Latin *cellula*, diminutive of *cella* small room, CELL; for suffix see -OSE².

Celsius *adj.* 1850, earlier *Celsius's thermometer* (1797), in allusion to Anders Celsius (1701–1744), who invented the centigrade temperature scale.

cement *n.* Probably before 1300 *cymēt*, later *siment* (about 1330); borrowed from Old French *ciment*, from Latin *caementum* rough stone, rubble, earlier **caidmentum*, from *caedere* to cut. The spelling *cement* appeared before 1398, influenced by French *cément*, itself a learned borrowing from Latin *caementum*.

The meaning in English was always a pasty mixture that hardens into rocklike substance, but originally the word referred to rubble mixed with lime and water to form mortar, and later to the mortar itself. —**v.** Before 1400 *cymēten*, from the noun.

cemetery *n.* About 1425 *cymitory*; earlier (in compound) *simeterigarth* cemetery yard or plot (1377); borrowed from Old French *cimetiere*, *cimiterie* graveyard, from Late Latin *coemētērium*, (also *cimūtērium*), from Greek *koimētērion* sleeping room, (but used among early Christian ecclesiastical writers to mean "burial ground"), from *koimán* put to sleep, related to *keisthai* to lie down.

cenotaph *n.* 1603, borrowed from French *cénotaphe*, learned borrowing from Latin *cenotaphium*, from Greek *kenotáphion* an empty tomb (*kenós* empty + *táphos* tomb).

censer *n.* About 1250, borrowed from Old French *censier*, *encensier*, from *encens* incense, a learned borrowing from Late Latin *incensum* INCENSE¹.

censor *n.* 1531, Roman magistrate who took the census and supervised public morals; borrowed through Middle French *censor*, and directly from Latin *cēnsor*, from *cēnsēre* appraise, estimate, assess. —**v.** act as a censor. 1882, from the noun.

censure *n.* Probably about 1378, borrowed from Latin *cēnsūra* judgment, censorship, from *cēnsēre* appraise, estimate, assess. —**v.** 1589, from the noun, or borrowed from Middle French *censurer*, from *censure* criticism, learned borrowing from Latin *cēnsūra*.

census *n.* 1613, poll-tax; later, registration of citizens and their property in ancient Rome (1634); borrowed from Latin *cēnsus* (genitive *cēnsūs*), from *cēnsēre* appraise; see CENSOR.

cent *n.* Before 1375, a hundred; borrowed from Old French *cent* hundred and directly from Latin *centum* HUNDRED; later, in the phrase *per cent* (1568), and a hundredth part of (1685). This latter meaning was carried over in a suggestion on the proposed units of American currency before the Congress in 1782. In 1786 the Continental Congress designated the *cent* to be 1/100 of a dollar, probably influenced by French *centime*, a coin equal to 1/100 of a franc.

centaur *n.* About 1375, mythical monster that is half man and half horse; borrowed through Old French *centaure*, and directly from Latin *centaurus*, from Greek *kéntauros*. In early Greek literature the name occurs as that of a savage people of Thessaly, who were supposed to have been expert horsemen.

centenary *n.* 1607, period of 100 years; borrowed from Latin *centēnārius* consisting of a hundred, from *centēnī* a hundred each, from *centum* hundred; for suffix see -ARY. —**centenarian** *n.* 1846, formed in English from Latin *centēnārius* of a hundred + English -an.

centennial *adj.* Before 1797, formed in English from Latin *cent(um)* hundred + English (bi)ennial. —**n.** 1876, from the adjective.

center *n.* About 1380 *centre* middle point of a circle; borrowed from Old French *centre*, learned borrowing from Latin *centrum*,

from Greek *kéntron* sharp point, goad, stationary point of a compass, middle point of a circle. —**v.** Probably before 1590, from the noun.

From the 1500's to the 1700's the prevalent spelling was *center*, used by Shakespeare, Milton, Pope, Addison, Hobbes, and others. But the technical volume (1727) of Bailey's *Dictionary* had the spelling *centre* and Johnson followed it in his dictionary, so that *centre* was generally adopted in Great Britain while *center* remained the spelling in the United States.

centi- a combining form meaning a hundred or a hundredth part of, as in *centimeter*, *centillion*. Borrowed from French *centi-* hundredth and from Latin *centum* hundred. —**centigrade** adj. (1812) —**centigram**, **centiliter**, **centimeter**, *n.* (1801)

centipede *n.* 1646, from Latin *centipeda* (*centum* hundred + *pēs*, genitive *pedis*, FOOT).

central *adj.* 1647, popularized and reintroduced to English by influence of French *central*, Latin *centrālis*, from *centrum* CENTER; for suffix see -AL¹. An adverb, *centrally*, recorded apparently before 1425 possibly implies earlier the use of *central* in Middle English. —**centralize** *v.* 1800, formed from English *central* + -ize, probably by influence of earlier French *centraliser* (1790).

centrifugal *adj.* Before 1721, in the phrase *centrifugal force*; formed in English from New Latin *centrifugus* + English -al¹. New Latin *centrifugus* was formed from Latin *centrum* CENTER + *fugere* to flee. —**centrifuge** *n.* 1887, originally an adjective meaning centrifugal (1801); borrowed from French *centrifuge*, from New Latin *centrifugus*.

centripetal *adj.* 1709, in the phrase *centripetal force*, formed in English from New Latin *centripetus* + English -al¹. New Latin *centripetus* was formed from Latin *centrum* CENTER + *petere* go toward, seek.

century *n.* Before 1398, a measure of land; later, a division of the Roman army of about a hundred men (about 1450); borrowed from Latin *centuria* division of 100 units, company of 100 men, from *centum* hundred. In the late 1500's the word developed a meaning of any group of a hundred things as in *a century of prayers* (1611), *a century of years* (1626), reduced before 1638 to *century*.

cephalic *adj.* Probably before 1425, near, on, or in the head; earlier Anglo-Latin *cephalica* the cephalic vein (before 1398); borrowed from Latin *cephalicus*, from Greek *kephalikós* belonging to the head, from *kephalē* head; for suffix see -IC.

ceramic *adj.* 1850 *keramic*, borrowed from Greek *keramikós*, from *kéramos* potter's clay, earthen vessel; for suffix see -IC. The spelling *ceramic* appeared in 1859 in *ceramics* and was probably influenced by earlier French *céramique* (1806).

cereal *n.* 1832, grass yielding edible corn or grain, from earlier adjective "having to do with corn or edible grain" (1818); borrowed from French *céréale*, from Latin *Cereālis* of or having to do with cultivation or growing of grain; originally, of or having to do with *Cerēs*, goddess of agriculture; for suffix see -AL¹. The meaning of a breakfast food made from cereal grain appeared in 1899, in American English.

cerebellum *n.* 1565, borrowed from Medieval Latin and Latin *cerebellum* small brain, diminutive of *cerebrum* brain.

cerebrum *n.* 1615, borrowing of Latin *cerebrum* brain. —**cerebral** *adj.* 1816, borrowed from French *cérébral*, from Latin *cerebrum* brain + French -al -al¹.

cerement *n.* 1602, cloth to wrap the dead, originally of wax, from *cere*, *v.* wrap in a cloth covered with wax (about 1425), developed from *ciren* to wax, borrowed from Middle French *cirer* to wax, from Latin *cērāre*, from *cēra* wax + -ment.

ceremony *n.* Before 1382 *ceremoyn*, later *cerymonye* (1384); borrowed from Old French *ceremonie*, and Medieval Latin *ceremonia*, from Latin *caerimōnia* sanctity, reverence, ritual, of uncertain origin. —**ceremonial** *adj.* 1402, from earlier noun meaning "a ceremonial practice or usage" (before 1397); borrowed from Medieval Latin **ceremonialis*, from Late Latin *caerimōniālis* pertaining to ceremony, from Latin *caerimōnia* ceremony. —**ceremonious** *adj.* 1553, borrowed from Late Latin *caerimōniōsus* celebrated by rites, from Latin *caerimōnia* ceremony, possibly by influence of Middle French *cérémonieux*.

cerise *adj.*, *n.* 1858, borrowed from French *cerise*, literally, cherry, from Old French *cerise*, from Vulgar Latin **ceresia*; see CHERRY.

cerium *n.* 1804, New Latin, formed from *Ceres* an asteroid discovered in 1801 and named after *Cerēs*, the Roman goddess of agriculture + -ium.

certain *adj.* Probably before 1300 *certein*, borrowed from Old French *certain*, from Vulgar Latin **certānus*, from Latin *certus* sure, determined, resolved, certain. Originally *certus* was a variant past participle of *cernere* to separate, sift, distinguish, discern, decide, which is related to Latin *cribrum* sieve. —**certainly** *adv.* About 1300, with the emphatic meaning "yes, assuredly" formed from English *certain* + -ly¹. —**certainty** *n.* About 1300 *certeynte*, borrowed from Anglo-French *certainté*, Old French *certaineté*, from Old French *certain* + -té -ty².

certify *v.* Before 1338, borrowed from Old French *certifier* make certain, learned borrowing from Late Latin *certificāre*, from a lost adjective **certi-ficus*, from Latin *certus* sure (see CERTAIN) + the root of *facere* to make, DO¹ perform; for suffix see -FY. —**certificate** *n.* 1439, document that certifies; earlier, act of certifying (about 1419); borrowed from Middle French *certificat*, learned borrowing from Medieval Latin *certificatum*, from neuter of Late Latin *certificātus*, past participle of *certificāre* certify. —**certification** *n.* Probably 1424, borrowed from Middle French *certification*, learned borrowing from Medieval Latin *certificatio* (accusative *certificationem*), from Late Latin *certificāre*; for suffix see -TION. —**certified** *adj.* 1611, as a loan translation of French *certifié* assured, ascertained.

certitude *n.* Probably before 1425, borrowed from Middle French *certitude* certainty, learned borrowing from Late Latin *certitūdō* (accusative *certitūdinem*) that which is certain, from Latin *certus* CERTAIN; for suffix see -TUDE.

cerulean *adj.* 1667, formed in English from Latin *caeruleus* dark blue (from *caelum* sky, heaven) + English *-an*. —**n.** 1756, from the adjective.

cervix *n.* Probably before 1425, borrowed from Latin *cervix* (genitive *cervicis*) neck. —**cervical** *adj.* 1681, borrowing of French *cervical*, from Latin *cervix* (genitive *cervicis* neck) + French *-al* *-al*.

cesium *n.* 1861, New Latin; earlier *caesium* (1860), from neuter of Latin *caesius* bluish gray; so called in reference to the two blue lines visible in its spectrum.

cessation *n.* 1447 *cessayoun*, *cessacion*, borrowed from Old French *cessation*, learned borrowing from Latin *cessatiōnem* (nominative *cessatiō*) a delaying, ceasing, from *cessare* delay, CEASE; for suffix see *-TION*.

cession *n.* 1399, borrowed from Old French *cession*, learned borrowing from Latin *cessiōnem* (nominative *cessiō*), from *cess-*, stem of *cedere* yield; for suffix see *-ION*.

cesspool *n.* 1671 *cestpool*, possibly alteration (with *pool*) of earlier *cesperalle* (1583), variant of *suspiral* cesspool (about 1512), breathing hole, vent, conduit (about 1400); borrowed from Old French *souspirail* air hole, vent, from *souspirer* breathe, sigh, from Latin *suspirare* breathe deep. An alternative derivation suggests that *cesspool* is the original spelling from dialectal *suspool* (*suss*, *soss* puddle, anything foul or muddy + *pool*). It is also possible there is some connection with *cess* a bog on the banks of a tidal river where pools of water form.

cetacean *n.* 1836, formed in English from New Latin *Cetacea* the order of mammals including whales and porpoises (from Latin *cetus* large sea animal, from Greek *kētos* sea monster, of unknown origin) + English *-an*.

ch Introduced into English after the Norman Conquest (1066), although the sound of *ch* in words like *bleach* developed in English before the 900's. After words with *ch*, such as *charity* and *riches*, were introduced into English, the digraph began to be used to native English words, as in *chin*, *chink*, etc., which in Old English had been spelled with *c* and pronounced with the sound of *k*.

The spelling is also found in: 1) *chasm*, representing the sound of *k* in *kind*. 2) *chivalry*, representing the sound of *sh* in *shin*. 3) Scottish *loch*, German *ach*, imitative of a foreign sound.

chafe *v.* Probably before 1300 *chaußen* to inflame, warm, heat; borrowed from Old French *chaufer*, from Vulgar Latin **calefare*, alteration of Latin *calefacere* to make hot, make warm, from *calere* be warm + *facere* make. The sense make sore by rubbing (1526), developed from to rub so as to make warm (about 1410), and anger, vex, or irritate (before 1387), developed from inflame, excite, make hot in temper (probably before 1300).

chaff¹ *n.* husks. Probably before 1200 *chaf*, *chef*; developed from Old English *ceaf* (about 1000); cognate with Middle Dutch *caf* chaff, and Old High German *cheva* pod, husk, from Proto-Germanic **kaf-/kef-*.

chaff² *n.* joking. Probably 1648, of uncertain origin, possibly from *chaff*¹, *n.* something trivial (about 1390).

chaffinch *n.* About 1440 *caffynche*, developed from Old English *ceaffinc* (*ceaf* CHAFF, because it feeds on chaff or grain + *finc* FINCH).

chagrin *n.* 1716–18, feeling of irritation from disappointment; earlier, melancholy, worry (1656); borrowed from French *chagrin* melancholy, anxiety, vexation, from Old French *chagrin* grief, vexation (1389), of uncertain origin; perhaps related to Old North French *chagreiner* become gloomy. —**v.** 1727, possibly borrowed from French *chagriner* to be vexed, grieve, but more likely a back formation from earlier *chagrined* (1665) or from the noun.

chain *n.* Probably before 1300 *chaene*, *cheine*; borrowed from Old French *chäeine*, *chaine*, from Latin *catēna* chain, fetter; related to *cassis* hunting net, snare. The meaning of a group of related stores is first recorded in 1846, in American English. —**v.** Before 1376 *cheynen*, from the noun. —**chain reaction** (*nuclear physics* 1938; the concept was applied in 1916 to explain high quantum yields in gas reactions).

chair *n.* Probably about 1225 *chaere*, *chayere*, borrowed from Old French *chaiere*, *chäere*, from Latin *cathedra*, from Greek *kathédra* seat (*katá* down + *hédra* seat). Old French *chaiere* represents regular phonetic development in borrowing from Latin *cathedra* with the loss of *th* between two vowels and the suppression of *d* before *r*. —**v.** Probably about 1450, implied in the form *chairing*, from the noun. The sense of be chairman of, preside over (a meeting) is first recorded in 1921. —**chairman** *n.* (1654) —**chairwoman** *n.* (1681) —**chairperson** *n.* (1971, American English)

chalet *n.* 1782, borrowed from Swiss French, apparently a diminutive related to Old Provençal *cala* small shelter for ships, ultimately from a pre-Latin word meaning sheltered place.

chalice *n.* Before 1325, borrowed through Anglo-French *chalice*, as a learned borrowing from Latin *calix* (accusative *calicem*) cup. *Chalice* replaced earlier Middle English *calice* (1102), and *caliz* (about 1300), borrowed from Old North French, and also a learned borrowing from Latin *calix*.

The word is also found in Old English as *celic* and *calic*, *cælc*, etc. Both borrowings are from Latin *calix*, *calicem*, but the latter forms came apparently at the time of early Christian use. The earliest dates of recorded use appear before 830.

chalk *n.* About 1325 *chalk*; earlier in compound *chalston* chalkstone (before 1200); developed from Old English *calc* (about 700); borrowed from Latin *calx* (genitive *calcis*) small stone, limestone, chalk, from Greek *chális* small stone, pebble. —**v.** 1571, from the noun.

challenge *v.* Probably before 1200, *chalengen*, *calengen*; borrowed from Old French *chalengier*, *chalongier* (rarely *calengier*), from Latin *calumniāri* accuse falsely, from Latin *calumnia* trickery, CALUMNY. —**n.** Probably before 1325 *chalange*; later, but rarely, *calenge* (before 1333); borrowed from Old French *chalenge*, from Latin *calumnia* trickery. —**challenger** *n.* About 1350, in part borrowed through Anglo-French *chalengeour*, from Old French *chalenger*, and in part developed from Middle English *chalengen* + *-er*.

chamber *n.* Probably before 1200 *chaumbre*, borrowed from Old French *chambre*, from Latin *camera* vault, arch, from Greek *kamárā* vaulted chamber, vault, anything with an arched cover. —**v.** Before 1402, from the noun. —**chamber music** (before 1789)

chamberlain *n.* Probably before 1200 *chamberleng*; later *chaumberlein* (about 1250); borrowed from Old French *chamberlenc*, from a Germanic source; compare Old High German *chamarling* (*chamara* chamber, from Latin *camera* vault, in Medieval Latin, room, chamber + *-ling -ling*¹).

chambray *n.* 1814, American English, alteration (perhaps by influence of *champagne*, *champaign*, etc.) of French *cambrai*, named after Cambrai, city in France where the cloth was originally made.

chameleon *n.* Before 1387 *camelion*, borrowed from Old French *caméléon*, from Latin *chamaeleōn*, from Greek *chamailēōn*, literally, ground lion (*chamal* on the ground + *lēōn* LION). The spelling with *ch* in imitation of the Greek begins to appear in the early 1800's. The sense of a changeable or fickle person is first recorded in 1586.

chamois *n.* 1560, borrowed from Middle French *chamois*, from Late Latin *camōx* (genitive *camōcis*), probably from a pre-Romance Alpine word, represented by Old High German *gamiza* (modern German *Gemse*).

champ¹ *v.* chew noisily. 1530, probably of imitative origin. —**n.** 1604, from the verb.

champ² *n.* champion. 1868, American English, shortened from CHAMPION.

champagne *n.* 1664, borrowing of French *champagne*, from the name of the former province *Champagne*, in northwestern France, where it was originally made, from Late Latin *campānia* level country.

champion *n.* Probably before 1200 *champiun* combatant; borrowed from Old French *champiun*, *champion* a champion, combatant in a duel, from Late Latin *campiō* (accusative *campiōnem*) combatant in the athletic field or arena, from Latin *campus* field, CAMP¹. The meaning of one who holds first place in a sport appeared in 1730. —**v.** 1605, from the noun. —**championship** *n.* 1825, formed from English *champion*, *n.* + *-ship*.

chance *n.* Probably before 1300, *chaunce*, *cheance* something that takes place, especially unexpectedly; borrowed from Old French *cheance* accident, the falling of dice, from Vulgar Latin **cadentia* a falling, from Latin *cadentem* (nominative *cadēs*), from *cadere* to fall. —**v.** Before 1393, from the noun.

chancel *n.* About 1303 *chaunsel*; later *chaunsel* (about 1390); borrowed from Old French *chancel*, from Late Latin *cancellus*, originally, lattice, from Latin *cancelli* (plural) grating, bars; see CANCEL. The extension in meaning from the latticework that set off the altar space to the altar itself, took place in Latin.

chancellor *n.* 1123 *canceler*; earlier found in Late Old English (before 1066); borrowed from Old Norman French *cancheler*

and later Anglo-French *canceler*. Another form *chaunceler* appears (probably before 1300) and is a borrowing of the Anglo-French variant *chanceler*, Old French *chancelier*. Both forms in Old French are derived from Latin *cancellarius* court secretary, but originally meaning officer stationed at the bar or latticework separating the judges from the public in a basilica or other court of law, from *cancelli* a grating, bars (enclosing the area). The meaning applied to the head of a university is first recorded about 1300. —**chancellery** *n.* About 1300 *chauncelerie*, borrowed from Old French *chauncelerie* from *chancelier* chancellor.

chancery *n.* About 1378, contraction of CHANCELLERY.

chancre *n.* Before 1605, borrowed from French *chancre* cancer, from Latin *cancer* (genitive *cancrī*) cancer, originally, crab; see CANCER.

chandelier *n.* Probably before 1382 *chaundeler* candlestick or chandelier; earlier, one who makes or sells candles (1332); borrowed from Old French *chandelier* candlestick; see CHANDLER. The word was respelled in the 1600's after the French fashion.

chandler *n.* 1389, earlier *Shaundeler* (1332, as a surname); borrowed from Anglo-French *chandeler*, variant of Old French *chandelier* candlemaker, from Vulgar Latin **candelārius* candlemaker, *candelāria* candlestick, from Latin *candēla* CANDLE; for suffix see -ER¹.

change *v.* Probably before 1200 *changen*, borrowed from Old French *changier*, from Latin *cambiāre* to barter, exchange. —**n.** Probably before 1200, borrowed from Old French *change*, from *changier*, *v.* —**changeable** *adj.* About 1250 *chaungable*, borrowed from Old French *chaungable*, from *changier*, *v.*; for suffix see -ABLE. —**changer** *n.* 1325, in part borrowed from Old French *changeour*, and in part formed from Middle English *change* to change -er¹.

channel *n.* Before 1325 *chanel*, borrowed from Old French *chanel*, from Latin *canālis* waterpipe, canal, channel. The figurative sense of medium of transmission or communication, means, agency appeared in 1537. —**v.** 1596, from the noun.

chant *v.* About 1390 *chaunten*, borrowed from Old French *chanter* to sing, from Latin *cantāre*, frequentative form of *canere* to sing. —**n.** 1671, borrowed from French *chant* song, from Old French *chant*, from Latin *cantus* song, from *canere* to sing.

chantey or **chanty** *n.* 1856, borrowed probably by alteration of French *chanter* to sing, or of *chantez*, imperative plural of *chanter*, from Old French; see CHANT.

chaos *n.* Before 1396 *cahos*, later *chaos* (1494); borrowed through Old French *chaos*, (1377) or directly from Latin *chaos*, from Greek *cháos* gulf, chasm, abyss, (earlier **cháwos*). —**chaotic** *adj.* 1713, irregularly formed from English *chaos* + ending -*otic*, found in other words derived from Greek, such as *erotic* (compare *eros*), *hypnotic*.

chap¹ *v.* crack open. Probably 1440 *chappen* to burst open, split, possibly a variant form of *choppen* cut off, chop, break

(before 1376); of uncertain origin. Perhaps related to Middle Dutch *cappen* to chop, cut, Danish *kappe* and Swedish *kappa* to cut, cut off. —**n.** Before 1398, place where the skin is rough; from the verb.

chap² **n.** fellow. 1577, short for *chapman* purchaser, trader, developed from Old English *cēapman* tradesman (*cēap* trade, + *man*). In the 1700's the sense shifted to fellow, similar to extended meaning of the word *customer* a purchaser, which developed to mean "a character," as in "tough customer."

chapel **n.** Probably about 1200 *chapele*, *chappelle*, borrowed from Old French *chapele*, from Medieval Latin *cappella* chapel, sanctuary for relics, canopy; literally, little cape, diminutive of Late Latin *cappa* CAPE¹ garment. A traditional explanation of the relation to "cape" is that it refers to the shrine in which the Frankish kings preserved the *cappella* or cloak of St. Martin of Tours (patron saint of France), using it as a sacred relic carried before them in battle. The name was then generally applied to a sanctuary containing holy relics.

chaperon or **chaperone** **n.** 1720, older woman accompanying a young or unmarried woman; earlier meaning hooded cloak (about 1400, and 1130 in a surname); borrowed from French *chaperon* female companion to a young woman, literally, a hood, from Old French *chaperon* diminutive form of *chape* cape, from Late Latin *cappa* CAPE¹ garment. —**v.** 1796, probably borrowed from French *chaperonner*, from French *chaperon*, **n.**

chaplain **n.** Before 1376 *chapeleyn*, borrowed from Old French *chapelain* clergyman, from Medieval Latin *cappellanus* clergyman, originally a keeper of the cloak or *cappella* of St. Martin; see CHAPEL. Middle English *chapeleyn* replaced the earlier *capeleyn* (1114), which had developed from Old English *cappellane*, a form borrowed from Medieval Latin *cappellanus*.

chaps **n. pl.** 1844, American English, borrowed and shortened from Mexican Spanish *chaparreras* leather leggings to protect trousers from *chaparro* evergreen oak, a kind of scrubby vegetation.

chapter **n.** Probably before 1200 *chapitre*, borrowed from Old French *chapitre*, *chapitle*, learned borrowing from Late Latin *capitulum*, section of a book, from Latin, little head, diminutive of *caput* (genitive *capitis*) head. The sense of a local branch developed from the meaning convocation of the canons of a cathedral church. At such a meeting it was the practice to read a *capitulum* or chapter of the Scriptures or rules of the order, so that the assembled canons or monks themselves came to be called in a body the *capitulum* or chapter, and their meeting place the chapter house.

char¹ **v.** scorch, 1679, probably back formation from CHAR-COAL.

char² or **chare** **n.** odd job, chore. Before 1250 *char* occasional turn of work, odd job; earlier *cherre* (probably before 1200) and in a surname *Chareman* (1183); developed from Old English (before 900) *cer*, *cierr*, *cyrr* turn, occasion. —**charwoman** **n.** 1379 (in surname) *Alicia Charwoman*, formed from Middle English *char* + *woman*.

character **n.** Before 1333 *caracter* a symbol or an imprint on the soul; borrowed from Old French *caractere*, from Latin *character*, from Greek *charaktēr* instrument for marking, distinctive mark or nature, from *charássein* engrave, scratch. The spelling with *ch-* appeared in English in the 1500's, in imitation of Latin. The meaning of person in a play or book is first recorded in 1664. —**characteristic** **n.** 1664; **adj.** 1665, surviving and ultimately replacing earlier *characteristical* (1621). —**characterize** **v.** 1591, perhaps formed in English: from *character* + *-ize*, and as a back formation of *characterization* (1570); also possibly borrowed by influence of French *caractériser* (1512) from Medieval Latin *characterizare*; for suffix see *-IZE*.

charade **n.** 1776, borrowed from French *charade*, from Provençal *charrado* a chat, chatter, from *charra* to chatter, of imitative origin.

charcoal **n.** 1371 *charcole*, from *char-*, of uncertain origin, + *cole* COAL. It is suggested that *char-* comes from *char* to turn (in reference to wood being "turned" into coal); another suggested source of *char-* is by shortening of Middle French *charbon* charcoal.

charge **v.** Before 1250 *chargen* load, fill; borrowed from Old French *chargier*, *charger* to load, charge, from Late Latin *carricare* to load, carry, from Latin *carrum* wagon, CAR. The meaning of burden, entrust, command, and accuse appeared in Middle English. The extended sense of attack impetuously appeared in 1583, perhaps from an earlier sense of load a weapon (1541). —**n.** Probably before 1200, load, weight; borrowed from Old French *charge* a load, from *chargier*, **v.**, The meaning of burden of expense appeared about 1460.

chariot **n.** 1358, borrowed from Old French *chariot* wagon, augmentative of *char* chariot, from Latin *carrum* chariot, wagon, CAR. —**charioteer** **n.** Before 1382 *charieter*, a fusion of Old French *chariotteur* and *charetier*; for suffix see *-EER*.

charisma **n.** 1875, grace, talent bestowed by God, replacing *charism* (first recorded before 1641); borrowed from Greek *charisma*, from *charizesthai* show favor, from *charis* favor, grace, related to *chairein* rejoice. Later in the sense of gift of leadership or power of authority (1947), extended to strong personal appeal, especially in reference to political figures (in early 1960's). —**charismatic** **adj.** 1882–83, formed in English from Greek *charismata* favors given (plural of *charisma* charisma) + English *-ic*. —**n.** 1970, Christian who believes in divine gifts, such as the power to heal by the laying on of hands; from the adjective.

charity **n.** 1137 *carited*, replaced by later *chearite*, *cherite* (before 1200) and *charite* (about 1200). Earlier *carited* kindness, hospitality, almsgiving, was borrowed from Old North French *carité*, *carité*, Old French *charité*. Later *chearite*, *cherite*, and *charite* love of God and fellow men, kindness, were borrowed from Old French *cherité*, *charité*, learned borrowing from Latin *cāritās* (accusative *cāritātem*) costliness, affection, from *cārus* dear, costly, valued, loved; for suffix see *-ITY*. —**charitable** **adj.** Probably before 1200, borrowed from Old French *charitable*, from *charité*; for suffix see *-ABLE*.

charlatan *n.* 1611, borrowed from French *charlatan* mountebank, babbler, from Italian *ciarlatano* mountebank, babbler, alteration (influenced by *ciarlare* to babble) of earlier *cerretano* charlatan; for suffix see -AN.

charlotte *n.* 1796, probably in allusion to *Charlotte*, a woman's name. In French, *charlotte* in the sense of this dessert has been attested only since 1804.

charm *n.* Probably before 1300 *charm*, *charme* incantation, magic spell; borrowed from Old French *charme* a charm, enchantment, from Latin *carmen* song, enchantment, incantation. Latin *carmen* was formed by dissimilation of *n* to *r* before *m* in **canmen*, from *canere* to sing, CHANT. The sense of a pleasing quality appeared in 1598. —*v.* Probably before 1300 *charmen* to recite or cast a magic spell; borrowed from Old French *charmer* to charm, enchant, from Late Latin *carmināre* enchant, sing, from Latin *carmen* song.

chart *n.* 1571, borrowed from Middle French *charte* card, map, from Latin *charta*, *carta* paper, card, map, from Greek *chártēs* leaf of paper, roll of papyrus. —*v.* 1842, from the noun.

charter *n.* Probably before 1200 *chartre*, borrowed from Old French *chartre* charter, from Latin *chartula*, *cartula* a little paper, diminutive of *charta*, *carta* paper, document, CHART. —*v.* About 1425 (Scottish) *chartren*, from the noun. The sense of hire some conveyance for transportation appeared in 1806.

chary *adj.* Probably about 1200 *charig*, developed from Old English (probably about 750) *cearig* sorrowful, in the sense of with care or trouble, from *cearu*, *caru* CARE. This meaning shifted to careful (caring about one's work) in the 1500's. The Old English *cearig* is cognate with Old Saxon *carag* (found in *mōdcarag*) and Old High German *charag* sorrow, trouble, care.

chase¹ *v.* run after. Before 1338 *chasen* to hunt; earlier *chacen* (probably before 1300); borrowed from Old French *chacier* to catch, seize, from Vulgar Latin **captiāre* to take, seize, catch, Latin *captiāre* to try to catch. The meaning of run after developed in Middle English probably about 1350. —*n.* About 1300 *chas* a hunt; earlier *chace* (probably about 1250); borrowed from Old French *chace*, *chas*, from *chacier*, *v.* The meaning of pursuit, as of an enemy developed in Middle English about 1330. —**chaser** *n.* 1204, in surname *Chacur*, later *chacer* (1275), in part borrowed from Old French *chaceor*, and in later spellings developed from Middle English *chacen* + *-er*¹.

chase² *v.* emboss. 1414, developed by shortening of *enchase* borrowed from Middle French *enchasser* to set (gems), enclose, encase (Old French *en-* in, into + *chasse* casket, case, setting, from Latin *capsa* CASE² box).

chasm *n.* 1596, borrowed from Latin *chasma*, from Greek *chásma* yawning hollow, gulf, related to *cháskein*, *chalnein* to gape, yawn. The spelling *chasma* appears in English until the late 1600's.

chassis *n.* 1903, in American English, frame, wheels, and machinery of a motor vehicle; earlier, window frame, sash (1664); borrowed from French *châssis* frame (*châsse* frame, from

Latin *capsa* box, CASE² + suffix *-is*, a collective for a number of parts taken together).

chaste *adj.* Probably before 1200, borrowed from Old French *chaste* morally pure, from Latin *castus* pure, chaste, holy, related to *castrāre* to cut off, CASTRATE. —**chastity** *n.* Probably before 1200 *chastete*, borrowed from Old French *chasteté*, from Latin *castitatem* (nominative *castitās*) purity, from *castus* pure; for suffix see -ITY.

chasten *v.* 1526, developed by extension with *-en*¹ from an obsolete English verb *chaste* to correct (a person's) behavior, from earlier *chastien* chastise (probably before 1200); borrowed from Old French *chastier*, from Latin *castigāre* chastise; literally, make pure, formed (perhaps by influence of *fatigāre* to weary) from *castus* pure, CHASTE.

chastise *v.* About 1303 *chastysen*, probably alteration of *chastien* CHASTEN; probably developed by influence of *-isen*, as in *baptyzen*, *baptisen* to baptize.

chasuble *n.* 1611, borrowed from Old French *chasuble*, from Late Latin *casubla*, an unaccounted alteration of Latin *casula*, literally, little house, diminutive of *casa* hut. The form *chasuble* replaced earlier *chesible*, (about 1300), borrowed through Anglo-French, Old French *chesible*, from Medieval Latin *casibula*.

chat *v.* Before 1450, shortened from CHATTER. —*n.* 1530, from the verb. —**chatty** *adj.* Before 1762, formed from English *chat*, *v.* + *-y*¹.

chattel *n.* About 1225 *chatel*, also *chetel* (before 1250) property, goods; borrowed from Old French *chatel*, from Medieval Latin *capitale* property, originally neuter of Latin *capitālis*; see CAPITAL¹.

chatter *v.* Before 1250 *cheateren*, and *chiteren*; later *chateren* (about 1250) to twitter, jabber, gossip, of imitative origin, as in English *chitter*, *twitter*, *jabber* (compare Dutch *koeteren* jabber, *kwetteren* to chatter, and Danish *levitre* twitter, chirp). —*n.* About 1250, probably from the verb.

chauffeur *n.* 1899, a motorist, borrowed from French *chauffeur* stoker (originally, one who fuels the fire of a steam engine), from *chauffer* to heat, from Old French *chauffer*; see CHAFE. —*v.* 1917, from the noun.

chauvinism *n.* 1870, boastful, warlike patriotism; borrowed from French *chauvinisme* (1843), from the surname of Nicolas *Chauvin*; for suffix see -ISM. Chauvin, in spite of being severely wounded in the Napoleonic wars, expressed devotion to the Emperor and the Empire that was at first celebrated but, after the fall of Napoleon, was ridiculed. Chauvin's name was popularized in the French vaudeville *La Cocarde Tricolore* (1831), and until the 1970's *chauvinism* was used in English to denote exaggerated loyalty to one's country; about 1970 the term was extended in English to sexism, chiefly in the phrase *male chauvinism*. —**chauvinist** *n.* 1877, borrowed from French *chauviniste*, from *Chauvin*; for suffix see -IST.

cheap *adj.* 1509 *chepe* low-priced, a shortened form of earlier *good chep*, *goode chepe* good bargain, good price (about 1280); earlier, as a surname *Godchepe* (1166), formed after the noun *chep*, *chepe* bargain, barter, price, developed from Old English *cēap* trade, barter, purchase, sale (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *kāp* trade, purchase, Old Saxon *kōp*, Old High German *kouf*, *koufo* trader (modern German *Kauf*), and Old Icelandic *kaup* bargain, pay; probably representing an early Germanic borrowing from Latin *caupō* (genitive *caupōnis*) petty tradesman, huckster, innkeeper.

The early English meaning market, bargain survives in some place names, such as *East Cheap* and *Cheapside*. The idiom *to live on the cheap* is a later development (1888) of a noun construction of the adverb use meaning cheaply. The sense "of little value or esteem, contemptible," is first recorded in 1596.

cheat *v.* 1440 *cheten* confiscate, seize, shortened form of *acheten*, a variant of *escheten* ESCHEAT. The current sense of deceive or trick is first recorded in 1590, with reference to unscrupulous actions of those who confiscated lands (*escheats*) for the state. —**n.** About 1378 *chet* forfeited property, shortened of *achet*, a variant of *eschet* ESCHEAT (property that goes to a lord by forfeit). The sense of a deceptive act appeared about 1641; from the verb. —**cheater** *n.* (1607; earlier as a shortening of *escheater* officer in charge of *escheats*, 1327).

check *n.* Probably about 1300 *chek* a call in the game of chess giving notice that one's move has exposed the opponent's king; borrowed from Old French *eschec*, *eschac*, from Arabic *shāh* (especially in the phrase *shāh māt* CHECKMATE), from Persian *shāh* king.

Out of usage in chess came the sense of an adverse event, repulse, rebuff (before 1303) and the sense of a sudden stoppage (1338). The use of a bank *check* appeared in 1798, from the earlier sense of a receipt used to *check* forgery or alteration (1706, spelled *cheque*, probably from *exchequer*). The meaning of a pattern of squares (about 1400) is a shortening of CHECKER. The check mark is from earlier verb use of *check* (1885). —**v.** Probably before 1387 *cheken*; borrowed from Old French *eschequier* play chess, put a check to, from *eschec*, *n.*, check.

checker *n.* 1389 *cheker* pattern of squares; earlier, a chess or checkerboard (probably before 1300), and a game of chess or checkers (about 1250); borrowed from Old French *eschekier*, *eschequier* chessboard, from *eschec* CHECK; for suffix see -ER¹. The meaning of a table covered with a checked cloth for counting is found in Anglo-Latin (1179). —**v.** Probably before 1400 *chekeren* (implied in *checked*) to vary with a different color, from *cheker* chessboard. —**checkers** *n.* game. 1712, American English, plural of *checker*.

checkmate *n.* Before 1346 *chekmat*, borrowed from Old French *eschecmat*, from Arabic *shāh māt* the king died (a misinterpretation of Persian *māta* to die, for *mat* be astonished), from Persian *shāh mat* the king is astonished or stumped. —**v.** to put (an opponent's king) in check. Before 1375 *chekmaten*, developed from *chekmat* checkmate.

cheek *n.* Probably before 1200 *cheke* jaw, jawbone, cheek, developed from Old English *cēace* (before 899), *cēce* (before

830); cognate with Middle Low German *kāke*, *kēke* jaw, jawbone, and Middle Dutch *kāke* jaw (modern Dutch *kaak*), from Proto-Germanic **kaukōn*.

cheep *v.* 1513, a Scottish use of imitative origin. —**n.** Before 1774, from the verb.

cheer *n.* Probably before 1200 *chere* the face, expression or mood shown by the face; later, gladness (before 1393); borrowed from Old French *chere* face, from Late Latin *cara* face, countenance, from Greek *kārā* head. —**v.** About 1390 *cheren* comfort oneself, cheer up, developed from *chere*, *n.*, cheer. —**cheers** *n.pl.* 1919, from earlier meaning of a shout of support or encouragement (1720). —**cheerful** *adj.* (probably before 1400). —**cheery** *adj.* (1448)

cheese *n.* 1186 *chese* (in surname *Chesemangere*); earlier *ceose* (1131); developed from Old English *cēse* (800) and *cȳse* (before 1000); borrowed from Latin *cāseus* cheese. Other languages that derive a term borrowed from Latin *cāseus* include Old Saxon *kāsi*, Old High German *chāsi*, *kāsi* (modern German *Käse*), and Middle Dutch *cāse*, *kāse* (modern Dutch *kaas*).

cheesy *adj.* 1896, cheap, inferior, possibly from earlier slang meaning "showy" (1858), formed from English *cheese* (1818, probably in an Anglo-Indian phrase *the real chīz*, borrowed from Urdu *chīz* thing, from Persian) + -y¹.

cheetah *n.* 1781, borrowed from Hindustani *chītā* a hunting leopard, from Sanskrit *citraka-s* tiger or hunting leopard; literally, spotted, from *citrā-s* distinctive, marked, bright, clear.

chef *n.* 1826, head cook, borrowed from French *chef*, from Old French *chief* head, CHIEF.

chela *n.* 1646, New Latin *chela* claw, from Greek *chēlē* claw, hoof.

chemical *adj.* 1576 *chymical*, formed in English probably from New Latin *chimicus* (short for Medieval Latin *alchimicus* of alchemy, from *alchimia* ALCHEMY) + English -al¹; possibly influenced by French *chimique*.

chemise *n.* Probably before 1200, borrowed from Old French *chemise*, a half-learned development from Late Latin *camisia* shirt, from Gaulish, which in turn had borrowed it from Proto-Germanic **Hamīthjan*.

chemist *n.* 1562 *chymist*, *chimist* alchemist, alteration of *al-kemyst* ALCHEMIST, influenced by Middle French *chimiste* alchemist, and Late Greek *chymelā* ALCHEMY. The modern sense was introduced in 1626. —**chemistry** *n.* 1605 *chymistrie* alchemy, formed from English *chymist* chemist + -rie -ry. The modern sense was introduced in 1646.

chemo- or (before vowels) **chem-** a combining form meaning chemistry or chemical, as in *chemosynthesis*, *chemotherapy*. Formed by clipping *chem(ical)* + connecting vowel -o-, on the pattern of *bio-*, *chromo-*, etc.

chemotherapy *n.* 1907, borrowed from German *Chemo-therapie* (*chemo-* chemical + *Therapie*, from Greek *therapelā* THERAPY); coined by German biochemist Paul Ehrlich.

chenille *n.* 1738, borrowing of French *chenille*, from Old French *chenille*, literally, hairy caterpillar, from Latin *canicula* little dog, from *canis* dog, so called from the cord's furry look.

cherish *v.* Probably before 1325 *chersen*, later *cherisen*, *cherischen*; borrowed from Old French *chérisse*-, stem of *chérir* to hold dear, from *cher*, *chier* dear, from Latin *cārus*; see CHARITY; for ending see -ISH².

cheroot *n.* 1759, probably borrowed from Portuguese *charuto* cigar, from Tamil *curuttu* roll (of tobacco), from *curul* to roll.

cherry *n.* Probably before 1300, in compound *chirston* cherry stone; earlier, in surname *Chyrimuth* (1266). These forms and the later spelling *cherie* (before 1393) are replacements of Old English *ciris*, *cirse* found only in compounds, as *cirisbēam* cherry tree. The Middle English forms were borrowings of Anglo-French and Old North French *cherise* (by influence of Old French *cerise*) though mistaken as plural (thought to be *cheri* + *-se*) as *pea* is a back formation of *pease*. Old North French *cherise* was derived from Vulgar Latin **ceresia*, **cerasia*, from Late Greek *kerasā* cherry tree, from Greek *kerasós* cherry tree, possibly Greek *kerasós* borrowed from a language of Asia Minor.

cherub *n.* About 1384, one of an order of angels; borrowed from Late Latin *cherub* (plural *cherubim*), from Greek *cheroub*, from Hebrew *kerūbh*, probably related to Akkadian *karābu* be gracious. Modern English *cherub* replaced the earlier *cherubin* (recorded probably before 1200), which developed from Old English *cerubin* (recorded before 830). The Old English form was borrowed from Greek *cheroubin*, *cheroubim*, plural forms of *cheroub*.

chess *n.* Probably before 1300, shortened borrowing from Anglo-French and Old French *esch*es, (earlier) *eschecs*, plurals of *eschec* check; see CHECK.

chest *n.* Before 1200 *cheste* box; developed from Old English (about 700) *cest*, *cist* box, coffer, casket, an early borrowing from Latin *cista* box, basket, from Greek *kístē* basket. Other languages that borrowed from Latin *cista* include Old Frisian and Middle Dutch *kiste* box, chest, Old High German and Old Icelandic *keista*.

The sense of part of the body enclosed by ribs is recorded in 1530, but stems from some use of *chest* in Middle English in reference to the body recorded as early as 1385.

chestnut *n.* 1519 *chesten nut*; developed from obsolete *chestein* (about 1390) and *chesteine* (probably about 1300); borrowed from Old French *chastaigne*, from Latin *castanea*, from Greek *kastanéa*, chestnut tree from *kástanon* chestnut, probably borrowed from a language of Asia Minor.

chevron *n.* 1395, heraldic device of a bar bent like two meeting rafters, borrowed from Old French *chevron* rafter, from Vulgar Latin **capriōnem*, from Latin *caper* (genitive *capri*) goat; perhaps from the angular shape of its hind legs. Similar semantic developments are found in French: *chevalet* easel (from *cheval* horse), *poutre* beam (from a word for mare), *bélier* battering ram (from the word for ram).

chew *v.* Probably before 1200 *chewen*, developed from Old English *cēowan* (before 1000); cognate with Middle Low German *keuwen* to chew, modern Dutch *kauwen*, Old High German *kiuwan* (modern German *kauen*), and Old Icelandic *tyggva*, from Proto-Germanic **keuwjanan*.

chicanery *n.* 1609, borrowed from French *chicanerie* trickery, from Middle French *chicanerie*, from *chicaner* quibble, confuse with crafty argument; of uncertain origin; for suffix see -ERY.

Chicano *n.* About 1954, borrowed from a Mexican Spanish dialectal pronunciation of *Mexicano* Mexican, with the loss of the initial unaccented syllable *me*.

chick *n.* 1342 *cheke* young bird; earlier as surname (1214); shortened form of *chiken* CHICKEN. —**chickweed** *n.* 1373 *chekwede*, replacing earlier *chikenmete*, *chicnemet* (before 1300), developed from Old English *ācena mete*, *ācena mete* chicken food.

chickadee *n.* 1838, American English; imitative of its call.

chicken *n.* Before 1200 *chikene* young chicken, and probably also any chicken; later *cheken* (probably before 1325) and *chyken* (before 1382); developed from Old English *ācen* (about 950) earlier **ācen*; cognate with Middle Dutch *kieken*, *kiekjen*, *kūken* young fowl, chicken (modern Dutch *kuiken*), Middle Low German *kuken* (modern German *Kūken*), from Proto-Germanic **kiukinān*.

The word was applied in a disparaging sense in Middle English and had the meaning of cowardly person in the phrase *cherles chekyn* probably before 1400. —**v.** Also, **chicken out**. 1943, American English, from the noun. —**chicken pox** 1727–38, possibly in allusion to the mild form of the disease when compared with *small pox*.

chicle *n.* 1889, American English (in the compound *chicle-gum*), borrowed from Mexican Spanish *chicle*, from Nahuatl *tzictli*.

chicory *n.* 1605 *chicory*, as a replacement (influenced by French *chicorée*) of earlier *cicoree* (before 1450); borrowed from Middle French *cichorée*, from Latin *cichorēum*, from Greek *kichōrion*, *kichōreia* (plural) endive, of uncertain origin.

chide *v.* Probably 1150 *chiden* scold, nag, rail; developed from Old English (about 1000) *ādan* to quarrel.

chief *n.* About 1300 *chef*, *chief*, borrowed from Old French *chef*, *chief* leader, ruler, head (of something), along with other forms such as Spanish and Portuguese *capo*, Italian *capo* suggest a Late Latin **capum*, from Latin *caput* (genitive *capitis*) head. —**adj.** About 1300 *chef*, *chief* highest in rank, from the noun. —**chief justice** (about 1395)

chieftain *n.* Before 1338 *cheftayne* ruler, chief, head (of something), and *chevetaine* (about 1300); borrowed through Anglo-French *chiefteyn*, *cheftain*, and directly from Old French *chevetain*, *chevetaine*, from Late Latin *capitāneus* commander, from Latin *caput* (genitive *capitis*) head.

chiffon *n.* 1756, feminine finery, as ribbon or lace; borrowed from French *chiffon*, from *chiffe* a rag, flimsy stuff, of uncertain

origin. The meaning in pastry cooking, as in lemon chiffon pie or chiffon cake, is first recorded in 1929.

chiffonier *n.* 1765, borrowed from French *chiffonnier* chest of drawers for needlework, cloth (but originally meaning rag collector), from *chiffon* CHIFFON.

chigger *n.* 1756, American English, variant of earlier *chigoe*, especially in West Indies (1668); borrowed from the Indian name in the West Indies possibly of Carib origin, or from a West African language; the variant *chigger* is almost surely influenced by, if not borrowed from, a West African language (compare Yoruba *jígà* chigger, Wolof *jiga* insect, and Tshiluba *njiga* sand flea).

chilblain *n.* Usually, **chilblains**. 1547, formed from English CHILL + *blain* an inflamed swelling or sore on the skin; Old English *blegen* (about 1000), from Proto-Germanic **blajinōn*.

child *n.* About 1175 *child*, developed from Old English *cild* (about 750), cognate with Old Swedish *kulder*, *kolder* litter (modern Swedish and Norwegian *kull*), Danish *kuld* offspring, brood, Gothic *kilthei* womb, *inkilthō* pregnant.

The original Old English nominative plural was the same as the singular *cild*, but about 975 the plural *cildru* (genitive *cildra*) developed, which became *children*, about 1175, through influence of the plural ending *-en*, as in *brethren*. —**childbed** *n.* (probably before 1200) —**childbirth** *n.* (probably before 1450) —**childhood** *n.* (probably before 1200) —**childish** *adj.* Old English *cildisc* (before 1000). —**child's play** (about 1350)

chili or **chilli** *n.* 1662 *chille*, borrowed from Mexican Spanish *chile*, *chilli*, from Nahuatl *chilli*, native name for these peppers. The word was also applied to *chile con carne*, or a dish like it, as early as 1846.

chill *v.* About 1378 *chillyng* gerund of *chillen* become cold; formed on *chele*, *chile*, *n.*, coldness of weather, frost (about 1175), developed from Old English *cele*, *ciele* (before 830), from Proto-Germanic **kaliz*, related to *ceald*, *cald* COLD. —**n.** 1601, from the verb. —**chilly** *adj.* 1570, formed from English *chill* + *-y*¹.

chime *n.* Probably before 1300 *chymbe* cymbal; later, set of bells (1453), this latter meaning from *chymbe bell* chime bells (probably before 1300); borrowed from Old French *chimbe*, a back formation of *chimble*, learned borrowing from Latin *cymbalum* CYMBAL. —**v.** About 1340, from the noun.

chimera or **chimaera** *n.* Before 1387 *chimera*; borrowed from Medieval Latin *chimera* and from Old French *chimère*, both forms from Latin *Chimaera*, from Greek *chímaira* monster, supposed to have been a personification of the snow or winter; originally, she-goat, feminine form of *chímaros* he-goat (that is one winter old), related to *cheíma*, *cheimōn* winter season. The meaning "wild fantasy" is first recorded in 1587. —**chimeric** *adj.* (1653) —**chimerical** *adj.* (1638)

chimney *n.* About 1280 *chymenay*, in figurative uses meaning "the furnace of hell, the mouth of a volcano"; later, a chimney (about 1330), and a fireplace (about 1380); borrowed from Old

French *cheminee* fireplace, chimney, from Late Latin *camīnāta* fireplace, room with a fireplace, from Latin *camīnus* hearth, oven, flue, from Greek *káminos* oven, furnace. —**chimney sweep** (1611; earlier, *chimney sweeper*, about 1500).

chimpanzee *n.* 1738, borrowed from a West African Bantu language of Angola, perhaps from Tshiluba *kivili-chimpenze* ape.

chin *n.* Probably before 1200, developed from Old English *cin* (probably before 832) and earlier in the compound *cinberg* (about 725); cognate with Old Frisian *zin*, *kin* (in compounds) chin, Old Saxon *kinni* chin, jaw, Old High German *kinni* (modern German *Kinn*), Old Icelandic *kinn* cheek, and Gothic *kinnus* cheek. —**v.** 1599, from the noun. The meaning of to talk, gossip first appears in American English (1883) and a gymnastic exercise (1903).

china *n.* 1579, used in compound *China-dishes*; later, *China* (1653); borrowed from Persian *chīnī* China porcelain, manufactured in China and brought to Europe in the 1500's by the Portuguese.

chinch *n.* 1616, bedbug; borrowed from Spanish and Portuguese *chinche* bug, from Latin *cimex* (accusative *cimicem*) bedbug.

chinchilla *n.* 1593, borrowed from Spanish *chinchilla*, literally, little bug, probably alteration influenced by *chinche* bug, of a word from Aymara or Quechua.

Chinese *adj.* 1577, from the name of the country *China* (1555, of uncertain origin, but found in Sanskrit *Cīnā-s* the Chinese, possibly in allusion to *Chin Shihnnangdi*, who ruled from 246 to 207 B.C.) + *-ESE*; formed in English probably by influence of French *chinois* Chinese.

chink¹ *n.* crack 1535, perhaps an altered form of *chine* (before 1382); found in *chin*, *chine* cleft, split, crack, Old English (about 888) *cinu*, related to *cinan* to crack, split, gape; cognate with Old Saxon and Old High German *kīnan* to burst open, sprout, Gothic *uskeinan* to sprout out, and Old High German *kīmo* sprout (modern German *Keim* germ, bud, sprout). —**v.** 1552, to crack, later, in American English, to fill in cracks (1748).

chink² *n.* 1581, sharp sound; 1573, pieces of money, cash in coins; probably imitative of the sound. —**v.** 1589, probably from the noun.

chinook *n.* 1860, American English, said to be from the jargon of Hudson Bay Company traders in reference to the wind that blew from an encampment of Chinook Indians, from Salishan *Tsinúk*.

chinos *n. pl.* 1943, borrowed from American Spanish *chino* toasted; earlier male Indian of white parent, in reference to light-brown skin color (feminine *china*), from Quechua *čina* female animal, servant.

chintz *n.* 1719; originally a plural form of *chint* a printed calico from India (1614); borrowed from Hindi *chint*, from Sanskrit *citrā-s* distinctive, marked, bright, clear. —**chintzy** *adj.* 1851,

unfashionable, cheap, petty (because the fabric was inexpensive); formed from English *chintz* + *-y*¹.

chip *n.* Before 1338, probably developed from Old English *cipp*, *cyp* small piece of wood, log, apparently borrowed (like Old Saxon *kipp* stick, staff, Old High German *kipfa* wagon pole, and Old Icelandic *keppr* stick) from Latin *cippus* stake, post. —*v.* break off in small pieces. 1425 *chuppen*, probably developed from Old English *forcippian* to cut off, which corresponds to East Frisian *kuppen* to cut, Middle Low German *kuppen* to hatch (modern German *kuppen* cut the edges off, clip); probably ultimately related to Old English *cipp* small piece of wood, chip.

chipmunk *n.* 1841, American English; earlier, *chitmunk* (1832); borrowed from Algonquian (probably Ojibwa) *at-chitamón* squirrel, literally, one who descends trees headlong.

chipper *adj.* 1837, perhaps a form of English dialect *kipper* nimble, frisky; or associated with *chipper*, *v.* to twitter, possibly imitative of the sound of birds.

chiropodist *n.* 1785, one who treats diseases of the hands and feet, formed in English from Greek *cheir* (genitive *cheirós*) hand + *podós* (genitive *podós*) FOOT + English *-ist*.

chiropactic *adj.* 1898, American English, of or having to do with treatment by spinal manipulation, probably coined by a patient of Daniel Palmer, founder of the Chiropactic School, from Greek *cheir* (genitive *cheirós*) hand + *praktikós* practical, freely translated as “done by hand.” —*n.* 1903, from the adjective. —**chiropactor** *n.* 1904, formed from English *chiropactic* (ic) + *-or*².

chirp *v.* 1566; earlier *cyrpinge*, *chyrrpyinge*, gerund (1440), perhaps variant of *chirk*, *chirken* to creak, chirp (1380); developed from Old English *cearcian* to creak (about 1000), related to *cracian* to CRACK. —*n.* 1802, from the verb.

chirrup *v.* 1579, implied in *chirruping* gerund; probably alteration of *chirp*. —*n.* a chirp. 1788, from the verb.

chisel *n.* 1323, borrowed from Old French *chisel*, *cisel* a chisel, from Vulgar Latin **cisellum*, a variant form of *caesellum* (compare Italian *cesello*) a cutting tool, diminutive from Latin *caesus* (genitive *caesus*) a cutting, from *caes-*, stem of *caedere* to cut. —*v.* 1509, from the noun. The slang sense of to cheat is first recorded in 1808, *chizzel*. —**chiseler** *n.* (1918)

chit *n.* 1776, shortened form of Anglo-Indian *chitty* note, certificate (1673), borrowed from Hindi *chitthi*, from Sanskrit *citā-s* distinctive, marked.

chit-chat *n.* 1710, reduplication of *chat*; influenced by *chit* twitter (before 1639), *chit-chit-chat* a squeaking (before 1618). —*v.* 1821, from the noun and by shortening of *chitter-chatter*.

chitin *n.* 1836, borrowed from French *chitine*, from Greek *chitōn* coat of mail, tunic.

chitter *v.* Probably before 1200 *chiteren*, imitative of the call of birds. —**chitter-chatter** *n.* 1712, reduplication of *chatter* influenced by *chitter*; *v.* 1928, from the noun.

chitterlings *n. pl.* About 1280 *cheterlingis*; earlier, in a surname *Chiterling*; perhaps from Old English **cīeterlingas*; for suffix see -LING. The variants *chitlins* (1845) and *chitlings*, (1880) are also recorded with a sense “shreds, tatters.”

chivalry *n.* About 1385 *chivalrye*; earlier *chevalrie* body of warriors, knighthood (probably before 1300); borrowed from Old French *chevalerie* horsemanship, from *chevalier* knight; for suffix -ry see -ERY. —**chivalrous** *adj.* Probably about 1350 *chevalrous*; borrowed from Old French *chevalerous*, from *chevalier*; for suffix see -OUS.

chive *n.* About 1390 *chyve*, also *cyve*, *cive*, probably a transferred sense from earlier *civey*, *cive* “sauce containing chives or onions” (apparently before 1300); and in part a borrowing of Anglo-French *chive*; both from Old French *cive* small species of onion, from Latin *cēpa* onion.

chlor- a combining form, the form of *chloro-* before vowels, as in *chloride* (1812, on analogy of *oxide*).

chloral *n.* 1838, borrowed as French *chloral*, formed from *chlor(ine)* + *al(cohol)*; coined after the earlier *ethal* and is now found chiefly in the commercial preparation *chloral hydrate* (1874).

chlorine *n.* 1810, formed in English from Greek *chlōrós* pale green, greenish yellow + English *-ine*²; discovered in 1774 and called oxymuriatic acid gas. *Chlorine* was named after the color of the gas. —**chlorinate** *v.* 1856, formed from English *chlorine* + *-ate*².

chloro- a combining form meaning: 1) green, as in *chlorophyll*. 2) chlorine, as in *chloroform*. Borrowed from Greek *chlōro-*, combining form of *chlōrós* pale green, greenish yellow, related to *chlōē* young grass.

chloroform *n.* 1838, borrowed from French *chloroforme* (*chloro-* chlorine + *-forme*, from *formique* formic (acid)). —*v.* 1848, from the noun.

chlorophyll or **chlorophyl** *n.* 1819, borrowed from French *chlorophyle*, (formed from Greek *chlōrós* pale green, *CHLORO-* + *phýllon* leaf). —**chloroplast** *n.* 1887, shortened in the original German from *chloroplastid* (*chloro-* + *plastid*).

chock *n.* 1674 *chuck* lumpy piece of wood, apparently borrowed from Old North French *choque* log (Picard dialect *choke*), Old French *çoche* log, block of wood, related to Old French *souche* stump, from Gaulish **tsukka*. The latter corresponds to Old High German *stoc* stump (ancient *st-* changing to *ts-* in Celtic); see STOCK. —**chock-full** *adj.* Probably before 1400 *chokkefull* crammed full, formed from *chokken*, in the phrase *chokken togeder* crammed together + *full*. Middle English *chokken* was borrowed from Old French *choquier* collide, thrust.

chocolate *n.* 1604, drink made from the seeds of the cacao tree; later, paste or cake made by roasting and grinding the seeds (1640); borrowed from Mexican Spanish *chocolate*, from Nahuatl *chocolatl*, now written *xocolatl*, literally, bitter water.

choice *n.* About 1300 *chois*, borrowed from Old French *chois*, from *choisir* to choose, from a Germanic source (compare

Gothic *kaujan* examine, prove, taste, derivative of *kisan* (CHOOSE). The borrowed form *chois* replaced early Middle English *cure*, *kire*, developed from Old English *cyre* (from Proto-Germanic **kuzis*). —**adj.** About 1350, from the noun.

choir *n.* 1643, spelling alteration (influenced by Latin *chorus* and by French *choeur*) of Middle English *quyre* (about 1405), or earlier *quer*, *queor* the part of a church where the choir sings (about 1300); borrowed from Old French *cuor* choir of a church, from Medieval Latin *chorus* the chancel; also church singers; in Latin *chorus* band of dancers; see CHORUS.

choke *v.* Before 1387 *choken*, variant of earlier *cheken*, (about 1303), a shortened form of *acheken* (probably before 1200), developed from Old English *ācēcan* (from Proto-Germanic **us-keukōjanan*) to suffocate, choke (about 1000). —**n.** 1562, from the verb. —**choker** *n.* 1928 a necklace or ribbon worn close about the throat, developed from earlier meaning of a neckerchief or high collar (1848).

choler *n.* About 1390 *colre*, *colere*, one of the humors, bile (supposed to cause irascibility or temper), also a digestive disorder (before 1382); borrowed from Old French *colre* bile, anger, learned borrowing of Late Latin *cholera* bile; see CHOLERA. —**choleric** *adj.* 1340 *colrik* irascible, temperamental; borrowed from Old French *colerique*, *colorik*, learned borrowing of Late Latin *cholericus* bilious, from Greek *cholerikós* bilious.

cholera *n.* 1565–78; earlier probably not differentiated from, and perhaps, often the same as *choler* (before 1382); borrowed from Middle French *choléra*, or directly from Latin *cholera*, from Greek *cholérā* a digestive disorder, from *cholē* bile; see GALL¹ bile.

cholesterol *n.* 1894, formed from English *cholester(in)* from French *cholestrine* (from Greek *cholē* bile + *stereós* solid, stiff) + English *-ol* (chemical suffix).

choose *v.* 1545, respelling of *chosen* (probably about 1390), variant form of earlier *cheosen* (probably before 1200), *chesen* (probably about 1150), and *cesen* (1123); developed from Old English *cēosan* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *ziāsa*, *kiāsa* choose, Old Saxon *kiosan*, Old High German *kiosan* (modern German *kiesen*), Old Icelandic *kjōsa*, and Gothic *kisan* choose, from Proto-Germanic **keusanan*. —**choosy** or **choosey** *adj.* 1862, American English, formed from *choose* + *-y*¹. *Choose* is only indirectly related to *choice*, since the latter came into Middle English from Old French, and is unknown in Old English, though both are ultimately Germanic.

chop¹ *v.* cut into pieces. Before 1376, *choppen* cut with a quick and heavy blow, probably early variant of *chappen* CHAP¹ crack open; not found in Old English. —**n.** Before 1376, probably developed from *chappen*, *v.* The change in vowel has been explained as analogous to the shift in *strap/strop*. —**chopper** *n.* 1552, formed from English *chop*¹ + *-er*¹. The meaning of a helicopter is first recorded in 1951. —**choppy** *adj.* 1867; earlier full of chops or clefts (1605), formed from English *chop*¹ + *-y*¹.

chop² *n.* Usually, **chops**, pl. the jaws. About 1400 *choppe*, variant *cheppe* (1373), perhaps related to CHOP¹.

chop³ *v.* shift or veer quickly. Before 1438 (implied in the gerund *chopping* bargaining), apparently a variant spelling of obsolete *chap* to bargain, barter; developed from earlier *chapen*, (probably before 1200), variant of *chepen*, developed from Old English *cēapian* to buy. In the 1500's *chop* and *change* to barter and exchange, was generalized to "change about," which developed into "to change in direction suddenly" in the 1600's. The expression *chop logic* to bandy logic, argue (1577) survives from the early sense of *chop* to exchange, barter. —**choppy** *adj.* 1865, formed from English *chop*³ + *-y*¹.

chopsticks *n.pl.* 1 pair of sticks used to raise food to the mouth. 1699, formed from Chinese Pidgin English *chop* quick (related to Cantonese *kap*) + English *sticks*, a free translation of Chinese *k'wai tse* quick ones, nimble ones. 2 simple piece played on the piano, with forefingers. 1893, probably from the resemblance of the fingers to sticks.

chop suey 1888, American English, borrowed from Chinese (Cantonese dialect) *tsap sui* odds and ends.

choral *adj.* 1587, borrowed from Middle French *choral* or Medieval Latin *choralis* belonging to a chorus or choir, from Latin *chorus* CHORUS; for suffix see -AL¹.

chorale *n.* 1841, borrowed from German *Choral* metrical hymn developed in the reformed church of Germany, shortened form of *Choralgesang*, originally, plain song, choral song; translation of Medieval Latin *cantus choralis* (Latin *cantus* song, CHANT + Medieval Latin *choralis* CHORAL).

chord¹ *n.* musical notes sounded together. 1608, alteration (influenced by *chord*²) of Middle English *cord* (before 1398), shortened form of ACCORD, *n.* English *chord*² and Latin *chorda* string of a musical instrument have influenced this word by association of form and meaning.

chord² *n.* 1543, earlier *corde* (before 1400), structure in an animal resembling a string, alteration (influenced by Greek *chorde* gut, string) of CORD. The meaning of a straight line connecting two points on a circumference is found in 1570 (earlier *corde* 1551), and that of feeling, emotions in 1784. —**chordate** *n., adj.* 1889, from earlier *Chordata* phylum of animals having a spinal cord (1880), from Latin *chorda* chord + *-ate*¹.

chore *n.* 1751 (recorded earlier as verb, 1746), variant of *chare* CHAR² odd job.

chorea *n.* 1806, shortened from New Latin *chorea* (sic *chorus*) *Sancti Viti* St. Vitus dance (1621), from Latin *chorēa*, from Greek *chorēā* dance, from *chorós*. St. Vitus's or St. Vitus dance was originally a form of mass hysterical behavior in Medieval Europe, characterized by convulsive dancing, extended to the nervous disease (1600's).

choreography *n.* Before 1789 *choreography*, borrowed from French *chorégraphie* from Greek *chorēā* dance, from *chorós* chorus; for combining form see -GRAPHY. —**choreograph**

v. 1943, American English, probably borrowed from French *chorégrapheur* (1827), influenced by English *choreography*, or perhaps a back formation of *choreograph*. —**choreographer** n. 1886; earlier *choreograph* (1876) and *choreographist* (1878); formed from *choreograph(y)* + *-er*, by influence of French *chorégrapheur*.

chorister n. 1595, earlier *coruster* (1563); alteration (influenced by Middle French *choristre*) of Middle English *queristre* (before 1400); borrowed from Anglo-French *cuieristre*, *cuieriste*, learned borrowing from Medieval Latin *chorista* chorister, from Latin *chorus* chorus; for suffixes see *-IST* and *-ER*¹.

chortle v. 1872, a blend of *chuckle* and *snort*. —**n.** 1903, from the verb.

chorus n. 1561, person who speaks the prologue and comments upon events in a drama; borrowed from Late Latin *chorus* choir, from Latin *chorus* dance, band of dancers and singers, from Greek *chorós*. The sense of a musical choir appears in 1656.

Apparently there is no connection between this borrowing from Latin and the earlier Old and Middle English *chor* a group or company, choir, a troupe of dancers (1200). —**v.** 1703, from the noun.

chow n. 1 Slang. food. 1856, American English, shortened from earlier Chinese Pidgin English *chow-chow* food (1795), perhaps reduplication of Chinese *cha* or *tsa* mixed, Pidgin *chow-chow* mixture. 2 breed of dog, originally from China. 1889, earlier *chow-chow* (1886), of uncertain origin.

chowder n. 1751, American English, apparently borrowed from French *chaudière* pot, from Late Latin *caldāria*, *calidāria* CALDRON. The practice of making chowder spread from the fishermen of Brittany to Newfoundland and thence to Nova Scotia and New England.

chow mein n. 1903, American English, borrowed from Chinese *ch'ao mien* fried flour.

chrism n. About 1250 *crisme*, developed from Old English (before 1000) *crisma*; borrowed from Late Latin *chrīisma*, from Greek *chrīisma* an anointing, unction, from *chrīein* anoint, smear.

Christ n. Middle English and Old English *crist* the anointed one, Jesus Christ, (about 830, earlier 675, according to the *Peterborough Chronicle*); borrowed from Latin *Christus*, from Greek *Chrīstós*, noun use of *chrīstós* anointed, from *chrīein* anoint. The Greek is a translation of Hebrew *māshīah* anointed (of the Lord), MESSIAH. The more frequent name in Old English is *Hælend* healer, Savior. Pronunciation of Old and Middle English *crist* with a “long” *i* is a result of Irish missionary work in England during the 600’s and 700’s. In the late 1300’s it became common to write Christ and words such as *Christian* with a capital letter, but the practice did not become fixed until the 1600’s, and the spelling *Christ* did not become standard until after 1500.

christen v. Probably about 1200 *cristnen* to baptize; developed from Old English (before 900) *cristnian* make Christian, from

cristen Christian; borrowed from Latin *chrīstiānus* CHRISTIAN. —**Christendom** n. Old English (before 900) *cristendōm* condition of being Christian, Christianity, formed from *cristen* Christian (from Latin *chrīstiānus*) + *-dōm* -dom.

Christian n., adj. Middle English and Old English *cristen* (about 750); borrowed from Latin *chrīstiānus*, from Greek *chrīstiānós*, from *Chrīstós* Christ. —**Christianity** n. Probably before 1300 *cristiante*, borrowed from Old French *crestienté*, from Late Latin *chrīstiānitātem* (nominative *chrīstiānitās*), from Latin *chrīstiānus* Christian; for suffix see *-ITY*. —**Christianize** v. 1593, formed from English *Christian* + *ize*, perhaps influenced by Medieval Latin *christianizare*.

Christmas n. 1100 *Cristesmesssa*, literally, Christ’s festival, Christmas Day, found in Old English *Cristes mæsse* (*Cristes*, genitive of *Crist* Christ and *mæsse* festival, feast day), MASS²; apparently spelled with a capital C from its first recorded use. —**Christmastide**, n. (1626) —**Christmas tree** (1835, earlier a Christmas decoration, 1789). —**Christmas Eve** (probably before 1300 *Cristenmesse even*).

chrom- a combining form of *chromo-* before vowels, as in *chrominance* (the difference between colors of equal luminance or brightness).

chromatic adj. 1603, of or relating to a kind of four-tone chord in Greek music; borrowed (possibly by influence of earlier Middle and Old French *chromatique*) from Greek *chrōmatikós*, from *chrōma* (genitive *chrōmatos*) complexion, character, style of music; for suffix see *-IC*. The adjective sense “of or relating to color or colors” appears in 1831, from the noun meaning “science of color” (about 1790), probably from the obsolete “art of coloring” (1695), recorded in Middle English *cromatik* in a figurative sense relating to color, 1464, from Medieval Latin *chromaticus*. —**chromatic scale** (before 1789, *chromatic tones*, 1680). —**chromatin** n. 1882, formed in English from Greek *chrōma* color + English suffix *-in*².

chrome n. chromium 1800, borrowed from French *chrome*, from Greek *chrōma* color; so called from the brilliant colors of its compounds. —**v.** 1876, from the noun.

chromium n. 1807, New Latin, formed from French *chrome* + New Latin *-ium*.

chromo- a combining form meaning color, as in *chromography*, *chromodynamics*, *chromosphere*. Adapted from Greek *chrōma* color. The combining form of Greek *chrōma* was *chrōmato-*, based on the stem as seen in the genitive *chrōmatos*; this appears in some borrowings, such as *chromatic*, and coinages such as *chromatography*.

chromosome n. 1889, borrowed from German *Chromosom*, from Greek *chrōma* color + *sōma* body, -SOME³; so-called because the threadlike structures contain a substance that stains readily with basic dyes.

chron- a combining form of *chrono-* before vowels, as in *chronic*.

chronic adj. Probably before 1425 *cronic*, borrowed from Old French *cronique*, learned borrowing from Latin *chronicus*, from

Greek *chronikós* pertaining to time, from *chrónos* time; for suffix see -IC.

chronicle *n.* 1303 *kronikel*, (about 1330) *cronikle*, *cronicle*, *kronikel*; borrowed from Anglo-French *cronicle*, alteration of Old French *cronique*, learned borrowing from Latin *chronica*, abstracted from the Greek phrase *chronikà biblía* books of annals, in which *chronikà* is neuter plural of *chronikós* pertaining to time, CHRONIC. The ending -*icle* may have been introduced in the Anglo-French *cronicle* on the analogy of words like *article*. —**v.** Probably about 1400 *croniclen*, from the noun. —**chronicler** *n.* Before 1420 *cronicler*, formed from Middle English *cronicle* + -*er*¹.

chrono- a combining form meaning time, as in *chronology*, *chronometer* (before 1735). Borrowed from Greek *chróno-*, combining form of *chrónos* time.

chronology *n.* 1593 (but implied before 1572 in *chronologer* and perhaps influenced by Middle French *chronologie*, 1579); borrowed from New Latin *chronologia*, from Greek *chrónos* time; for suffix see -LOGY. —**chronological** *adj.* 1614, formed from English *chronology* + -*ic* and -*al*¹.

chrysalis *n.* 1601, borrowed from Latin *chrýsallis*, from Greek *chrýsallís* golden pupa of a butterfly, from *chrýsós* gold. The variant *chrysalid* appears in 1621, perhaps borrowed from Middle French *chrysalide*, 1593.

chrysanthemum *n.* 1551, borrowed, perhaps by influence of Middle French *chrysanthemon*, from Latin *chrýsanthemum*, from Greek *chrýsánthemón*, literally, gold flower (*chrýsós* gold + *ánthemón* flower, for *ánthos* flower).

chub *n.* About 1450 *chobe*, of unknown origin.

chubby *adj.* 1611, short and thick like a chub; later, round-faced, plump (1722), formed from English *chub* + -*y*¹. —**chubbiness** *n.* 1850, formed from English *chubby* + -*ness*.

chuck¹ *v.* toss. 1593, variant of *chock* give a blow under the chin (1583); perhaps borrowed from Middle French *choquer* to jolt, SHOCK¹. —**n.** 1611, perhaps borrowed from Middle French *choc* a knock or blow.

chuck² *n.* 1674, chunk of wood or meat, variant of CHOCK, and perhaps CHUNK; the meaning of a cut of shoulder meat is first recorded in 1723, device for holding a piece of work in a machine *chock* (1703), later *chuck* (1807). —**chuck wagon** (1890, American English)

chuckle *v.* 1598, probably frequentative form of earlier Middle English *chukken* make a clucking noise (1390); for suffix see -LE³; *chukken* is also the source of *chuck*, *v.* (1598) laugh to oneself, which may be the source of *chuckle*; all probably of imitative origin. —**n.** Before 1754, from the verb.

chug *n.* 1866, imitative of a sound such as a thump or that from a steam engine. —**v.** 1896, from the noun.

chum *n.* 1684, roommate, in British students' slang, suggested as a form of *chamber-fellow* (1580) roommate. —**chummy** *adj.* 1884, from English *chum* + -*y*¹.

chunk *n.* 1691, possibly nasalized variant of CHUCK² cut of meat. —**chunky** *adj.* 1751, American English, formed from English *chunk* + -*y*¹.

church *n.* Probably before 1200 *chirche*, developed from Old English *cirice* public place of worship, Christians collectively (about 750), an early borrowing (like Old Frisian *zerke*, *ziurke* church, Old Saxon *kirika*, and Old High German *kirihha*), from Greek *kýriakòn dôma* the Lord's house, from *kyrios* master, from *kýros* power. The phonetic spelling *church* for Middle English *chirche* began to appear at the end of the 1200's, and became established in the 1500's. —**churchman** *n.* (1259) —**churchwarden** *n.* (1443, earlier *churchward* sacristan, before 1121) —**churchyard** *n.* (1137)

churl *n.* Probably about 1200 *cherl*, developed from Old English *ceorl* man, husband (before 800); later, freeman of the lowest rank (before 1000); cognate with Old Frisian *zerl* man, fellow, Middle Low German *kerle* (modern German *Karl*), Old High German *karal* man, husband, lover, (modern German *Karl*, proper name), and Old Icelandic *karl* man, old man, from Proto-Germanic **keralaz/karlaz*.

The meaning of rude, surly person appeared in Middle English about 1250. —**churlish** *adj.* Before 1382, developed from Old English *clerlisc*, *ceorlisc* (before 1000 *ceorl* churl + -*isc* -ish¹).

churn *n.* About 1350 *chirne*; earlier, *kirne* (1339), developed from Old English *cyrin* (about 1000); cognate with Middle Low German *kerne*, *kirne* churn, Middle Dutch *kerne* (modern Dutch *karnen*), and Old Icelandic *kirna*, *kjarni*, from Proto-Germanic **kernjōn*. —**v.** About 1440 *chyrnen*, from the noun.

chute¹ *n.* inclined trough, tube. 1804, American English, rapid fall or descent of water, borrowing of French *chute*, *cheûte* fall, and replacing earlier *shoot* (before 1613); alterations of Old French *cheoite* fall, from Gallo-Romance **cadēta*, feminine past participle of **cadēre* to fall, from Latin *cadere*.

chute² *n.* parachute. 1920, shortened from PARACHUTE.

chutney *n.* 1813, borrowed from Hindi *chatnī*.

chutzpah *n.* 1892 *chutzbah*, borrowed from Yiddish *khutspe* impudence, gall, from Hebrew *hutzpāh*.

chyle *n.* 1541, borrowed from Middle French *chyle*, from Late Latin *chylus*, from Greek *chylós* (earlier **chylós*) juice, chyle. Compare CHYME.

chyme *n.* 1 Probably before 1425 *chime*, *chyme* any of various bodily fluids; borrowed from Middle French *chyme*, from Latin *chymus*. 2 1681 *chyme*, earlier *chymus* (1607) semi-liquid mass of food in the stomach; borrowed from Latin *chymus*, from Greek *chymós* (earlier **chymós*) juice, from the stem of *cheîn* to pour; differentiated by the Greek physician Galen (130–200 A.D.) from CHYLE as being natural (i.e., semi-digested) juice.

ciborium *n.* 1651, borrowed from the special use in Medieval Latin of earlier Latin *ciborium* cup, from Greek *kibōrion* cup, originally, cup-shaped seed vessel of the Egyptian water lily.

cicada *n.* Before 1387, borrowed from Latin *cicāda* tree cricket.

-cide¹ a combining form meaning killer, and **-cide**² a combining form meaning (the act of) killing; often the same words can be cited for the two derivations and the two meanings (*homicide*, *fratricide*, etc.), but occasional examples such as *insecticide* illustrate only the meaning of killer. The forms were the same in Old French and Middle French with *-cide* meaning “killer,” a borrowing of Latin *-cida* and French *-cide* meaning “the killing” from Latin *-cidium*. The Latin forms are derived from *-cidere*, the usual form in compounds of *caedere* to cut, kill.

cider *n.* Probably about 1280 *sider*, before 1325 *cidar*, before 1400 *cidre* strong drink, borrowed from Old French *sīdre* pear or apple cider (earlier *cīdre*), from Late Latin *sīcera*, from Greek *sīkera*.

cigar *n.* 1730, borrowed from Spanish *cigarro*, of uncertain origin; perhaps derived from Spanish *cigarra* grasshopper (by comparison with the dark cylindrical shape of this insect), ultimately from Latin *cicāda* CICADA; or possibly from Mayan *sīc* tobacco, (and by extension) cigar, or its derivative *sicar* to perfume, smoke.

cigarette *n.* 1835, American English, borrowed from French *cigarette*, diminutive form of *cigare*, from Spanish *cigarro* CIGAR.

cilia *n. pl.* 1794, hairlike projections. New Latin *cilia*, plural of earlier *cilium* eyelid (1715), from Latin *cilium* eyelid, cover, probably a back formation from *supercilium* eyebrow, ridge; see SUPERCILIOUS.

cinch *n.* 1859 *sinche*, American English, replacing earlier English *surcingle*, *cingle*; borrowed from Spanish *cincha* girth, from Latin *cinctus* (genitive *cinctūs*) and *cingula* saddle-girth, girdle, from *cingere* to bind, gird; see CINCTURE. The sense of a sure or easy thing; dead certainty (1898) is a further extension of a strong or sure hold (1888). —**v.** 1866, fix securely with a cinch, from the noun.

cincture *n.* 1587, process of girding, specifically in a ceremony in which a sword and belt is put on; borrowed from Latin *cinctūra* girdle, from *cinctus*, past participle of *cingere* to bind, gird.

cinder *n.* 1530, earlier, *cyndre* ashes (about 1400), slag of metal, dross, variant of *synder* (before 1398), and *Synderhelle* a place name (1239); developed from Old English *sinder* (before 800), cognate with Old Saxon *sinder* slag, dross, Old High German *sintar* (modern German *Sinter*), Old Icelandic *sindr*, from Proto-Germanic **sindran*.

cinema *n.* 1899 *cinéma* motion-picture projector; borrowing of French *cinéma*, shortened form of *cinématographe* motion-picture projector and camera. Anglicized *cinema* is first recorded in 1909, the sense motion-picture theater (1913), and a motion picture (1922). —**cinematic** *adj.* 1927, Anglicized form of French *cinématique* (1917, used earlier in studies of motion, 1834).

cinematography *n.* 1897, apparently derived from *cinematograph* + *-y*³ (on analogy of *photograph*, *photography*). *Cinematography*

motion-picture projector (1896), is a borrowing of French *cinématographe* from Greek *kīnēma* (genitive *kīnēmatos*) motion + French *-graphie* -graph.

cinnabar *n.* Probably 1440 *cynabare*; borrowed from Latin *cinnabaris*, from Greek *kinnābari*.

cinnamon *n.* About 1390 *cynamome*, borrowed from Old French *cinnamome*, from Latin *cinnamōmum*, *cinnamon*, from Greek *kinnāmōmon*, *kīnnamon*, from Phoenician (compare Hebrew *qinnāmōn* cinnamon).

cipher *n.* 1399 *siphre* zero, borrowed from Middle French *cifre*, from Medieval Latin *cifra*, *ciphra*, from Arabic *ṣifr* empty, null, zero, a loan translation of Sanskrit *śūnyā-s* empty. The sense of secret writing, cryptographic code is first recorded in English in 1528, about the time when *cipher* was extended to mean any of the numerals, not just zero. —**v.** 1530, from the noun.

circa *adv., prep.* 1861, borrowed from Latin *circā*, *adv.*, around, from *circum* round about; see CIRCUM-.

circadian *adj.* 1959, formed in English from Latin *circā* around + *diēs* day + English *-an*.

circle *n.* About 1300 *cerle* figure of a circle; borrowed from Old French *cerle*, from Latin *circulus*, diminutive form of *circus* circle, ring, probably from Greek *kirkos*, an altered form of earlier *kirkos* ring. Old English (about 1000) *circul* astronomical sphere or orbit, also borrowed from Latin *circulus*, was a separate borrowing and, while recorded as late as 1104, did not influence the formation or later borrowing from Old French. —**v.** About 1385 *cerlen*, from the noun.

circuit *n.* Before 1382 *circuyt*, borrowed from Old French *circuit*, from Latin *circuitus* (genitive *circuitūs*) a going around, from stem of *circuīre*, *circumīre* go around (*circum* around + *īre* to go). The sense path of an electric current is first recorded in 1746. —**v.** About 1410, from the noun. —**circuitous** *adj.* 1664, borrowed from Medieval Latin *circuitōsus*, from Latin *circuitus* (genitive *circuitūs*) a going around; for suffix see OUS. —**circuitry** *n.* 1946, formed from English *circuit* + *-ry*.

circular *adj.* 1370 *circuler*, borrowed from Anglo-French *circuler*, Old French *circulier*, learned borrowing from Latin *circulāris*, from *circulus* CIRCLE; for suffix see -AR. —**n.** 1560 *circuler* a circular figure, from the adjective. The sense of notice circulated or distributed is first recorded in 1818. —**circularity** *n.* 1582, formed from English *circular* + *-ity*. —**circularize** *v.* 1799, formed from English *circular* + *-ize*.

circulate *v.* 1545, from earlier *circulate*, past participle (1471); borrowed from Latin *circulātus*, past participle of *circulāre* make circular, encircle, from *circulus* CIRCLE. —**circulation** *n.* 1440 *circulacion*, borrowed from Middle French *circulation*, and directly from Latin *circulatiōnem* (nominative *circulatiō*), from *circulāre* circulate; for suffix see -TION. —**circulatory** *adj.* 1605 (perhaps 1597), borrowed from French *circulatoire*, and directly from Latin *circulātorius* of circulation, from *circulātor* one that circulates, from *circulāre*.

circum- a prefix meaning around, on all sides, as in *circumpolar* = around the pole. Many words came into English with the Latin prefix, such as *circumnavigate*, which was later abstracted as if an English formation. Borrowed from Latin *circum* around, about, originally accusative of *circus* circle.

circumcise *v.* About 1250, borrowed from Latin *circumcīsus*, past participle of *circumcīdere*, literally, cut around (*circum-* around + *caedere* cut). — **circumcision** *n.* Probably before 1200, borrowed from Latin *circumcīsiōnem* (nominative *circumcīsiō*), from *circumcī-*, stem of *circumcīdere*; for suffix see -ION.

circumference *n.* Before 1393, borrowed (possibly by influence of Old French *circonférence*), from Latin *circumferentia*, from *circumferēs* (genitive *circumferentis*), present participle of *circumferre* to carry around (*circum-* around + *ferre* to carry).

circumflex *n.* **circumflex accent.** Before 1577 as an adjective, borrowed from Latin *circumflexus* bent around, past participle of *circumflectere* (*circum-* around + *flectere* to bend, FLEX). In reference to the accent mark, the word is a loan translation from Greek *perispōmenos* drawn around (in allusion to its shape); a term used by the grammarian Dionysius of Halicarnassus to designate the rising and falling tone on certain Greek vowels.

circumlocution *n.* Before 1401, borrowed from Latin *circumlocūtiōnem* (*circum-* around + *locūtiōnem*, nominative *locūtiō* a speaking, from stem of *loquī* speak); for suffix see -TION. Latin *circumlocūtiō* was a loan translation of Greek *periphrasis* circumlocution. The term in English may have been influenced by Old French *circonlocution*.

circumnavigate *v.* 1634, borrowed from Latin *circumnāvigāre* to sail around; for suffix see -ATE¹.

circumscribe *v.* About 1385, borrowed from Latin *circumscribere* to draw a line around, limit, confine (*circum-* around + *scribere* write).

circumspect *adj.* Before 1420, borrowed from Latin *circumspectus*, past participle of *circumspicere* look around, take heed (*circum-* around + *specere* to look). — **circumspection** *n.* Before 1387, borrowed from Latin *circumspectiōnem* (nominative *circumspectiō*), from *circumspicere* look around; for suffix see -TION.

circumstance *n.* Probably before 1200, borrowed from Latin *circumstantia* surrounding condition, from *circumstāns* (genitive *circumstantis*), present participle of *circumstāre* stand around (*circum-* around + *stāre* to stand). — **circumstantial** *adj.* 1600, formed in English from Latin *circumstantia* + English -al¹. — **circumstantial evidence** (1736)

circumvent *v.* About 1450, borrowed from Latin *circumventus*, past participle of *circumvenire* get around, deceive (*circum-* around + *venire* come). The sense of get the better of appeared before 1564. — **circumvention** *n.* 1424, borrowed from Latin *circumventiōnem* (nominative *circumventiō*), from *circumvent-*, stem of *circumvenire* circumvent; for suffix see -TION.

circus *n.* About 1380, probably in reference to the Circus Maximus in ancient Rome; a borrowing of Latin *circus*, liter-

ally, ring; see CIRCLE. The meaning of a traveling show is first attested in 1791.

cirrrosis *n.* 1839–47, New Latin *cirrrosis* from Greek *kirrhós* orange-yellow; for suffix see -OSIS; coined because of the yellowish appearances of the diseased liver.

cirrus *n.* 1803, New Latin *cirrus*, Latin *cirrus* curl, fringe.

cis- a prefix meaning on the near side of, on this side of, as in *cislunar*, *cisalpine*, used chiefly to form scientific terms. Borrowed from Latin *cis-*, from the preposition *cis* on this side of, related to *citrā*, adv., on this side.

cistern *n.* About 1250, borrowed from Old French *cisterne*, and from Latin *cisterna* underground reservoir, from *cista* box, CHEST.

citadel *n.* Before 1586, borrowed from Middle French *citadelle*, from Italian *cittadella* (diminutive form of *cittade* city, later *città*) from Latin *civitātem*; see CITY.

cite *v.* 1438 *citen* to summon; borrowed from Old French *citer*, learned borrowing from Latin *citāre* move, excite, summon, a frequentative form of *cīre* set in motion, call. The sense of quote or refer to as an authority appeared by 1535. — **citation** *n.* About 1300, a summons, written notice to appear; borrowed through Old French *citation* or, as a learned borrowing, directly from Latin *citātiōnem* (nominative *citātiō*), from *citāre* to summon; for suffix see -TION. The sense of a quotation appeared in 1548.

citizen *n.* Probably before 1300 *citisein* inhabitant of a city; borrowed from Anglo-French *citesein*, *citezein*, alteration of Old French *citeain*, *citeien* (*cite* CITY + *-ien* -ian). The sense of inhabitant of a country appeared about 1380. — **citizenry** *n.* (1819, formed from English *citizen* + *-ry*). — **citizenship** *n.* (1611)

citron *n.* 1391, implied in *citronade* candied citron, also later *citrine* (probably about 1425), and *citron* (1526); borrowed from Old French *citron*, possibly from Old Provençal *citron*, alteration (influenced by *limon* LEMON) of Latin *citrus* CITRUS. — **citric** *adj.* 1800, formed in English from Latin *citr(us)* + English -ic.

citronella *n.* 1858, New Latin *citronella*, and French *citronnelle* citronella, lemon liquor, from *citron*; so called from its citronlike smell.

citrus *n.* 1882, borrowed from New Latin *Citrus* the genus name, from Latin *citrus* a lemon or citron, citron tree; of uncertain origin (compare Greek *kítron* citron).

city *n.* Probably before 1200 *cite* town, borough, especially a walled town or city and its government; also a cathedral town with its bishopric; borrowed from Old French *citē*, earlier *citet*, from Latin *civitātem* (nominative *civitās*) citizenship, citizenry, the state, city, from *civis* citizen; for suffix see -TY². — **citified** *adj.* 1828, American English, formed from English *city* + *-fied*, past participial form of *-fy*, as if from *cityfy* (1865).

civet *n.* 1532, borrowed from French *civette*, from Italian *zibetto*, from Medieval Latin *zibethum*, Medieval Greek *zapētion*, from Arabic *zabād* musk. — **civet cat** (1607)

civic *adj.* 1542, borrowed from Latin *civicus* of or for a citizen (chiefly in *corōna civica* civic crown, awarded to one who saved the life of a fellow citizen in war), from *civis* citizen, see CITY; for suffix see -IC. It is unlikely that Middle French *civique* (1504) was the source, as the earliest use in English was in translation from Latin referring to the Roman civic crown and the meaning “of or having to do with a citizen or citizens” is first recorded in 1790, in Burke’s works on the French Revolution. —**civics** *n.pl.* 1886, American English, formed from English *civic* + *s*, on analogy with *politics*.

civil *adj.* Before 1387, borrowed through Old French *civil*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *civilis* of or proper to a citizen, relating to private rights, state law, and public life, urbane in manner, from *civis* citizen; see CITY. Though already known in Latin, the meaning “polite” is not recorded in English before 1606, “not barbarous, civilized” before 1553, and the distinction between military and ecclesiastical function and that of the ordinary citizen not before 1592. —**civil law** (about 1380) —**civil liberty** (1788) —**civil rights** (1721) —**civil service** (about 1785) —**civil war** (probably before 1439) —**civilian** *n.* Before 1397, judge or authority on civil law; borrowed from Old French *civilien* of the civil law, from *civil* civil; for suffix see -IAN. The meaning of non-military person is first recorded in 1829, formed from English *civil* + -ian. —**adj.** 1645, from the noun. —**civility** *n.* About 1384, borrowed from Old French *civilité*, from Latin *civilitatem* (nominative *civilitās*) courteousness, politeness, from *civilis*; for suffix see -ITY.

civilize *v.* 1601, apparently borrowed from French *civiliser*, *civilizer*, from Old French *civil* civil; for suffix see -IZE. It is possible that the Old French word was based upon Medieval Latin **civilizare* to consider a criminal action as a civil matter. —**civilization** *n.* 1704, law which makes a criminal process civil, formed from English *civilize* + -ation. The sense of civilized condition or state is first recorded in 1772, probably from French *civilisation*.

clack *v.* Before 1250 *clacken*, probably of imitative origin like Dutch *klakken* to clack, crack, Old High German *kleken* to crack, and Old Icelandic *klaka* to twitter, chatter (compare CLUCK). —**n.** Before 1450, from the verb.

clad *adj.* About 1250, developed from Old English *geclæthd* (about 950), past participle of *clæthan* to clothe, from *clāth* CLOTH.

claim *n.* Before 1325, borrowed from Old French *claime*, from *clamer* to call, appeal, claim, from Latin *clāmāre* cry out, call, proclaim. —**v.** Probably about 1300 *cleimen* lay claim to; later *claymen* (before 1338); borrowed from Old French *clām-*, accented stem of *clamer*, from Latin *clāmāre* proclaim. —**claimant** *n.* 1747, formed from English *claim* + -ant.

clairvoyant *adj.* 1850, able to see things that are out of sight; earlier, having insight (1671); borrowing of French *clairvoyant*, clear-sighted, literally, clear-seeing (*clair* clear, from Latin *clārus* CLEAR + *voyant*, present participle of *voir* to see, from Latin *vidēre*). —**n.** 1851; earlier, a clear-sighted person (1794); borrowing of French *clairvoyant*, *n.*, from French *clairvoyant*, *adj.*

—**clairvoyance** *n.* 1847, borrowing of French *clairvoyance*, from *clairvoyant*, *adj.*

clam *n.* 1500, in the compound *clam-shell*, apparently special use of earlier *clam* pincers, vise, clamp (1399); developed from Old English (971) *clamm* fetter, bond, chain; cognate with Old High German *klamma* cramp, fetter, constriction (modern German *Klamm*), possibly suggesting a Proto-Germanic form **klam-*, **klamm-*, or **klamb-* to press or squeeze together. —**v.** 1636, American English, dig for clams; from the noun. The idiom *clam up* be silent is American English (1916), but a similar use is found in Middle English *clam!* be silent (probably about 1350).

clamber *v.* About 1375 *clambren*, possibly a frequentative form of *climben* to CLIMB, by way of its Middle English preterit *clamb*.

clammy *adj.* Before 1398, from earlier *clam* viscous, sticky, muddy (about 1340); developed from Old English *clām* mud, sticky clay (compare Flemish *klammig*, Low German *klamig* sticky, damp); for suffix see -Y¹.

clamor *n.* About 1385 *clamour*, borrowed from Old French *clamour*, from Latin *clāmora* a shout, from *clāmāre* cry out; for suffix see -OR¹. —**v.** About 1385, from the noun. —**clamorous** *adj.* 1402, borrowed, by influence of Middle French *clamoreux*, from Medieval Latin *clamosus*, from Latin *clāmōr*; for suffix see -OUS.

clamp *n.* 1402, earlier in compound *clampchute* (1304), probably borrowed from Middle Dutch *clampe* (modern Dutch *klamp*); cognate with Middle Low German *klampe* clasp, hook, Old High German *klampfer* clip, clamp and Old English *clamm* fetter; see CLAM. —**v.** 1677, from the noun.

clan *n.* About 1425 (Scottish), from Gaelic *clann* family, stock, offspring, a borrowing (like Old Irish *cland*, *clann* stock, offspring, and Welsh *plant* children) from Latin *planta* sprout, root, scion. The Gaelic branch (Goidelic) of the Celtic languages having no initial *p* regularly substituted *k* or *c* for Latin *p*. —**clannish** *adj.* 1776, formed from English *clan* + -ish. —**clansman** *n.* 1810, formed from English *clan*’s, genitive of *clan* + *man*.

clandestine *adj.* 1566, borrowed, by influence of French *clandestin* (about 1355), from Latin *clandestinus* secret, hidden (apparently formed from **clam-de*, on the model of *intestinus* internal), from *clam* secretly, related to *cēlāre* to hide.

clang *v.* 1576, apparently borrowed from Latin *clangere* re-sound, ring, clang; cognate with Greek *klangē* sharp sound, din, *klāzein* make a sharp sound, scream, bark. It is also possible that *clang* is an independent imitative formation related to *clank* (compare modern German *Klang*). —**n.** 1596, probably from the verb. —**clangor** *n.* 1593, borrowed from Latin *clangor* sound, clang, noise, from *clangere* to clang; for suffix see -OR¹. —**clangorous** *adj.* 1712, formed from English *clangor* + -ous.

clank *n.* 1656, possibly borrowed from Dutch *klank* sound, ring, from Middle Dutch *clank*; cognate with Middle Low German *klank*, and Old High German *klanc* (modern German

Klang). —**v.** 1656, apparently from the noun, but in the sense of put down resoundingly is found before 1614, suggesting an imitative origin.

clap *v.* About 1300 *clappen*, perhaps earlier, about 1150; developed from Old English *clæppan*, *clappian* to beat, throb, probably of imitative origin like Old Frisian *klapa* to beat, Middle Low German *klappen* to chatter, Old High German *klaphōn* to beat, and Old Saxon *klapunga* clatter. Middle English *clappen* may also be borrowed from Old Icelandic *klappa* to beat. —**n.** Probably before 1200 *cleappe*, *claipe* thing that makes a clapping noise, stroke or blow, loud talking; from the verb. —**clapboard** *n.* About 1520, partial loan translation replacing earlier *clapholt* (1378) with English *board* for Low German *holt* wood. —**clapper** *n.* About 1280, developed from Old English *clipur*, by influence of Middle English *clappen*, *v.* —**claptrap** *n.* 1727–31, formed from English *clap* + *trap*, in its earliest sense of an actor's stage device to get applause.

claret *n.* About 1440, light-colored yellow or reddish wine; earlier, wine sweetened and spiced (before 1398); borrowed from Middle French *claret* in the phrase *vin claret* light-colored wine (*vin* wine, and *claret* light-colored, in Old French also a noun meaning "wine mixed with honey and spices," diminutive of Old French *cler* CLEAR). About 1600, used in English for any red wine and after 1700 for red wine of Bordeaux.

clarify *v.* Before 1325 *clarifien* make illustrious, make known; borrowed from Old French *clarifier*, learned borrowing from Late Latin *clārificāre* make clear, from *clārificus* brilliant (Latin *clārus* CLEAR + the root of *facere* make); for suffix see -FY. —**clarification** *n.* 1612, borrowed from French *clarification*, from Late Latin *clārificātiōnem* (nominative *clārificātiō*) from *clārificāre* to clarify; for suffix see -TION.

clarinet *n.* 1796, borrowed from French *clarinette*, diminutive of *clarine* bell; earlier, *clarion*, from Old French noun *clarine*, from the feminine of the adjective *clarin*, from *clair*, *cler*, CLEAR; for suffix see -ET.

clarion *n.* Before 1338 *clarioun*, borrowed through Old French *clarion*, and directly from Medieval Latin *clarionem* (nominative *clario*) trumpet, from Latin *clārus* CLEAR, for suffix see -ET. —**clarion call** (1838)

clarity *n.* About 1425 *clarite* brightness, splendor, glory; (influenced by or reborrowed from Latin *clāritās*); earlier *clerte*, *clarte* (probably about 1300); borrowed from Old French *clarté*, from Latin *clāritās* clearness, brightness, splendor, from *clārus* CLEAR; for suffix see -ITY.

clash *v.* About 1500, probably of imitative origin. The figurative meaning of come into conflict with is first recorded in 1622. —**n.** 1513, probably imitative like the verb. The figurative meaning of hostile encounter, conflict is first recorded in 1646, and that of conflict of opinions in 1781.

clasp *n.* 1307 *claspe*, probably an alteration (by metathesis of *p* and *s*) of *clapse*, which may have been the older form even though not recorded until 1388; probably related to Old Eng-

lish *clpypan* encircle, embrace. —**v.** About 1387–95 *claspēn*, *clapsen*, from the noun.

class *n.* 1602 *classe* group of students; borrowed from French *classe*, learned borrowing from Latin *classis* class, division, army, fleet. The ancient Romans related this word to *calāre* call out, proclaim. An earlier form in English *classis* a division according to rank (1593), was a borrowing of Latin *classis*. —**v.** 1705, divide into classes; 1776, to place in a class; from the noun. —**classy** *adj.* 1891, formed from English *class* high quality, 1847 + -y¹.

classic *adj.* 1613, borrowed from French *classique*, from Latin *classicus* pertaining to the highest class (of Romans), from *classis* class. The sense "of or relating to the ancient Greek or Roman writers or arts," appeared in English in 1628. —**n.** 1711, in *classics* pl. ancient Greek or Latin writings, from the adjective, probably influenced by French *classiques*. —**classical** *adj.* 1599, of the highest rank, formed in English from Latin *classicus* + English -al¹. —**classicism** *n.* 1837, formed from English *classic* + -ism.

classify *v.* 1799, borrowed from French *classifier*, from *classe* class; for suffix see -FY. —**classification** *n.* 1790, borrowed from French *classification*, from *classifier* + -fication, similar to English pairs such as *falsify/falsification*, *purify/purification*. —**classifiable** *adj.* 1846, formed from *classify* + -able. —**classified** *adj.* (1889)

clatter *v.* Probably about 1200 *clateren*, found in Old English (about 1050) *clatrun* a clattering, of imitative origin and corresponding to Middle Dutch *klāteren* to clatter, chatter, East Frisian *klatern*, and Low German *klāteren*. —**n.** Probably about 1350, from the verb.

clause *n.* Probably before 1200, borrowed from Old French *clause*, learned borrowing from Medieval Latin *clausa* conclusion, from Latin *clausa*, + feminine past participle of *claudere* to CLOSE¹. The meaning of an article or section of a text appeared about 1300.

claustrophobia *n.* 1879, New Latin *claustrophobia*, formed from Latin *claustrum* closed place + New Latin *phobia* fear. —**claustrophobic** *adj.* 1889, formed in English from New Latin *claustrophobia* + English -ic; *n.* person who has claustrophobia. 1953, from the adjective.

clavichord *n.* 1457–58 *clavecord*, borrowed from Medieval Latin *clavichordium* (Latin *clāvis* key + *chorda* string).

clavicle *n.* 1615, borrowed from Middle French *clavicule* small key, tendril, collarbone, from Medieval Latin *clavicula* collarbone (Latin *clavicula* small key, bolt, diminutive form of *clavis* key), loan translation from Greek *kleis* key, collarbone (supposedly because of the function of the bone as a key or as fastener of the shoulder).

clavier *n.* 1845, musical instrument with keyboard and strings; earlier, the keyboard of a musical instrument (1708); borrowed from German *Klavier*, from French *clavier* keyboard, from Old French *clavier* key bearer, from Latin *clāvis* key; for suffix see -ER¹.

claw *n.* About 1250 *clawe*, developed from Old English (about 700) *clawu*, alteration of *clēa* claw, talon (influenced by *clawe* the oblique form). Old English *clawu*, *clēa* are cognate with Old Frisian *klāwe*, *klē* claw, hoe, Middle Dutch *klouwe* (modern Dutch *klauw*), Old High German *klāwa* claw (modern German *Klaue*), from Proto-Germanic **klawō* related to Old Icelandic *klō* claw. —**v.** About 1250 *clawen*, developed from Old English (about 1000) *clawen*, *clawian*, derived from the Germanic root of *claw*, *n.*

clay *n.* Before 1325 *clai*, also *clay* (about 1325); earlier in compound *clepputh* clay pit (about 1241); developed from Old English *clæg* stiff, sticky earth, clay (about 1000). Old English *clæg* is related to *clām* mud, clay and is cognate with Old Frisian *klai* clay, Old Saxon *klei*, Middle Dutch *clai* clay, from Proto-Germanic **klaijaz* related to Old High German *klīwa* bran (modern German *Kleie*).

claymore *n.* 1722, Gaelic *claidheamh mor* great sword (from Old Irish *claidheab* sword + *mōr* great). The military term **claymore mine**, or **claymore**, a mine that sprays small metal pellets, is first recorded in 1962.

—**cle** a suffix in various words of French and Latin origin, as in *clavicle*, *obstacle*, *spectacle*, *vehicle*, sometimes with diminutive force, as in *cubicle*, *particle*. Borrowed from Old French *-cle*, from Latin *-culus*, *-cula*, *-culum*.

clean *adj.* 1110 *clene* clear, pure; developed from Old English *clæne* (about 750); cognate with Old Saxon *klēni* dainty, delicate, Old Frisian *klēne* small, and Old High German *kleini* delicate, fine, small (modern German *klein* small), from Proto-Germanic **klainiz*. —**adv.** Old English *clæne* (before 900), from the adjective. —**v.** About 1450, from the adjective, in part taking the place of *cleanse* in the more literal senses of modern English. —**cleaner** *n.* 1466, formed from Middle English *clene* + *-er*¹. —**cleanup** *n.* (1866)

cleanly¹ *adj.* clean. About 1340, developed from Old English *clænlic* (*clæne* clean + *lic* body, having a clean body); for suffix see *-LY*².

cleanly² *adv.* in a clean manner. Probably before 1200, developed from Old English *clænlice* (*clæne* clean + *lice*, *-lic* *-ly*²); for suffix see *-LY*¹.

cleanse *v.* Probably about 1200 *cleansen*, also *clennsen*; developed from Old English *clænsian* (about 750), from *clæne* CLEAN. The modern spelling *cleanse* appeared in the 1500's, but the word retained the pronunciation represented in the Middle English spelling. —**cleanser** *n.* (1373)

clear *adj.* About 1280 *cler* bright; borrowed from Old French *cler*, from Latin *clārus* clear, bright, distinct, illustrious, related to *clāmāre* cry out, call, proclaim. —**adv.** About 1303, from the adjective. —**v.** About 1380 *cleren* to enlighten, from the adjective. —**n.** 1237, the phrase *in the clear* is first recorded in 1715. —**clearance** *n.* Before 1563, formed from English *clear*, *v.* + *-ance*. —**clearing** *n.* (1678, American English)

cleat *n.* 1302 *clēte* wedge, wedge-shaped piece from Old English **clēat*, probably related to Old English *clott* and *clūt* CLOT.

The sense of a fixture to stop a rope from slipping is first recorded in 1377. —**v.** 1794, from the noun.

cleave¹ *v.* split, divide. Probably before 1200 *cleven*, developed from Old English (about 1000) *clēofan* (910); cognate with Old Saxon *klioban* to split, Old High German *klioban*, *chliuban* (modern German *klieben*), and Old Icelandic *kljūfa* to split, from Proto-Germanic **kleubanan*. The early Middle English and Old English past tense plural form *cloven* (*clufon*, etc.) is now seen mostly in the form *cloven-footed* (1415) and as a separate past participle in *cloven foot* or *hoof* (about 1200). —**cleavage** *n.* 1816, formed from English *cleave* + *-age*. —**cleaver** *n.* About 1360, formed from English *cleave* + *-er*¹.

cleave² *v.* stick, cling. Probably about 1200 *cleovien*, developed from Old English *cleofian*, *clifian* (before 899); cognate with Old Saxon *klībōn* to stick, cling, from West-Germanic **kli-bōjanan*, related to Old High German *klebēn* to stick (modern German *kleben*), and Old Icelandic *klifja* to climb, clamber.

clef *n.* Before 1577, borrowed from Middle French *clef* key, from Latin *clāvis* key.

cleft *n.* 1576, replacement of earlier *clift* (recorded before 1325), developed from Old English *geclýft*, *adj.* split, cleft. The spelling *cleft* was influenced by *cleft*, a form of the past participle of CLEAVE¹ split. Old English **clýft* (*geclýft*) is cognate with Old High German *kluft* (modern German *Kluft*) cleft, Norwegian *kluft*, *kløft*, Danish *kløft* cleft, from Proto-Germanic **klufits*.

clématis *n.* 1551, a name for periwinkle; borrowed from Latin *clématis*, from Greek *klēmatis* a climbing vine, from *klēma* (genitive *klēmatis*) vine, branch.

clement *adj.* 1459, merciful, mild; earlier (1230 as surname) *Clement*; borrowed from Old French *clement*, learned borrowing from Latin *clémentem* (nominative *clēmēns*) calm, mild. —**clemency** *n.* 1553, borrowed from Latin *clémentia* calmness, gentleness, from *clémentem* calm; for suffix see *-CY*.

clench *v.* About 1250 *clenchen*, developed from Old English *beclencan* hold fast, from Proto-Germanic **klankjanan*; cognate with Old High German *chlanckhan*, *klenkan*, and Middle High German *klenken* to fasten closely together, tie, knot, entwine. Related to CLINCH. —**n.** 1779, a grasp, grip; earlier perhaps meaning “a swaddling band” (about 1250), from the verb.

clerestory *n.* 1412, possibly formed from Middle English *clere* CLEAR + *story*² floor.

clergy *n.* Before 1300 *clergie* a group of persons ordained for religious work; earlier, learning, branch of learning (probably about 1200); borrowed from two words in Old French: 1) *clergié*, *clergé* clerics, learned men, from Medieval Latin *clericatus*, from Latin *clēricus* CLERIC, and 2) *clergie* also meaning “clerics” and “learning” (literally) clerkship, from *clerc* cleric, CLERK + *-ie* *-Y*³. Confusion of *clergié* and *clergie* so that both finally came to mean “cleric” in Old French was prompted by substitution of *g* for *c* in **clergie* on the pattern of earlier *clergié*. —**clergyman** *n.* (1577) —**clergywoman** *n.* (1673)

cleric *n.* 1621, borrowed from Latin *clēricus* + *clergyman*,

priest; (literally as an adjective) priestly, from Greek *klērikós* of the clergy, from *klēros* the clergy; (originally, inheritance, lot, allotment); for suffix see -IC. Greek *klēros* was originally applied (in the Septuagint) to the Levites, the service of God being the priest's lot, and was a loan translation of Hebrew *nahalāh* inheritance, lot. Compare CLERK.

According to the available record Old English *clēric* member of a holy order merged with Old French *clerc* to become Middle English *clerc*, modern English CLERK, and *clerc* was reborrowed into English in the 1600's with the specific meaning "clergyman." —**clerical** adj. 1592; earlier (about 1475), learned borrowing of Old French *clerical* and from Latin *clericālis*, from *clericus* clergyman, priest; for suffix see -AL¹.

clerk *n.* Probably before 1200 *clerc* member of the clergy, clergyman, in part developed from Old English (about 975) *clēric* clergyman, (later) secretary, scribe; and in part borrowed from Old French *clerc* clergyman, both Old English and Old French borrowed from Latin *clericus* CLERIC. Since scholarship in the Middle Ages was often limited to clergymen, who performed writing and secretarial work, the word *clerk* and its Old English equivalent *clēric* came to mean scribe, and later in Middle English, scholar and was applied to a notary, secretary, recorder, accountant, or writer. —**v.** 1551, from the noun.

clever adj. 1580–95, handy, dexterous; earlier in Middle English *cliver* nimble-handed (before 1250), possibly related to *clivre* claw, talon (earlier, *cleuvre*) and to Old English *clifian* CLEAVE² to stick.

cliché *n.* 1832 as a French word introduced in an English work on manufacturing. French *cliché* stereotype (printing plate cast from a mold), from past participle of *cliquer* to click, strike melted lead to obtain a cast or mold, perhaps variant of Old French *cliquer* to click, probably of imitative origin. The figurative meaning "worn out expression, trite idea" appeared in 1888, paralleling the figurative extension of earlier *stereotype* (1850).

click *v.* 1581, of imitative origin, and perhaps related to Dutch *klik* click, German *klicken* to click, Old French *clique* tick of a clock, and *cliquer* to click. The figurative sense of to fit together, agree, harmonize is first recorded in 1915. —**n.** 1611, perhaps from the verb.

client *n.* Probably before 1387, one who engages the services of a lawyer, borrowed through Anglo-French *cliyent* (1306), learned borrowing from Latin *cliēns* (accusative *clientem*) retainer, follower, dependent, perhaps literally one who leans on another, and so possibly related to *clināre* to bend.

The meaning was extended to one who obtains any professional or business service, a customer by 1608. —**clientele** *n.* 1563–68, group of dependents; borrowed from Latin *clientēla* relationship between dependent and patron, body of dependents, from *cliēns* CLIENT.

The word was reborrowed into English in 1854, from French *clientèle* clients of a professional person, customers in general, also from Latin *clientēla*.

cliff *n.* Old English *clif* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with

Old Saxon *clif* cliff, Middle Dutch *klippe* (modern Dutch *klip*), Old High German *klep* promontory, and Old Icelandic *klif* cliff, *klifa* to climb, clamber; see CLEAVE² stick. —**cliff dweller** (1881, American English).

climacteric adj. 1601, borrowed from Latin *climactericus*, from Greek *klīmaktērikós* of a critical period, from *klīmaktēr* rung of a ladder, from *klīmax* ladder; see CLIMAX. —**n.** 1630, borrowed from French *climaterique*, but with a spelling change to *climacteric*, influenced by the adjective.

climactic adj. 1872, from *climax*, apparently derived on the analogy of *syntax*, *syntactic*; see CLIMAX.

climate *n.* 1375 (Scottish) *climat* zone of the earth lying between two parallels of latitude; borrowed through Old French *climat*, learned borrowing from Latin *clima* (genitive *climatis* region, slope of the earth, from Greek *klīma* (genitive *klīmatos*) inclination, slope of the earth, from *klīnein* to incline, LEAN¹ slant.

The meaning of a region of the earth was often used in reference to the region's atmospheric conditions and later evolved weather conditions of a region by 1611. —**climatic** adj. Before 1828, formed from English *climate* + -ic.

climax *n.* 1589, rhetorical series of expressions in ascending order of effectiveness; borrowed from Late Latin *clīmax* (genitive *clīmacis*), from Greek *klīmax* (genitive *klīmakos*) rhetorical climax, literally, ladder, something that inclines, from *klīnein* to incline, LEAN¹ slant. The term is first recorded as meaning highest point, as reached by gradual ascent by 1789. —**v.** 1835, from the noun.

climb *v.* Probably before 1200 *climben*, developed from Old English (before 1000) *climban*; cognate with Middle and modern Dutch *klimmen* to climb, Old High German *klīmban* (modern German *klimmen*), from West Germanic **klīmbanan*. —**n.** 1577–87, from the verb. The *b* has been dropped in most languages where it did occur. Compare COMB.

clime *n.* 1542, borrowed from Latin *clima*; CLIMATE.

clinch *v.* 1570, fasten firmly, variant of CLENCH. The sense of settle decisively is recorded before 1716. —**n.** 1627, from the verb. —**clinch** *n.* 1330, formed from English *clinch* + -er¹. The meaning of a conclusive argument or statement is first recorded in 1737.

cling *v.* Before 1280 hold fast; earlier, shrivel, shrink (about 1150); developed from Old English *clingan* hold fast, contract, shrivel (about 1000); cognate with Middle Dutch *klīngen* to stick, adhere, Old High German *klīnga* narrow gorge, Middle High German *klīngen* to climb, Old Icelandic *klengjask* press onward, push upward (Norwegian *klenge* cling, Swedish *klānga* climb).

Another form appears in Middle English *clengen* to cling, adhere, and in *clengen* down to shrink, disappear, developed from Old English *clengan*.

clinic *n.* Before 1626, a bedridden person; borrowed from Latin *clīnicus* physician (also as an adjective, meaning of or having to do with bed), from Greek *klīnikós* physician who

visits bed patients (and, as in Latin, with adjective meaning “of bed”), from *klīnē* bed, from *klīnein* to incline, LEAN¹ slant.

The modern meaning of place for medical treatment is first recorded in 1884, developed in English by influence of German *Klinik*, from earlier French *clinique*. English had already adopted the meaning of medical instruction at the bedside of hospital patients, by 1843 from French *clinique*, a borrowing from Greek *klinikḗ* (*téchnē*) art of treating the bedridden, from *klīnikós* (*iātrós*) physician who visits bedridden patients.

The adjective *clinic* (1626), generally gave way to **clinical** adj. 1780, formed in English from Latin *clīnicus* + English *-al*.

clink¹ *v.* make a light, ringing sound. Before 1325 *clinken*, probably of imitative origin, similar to Middle and modern Dutch *klinken*, and Old High German *klingan* (modern German *klingen*) to sound, ring, clink. —**n.** Probably before 1400, from the verb.

clink² *n.* jail. 1515, from *the Clink*, a noted prison in the south of London.

clinker *n.* 1769, alteration of earlier *klincard* kind of paving brick made in Holland (1641), borrowed from earlier Dutch *klinkaerd* (modern Dutch *klinker*), from *klinken* to ring (as it does when struck), from Middle Dutch; see CLINK. The sense “bad or stupid mistake” is first recorded in 1950 in American English.

clip¹ *v.*, cut. Probably about 1200 *clippen*, apparently borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *klippa* to clip, modern Icelandic and Swedish *klippa* clip, Danish and Norwegian *klippe*; probably imitative). —**n.** Possibly 1465, shears, from the verb. —**clippers** *n.pl.* 1876, formed from English *clip*¹, *v.* + *-er(s)*, replacing earlier *clipping shears* (1435). —**clipping** *n.* 1324–25, formed from Middle English *clippen* + *-ing*¹.

clip² *v.* fasten. Probably before 1200 *clippen*, developed from Old English (about 725) *clyppan* encircle, embrace, grasp; cognate with Old Frisian *kleppa* to embrace. —**n.** 1354, hook for holding pots, from the verb. —**clipboard** *n.* (1907)

clique *n.* 1711, borrowed from French *clique*, from Old French *cliquer* to click (of indeterminate sense); at one time the French word apparently equivalent to *claque* group hired to applaud in a theater.

clitoris *n.* 1615, New Latin *clitoris*, from Greek *kleitoris*, diminutive of **kleitōr* hill, related to *kleitōs* hill, and *klīnein* to LEAN¹ slant.

cloaca *n.* 1834, New Latin *cloaca*, from Latin *clōāca* sewer, drain. The word is first recorded in English in the sense of sewer, borrowed directly from Latin.

cloak *n.* 1293 *cloke*, borrowed from Old North French *cloque*, from Medieval Latin *clocca* cape worn by travelers, literally meaning bell and so called from its shape; see CLOCK. —**v.** 1509, from the noun.

clobber *v.* 1941 (first recorded as British Air Force slang) *clobbering* a bombing, possibly imitative.

clock *n.* About 1370 *clocke* timepiece sounding the hours by a bell; borrowed either from Middle Dutch *clocke* clock, bell, or from Old North French *cloque*, both forms from Medieval Latin *clocca* bell. The Medieval Latin word probably came from a Celtic source (compare Middle Irish *clocc* bell, Breton *kloc'h*, Welsh *cloch*), though it is also possible that the Celtic words were borrowed from Medieval Latin; ultimately of imitative origin. The Middle Dutch form is cognate with Old Frisian *klocka*, *klocke*, Old High German *klocka*, *glocka*, *glogga* (modern German *Glocke* bell), Old Icelandic *klocka* bell (Swedish *klocka*, Norwegian and Danish *klokke* bell, clock). —**v.** 1872, to sound a bell; later, to time by the clock (1883); from the noun. —**clockwise** *adj.*, *adv.* (1888) —**clockwork** *n.* (1662)

clod *n.* Before 1398 *cludde* clot (of blood); developed from Old English *clodd-*, *clod-* (as in *clod-hamer* field goer), from Proto-Germanic **kludda-*. The meaning became differentiated to “lump of earth” and the spelling shifted to *clodde* (1440). Later a figurative sense of the human body or a person, as being a mere lump of earth is recorded (1595), and the sense “blockhead, clumsy person” (1605).

clog *n.* Before 1325 *clogge* block, lump, of uncertain origin. The sense “shoe with a thick wooden sole” is first recorded in the compound surname *Clogmaker* (1367). —**v.** Before 1398 *cloggen* fasten a clog or block of wood to something (as a hindrance), from the noun.

cloister *n.* Before 1225 *cloistre*, borrowed from Old French *cloistre*, an alteration of earlier *clostre* by influence of *cloison* partition, probably from Vulgar Latin **clausiōnem* (nominative **clausiō*), from Latin *clausus* closed. The early Old French *clostre* was derived from Latin *claustrum* closed place, lock (in Medieval Latin, monastery, room in a monastery), from *claus-*, past participial stem of *claudere* to CLOSE¹. —**v.** Probably about 1408 (implied in *cloistered*), past participle, from the noun.

clone *n.* 1903, borrowed from Greek *klōn* twig (earlier probably **klaón*), related to *kládos* sprout. Figurative extension of exact duplicate, replica appeared about 1978. —**v.** 1959, from the noun.

close¹ *v.* to shut. About 1280 *clösen*, replacing earlier *clusen* (recorded before 1200); developed from Old English *beclýsan* close, enclose. The new Middle English *clösen* was borrowed from Old French *close*, *clōs-*, stem of *clōre* to shut, from Latin *claudere* stop up, fasten, shut, related to *clāvis* bar, key. —**n.** About 1399 *clos*, from the verb.

close² *adj.* confined, near. Probably about 1380 *clos* (past participle) closed, shut, borrowed from Old French *clos*, from Latin *clausus*, past participle of *claudere* to CLOSE¹. —**n.** About 1250, a dwelling or apartment; perhaps later, an enclosed space (about 1280), borrowed from Old French *clos* enclosure; see CLOSET. —**close call** (1881, also earlier **close shave**, 1834, American English).

closet *n.* About 1385, private room for study or prayer; borrowed from Old French *closet*, diminutive of *clos* enclosure, from Latin *clausum* closed space, from neuter past participle of *claudere* to CLOSE¹; for suffix see -ET.

The meaning of small room, cupboard appeared in 1616. —**adj.** 1685, private, secluded; later, hidden, covert, secret (1968); from the noun. —**v.** 1595, to shut up in (or as though in) a closet; from the noun.

closure *n.* About 1390, an encircling barrier or fence, enclosure; borrowed from Old French *clousure* that which encloses, from Late Latin *clausura* lock, fortress, from *claus-*, stem of Latin *claudere* to CLOSE¹; for suffix see -URE. The meaning of act of closing or shutting (an establishment, a debate, etc.) appeared in 1423.

clot *n.* Probably before 1200, developed from Old English (about 1000) *clott*; cognate with Middle High German *kloz*, *klotzes* lump, ball (modern German *Klotz*), from Proto-Germanic **klutta-*. —**v.** Before 1425, from the noun.

cloth *n.* Before 1200 *cloth*, developed from Old English (before 800) *clāth* woven or felted material, article of clothing, garment; cognate with Old Frisian *klāth* cloth, Middle Dutch *cleet* (modern Dutch *kleed* garment, dress), Middle High German *kleit* (modern German *Kleid* garment, dress), Old Icelandic *kleðhi* cloth, clothing (Danish *klæde*, Norwegian *klede*, Swedish *kläde*), from Proto-Germanic **klaiθaz*. —**clothes** *n.pl.* Old English (before 800) *clāthes*, plural of *clāth* cloth, garment.

Originally the plural of *cloth* was *clothes*; but after *cloth* meaning "article of clothing" became obsolete, the plural *cloths* (*cloth* + -s) was formed in the 1800's to distinguish *cloths* materials of wool, felt, etc., from *clothes* garments.

clothe *v.* Old English (about 950) *clāthian*, from *clāth* cloth, garment. —**clothespin** *n.* (1846, American English) —**clothier** *n.* (about 1470), earlier *Clothier* (1286, as a surname) —**clothing** *n.* (probably about 1200).

cloture *n.* 1871, borrowed from French *clôture* (used in the French Assembly), from Middle French *clôture*, possibly from Old French *clousure* through Vulgar Latin **clausitūra*, or directly from Late Latin *clausūra*, a variant of *clausura* lock, fortress, from *claus-*, stem of Latin *claudere* to close.

cloud *n.* Probably before 1200 *clude* mass of rock, hill, cloud; later *cloude* (about 1280); developed from Old English *clūd* rock, hill (about 893), from Proto-Germanic **klūdās*. —**v.** Before 1420 *clouden* to dim, darken; from the noun. *Cloud* replaced Old English *wolcen* cloud and differentiated in meaning from Middle English *skie* which originally also meant cloud; see SKY. —**cloudburst** *n.* (before 1817) —**cloudy** *adj.* Probably about 1200 *cludig*, later *cloudi* (about 1300), developed in part from Old English *clūdīg* and in part from Middle English *clude*, *cloude*; for suffix see -Y¹.

clout *n.* Probably before 1325 *cloute* a stroke, blow, a special sense of earlier *clout* piece of cloth, rag (probably before 1300) and *clut* (probably before 1200); found in Old English (about 700) *clūt* small piece (of cloth, metal, etc.), and from Proto-Germanic **klūtaz* cognate with Middle Low German *klōt*, *klüte* and Middle Dutch *klūt*, *klüte* lump, clod (modern Dutch *kluit*), and Old and Middle High German *klōz* lump, clod (modern German *Kloss*). The sense "a blow, as with a sword or

the fist" developed from the verb sense. The figurative sense of political power or influence appeared in 1963 in American English. —**v.** Probably about 1300, to beat or strike, apparently an extension of the earlier meaning to add patches (of cloth, metal, etc.), add (something untrue) by means of a change (probably before 1200) from the noun and formed partly by influence of Old English, implied in the past participle *geclūtod* patched.

clove¹ *n.* spice. Probably before 1200 in the Anglo-French phrase *cloues de gilofre*; borrowed from Old French *clo de girofle* (variant *gilofre*) spike of the gillyflower, a compound phrase of *clo*, from Latin *clāvus* nail, spike, and *girofle*, ultimately from Greek *karyóphyllon* nut leaf. In the 1300's the forms *cloues*, *clauves*, *clouys* began to appear in English by themselves, finally yielding *cloves*, probably before 1475. The two words *clove*¹ and *clove*² were frequently confused in Middle English.

clove² *n.* section of a bulb of garlic, etc. Probably about 1300 *clouf*, developed from Old English (about 1000) *clufu* clove, from Proto-Germanic **klubō* and cognate with Old Saxon *klufōk* garlic, Old High German *klubilouh*, Middle Low German *klōf*, *klōve* a cleft, Old Icelandic *klöfi* cleft, cloven thing; see CLEAVE¹ split.

clover *n.* Before 1300 *clovere*, *claver*, developed from Old English (about 1000) *clāfre*; cognate with Middle Low German *klēver*, Middle Dutch *klāver* (modern Dutch *klaver*), from Proto-Germanic **klaiβrōn*. —**cloverleaf** *n.* (1882, first recorded to describe a highway intersection, 1933).

clown *n.* 1600 *clowne* a fool or jester, apparently the same word as earlier *clowne* a rustic, boor, peasant (1567), also spelled *clowne* (1563, 1565); possibly borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Icelandic *klunni* clumsy, boorish fellow, Swedish dialect *kluns* clumsy fellow). The notion that *clown* is derived from Latin *colōnus* husbandman, farmer, colonist is not supported. —**v.** 1599, from the noun.

cloy *n.* 1530, weary by too much, an extended sense of *cloyen* hinder movement, obstruct; encumber (probably before 1387); shortened from earlier *acloyen*, (about 1330) and *encloyen* cripple a horse by driving a nail into the hoof; borrowed from Old French *enclouer*, *enclouer*, from Vulgar Latin **inclāvare*, from Latin *clāvus* nail, related to *clāvis* key. Middle English *cloyen* was also influenced in its development by Anglo-French *cloyé* hurt by a nail.

club *n.* Probably before 1200 *clubbe* thick stick used as a weapon, probably borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *klubba*, *klumba* heavy stick, Norwegian *klubbe* club, Swedish *klubba* gavel), from Proto-Germanic **klumbōn*. The sense of a social club (1670) comes from an association of people, (1648) which developed from the verb senses gather into a clublike mass, and collect, combine (1625). The suit of cards (clubs) is a translation of Spanish *basto* or Italian *bastone* from the picture on Spanish cards, though the picture has been replaced by the trefoil of French cards. —**v.** 1593, beat with a club, from the noun.

cluck *v.* 1481, an alteration of earlier *clucken* to cluck (about

1350); developed from Old English *cloccian*; apparently cognate with Middle Dutch *klokken* to cluck, Middle High German *klucken*, *glucken* to cluck (modern German *glucken*), Old Icelandic *klaka* to cackle (Danish and Norwegian *klukke*, Swedish *klucka*). —**n.** 1703, from the verb.

clue *n.* 1596, ball of thread, variant of *clew* (about 1250), developed from Old English (about 750), *clīewen* ball, skein; cognate with Old Saxon *kleuwin* ball of thread, skein, from West Germanic **kleuwin*.

In Greek legend Theseus was guided by a ball or clew of thread through the Cretan Labyrinth, thus the sense of a guide to solving a mystery or problem is in allusion to the Greek myth, and is first recorded as *clue* (1628) and *clew* (1386). —**v.** 1934, from the noun.

clump *n.* Before 1586, cluster of trees; lump; from Middle English *clompe* a lump (about 1300), probably developed with influence of Middle Low German *klumpe* and Middle Dutch *klompe* (modern Dutch *klomp*) lump, mass, from Old English *clympre* lump, mass of metal. —**v.** form a clump; earlier, to walk with heavy tread (1665), from the noun.

clumsy *adj.* 1597, acting as if numb, moving awkwardly, probably derived from *clomsen* 1) become numb with cold (about 1378) and 2) as a past participle, stupefied, overcome, dazed (before 1325); possibly borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Icelandic *klumsa* lock-jawed, Swedish dialect *klumsen* benumbed with cold, Norwegian *klumsen* speechless); for suffix see -Y¹.

cluster *n.* Before 1382 *clustre*, developed from Old English (before 800) *clyster*, *cluster*, probably from the same root as CLOT. —**v.** Probably about 1380 *clustren*, from the noun.

clutch¹ *v.* grasp. Probably before 1325 *cluchen* to bend clenċ, a dialectal variant of *clichen* (probably before 1200); developed from late Old English (about 1025) *clýccan* bring together; cognate with Swedish *klýka* clamp, fork, from Proto-Germanic **klukja-*. —**n.** About 1300 *cloche* claw, alteration of earlier *cloke* (probably before 1200) and Scottish and Northern English *cluke*; both words related to *clichen*, *v.* clutch. The sense developed in English from that of claw to grasping hand (1525), and tight grasp (1784). The mechanical coupling device of machinery appeared in 1814, and was applied to motor vehicles in 1899.

clutch² *n.* nest. 1721, variant of earlier *cletch* (1691), from *clekken* to hatch (1402, paralleling *bake-batch*). The verb was borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *klekja* to hatch, perhaps related to *klaka* to cackle, Danish *klække*, Norwegian *klekke*, Swedish *kläcka*; see CLUCK).

clutter *v.* 1556, to collect in heaps, apparently developed from Middle English *clutteren* (about 1425), variant of *cloteren* to form clots, to heap on (about 1400), derived from CLOT. The sense of to litter with things appeared in 1674. —**n.** 1580, from the verb. The sense of litter appeared in 1666.

co- a prefix, originally the form of *com-* before vowels and *h* (as in *coalesce*, *cohere*) and meaning: 1) with, together, as in *cooperate*, *coproduce*; 2) joint, fellow, as in *coauthor*, *copilot*; 3)

equally, same, as in *coexisting*, *coextensive*; 4) in mathematics, complement, as in *cosine*. The prefix was borrowed from Latin *co-*, variant of *com-*, and is related to *cum* with, together with.

coach *n.* 1556, borrowed from Middle French *coche*, from earlier German *Kotsche* (now *Kutsche*), from Hungarian *kocsi*, short for *kocsi szekér* Kocs cart, meaning a cart made in or from Kocs, a town in northern Hungary where such carriages were made. The sense of a private tutor is first recorded in 1848 in British university usage and that of an athletic trainer in 1861. —**v.** 1849, to tutor, train; earlier, to convey in a coach (1612); from the noun. —**coachman** *n.* (1579)

coagulate *v.* Probably before 1425 either as *coagulen*, formed as a borrowing from Middle French *coaguler*, from Latin *coāgulāre*, or as *coagulaten*, verb use of earlier *coagulat*, *adj.* clotted (1395); borrowed from Latin *coāgulātus*, past participle of *coāgulāre* to coagulate, curdle, is from *coāgulum* rennet, means of curdling, literally, thing that presses or drives together (*co-* together + *agere* to drive); for suffix see -ATE¹. —**coagulation** *n.* Before 1400 *coagulation*, borrowed from Latin *coāgulatiōnem* (nominative *coāgulatiō*), from *coāgulāre* coagulate; for suffix see -TION.

coal *n.* Probably before 1200 *col*, *cole* charcoal, developed from Old English *col* (before 830 earlier in compound *colthred* blackened thread, plumbline about 700); cognate with Old Frisian *kole* charcoal, coal, Middle Dutch *cole* (modern Dutch *kool*), Old High German *kolo*, *kol* (modern German *Kohle*), Old Icelandic *kol* (Swedish and Norwegian *kol*, Danish *kul*), from Proto-Germanic **kula(n)-*. —**v.** 1602, from the noun. —**coal bin** (1423) —**coal-black** *adj.* (about 1250) —**coal cellar** (1281) —**coal mine** (1475)

coalesce *v.* 1541, borrowed from Latin *coalēscere* coalesce (*co-* together + *alēscere* grow up, from *alere* nourish). —**coalescence** *n.* 1541, borrowed possibly from Middle French *coalescence* (1537), from Latin *coalēscētem* (nominative *coalēscēns*), present participle of *coalēscere*; for suffix see -ENCE. —**coalescent** *adj.* 1655, borrowed from French *coalescent* (1539), from Latin *coalēscētem* (nominative *coalēscēns*), present participle of *coalēscere*; for suffix see -ENT.

coalition *n.* 1612, the growing together of parts, coalescence; borrowing of from French *coalition* (1544), formed to the participle *coalitus* of Latin *coalēscere* COALESCE; for suffix see -TION. The sense of a political coalition is first recorded in English in 1715.

coarse *adj.* 1582, spelling alteration of *cors* ordinary, coarse, inferior (1424, referring to cloth), variant of earlier *cours* (1398, probably an adjectival use of the noun *cours* COURSE ordinary or habitual way, in the sense of the ordinary run or sort, probably before 1300). *Coarse* was probably used to describe the type of rough cloth used for ordinary wear and may be connected by alteration of spelling of *course* meaning of the ordinary sort and with Medieval Latin *cursorius* ordinary, current. The sense of unrefined, uncivil, rude, developed about 1510, and that of vulgar, gross, obscene, in 1711. —**coarsen** *v.* 1805, formed from English *coarse* + -en¹.

coast *n.* Before 1338 *coste* seashore; earlier, a rib as part of the side of the body (probably about 1125); borrowed from Old French *coste* (modern French *côte*) coast, hill, from Latin *costa* side, rib (and in Medieval Latin, coast). —**v.** Probably about 1390 *costen* go by the side of, skirt the border of; developed from the noun. The sense of slide down a slope or hill (1775, implied in *coasting*) and the figurative extension of do or achieve effortlessly (1934), are from American English. —**coastal** *adj.* (1883) —**coastline** *n.* (1860)

coat *n.* About 1330 *cote* tuniclike garment; borrowed from Old French *cote*, from Frankish (compare Old High German *chozza* cloak of coarse wool, German dialect *Kotze*, and Old Saxon *kot* woolen coat).

Probably about 1390, the original sense was transferred to an animal's natural covering, and later to a layer of paint, tar, or other substance (1663). —**v.** Before 1376 *coten* provide with a coat, from the noun. The sense of cover with a coating appeared in 1753. —**coating** *n.* (1768) —**coat of arms** (before 1338)

coati *n.* 1676, Brazilian Portuguese word introduced in an article in an English journal; borrowed from Tupi *coati*, *cuati*, *cuatim* (from *cua* belt + *tim* nose).

coax *v.* 1586 *coaxes* to blandish, coddle; from earlier noun, meaning silly fellow, simpleton (1567), of uncertain origin. The sense of persuade by soft words appeared in 1663; the spelling *coax* in 1706.

coaxial *adj.* 1881 formed from English *co-* + *axis* + *-al*. —**coaxial cable** (1936; earlier *coaxial line*, 1934).

cob *n.* 1684, corncob; earlier, head of a herring (1594), thick nut of a hazel (1589), headman, chief (about 1412); possibly borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Icelandic *kubbi* block, lump, in Old Icelandic, *-kubbi*, related to Old Icelandic *kjfi* round point, heap).

cob *n.* male swan. 1406 *cobbe*; probably cognate with Old Icelandic *kobbi* seal, and Icelandic *kubbi* block, lump; see **COB**¹.

cobalt *n.* 1683, borrowed from German *Kobalt*, dialectal variant of *Kobold* goblin (so called by miners from their belief it was left in silver ore by goblins after stealing the silver and because of the ill effects of arsenic and sulphur in the rock). *Kobalt*, *Kobald*, *Kobold* derived from Middle High German *kobolt* household goblin *kobe* hut, shed + **holt* goblin, in Old High German *holdo* ghost, from *hold* gracious, friendly, from the reference to evil beings by complimentary names to avoid their wrath. Compare **NICKEL**.

cobble¹ *n.* paving stone. 1600, shortened from earlier *cobelstone* (about 1440, from *cobel-*, possibly diminutive of *cob*¹, in the sense of block, lump + *stone*). A Northern English dialectal variant *kobilstone* is found about 1375. —**v.** 1691, from the noun.

cobble² *v.* mend. 1496 *coblen*, apparently back formation from earlier *cobelere* one who mends shoes, cobbler (1287), of uncertain origin.

cobbler¹ *n.* one who mends shoes. 1287, see **COBBLE**².

cobbler² *n.* pie. 1859, American English, but perhaps ultimately related to, or developed from unrecorded use of *cobeler*, *n.* 1385, wooden bowl or dish.

cobra *n.* 1802, shortened form of *cobra capello* (1671), borrowed from Portuguese *cobra de capello* snake with a hood (*cobra*, from Latin *colubra* snake, of uncertain origin, and *capello*, from Vulgar Latin **cappellus* little cape, from Late Latin *cappa* CAPE¹ garment).

cobweb *n.* 1323, *coppewebbe*, a compound of Middle English *coppe* spider and **WEB**. Middle English *coppe* developed from Old English *-coppe* (as in *ātorcoppe* poison spider, from *ātor* poison + *-coppe*), possibly from *copp* top, head, of uncertain origin.

Old English *-coppe* is cognate with Middle Dutch and modern Flemish *coppe*, *cobbe*, modern Dutch *spinnekop*, and Danish (*edder*)*kop*, all meaning spider. Old English *āt(t)or* is cognate with Old High German *eit(t)ar* (modern German *Eiter* pus), from Proto-Germanic **aitra-* poisonous ulcer.

coca *n.* 1577, borrowed from Spanish *coca*, from Quechua *cáca*, perhaps from Aymara (language of a group of South American Indians of Bolivia and Peru).

cocaine *n.* 1874, probably borrowed from French *cocaine* (1856), from *coca*, from Spanish *coca*; for suffix see **-INE**².

coccus *n.* 1883, from New Latin *Coccobacteria* (1874), ultimately from Greek *kókkos* seed, berry, a loanword of unknown origin; earlier type of insect (1753).

coccyx *n.* 1615, borrowed possibly through French *coccyx*, or directly from Latin *coccyx*, from Greek *kókkýx*, originally, cuckoo; so called because of its supposed resemblance to the beak of a cuckoo.

cochlea *n.* 1688, cavity of the inner ear; earlier, in reference to Archimedes' screw (1641), borrowed from New Latin and Latin *cochlea* snail shell, from Greek *kochliás*, from *kóchlos* spiral shell.

cock¹ *n.* male chicken, rooster. Before 1250 *coc*; earlier in surname *Bulecoc* (1221); developed from Old English *cocc* (before 900); of imitative origin, like Old Icelandic *koker* cock, borrowed from Old French *coq*.

Origin of *cock* in a tap or faucet (about 1425) and the hammer or firing pin of a gun (1566), is unclear. —**v.** 1598, fire the cock of a gun; from the noun. —**cock-a-doodle-doo** *n.* (1573) —**cockscorn** *n.* (about 1400) —**cocky** *adj.* vain. 1768; earlier, lecherous (1549, formed from English *cock*¹ + *-y*¹).

cock² *v.* to set in a jaunty way. 1575 to swagger, and *cocken* to wrangle, fight (probably about 1150), apparently from **COCK**¹, especially referring to fighting cocks. —**n.** 1711, an upward turn of the brim of a hat, from the verb. —**cockeyed** *adj.* 1821, squint-eyed, apparently from *cock*², *v.* to set or turn the head or eye in such a direction as to see; later *cockeyed* to things

tilted to one side, extended to anything askew or foolish and silly (1896).

cock³ *n.* cone-shaped pile of hay in a field. Before 1398, of uncertain origin, but probably cognate with dialectal German *Kocke* heap (of hay or dung), Norwegian *kok* heap, pile. —**v.** Probably before 1387, probably from the noun, despite the earlier date.

cockade *n.* 1709, alteration (with *-ade*) of earlier *cockard* (1660), borrowed from French *cocarde* (earlier *coquarde*), feminine of *cocard* foolishly proud, cocky, from *coq* COCK¹.

cockamamie or **cockamamy** *adj.* *Slang.* 1960, from earlier *cockamamie* decal (probably before 1926), apparently an alteration of DECALCOMANIA.

cock-and-bull *adj.* especially *cock-and-bull story*. 1621, "to talk of Cock and Bull," either in allusion to the strain on credulity produced by the fables of Aesop and his imitators, in which cocks moralize and bulls debate; or perhaps derived from the parallel French expression *coq-à-l'âne* a cock-and-bull story, earlier *du coq à l'asne* a libel, satire (a tale of the cock to the ass).

cockatoo *n.* 1616, *cacatoe*; borrowed from Dutch *kaketoe*, from Malay *kakatiua* a cockatoo, perhaps in imitation of its call. The later spelling was apparently influenced by COCK¹.

cocker *n.* (especially *cocker spaniel*). Before 1811, a breed of bird dog; earlier, Middle English *cocker* a fighter or quarrelsome man (probably about 1150); formed from English *cock*, *coke* + *-er*¹.

cockle¹ *n.* mollusk. 1311–12 *cokel*, borrowed from Old French *coquille*, alteration (influenced by *coque* shell) of Vulgar Latin **conchilia*, neuter plural taken to be feminine singular of Latin *conchylium* shellfish, from Greek *konchylion*, diminutive of *konchē*, from *kónchē* mussel, CONCH.

cockle² *n.* weed. Probably before 1300 *cockel*, found in Old English *cocele*, perhaps from Medieval Latin **cocculus* little berry, diminutive form of *coccus*, from Greek *kókkos* grain, seed. —**cockleshell** *n.* (about 1420) a weed.

cockney *n.* 1600, inhabitant of a section of London; dialect of such a person; earlier, a city dweller generally (perhaps 1521, referring to pampered city child), from *cokeney* pampered child, literally, cock's egg (about 1390); formed, possibly by derivative use of *cokenei* on the model of *chiken ei*, chicken egg, (*coke*, *coc* COCK¹ + *ei*, *ey* egg, from Old English *æg*). It is also possible that some popular association existed with *Cockaigne* imaginary country of luxury and idleness (from Old French *Cocagne*), humorously applied to the *Cockney* area of London. —**adj.** 1632; earlier, effeminate (1573), from the noun.

cockpit *n.* 1914 place in an airplane; earlier, junior officers quarters on a warship (1706); buildings housing Treasury and Privy Council, built on the site of a former London theater, *The Cockpit* (before 1635) where a *cockpit* (1587) for cock-fighting once stood.

cockroach *n.* 1624, alteration (by influence of a *cock*¹ and *roach*) of Spanish *cucaracha*, from *cuca* kind of caterpillar.

cocktail *n.* 1806, American English, apparently formed from *cock*¹ + *tail*, but the allusion is uncertain. In American English the word is applied also to non-alcoholic appetizers, *fruit cocktail* (1928), *oyster cocktail* (about 1938), and, by extension, to any concoction, *Molotov cocktail* (1940).

coco *n.* 1582, borrowed from Spanish *coco*, from Portuguese *côco* grinning face, bugbear, *coco*; so called from the hollows of the coconut shell resembling a grimacing face. An earlier Latinized form *cocus* a name for the coconut (1555) was Anglicized to *cocos* from 1579. Both *coco* and *cocoa* were confused in Johnson's *Dictionary* and to some extent the confusion still exists. —**coconut** *n.* (1613)

cocoa *n.* powder made from cacao seeds; drink made of this powder. 1707, variant of earlier CACAO (1555), by confusion with COCO.

cocoon *n.* 1699, borrowed from French *cocon*, *coucon*, from *coque* shell of a clam, mussel, etc., or of an egg, husk, nut, from Old French *coque* shell, from Latin *coccum* oak gall, berry, from Greek *kókkos* seed, berry.

cod *n.* 1357, earlier, *cofish* (1273), origin uncertain, perhaps related to by resemblance of the fish *cod*, *n.* a seed pod, bag or wallet (1131).

coddle *v.* 1598, boil gently, stew, perhaps alteration of *caudle* a hot, thin gruel mixed with wine or ale (about 1300); borrowed through Anglo-French *caudel*, Old French *chaudel*, from Late Latin *calidellum* measure for hot drink, from Latin *calidum* hot drink, neuter of *calidus* hot, from *calere* be warm. The transferred sense of treat tenderly appeared in 1815.

code *n.* About 1303, system of laws; borrowed from Old French *code*, learned borrowing from Latin *cōdex*, dialect variant of *caudex* tree trunk, block of wood split into flat tablets for writing, book, code of laws, related to Latin *cūdere* to beat; see HEW. The sense of system of secret writing appeared in 1808. —**v.** 1815, enter in a legal code; later, to encode (1885); from the noun.

codeine *n.* 1881, borrowed from French *codéine*, from Greek *kōdeia* poppy head + French *-ine* *-ine*².

codicil *n.* About 1419, borrowed from Middle French *codicille*, from Latin *cōdicillus* a short writing, especially in a will, diminutive form of *cōdex* (genitive *cōdicis*) ledger; see CODE.

codon *n.* 1962, formed from English *code* + *-on* unit of genetic material (as in *operon*).

coefficient *n.* 1708–15, earlier as an adjective (1665–66), formed from English *co-* + *efficient*, perhaps by influence of French *coefficient*, *n.* or by New Latin *coefficientis*, used in mathematics before 1600.

coelenterate *adj.* 1872, borrowed from New Latin *Coelenterata* the phylum name, from Greek *koslos* hollow + *enteron* intestine. —**n.** 1888, borrowed from New Latin *Coelenterata*.

coerce *v.* Probably about 1451 *cohercen*, borrowed from Middle French *cohercer*, from Latin *coercere* confine, control (*co-* together + *arcere* shut in, keep).

There is no record of the use of this verb in English between the late 1400's and mid-1600's; its revival in the new spelling *coerce* (1659, implied in *coercing*) was probably a back formation from *coercion*. —**coercion** *n.* 1414 *cohercion*, borrowed from Middle French *cohercion*, from Latin *coercitiōnem*, variant of *coercitiōnem* (nominative *coercitiō*), from *coercere*; for suffix see -TION. The spelling *coercion* (without the *h*) appeared in 1467. —**coercive** *adj.* Before 1600, formed from English *coerce* + -ive.

coeval *adj.* 1622–62, formed in English from Late Latin *coaeuus* (from Latin *co-* equal + *aeuum* AGE) + English -al.
—**n.** 1605, apparently noun use of *coeval*, *adj.*, though recorded earlier than the adjective.

coffee *n.* 1598 *chaoua*, 1601 *coffe*, 1603–30 *coffa*, borrowed from Turkish *kahveh*, or directly from Arabic *qahwah* coffee; originally, wine. —**coffee house** (1615) —**coffeepot** *n.* (1705)

coffer *n.* About 1250 *cofre*, borrowed from Old French *cofre*, from Latin *cophinus* basket; see COFFIN.

coffin *n.* Before 1338, chest, case; borrowed from Old French *cofin* sarcophagus; earlier, basket, from Latin *cophinus*, from Greek *kóphinos* basket, of uncertain origin. The sense of a burial casket appeared in 1525.

cog *n.* Before 1300, probably borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Swedish and Norwegian *kugg* cog; cognate with Middle High German *kugel* ball. —**cogwheel** *n.* (1354)

cogent *adj.* 1659, borrowed from French *cogent* necessary, urgent, from Latin *cogentem* (nominative *cogēns*), present participle of *cogere* compel, constrain (*co-* together + *agere* to drive, lead, act). —**cogency** *n.* 1690, formed from English *cogent* + -cy.

cogitate *v.* 1563–83, probably in part a back formation from *cogitation*, and in part borrowed, perhaps by influence of Middle French *cogitare* to meditate, from Latin *cogitātus*, past participle of *cogitare* to think (*co-* intensive prefix + *agitare* consider, set in motion, frequentative form of *agere* to drive, lead). —**cogitation** *n.* Probably before 1200, borrowed from Old French *cogitation*, from Latin *cogitātiōnem* (nominative *cogitātiō*) from *cogitare*; for suffix see -TION.

cognac *n.* 1594 *Coniacke* wine produced in Cognac; borrowed from French *Cognac*, in allusion to the town and region in western France, where it is made. The sense of a brandy appeared in 1755 and earlier as *cognac brandy* (1687).

cognate *adj.* About 1645, related by family or origin; borrowed, perhaps by influence of French *cognat*, from Latin *cognātus* of common descent (*co-* together + *gnātus*, past participle of *gnāscā*, later *nāscā* be born). —**n.** 1754, from the adjective.

cognition *n.* Probably before 1425, borrowed from Latin *cognitiōnem* (nominative *cognitiō*) a getting to know, acquaintance, from *cogni-*, stem of *cognōscere* to come to know, see COGNIZANCE; for suffix see -TION. —**cognitive** *adj.* 1586, formed from English *cognition* + -ive.

cognizance *n.* About 1350 *conissauce* recognition; later, knowledge, understanding (probably before 1400); borrowed from Anglo-French *conysance*, *conusance*, from Old French *connaissance*, *connuissance*, from *connaissance*, from past participle *connoistre* to know, from Latin *cognōscere* to come to know (*co-* intensive + *gnōscere* KNOW). In English the *g* appeared in the late 1400's and has gradually affected the pronunciation, (*kog' nēzəns*) though in law (*kon' əzəns*) was used into this century. —**cognizant** *adj.* 1820, from the noun, on analogy of *assistance*, *assistant*, *distance*, *distant*, etc.

cohabitation *n.* About 1454, borrowed perhaps from Middle French *cohabitation*, from Late Latin *cohabitātiōnem* (nominative *cohabitātiō*), from *cohabitāre* to dwell together. —**cohabit** *v.* About 1530, probably a back formation from *cohabitation*, but possibly borrowed directly from Late Latin *cohabitāre*.

cohere *v.* 1598, borrowed from Latin *cohaerere* (*co-* together + *haerere* cling, cleave to). —**coherence** *n.* About 1580, borrowed from Middle French *cohérence*, from Latin *cohaerentia*, from *cohaerentem* (nominative *cohaerēns*), present participle of *cohaerere* cohere; for suffix see -ENCE. —**coherent** *adj.* About 1555, borrowed from Middle French *cohérent*, from Latin *cohaerentem* (nominative *cohaerēns*), present participle of *cohaerere* cohere; for suffix see -ENT. —**cohesion** *n.* 1678, formed as if borrowed from Latin **cohaesiōnem* (nominative **cohaesiō*), itself formed to *cohaesus*, past participle of *cohaerere* to stick together. —**cohesive** *adj.* 1727–31, implied in the derivative *cohesiveness*. Formed in English from *cohes-* as if it were a stem of *cohesion* + -ive.

cohort *n.* 1422, borrowed from Middle French *cohorte*, and directly from Latin *cohortem*, accusative of *cohors* a tenth part of a Roman legion; any group of persons enclosed together; an enclosure; see COURT.

The informal sense of colleague, accomplice appeared in 1952 in American English, from the sense of a group united in a common cause (1719).

coif *n.* About 1330 *koife*, borrowed from Old French *coife*, *coiffe*, from Late Latin *cofia*, of West Germanic origin (compare Middle High German *kupfe*, *kuffe* cap). —**v.** About 1450 *coifen* cover with a cap; borrowed from Middle French *coiffer*, from *coiffe* coif, from Old French. The sense of arrange the hair is first recorded in English in 1835. —**coiffeur** *n.* hairdresser. 1850, borrowed from French, from *coiffer* + -eur -er.
—**coiffure** *n.* Before 1631, borrowed from French *coiffure*, from *coiffer* to arrange the hair; for suffix see -URE.

coil *v.* 1611, borrowed from Middle French *coillir* to gather, collect, cull, from Latin *colligere* gather together, COLLECT. —**n.** 1627, from the verb.

coin *n.* 1304, a wedge; borrowed from Old French *coin* wedge, corner, stamp, piece of money, from Latin *cuneus* wedge. The meaning of piece of money is first recorded about 1380; this sense developed first in Old French from the wedge-shaped die used for stamping coin and from the die, also called a coin. —**v.** About 1338 *coinen* to mint (money), borrowed from Old French *coignier*, from *coin*, *n.* The figurative sense of invent a new word or phrase is first recorded in English in 1589.

—**coinage** *n.* About 1380, borrowed from Old French *coignage*, from *coignier* to coin + *-age*; for suffix see *-AGE*. The sense of something invented (as a new word) is first recorded in 1602.

coincide *v.* 1715, borrowed from French *coïncider*, from Medieval Latin *coincidere* (Latin *co-* together + *incidere* fall upon, itself a compound of *in* + upon, and *cadere* to fall). —**coincidence** *n.* 1605, exact agreement or correspondence; borrowed from French *coïncidence*, from Middle French *coïncidence*, from *coïncider* coincide, from Medieval Latin *coincidere*; for suffix see *-ENCE*. —**coincident** *adj.* 1563–83, borrowed from French *coïncident*, from *coïncider*; for suffix see *-ENT*. —**coincidental** *adj.* 1800, formed from English *coincident* + *-al*.

coitus *n.* 1855, borrowed from Latin *coitus*, from the stem of *coire* come together (*co-* together + *ire* come, go; see *EXIT*). The word also appeared in Middle English as *coite* (probably before 1425). —**coition** *n.* 1615; *coitus*; earlier, coming together (1541); borrowed from Late Latin *coitiōnem* (nominative *coitiō*), from *coire*; for suffix see *-TION*.

coke¹ *n.* residue of fuel. 1669, perhaps variant of *colk* core, in Middle English *colke* (before 1400) and specifically in reference to charcoal (1430). If the sense development has been from “pit” to “what is in the pit,” the source may be Old English *-colc* a hole, cognate with Old Frisian *kolc* pit, hole, Middle Low German *kolk*, *kulk* water hole, gulf (from Proto-Germanic **kulkaz*). —**v.** 1804 (earlier, implied in *coking*, 1791), from the noun.

coke² *n.* Slang. 1908, American English, shortening and alteration of *COCAINE*.

col- a prefix meaning with, together, the form of *com-* before *l*, as in *collinear* = *together on the same line*. The Latin form *col-* resulted from sound change by assimilation of *con-*, *com-* to *l* before word elements beginning with *l*, though *conl-* persisted in Latin. The spellings in Middle English that were reduced to one *l* were later changed to include two *l*'s during the revival of learning and its emphasis on Classical Latin forms, and it is these latter forms that largely survive today.

cola *n.* See *KOLA*.

colander *n.* 1368 *coloundour*, alteration of Medieval Latin *colatorium* strainer, from Latin *cōlātus*, past participle of *cōlāre* to strain, from *cōlum* strainer.

cold *adj.* Before 1200 *cold*, *colde*, developed from Old English, probably about 725 (Anglian) *cald*, (West Saxon) *ceald*; cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *kald* cold, Old High German (and modern German) *kalt*, Old Icelandic *kaldur*, Gothic *kalds*, from Proto-Germanic **kaldās*. See *COOL*, *CHILL*. *Cold* and its Germanic cognates may have been originally past participial formations, hence the endings *d* and *t*. —**n.** Before 1300, coldness; from the adjective. The sense of the common cold appeared in 1537, from the earlier indisposition caused by exposure to cold (before 1338) and the discomfort or pain caused by cold (about 1300). —**cold-blooded** *adj.* (1595)

cole *n.* Before 1325 *col*, developed from Old English (about

1000) *cāl*, variant of *cāwel*, from Latin *caulis*, dialectal variant *cōlis* cabbage, stalk.

coleopterous *adj.* 1791, insects with sheathed wings, including beetles; borrowed from Greek *koleópteros* sheath-winged (*koleós* sheath + *pterón* wing); for suffix see *-OUS*.

coleslaw *n.* 1794 *cold slaw*, American English; borrowed from Dutch *kool sla* cabbage salad (from *kool* cabbage, from Latin *caulis* cabbage, stalk and *sla*, variant of *salade* salad, from French). The common spelling of this word was *cold slaw* up to the 1860's when *cole* appeared, through association with *cole*.

colic *n.* Probably about 1421, borrowed through Middle French *colique*, or directly from Late Latin *cōlicus*, from Greek *kōlikós* colicky, of the colon, from *kōlon* COLON; so called because of pain in the lower intestine. —**colicky** *adj.* 1742, formed from English *colic* + *-y*¹. The spelling with *k* follows the convention found in *trafficker*, *trafficking*, *picnicker*, *mimicking*.

coliseum *n.* 1708–15, borrowed from Medieval Latin, variant of *colosseum* COLOSSEUM.

collaborate *v.* 1871, borrowed from Latin *collaborātum*, past participle of *collaborāre* work with (*col-* with + *laborāre* to work, from *labor*, genitive *labōris*, work); for suffix see *-ATE*¹. During World War II the word was associated with those who cooperated with the Nazis or Fascists, especially in France (1941).

—**collaboration** *n.* 1860, borrowed from French *collaboration*, from *collaborer* collaborate, from Latin *collaborāre*; for suffix see *-ATION*. —**collaborator** *n.* 1802, borrowed from French *collaborateur*, from *collaboration*; for suffix see *-OR*².

collage *n.* 1919, borrowed from French *collage*, literally, a pasting, gluing, from Old French *coller* to glue, *colle* glue, from Vulgar Latin **colla*, from Greek *kólla* glue. —**v.** 1964, from the noun.

collagen *n.* About 1865, borrowed from French *collagène*, from Greek *kólla* glue; for suffix see *-GEN*.

collapse *v.* 1732, borrowed from Latin *collāpsus*, past participle of *collābi* fall together (*col-* together + *lābi* to fall, slip). —**n.** 1801, from the verb. —**collapsible** *adj.* 1843, formed from English *collapse* + *-ible*.

collar *n.* About 1300 *coler* neck piece in armor; borrowed from Old French *coler*, from Latin *collāre* band for the neck, collar, from *collum* neck, cognate with Old English *heals neck*, Old Saxon, Old Frisian, Old High German, Old Icelandic, and Gothic *hals*. By gradual approximation to the Latin form *collāre*, Middle English *coler* changed to modern English *collar*. —**v.** Before 1555, seize a person's collar or neck; from the noun. —**collar bone** (perhaps 1500)

collate *v.* 1612, borrowed from Latin *collātus*, a form serving as past participle of *cōnferre* bring together (*con-* together + *ferre* bring); for suffix see *-ATE*¹.

collateral *adj.* About 1378, borrowed from Old French *collateral*, learned borrowing from Medieval Latin *collateralis* accompanying, concomitant; literally, side by side (Latin *col-* with +

lateralis of the side, LATERAL). —**n.** 1513–75, colleague, associate; from the adjective. The sense of anything given as collateral security appeared in American English (1832), from *collateral security* (1720).

collation¹ *n.* act of collating. About 1380, act of bringing together for comparison; borrowing of Old French *collation*, learned borrowing from Latin *collātiōnem* (nominative *collātiō*), from the verbal stem of *collātus*, a form serving as past participle of *cōnferre* bring together; for suffix see -TION.

collation² *n.* light meal. Before 1300, borrowed from Medieval Latin *collationem* light meal taken by members of a monastery after a reading of the *Collationes* (a work written in the form of a conference on monastic life by John Cassian, about 410), from Late Latin *collātiōnem* conference; (see COLLATE).

colleague *n.* Before 1533, borrowed from Middle French *colleue*, learned borrowing from Latin *collēga* associate, colleague (*col-* together + *lēgare* send or choose as deputy).

collect *v.* Probably before 1425, *collecten* to accumulate, gather; borrowed from Old French *collecter* and Latin *collectus*, past participle of *colligere* gather together (*col-* together + *legere* gather). —**n.** Probably before 1200, borrowed from Old French *collecte* and directly from Latin *collecta* a gathering, from *collectus*; see the verb. —**collectible** *adj.* 1662 (1660 -able), formed from English *collect* + -ible. —**collectibles** *n.pl.* 1952, from *collectible*, *adj.* —**collection** *n.* 1387, borrowed from Old French *collection*, learned borrowing from Latin *collectiōnem* (nominative *collectiō*), from the stem of *colligere* gather together; for suffix see -TION. —**collective** *adj.* Probably before 1425, borrowed from Middle French *collectif*, *collective*, learned borrowing from Latin *collectivus*, from *collectus*, see *collect*, *v.*; for suffix see -IVE. —**n.** 1925, from the adjective. —**collector** *n.* About 1405, borrowed through Anglo-French *collectour*, Old French *collecteur* and Medieval Latin *collector*, from Latin *collectus*, see *collect*, *v.*; for suffix see -OR².

colleen *n.* 1828, borrowed from Irish *cailín* girl, diminutive of *caille* girl, woman.

college *n.* Probably about 1378, a body of scholars and students within a university (as at Oxford or Cambridge); borrowed from Old French *college*, learned borrowing from Latin *collēgium* a fellowship, company, from *collēga* COLLEAGUE. The meaning of educational institution appeared in 1563. —**collegiate** *adj.* 1514, borrowed from Medieval Latin *collegiatus* of or having to do with a college, from Latin *collēgium*; for suffix see -ATE¹.

collide *v.* 1621, borrowed from Latin *collidere* strike together (*col-* together + *laedere* to strike, of uncertain origin).

collie *n.* Before 1651, possibly *Colle* (about 1386, as a proper name), origin uncertain. *Colle* may have had a diminutive form *collie* and the form is equivalent to “coaly” meaning black, the original color of the breed.

collier *n.* 1276 *collere* charcoal maker and seller; later *colier* (1408–09), formed from Middle English *col* coal + -ere, -ier

-er¹. —**colliery** *n.* 1635, formed from English *collier* + -y³, as in -ERY.

collision *n.* Probably before 1425, borrowing of Middle French *collision*, learned borrowing from Latin *collisiōnem* (nominative *collisiō*), from *collidere* COLLIDE; for suffix see -SION.

collocation *n.* 1605, probably borrowed from French *collocation*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *collocātiōnem* (nominative *collocātiō*), from *collocare* place together; for suffix see -TION. General references to arrangement of words or sounds in language appear as early as 1750 though as a technical term the meaning does not appear before 1940.

It is also possible that *collocation* is a native formation from earlier *collocate*, *v.*, to place. 1513, borrowed from Latin *collocatus*, past participle of *collocare* (*col-* together + *locare* to place, put); for suffix see -ATE¹.

colloid *n.* 1849–52, jelly-like substance; earlier, as an adjective (1847–49); borrowed from French *colloïde* (1845), from Greek *kólla* glue; for suffix see -OID. —**colloidal** *adj.* 1861, probably borrowed from French *colloïdal* (1855), from *colloïde*; for suffix see -AL¹; or perhaps formed from English *colloid* + -al¹.

colloquy *n.* 1459, a discourse; later, a conversation (1581); borrowed from Latin *colloquium* conference, conversation, from *colloqui* speak together (*col-* together + *loqui* speak). —**colloquial** *adj.* 1751–52, formed from English *colloquy* + -al¹. —**colloquialism** *n.* 1810, formed from English *colloquial* + -ism.

collusion *n.* 1389, borrowed from Old French *collusion*, learned borrowing from Latin *collūsiōnem* (nominative *collūsiō*) act of colluding, from *collūdere* collude; for suffix see -SION. —**collude** *v.* 1525, borrowed from Latin *collūdere* collude (*col-* together + *lūdere* to play, from *lūdus* game).

cologne *n.* 1814 *cologne water*, American English, loan translation of French *eau de Cologne*, literally, water of Cologne, from *Cologne*, Germany, where it is made; used to describe articles made in Cologne (before 1399).

colon¹ *n.* punctuation mark. 1550, borrowed from Latin *cōlon* part of a poem, member of a verse, from Greek *kólon* limb, member of the body or of a sentence, clause, related to *skélos* leg. The punctuation mark (:) was so called because it was originally used to separate independent clauses (Greek *kólon* clause).

colon² *n.* part of the intestine. Before 1398, borrowed from Latin *colon*, from Greek *kólon* part of the intestine.

colonel *n.* Originally (1548) spelled *coronel*, borrowed from Middle French *coronel*, *coronnel*, which with Spanish *coronel* came from Italian *colonnello* the commander of a column of soldiers at the head of a regiment, from *colonna* column, from Latin *columna* pillar, post, COLUMN.

The change from Italian to *r* in French and Spanish is due to dissimilation of identical neighboring sounds.

The form *colonel* came into English (1583) from Middle

French and Italian through literary use and in translations of Italian military treatises in the late 16th century.

Two pronunciations (*kolənel'*, *korənel'*) existed until 19th century when *kər'ənəl* gave way to *kər'nəl* though the familiar literary form *colonel* remained firmly established in printing.

colonnade *n.* 1718, borrowing of French *colonnade*, alteration of earlier *colonnate* (1675), from Italian *colonnato*, from *colonna* column, from Latin *columna* pillar, COLUMN; for suffix see -ADE.

colony *n.* About 1384, *colonie* a Roman settlement; later, any settlement dependent on another country (1548–49); borrowed through Old French *colonie*, or directly from Latin *colōnia*, from *colōnus* cultivator, settler, from *colere* cultivate, till, inhabit. — **colonial** *adj.* 1776, formed in American English from Latin *colōnia* colony + English -*al*¹; or perhaps from English *colony* + -*ial*, on the pattern of *barony*, *baronial*. — **colonist** *n.* (1701) — **colonization** *n.* (1770) — **colonize** *v.* (1622) — **colonizer** *n.* (1781)

colophon *n.* 1774, publisher's inscription at the end of a book (corresponding to the modern title page); borrowed from Latin *colophōn*, from Greek *kolophōn* summit, final touch. The sense of a publisher's imprint is attested in English since 1930.

color *n.* About 1225 *colurskin* color, complexion; later, visible color, color of an object (probably before 1300); probably borrowed through Old French *colour*, from Latin *color* (accusative *colōrem*) color, hue, related to *cēlāre* to hide, conceal. — **v.** About 1375–90 *colouren* give color to, probably borrowed through Old French *colorer*, from Latin *colōrāre* to give color to, color, from *color* color. — **coloration** *n.* 1626, possibly borrowed from French *coloration*, but more likely from Late Latin *colōrātiōnem* (nominative *colōrātiō*) act or fact of coloring, from Latin *colōrāre* to color. — **color-blind** *adj.* 1844, implied in earlier *color-blindness*. — **colored** *adj.* (probably about 1375–90). — **colorful** *adj.* (1889) — **coloring** *n.* (probably before 1425) — **colorless** (About 1380)

Colosseum *n.* 1563, borrowed in reference to the Colosseum in Rome from Latin *colossēum*, neuter of *colossēus* gigantic, from *colossus* COLOSSUS; compare COLISEUM.

colossus *n.* Before 1398, a Latin word used in reference to the Colossus of Rhodes; from Greek *kolossós* gigantic statue (in reference to Egyptian statues described by Herodotus), later specifically that of Apollo at Rhodes. The transferred sense of anything vast or gigantic is first recorded in English in 1794. — **colossal** *adj.* 1712, borrowed from French *colossal*, from *colosse* colossus, from Latin *colossus*; for suffix see -AL¹.

colostomy *n.* 1888, formed in English from *colon*² + Greek *stōma* opening + -*y*³.

colt *n.* Probably before 1382, from Old English *colt* young donkey or camel (about 1000); probably cognate with dialectal Swedish *kult* young boar, piglet, boy, Norwegian *kult* stout person, block, stump, and Danish *kuld* offspring, brood, from Proto-Germanic **kultaz*; see CHILD.

columbine *n.* Before 1310, borrowed perhaps through Old French *columbin*, from Medieval Latin *columbina*, apparently transferred sense from Late Latin *columbina* verbena, feminine of Latin *columbinus* + dovelike, from *columba* dove (because the inverted flower supposedly resembles a cluster of five doves).

column *n.* About 1440, a vertical division of a page; also, a pillar, post (before 1449); borrowed from Old French *colombe*, *colompne*, and Latin *columna* column, pillar, post, related to *columen*, *culmen* top, summit. The specific sense of matter written for a newspaper or magazine column, is recorded since 1785. — **columnar** *adj.* 1728, probably formed from English *column* + -*ar*, on the pattern of *curricular*; but possibly a borrowing from Late Latin *columnāris*, from Latin *columna* column. — **columnist** *n.* 1920, American English, formed from (newspaper) *column* + -*ist*.

com- a prefix added primarily to verbs, meaning with, together, as in *combine*, *compress*, or serving as an intensive to strengthen the force of the verb, as in *commute*, *complete*. *Com-* is also added to nouns and adjectives, meaning joint, fellow, as in *compatriot*. English *com-* was borrowed from Latin *com-*, from the preposition *com*, early form of *cum* with.

In Latin, the form *com-* survived when followed by *b*, *m*, *p*, as illustrated by examples of English borrowings (*combine*, *commute*, *compete*); before other consonants *com-* became *con-* or was assimilated (as *con-* would be) to *col-* and *cor-*. Before a vowel or *h* the *m* dropped out, and *co-* became the form or *h* as in *coagulate*, *coerce*, *cohere*. See also CO-, COL-, CON-, COR-.

coma¹ *n.* unconsciousness. 1646, borrowed from New Latin, from Greek *kōma* (genitive *kōmatos*) deep sleep, perhaps related to *kámnein* to toil, be sick or worn out, suffer. — **comatose** *adj.* 1755, either formed in English from Greek *kōma* (genitive *kōmatos*) coma + English -*ose*¹; or borrowed from earlier French *comateux*, feminine *comateuse* (1616).

coma² *n.* head of a comet. 1669, tuft of hairs on foliage, borrowed from Latin *coma* hair of the head, mane, from Greek *kómē*. The sense in astronomy is first recorded in 1765.

comb *n.* Old English (about 700) *camb*, later (chiefly Anglian) *comb*; cognate with Old Saxon and Old High German *camb* comb (modern German *Kamm*), Middle Dutch *cam* (modern Dutch *kam*), Old Icelandic *kamb* (Swedish *kamm*, Norwegian and Danish *kam*), from Proto-Germanic **kambaz*. Compare CLIMB. — **v.** 1495, from the noun; earlier *kombid*, past participle, before 1398. — **comber** *n.* About 1200, one who cards wool, formed from Middle English *comben* to card wool + -*er*¹.

combat *v.* 1564, borrowed from Middle French *combattre*, learned borrowing from Late Latin *combattere* (Latin *com-* with each other + Late Latin *battere* to beat, strike; see BAT¹ stick). — **n.** 1567, borrowed from Middle French *combat*, from *combattre* to combat. — **combatant** *n.* 1489, from Middle French *combattant*, from present participle of *combattre* to combat; probably influenced by Middle English *combattant*, *adj.* (about 1460); borrowed from Middle French, present participle. — **combative** *adj.* Before 1834, formed from English *combat* + -*ive*.

combine *v.* Before 1420, borrowed probably through Middle French *combiner*, from Late Latin *combināre* yoke together, combine (Latin *com-* together + *binī* two each, two by two). —**n.** 1887, American English, an alliance of persons, especially for fraudulent purposes; from the verb. —**combination** *n.* Before 1398 *combinacyoun*, borrowed from Late Latin *combinātiōnem*, (nominative *combinātiō*), from *combināre* combine; for suffix see -TION.

combustion *n.* Probably before 1425, borrowing of Old French *combustion*, learned borrowing from Latin *combustionem* (nominative *combustio*), from *combūrere* burn up; for suffix see -TION. Latin *combūrere* was formed from *com-* completely + *-būrere*, an alteration (influenced by *ambūrere* burn around, scorch) of *ūrere* to burn. An earlier use of this word in Middle English (before 1398) referred to an obscuring by the sun. —**combustible** *adj.* 1529, in Sir Thomas More's works, but implied earlier in *combustibility* (1471); borrowed probably from Middle French *combustible* and Late Latin *combustibilis*, from Latin *combustum*, past participle of *combūrere* burn up.

come *v.* About 1175 *comen*; earlier *cumen* (before 1121), developed from Old English *cuman* (before 830) and having the forms in the past tense *cuōm*, *cōm*, past participle *cumen*. The Old English *cuman* is cognate with Old Saxon *cuman* to come, Old Frisian *kuma*, Middle Dutch *comen* (modern Dutch *komen*, past tense *kwam*), Old High German *queman*, *coman*, past tense *quam* (modern German *kommen*, past tense *kam*), Old Icelandic *koma* (Swedish *komma*, Danish and Norwegian *komme*), and Gothic *qiman*, all from a Germanic base **kwem-*, from Proto-Germanic **kwemanan*.

The Old English past tense *cuōm*, later *cōm*, became *com*, *come* in Middle English, but was soon replaced, perhaps through the influence of Scandinavian (compare Old Icelandic past tense form *kvam*) by *cam*, *came* (modern English *came*). The Old English past participle *cuman* was used occasionally down to the 1600's as *comen*, but the loss of the final -*n* (which began in the 1200's) finally caused this form to be leveled with the infinitive form as *come*. —**comer** *n.* Before 1376, formed from Middle English *comen* + -*er*¹. —**coming** *n.* (1280); *adj.* (about 1460).

comedy *n.* About 1385, borrowed from Old French *comédie*, from Latin *cōmoedia*, from Greek *kōmōidía* a comedy, amusing spectacle, from *kōmōidós* actor or singer in a comic chorus (*kōmos* merrymaking, festive procession + *aidós* singer, from *aeidein* to sing, member of the compound related to Greek *oîdē* ODE). The sense of an amusing play or theatrical performance is the same as that used by the ancient Greek and Roman writers, but in the Middle Ages the application was chiefly to poems and stories, though a "happy ending" continued to be an essential part of the meaning. —**comedian** *n.* 1581, writer of comedies; borrowed from Middle French *comédien*, from Old French *comédie*; for suffix see -IAN. The sense "comic actor" is first recorded in 1601.

comely *adj.* Before 1400 *comly* beautiful, handsome; earlier, noble (probably before 1300), and *kumelich* becoming, appropriate (probably about 1200); possibly shortened from *bicumelic* (probably before 1200), from BECOME fitting, seemingly, attrac-

tive; for suffix see -LY. Middle English *kumelich* developed from Old English *cūmlīc* finely made, handsome (about 1000, but recorded earlier as an adverb, about 725, in *Beowulf*), from Old English *cūme* fine, exquisite.

comestible *n.* 1837, in Theodore Hook's *Jack Brag*, noun use of earlier adjective meaning fit to eat, edible (1483); borrowing of Middle French *comestible*, + a learned borrowing from Late Latin *comestibilis*, from Latin *comēstus*, an alteration (under the influence of *pōtus* drunk) of earlier *comēsus*, past participle of *comedere* eat up, consume (*com-* thoroughly + *edere* EAT; for suffix see -IBLE).

comet *n.* Probably before 1200 *comete*, borrowed from Old French *comete*, learned borrowing from Latin *comēta*, from Greek *kōmētēs* comet, (originally) wearing long hair (because a comet's tail resembles long hair), from *kōmān* let the hair grow long, from *kōmē* hair; see COMA².

comfort *v.* About 1280 *conforten* cheer up, console; borrowed from Old French *conforter* to help, strengthen, from Late Latin *cōnfortāre* strengthen (Latin *con-*, variant of *com-* altogether + *fortis* strong; see FORT). —**n.** Probably before 1200 *cunfort* a feeling of consolation; later *confort* (about 1200 and about 1280); borrowed probably through Anglo-French from Old French *confort*, *confort*, noun use derived from the stem of Latin *cōnfortāre* strengthen. In English the noun replaced earlier Old English *frōfor*. The change of *con-* to *com-* before *f* took place in English. —**comfortable** *adj.* About 1340 *comfortabil* pleasant, enjoyable, borrowed from Anglo-French *confortable* from *conforter* to help, strengthen + -*able*. —**comforter** *n.* About 1350, borrowed through Anglo-French *confortour* from Old French *conforteur*, from Late Latin **cōnfortātōrem*, from *cōnfortāre*; for suffix see -ER¹.

comic *adj.* Before 1387 *comice*, borrowed from Latin *cōmicus*, from Greek *kōmikós* of or pertaining to comedy, from *kōmos* merrymaking, see COMEDY; for suffix see -IC. —**n.** 1581, from the adjective. —**comical** *adj.* Probably before 1425, formed in English from Latin *cōmicus* + English -*al*¹. An earlier meaning "epileptic" (before 1398) was borrowed from Latin *morbus comitiālis* epilepsy.

comity *n.* 1543, borrowed from Latin *cōmitās* friendliness, from *cōmis* friendly, courteous, probably from Old Latin *cōsmis*, of uncertain origin; for suffix see -ITY.

An early use is found in Middle English *comite* association (probably before 1425); borrowed from Medieval Latin *comitas*, from Latin *cōmitās* friendliness.

comma *n.* 1586, short part of a sentence, division of a period or full sentence; borrowed probably through Middle French *comma*, from Latin *comma*, from Greek *kōmma* stamp, short clause; literally, piece cut off, related to *kōptein* to cut off, strike. The sense of the punctuation mark is first recorded in English in 1599.

The words *colon*, *comma*, and *period* originally denoted divisions in Greek rhetoric and prosody. The comparative length of the parts of the sentence evolved into terms of punctuation indicating shorter or longer parts, just as the

period, or full stop, marks the end of the “period” or sentence itself.

command *v.* Probably before 1300 *comanden*, borrowed from Old French *comander* to order, enjoin, entrust, from Vulgar Latin **commandāre*, alteration (influenced by Latin *mandāre* command, entrust) of Latin *commendāre* to recommend, COM-MEND. —**n.** Before 1400, borrowed from Old French *comande*, from *comander* to command. —**commandant** *n.* 1687, borrowing of French *commandant*, originally in the sense of commanding, present participle of *comander* to command, from Old French *comander* to command; for suffix see -ANT. —**commander** *n.* Before 1325 *comandur*; borrowed from Old French *comandeur*, from *comander* to command; for suffix see -ER¹. —**commandment** *n.* About 1275, borrowing of Old French *comandement*, from Vulgar Latin **commandāmentum*, from **commandāre*; for suffix see -MENT.

commandeer *v.* 1881, in the London *Times*, borrowed from Afrikaans *kommandeer*, from French *commander* to command.

commando *n.* 1791, a military expedition or raid; borrowed from Afrikaans *kommando*, from Dutch *commando* a troop under a commander, from Portuguese *comando* a command, from *comandar* to command. The meaning of a soldier who makes daring raids appeared in World War II and is first attested in 1940, in Winston Churchill's *Second World War*.

commemorate *v.* 1599, to recall, possibly borrowed through Old French *commemorer*, or directly from Latin *commemorātus*, past participle of *commemorāre* bring to remembrance, mention (*com-* together + *memorāre* bring to mind, from *memor* mindful of; see MEMORY); for suffix see -ATE¹. Alternatively, the verb may be a back formation of earlier *commemoration*. —**commemoration** *n.* About 1384, a calling to remembrance; borrowed through Old French *commemoration*, or directly from Latin *commemoratiōnem* (nominative *commemoratiō*), from *commemorāre* commemorate; for suffix see -TION.

commence *v.* Probably about 1300; borrowed from Old French *comencier*, from Vulgar Latin **cominiāre* (Latin *com-* together + Late Latin *iniāre* begin, from Latin *iniāre* INITIATE). The doubling of the *m* started in Old French, and was fully established in English by 1500. —**commencement** *n.* About 1275, borrowed from Old French *commencement*, from *comencier* commence; for suffix see -MENT.

commend *v.* Probably about 1350 *comenden*, borrowed from Latin *commendāre* recommend, praise (*com-* with, intensive form + *mandāre* commit, entrust, MANDATE). —**commendable** *adj.* Probably about 1350, borrowed from Middle French *commendable*, from Latin *commendābilis* praiseworthy, from *commendāre*; for suffix see -ABLE. —**commendation** *n.* About 1390, expression of approval; earlier, eulogy (probably before 1200); borrowed from Old French *commendation*, learned borrowing from Latin *commendatiōnem* (nominative *commendatiō*), from *commendāre* commend; for suffix see -TION.

commensurate *adj.* 1641, borrowed from Late Latin *commēnsūrātus* (Latin *com-* together + Late Latin *mēnsūrātus*, past parti-

ciple of *mēnsūrāre* to measure, from Latin *mēnsūra* MEASURE); for suffix see -ATE¹. —**commensurable** *adj.* 1557, borrowed through Middle French or directly from Late Latin *commēnsūrābilis* having a common measure (Latin *com-* together + Late Latin *mēnsūrābilis* that can be measured, from *mēnsūrāre* to measure); for suffix see -ABLE.

comment *n.* Before 1387, borrowed possibly through Old French *comment*, or directly from Late Latin *commentum* comment, interpretation, from Latin *commentum* invention, originally neuter past participle of *commīniscā* invent (*com-* thoroughly + *-miniscā* to think, related to *mēns*, genitive *mentis* MIND). —**v.** 1591, from the noun; earlier *commenten* explain (probably before 1425); borrowed from Latin *commentārī* think about, discuss, frequentative form of *commīniscā* invent. —**commentary** *n.* Probably before 1425, borrowed possibly through Old French *commentaire*, or directly from Latin *commentārius*, originally as adjective with the meaning of relating to comment, from *commentum* comment; for suffix see -ARY. —**commentator** *n.* Before 1398, borrowed, possibly by influence of Old French *commentateur*, from Late Latin and Latin *commentātor* inventor, author, from Latin *commentārī* think about, discuss, frequentative form of *commīniscā* invent.

commerce *n.* 1537, borrowing of Middle French *commerce*, learned borrowing from Latin *commercium* trade, trafficking (*com-* together, with + *merx*, genitive *mercis* wares, merchandise; see MARKET). —**commercial** *adj.* Before 1687, formed in English from Latin *commercium* trade + English -al¹.

commiserate *v.* 1606, to pity, borrowed from Latin *commiserātus*, past participle of *commiserārī* to pity (*com-* with, together + *miserārī* bewail, lament, from *miser* wretched, MISERABLE); for suffix see -ATE¹. Possibly back formation from *commiseration*. —**commiseration** *n.* 1585, borrowed from Middle French *commiseration* and directly from Latin *commiseratiōnem* (nominative *commiseratiō*) act or fact of pitying, from *commiserārī* to pity.

commissar *n.* 1918, borrowed from Russian *komissar*, from German *Kommissar* commissioner, from Old French *commissaire*, from Medieval Latin *commissarius*; see COMMISSARY.

commissariat *n.* 1779, in correspondence of Thomas Jefferson; earlier use in Scottish law, a court, the office, or the jurisdiction of a commissioner (1609); borrowed from French *commissariat*, from Medieval Latin *commissarius* COMMISSARY + French -at -ate¹.

commissary *n.* Before 1376 *comissarie*, borrowed from Medieval Latin *commissarius*, from Latin *commissus* entrusted, past participle of *committere* entrust, COMMIT; for suffix see -ARY.

commission *n.* 1344, authority entrusted to anyone; borrowed from Old French or directly from Latin *commissiōnem*, accusative of *commissiō*, from *commiss-*, past participle stem of *committere* COMMIT; for suffix see -ION. The sense of a body of persons charged with a trust is first recorded in 1494. —**v.** Before 1661, from the noun. —**commissioner** *n.* 1427, formed from English *commission* + -er¹, possibly by influence of Middle French *commissioner*.

commit *v.* About 1390 *committen* give in charge, entrust; borrowed from Latin *committere* put together, join (*com-* with + *mittere* send, put). The meaning “perpetrate” appeared in 1449. —**commitment** *n.* 1611, formed from English *commit* + *-ment*. The sense of a pledge, promise, appeared in 1793.

committee *n.* 1621, body of persons charged or entrusted in Parliament with a special assignment, formed from English *COMMIT* to entrust + *-ee*. Earlier the word applied to a person charged with a special duty; borrowed from Anglo-French replacing Old French *commis*, from Latin *commissus*, past participle of *committere* *COMMIT*.

commode *n.* 1786, chest of drawers; earlier, a fashionable ladies’ headdress (before 1688); borrowed from French noun use of adjective *commode* suitable, convenient, learned borrowing from Latin *commodus* convenient, appropriate, fit (*com-* with + *modus* measure, *MODE*¹). The meaning of a chamber pot, esp. one enclosed in a box or a lavatory (1851) developed from the sense of convenience.

commodious *adj.* 1423, beneficial, advantageous; borrowed from Medieval Latin *commodiosus*, from Latin *commodus* convenient (see *COMMODE*); for suffix see *-OUS*. The sense of roomy, spacious appeared in 1553.

commodity *n.* 1410 *commoditee* benefit, profit, welfare; later, a convenient or useful product (before 1420); borrowed from Middle French *commodité*, learned borrowing from Latin *commoditatem* (nominative *commoditās*) due measure, fitness, convenience, from *commodus* suitable, convenient, see *COMMODE*; for suffix see *-ITY*.

commodore *n.* 1694 *commandore*, probably borrowed from Dutch *kommandeur* commander, from French *commandeur*, from Old French *comandeur* commander, from *comander* to *COMMAND*.

common *adj.* Before 1300 *commune* belonging to all, general, borrowed from Old French *comun*, from Latin *communis* common, public; originally, sharing burdens (*com-* together + *mūnia* duties, related to *mūnus* office, duty). —**n.** About 1300, a fellowship or brotherhood; later, land held in common (before 1475); borrowed from Old French *comun*, *commun* common, and from Medieval Latin *communia* common, public. The Old French and Medieval Latin forms are from Latin *communis* common, public. —**commoner** *n.* (1357) —**commons** *n.pl.* (1600) —**common sense** (1535) —**commonwealth** *n.* (about 1425)

commotion *n.* About 1390, borrowed from Middle French *commocion*, learned borrowing from Latin *commotiōnem* (nominative *commotiō*) violent motion, agitation, from *commovēre* move violently, agitate (*com-* thoroughly + *movēre* *MOVE*); for suffix see *-TION*.

commune¹ *v.* talk intimately. About 1303 *comonen* have dealings with; later *comounen* talk together (before 1387); borrowed from Old French *communier* make common, share, from *comun* *COMMON*.

commune² *n.* division of local government. 1792, borrowed

from French, from Middle French *commune* free city, group of citizens, from Medieval Latin *communia*, originally neuter plural of Latin *communis* *COMMON*. —**communal** *adj.* 1811, borrowed from French, from Late Latin *commūnālis*, from Latin *communis* common; for suffix see *-AL*¹.

communication *n.* About 1384 *communicacioun* an imparting or transmitting of something; borrowed from Old French *communication*, learned borrowing from Latin *communicatiōnem* (nominative *communicatiō*) from *communicāre* make common to many, share, impart (*com-* together + a lost adjective **moinicos* carrying an obligation, from *mūnia*, Old Latin *moenia* duties); for suffix see *-ATION*. —**communicate** *v.* 1526, partake in common, share; probably a back formation from English *communication*, and borrowed from Latin *communicāus*, past participle of *communicāre* make common, share, impart; for suffix see *-ATE*¹. —**communicable** *adj.* Before 1398, borrowed probably through Old French *communicable* and directly as if from Latin **communicābilis*, from Latin *communicāre*; for suffix see *-ABLE*.

communion *n.* Before 1382, borrowed from Old French *communio*, learned borrowing from Latin *communiōnem* (nominative *communiō*) mutual participation, from *communis* *COMMON*; for suffix see *-ION*.

communism *n.* 1843, borrowed from French *communisme* (1840), from *commun* common, communal (from Old French *comun* *COMMON*); for suffix see *-ISM*. As the name of the political system translated in 1850 from German *Kommunismus* in Marx and Engels’ *Manifesto of the German Communist Party* (1848); the German word from French. —**communist** *n.* 1841–42, borrowed from French *communiste* (1840), from *commun* *COMMON*; for suffix see *-IST*.

community *n.* 1375 (Scottish) *comminite*; borrowed from Old French *communité*, learned borrowing from Latin *communitatem* (nominative *communitās*) fellowship, community, from *communis* *COMMON*; for suffix see *-ITY*.

commute *v.* About 1450 *commuten*, borrowed from Latin *commūtāre* change altogether, exchange (*com-* altogether + *mūtāre* to change, *MUTATE*). The sense “make less severe,” is first recorded in 1633, and “travel regularly to or from work” in 1889. —**commutation** *n.* 1435 *commutacion* exchange, borrowed from Middle French, learned borrowing from Latin *commutātiōnem* (nominative *commutātiō*), from *commūtāre* commute; for suffix see *-TION*. —**commuter** *n.* person who commutes. 1865, formed from English *commute*, *v.* + *-er*¹.

compact¹ *adj.* closely packed together. Before 1398, borrowed through Old French *compact*, or directly from Latin *compactus*, past participle of *compingere* to confine (*com-* together + *pangere* fasten). —**v.** Probably before 1425 *compacten* consolidate, pack together; from the adjective. —**n.** 1921, small case for face powder; later, small, compact car (1960); both from the adjective.

compact² *n.* agreement. 1591, borrowed from Latin *compactum* a compact, agreement; originally neuter past participle of

compacisci to contract together (*com-* together + *pacisci* make an agreement, contract).

companion *n.* Probably before 1300 *companion*; borrowed from Old French *compaignon* fellow, mate, from Late Latin *compānionem* (nominative *compāniō*) literally, one who takes bread with someone (Latin *com-* together + *pānis* bread; see FOOD). The Late Latin word, found only in the Lex Salica, a Frankish document of the 500's, is probably a translation of a Germanic word related to Gothic *gahlaiba* and Old High German *galeipo*, both meaning mess mate (*ga-* with, together + Gothic *hlaiþs*, Old High German *hleib* LOAF). —**companionable** *adj.* 1627, formed from English *companion* + *-able*.

company *n.* 1275 *compainie* companionship, fellowship, society; earlier *compainie* a (large) group of people (probably about 1150); borrowed through Anglo-French *compaignie*, Old French *compaignie* body of soldiers, companion, from *compain* companion, from Late Latin *compāniō* COMPANION; for suffix see -Y³. *Company* in the military sense was first used probably before 1300. The sense of an association for business or commerce appeared in 1553, preceded by reference to the trade guilds (1303).

compare *v.* 1375 *comparen*, borrowed from Old French *comparer*, learned borrowing from Latin *comparāre* make equal with, liken, compare, from *compār* like, equal with (*com-* with + *pār* equal). —**comparable** *adj.* 1410, borrowed from Middle French *comparable*, from Latin *comparābilis*, from *comparāre*; for suffix see -ABLE. —**comparative** *adj.* About 1434 *comparatif*; borrowed from Middle French *comparatif* (feminine comparative), from Latin *comparātīvus*, from *comparātus*, past participle of *comparāre* compare; for suffix see -IVE. —**comparison** *n.* 1340, borrowed from Old French *comparaison*, from Latin *comparātiōnem* (nominative *comparātiō*) act of comparing, from *comparāt-*, past participle stem of *comparāre* compare.

compartment *n.* 1564, borrowed from Middle French *compartment* part partitioned off, from Italian *compartimento*, from *compartire* divide, from Late Latin *compartiri* (Latin *com-* with + *partiri* to share, from *pars* PART); for suffix see -MENT.

compass *n.* Before 1325 *compas* circumference, borrowed from Old French *compas*, from *compasser* to measure, divide equally, from Vulgar Latin **compassāre* measure off, from **compassus* equal step (Latin *com-* with + *passus*, genitive *passūs* a step, PACE). The sense of an instrument for drawing circles appeared in 1349, and that of an instrument for showing directions perhaps before 1422. —**v.** About 1380 *compasen* encircle, encompass; borrowed from Old French *compasser* to measure, divide equally.

compassion *n.* 1340 *compassioun*, borrowed through Old French *compassion* sympathy, pity, or directly from Late Latin *compassiōnem* (nominative *compassiō*, loan translation of Greek *sympátheia*), and formed from *compass-*, stem of *compati* suffer together with, feel pity (*com-* with + *pati* suffer); for suffix see -SION. —**compassionate** *adj.* 1587, formed from English *compassion* + *-ate*¹.

compatible *adj.* 1459, sympathetic, borrowed from Middle French *compatible*, from Medieval Latin *compatibilis*, from Latin *compati* suffer; for suffix see -IBLE. —**compatibility** *n.* 1611, borrowed from French *compatibilité*; for suffix see -ITY.

compel *v.* Probably about 1350 *compellen* oblige, force, borrowed from Old French *compeller*, *compellir* to compel, learned borrowing from Latin *compellere* to force; literally, drive together, collect (*com-* together + *pellere* to drive).

compendium *n.* 1589, reborrowing from Latin *compendium* a shortening, saving; literally, thing weighed or kept together (*com-* together + *pendere* weigh). Middle English had a form *compendi* (about 1441), the original borrowing from Latin *compendium*, but the word apparently did not survive.

—**compendious** *adj.* About 1395, borrowed from Latin *compendiōsus* abridged, brief, from *compendium*; for suffix see -OUS.

compensate *v.* 1646, borrowed, perhaps through influence of French *compenser*, from Latin *compēnsātus*, past participle of *compēnsāre* balance out (*com-* with + *pēnsāre* weigh out, frequentative form of *pendere* weigh); for suffix see -ATE¹. *Compensate* is probably also a back formation from the earlier *compensation* in some of its uses. —**compensation** *n.* Before 1387 *compensacioun*, borrowed from Old French *compensation* and directly from Latin *compēnsātiōnem* (nominative *compēnsātiō*), from *compēnsāre* compensate; for suffix see -TION.

compete *v.* 1620, borrowed from French *compéter* be in rivalry with, or directly from Late Latin *competere* strive in common; in Latin, coincide, agree, be fit for (*com-* together + *petere* seek, aim at, go toward). The meanings of strive for command of a market appeared in the 1840's, perhaps as a back formation from earlier *competition* (1793 in this sense). The use in athletics appeared late in the 1800's, also perhaps by back formation from *competition* (in the sense of contest, 1618). —**competition** *n.* 1605, borrowed from Late Latin *competitiōnem* (nominative *competitiō*) rivalry, from *competere* strive in common; for suffix see -TION. —**competitive** *adj.* 1829, formed (as if from Latin **competitīvus*) from English *compete* + *-ive*. —**competitor** *n.* 1534, borrowed, probably by influence of Middle French *compétiteur*, from Latin *competitor* rival, from *competi-*, a stem of *competere* strive in common + *-tor*.

competent *adj.* Before 1398, suitable, borrowed through Old French *competent* from Latin *competentem* (nominative *competēns*), present participle of *competere* coincide, agree, be fit for; for suffix see -ENT. The sense of being legally qualified appeared in 1483 and that of able, fit for, in 1647. —**competence** *n.* 1594, rivalry; later, adequate supply (1597), and legal power (1708–15); borrowed from French *compétence* aptness, fitness, learned borrowing from Latin *competentia* agreement, from *competēns*, present participle of *competere* coincide, agree; for suffix see -ENCE. The sense of ability appeared in 1790. —**competency** *n.* 1594, rivalry, formed as a variant of COMPETENCE; for suffix see -ENCY.

compile *v.* Probably before 1325 *compilen*, borrowed from Old French *compiler*, learned borrowing from Latin *compilāre* steal, pillage, plagiarize; originally, pile up (*com-* together +

pilāre to press, from *pila* PILE¹ heap). —**compilation** *n.* 1426 *compilacioun*, borrowed from Middle French *compilation*, learned borrowing from Latin *compilātiōnem* (nominative *compilātiō*) a compilation; literally a pillaging, from *compilāre*; for suffix see -TION. —**compiler** *n.* Before 1338, borrowed through Anglo-French *compilour*, Old French *compileor* author or chronicler, from Latin *compilatōrem*, from *compilāre*; for suffix see -ER¹.

complacent *adj.* 1660, pleasing; later, pleased with oneself (1767); borrowed from Latin *complacentem* (nominative *complacēns*), present participle of *complacere* be very pleasing (*com-* completely + *placere* PLEASE); for suffix see -ENT. —**complacence** *n.* 1436, pleasure; later, self-satisfaction (before 1500); borrowed from Medieval Latin *complacencia* satisfaction, pleasure, from Latin *complacentem* (nominative *complacēns*), present participle of *complacere*; for suffix see -ENCE. —**complacency** *n.* 1643, borrowed from Medieval Latin *complacencia* satisfaction, pleasure; for suffix see -ENCY.

complain *v.* About 1370 *compleinen* find fault, lament; borrowed from Old French *complain-*, stem of *complaindre*, from Vulgar Latin **complangere* (Latin *com-* thoroughly + *plangere* to lament). —**complaint** *n.* About 1380, lamentation, grief; borrowed from Old French *complainte*, from feminine past participle of *complaindre* complain.

complaisant *adj.* 1647, borrowing of French *complaisant*, from Middle French *complaisant* pleasing, present participle of *complaire* acquiesce to please, learned borrowing from Latin *complacere* be very pleasing (with influence of Old French *plaire* gratify); see COMPLACENT. —**complaisance** *n.* 1651, borrowed from French *complaisance*, from Middle French *complaisance* care or desire to please, learned borrowing from Medieval Latin *complacencia* COMPLACENCE.

In English of the 1600's to at least the 1850's, *complaisance*, *complaisant* and *complacent*, *complacence* overlapped in the sense of obliging, graciousness.

complement *n.* Before 1398, borrowed from Old French *complement*, from Latin *complémentum* that which fills up or completes, from *complere* fill up, COMPLETE; for suffix see -MENT. —*v.* 1612, exchange courtesies; later, make complete (1641); from the noun. —**complementary** *adj.* 1628, ceremonious; later, forming a complement, as of colors (1829), formed from English *complement* + -ary.

complete *adj.* About 1384, borrowed from Old French *complet*, *complete* full, complete, learned borrowing from Latin *complētus*, past participle of *complere* fill up, finish, fulfill (*com-* completely + *plere* to fill). —*v.* About 1390 *completen*, from the adjective. —**completion** *n.* Before 1398 *complecioun*, borrowed from Latin *complētiōnem* (nominative *complētiō*), from *complere* to complete; for suffix see -TION.

complex *adj.* Before 1652, combining various parts; borrowed from French *complexe*, from Latin *complexus*, past participle of *complexi* encompass, comprise (*com-* together + *plexere* to braid, twine). The sense of complicated is first recorded in 1715. —*n.* Before 1652, a whole comprising various parts; borrowed from Latin *complexus* (genitive *complexūs*) a sur-

rounding, compass, from *complex-*, stem of *complexi* encompass. —**complexity** *n.* Before 1721, formed from English *complex*, *adj.* + -ity.

complexion *n.* 1340, bodily constitution; borrowed from Old French *complexion*, learned borrowing from Late Latin *complexiōnem* (nominative *complexiō*) physical constitution, from Latin also meaning combination, connection, from *complex-*, stem of *complexi* encompass, related to *complexus* COMPLEX; for suffix see -XION. The sense of appearance of the skin, especially of the face is first recorded before 1450, originally implying that the complexion indicated a person's temperament or health.

complicate *v.* 1621, unite, combine, from earlier *complicate*, participial adjective meaning involved, complicated (probably before 1425); borrowed from Latin *complicatus*, past participle of *complicare* fold together (*com-* together + *placare* to fold); for suffix see -ATE¹. The sense of combine in a complex way is first recorded in 1673 (possibly before 1631). —**complication** *n.* Probably before 1425 *complicacioun*; borrowed from Middle French *complication*, from Latin *complicātiōnem* (nominative *complicātiō*), from *complicare* fold together; for suffix see -TION.

complicity *n.* 1656, borrowed from French *complicité*, from Middle French *complicité*, from Old French *complice* ACCOMPLICE, learned borrowing from Late Latin *complicem*, accusative of *complex* partner, confederate, from Latin *complicare* fold together; see COMPLICATE; for suffix see -ITY.

compliment *n.* 1578 *complement* courtesy paid to another; restyled as *compliment* gradually after about 1650, in imitation of French *compliment* expression of respect, from Italian *complimento*, from Spanish *cumplimiento*, from *cumplir* fulfill, accomplish (from Latin *complere* fill up) + -miento -ment; for suffix see -MENT. —*v.* 1612 *complement*, restyled as *compliment*, see the noun (1668), borrowed from French *complimenter*, from *compliment*, *n.* —**complimentary** *adj.* 1628 *complementary* ceremonious, restyled as *complimentary* by 1716; formed originally from English *complement* + -ary.

comply *v.* Before 1333 *complier* to fulfill, carry out; borrowed from Old French *complier*, past participle *compli*, from Latin *complere* fill up, COMPLETE. The meaning of consent is first recorded in 1650. —**compliance** *n.* 1641, act of courtesy; formed from English *comply* + -ance. The sense of consent is first recorded in 1647.

component *n.* 1645, constituent element; earlier, one making up a group of persons (1563); borrowed from Latin *compōnentem* (nominative *compōnēns*), present participle of *compōnere* put together, compose (*com-* together + *pōnere* put, place); for suffix see -ENT. —*adj.* constituting. 1664, borrowed from Latin *compōnentem*, present participle of *compōnere* compose; for suffix see -ENT.

comport *v.* About 1385 *comporten* tolerate, endure; borrowed from Middle French *comporter* endure, behave, learned borrowing from Latin *comportare* carry together (*com-* together +

portare carry). The sense of behave is first recorded in 1616. —**comportment** *n.* 1599, borrowed from Middle French *comportement*, from *comporter*; for suffix see -MENT.

compose *v.* Probably before 1402 *compousen*, borrowed from Old French *composer* put together, arrange, (*com-* together + *poser* to put, place, see POSE; influenced by the perfect stem, *compos-* of Latin *compōnere* put together, arrange; see COMPO- NENT). —**composer** *n.* 1597 formed from English *compose* + *-er*¹. —**composition** *n.* Before 1382 *composicioun*, borrowed from Old French *composition*, learned borrowing from Latin *compositiōnem* (nominative *compositiō*) act of putting together, from *compōnere* put together; for suffix see -TION.

composite *adj.* Probably before 1400, borrowed from Old French *composite*, from Latin *compositus*, past participle of *compōnere* put together, arrange (*com-* together + *pōnere* to put, place; see POSITION). —**n.** Probably before 1400, from the adjective.

compost *n.* Before 1399, *compote*; later, prepared mixture of manure, leaves, etc. to fertilize land (1587); borrowed from Middle French *compost* mixture of leaves, etc. for fertilizing land, from Latin *compositus*, past participle of *compōnere* put together; see COMPOSITE. —**v.** 1499, borrowed from Middle French *composter*, from the noun.

composure *n.* 1667, composed condition; calmness; earlier, composition (1599); formed from English *compose* + *-ure*; coined earlier on the analogy of *enclosure* and similar words.

compote *n.* 1693, borrowing of French *compote* stewed fruit, from Old French *compote* mixture, *compost*, from Latin *composita* mixture, feminine of *compositus*, past participle of *compōnere* put together; see COMPOSITE. The sense of a dish with a supporting stem for fruit or candy is first recorded before 1904, but appears earlier as *comport* (1881).

compound¹ *v.* About 1380 *compounen* mix, combine, compose; borrowed from Old French *componre*, *compondre* arrange, direct, from Latin *compōnere* put, place, or bring together (*com-* together + *pōnere* to put, place; see POSITION).

The *-d* in *compound* appeared in 1500's on analogy of *expound*, and was influenced by the past participle *compounded*, which became the adjective *compound*². —**adj.** Before 1387, originally *compounded*, past participle of *compounen*, *v.* —**n.** About 1434, from the adjective.

compound² *n.* enclosure. 1679, borrowed from Malay *kampung*, *kampung* enclosure, village, first used by Englishmen in the early factories of the Malay Archipelago. The English spelling was influenced by *compound*¹.

comprehend *v.* About 1340 *comprehenden* understand; borrowed from Latin *comprehendere* to grasp, seize, comprise (*com-* completely + *prehendere* seize; see PREHENSILE). —**comprehensible** *adj.* 1529, borrowed from Latin *comprehēnsibilis*, from *comprehēnsus*, past participle of *comprehendere*. —**comprehension** *n.* About 1445, borrowed from Middle French *comprehension*, learned borrowing from Latin *comprehēnsiōnem* (nominative *comprehēnsiō*) a seizing, from *comprehendere* com-

prehend; for suffix see -SION. —**comprehensive** *adj.* 1614, comprising much, of great scope; perhaps earlier implied in Middle English *comprehensively* comprehendingly, thoroughly (about 1454); borrowed from French *compréhensif*, *compréhensive*, and from Late Latin *comprehēnsivus*, from Latin *comprehēnsus*, past participle of *comprehendere*; for suffix see -IVE.

compress *v.* About 1380 *compressen* press together; borrowed from Old French *compresser*, from Latin *compressare* to press together, oppress, frequentative form of *comprimere* press together, restrain (*com-* together + *primere* to PRESS¹ push). —**n.** 1599, pad applied to stop bleeding; borrowed from Middle French *compresse*, from Latin *compressa*, from *compressus*, past participle of *comprimere* compress. —**compression** *n.* Before 1400, borrowed from Middle French *compression*, learned borrowing from Latin *compressiōnem* (nominative *compressiō*), from *comprimere* press together; for suffix see -SION.

comprise *v.* About 1425, to include, developed from *comprised* included; borrowed from Old French *compris*, past participle of *comprendre* to contain, comprise, comprehend, from Latin *comprehēnsus*, past participle of *comprehendere* grasp, seize, COMPREHEND. Also possibly formed on analogy of *apprise*, *surprise*, formed from compounds of French *prendre*.

compromise *n.* 1426, joint agreement; borrowed from Middle French *compromis*, learned borrowing from Latin *compromissum*, originally neuter past participle of *compromittere* promise together, as in an arbiter's decision (*com-* together + *promittere* PROMISE). The sense of a coming to terms is first recorded probably about 1435. —**v.** Probably before 1450; earlier be agreed (1437); from the noun.

comptroller *n.* a variant spelling of CONTROLLER (probably before 1400), because of the mistaken analogy with earlier *compter* (now counter), and *account* (now account), artificial respellings after Latin *computāre* COMPUTE; see ACCOUNT.

compulsion *n.* Probably before 1425, use of force, coercion; borrowed from Middle French *compulsion*, learned borrowing from Latin *compulsiōnem* (nominative *compulsiō*), from *compellere* COMPEL; for suffix see -SION. The psychological sense is first recorded in 1909 in *compulsion neurosis*, a loan translation of *Zwangsneurose*, in Freud's *Interpretation of Dreams*. —**compulsive** *adj.* 1602, probably borrowed from French *compulsif*, from Latin *compulsus* (past participle of *compellere* compel); for suffix see -IVE. —**compulsory** *adj.* 1581, borrowed from Medieval Latin *compulsorius*, from Latin *compulsus*, past participle of *compellere* compel; for suffix see -ORY. —**n.** 1968, required demonstration of skill in gymnastics, etc., earlier, a compulsory means, constraining authority (1516); from the adjective.

compunction *n.* About 1340, borrowed from Old French *compūnciōn*, learned borrowing from Late Latin *compūnciōnem* (nominative *compūnciō*) a pricking, remorse, from Latin *compūnc-*, past participle stem of *compungere* to prick severely, sting (*com-* thoroughly + *pungere* prick); for suffix see -ION.

compute *v.* 1631, borrowed from French *computer*, learned borrowing from Latin *computāre* to count, sum up (*com-* together + *putāre* count, reckon, consider). —**computation** *n.*

Probably about 1408 *computacion*, borrowed from Old French *computacion*, learned borrowing from Latin *computatiōnem* (nominative *computatiō*), from *computāre* compute; for suffix see -TION. —**computer** n. 1646, person who computes; later, mechanical calculating machine (1897); and electronic machine (1946, perhaps 1941); formed from English *compute* + -er¹.

comrade n. 1591 *camerade* one who shares the same room, also close companion (1593); borrowed from Middle French *camarade* partner, comrade, from Spanish *camarada* roommate; originally, roomful, from *cámara* room, from Latin *camera* vault; see CAMERA.

con¹ adv. against (a proposition, opinion, etc.). 1572, shortened from Latin *contrā* against; originally, in the phrase *pro and con*. —n. reason or argument against. 1589, from the adverb.

con² v. pore over, study, memorize. About 1425, variant of Middle English *cunnen* to know, developed from Old English *cunnan* know, know how, the infinitive form of *can* know; see CAN¹; also related to CUNNING.

con³ adj. duping, swindling. 1889, American English, shortened from *confidence game*, *man*, etc. (1849), in which the victim hands over money as a token of "confidence" in the swindler. —v. 1896, American English, from the adjective.

con⁴ n. Slang. convict. 1893, shortened form of *convict*.

con- a prefix meaning with, together, as in *concentrate*, *conduct*, or used as an intensive, as in *conceive*, *conceal*. Borrowed from Latin *con-*, the form of COM- before most consonants except *h* and the labials *b*, *m*, *p*; *con-* in Latin was also the form which by assimilation yielded *col-* and *cor-*.

This prefix appears in words taken from Latin and Old French, or from both sources, such as *conceive*, *conception*, *confirm*, *confess*, *conquer*, *conquest*. The prefix was not productive in Middle English and words formed rather used the form *co-*, as in *copilot*. So also in Old French *con-* was often reduced to *co-*, especially before *v*, as in *covenant*; on the other hand some words were later respelled with *con-*, such as *convent*.

concave adj. Probably before 1425, borrowed probably through Old French *concave*, or directly from Latin *concavus* (*con-* intensive + *cavus* hollow). —n. Before 1398, borrowed from Old French *concave*, n., from Old French *concave*, adj. —**concavity** n. Before 1400, concave surface or side, borrowed from Old French *concavité*, or directly from Late Latin *concavitatem* (nominative *concavitās*), from Latin *concavus* concave; for suffix see -ITY.

conceal v. Before 1325 *concelen* to keep secret; borrowed from Old French *conceler* to hide, from Latin *concelāre* conceal completely (*con-* intensive + *celāre* to hide). —**concealment** n. Before 1325, borrowed from Old French *concelement*, from *conceler* conceal; for suffix see -MENT.

concede v. 1632, borrowed through French *concéder* or directly from Latin *concedere* give way, yield (*con-* intensive + *cedere* to yield, CEDE).

conceit n. About 1380, something conceived in the mind, thought, notion; apparently formed from earlier *conceiven* CONCEIVE on the analogy of *deceive*, *deceit*, and *receive*, *receipt*. The sense of fanciful action or witty notion is first recorded about 1513. The meaning of vanity, pride (1605), developed from *self-conceit* (1588); earlier a personal opinion or judgment (about 1395). —**conceited** adj. 1542, having intelligence; later, vain (1608–11), shortened form of *self-conceited* (1595).

conceive v. Probably about 1280 *conceiven* receive (seed) in the womb, become pregnant; later, take into the mind (1340); borrowed from Old French *conceiv-*, stem of *concevoir*, from Latin *concipere* take in, perceive (*con-* intensive + *-cipere*, combining form of *capere* to take; see CAPTIVE). —**conceivable** adj. About 1454 (implied in *conceivableness*, about 1443), formed from English *conceive* + -able.

concentrate v. 1640, come to a common center or focus, developed as a variant of *concenter*, *concentre* meet in a common center (before 1591) + suffix -ate¹. The earlier *concenter*, *concentre*, was probably borrowed from Italian *concentrare* (*con-* together + *centro*, from Latin *centrum* CENTER). The sense of condense to appears in 1689, and later of focus the attention or mind on (about 1860). —n. 1883, from the verb. —**concentration** n. 1634, the act or state of bringing to a common center or focus; probably formed from English *concentrate* (or less likely, *concenter*, *concentre*) + -ation. The term *concentration camp* first appeared in the Second Anglo-Boer War (1899–1902).

concentric adj. About 1400, borrowed from Old French *concentrique* and Medieval Latin *concentricus* (from *con-* together + *centrum* circle, center).

concept n. 1556, borrowed from Middle French *concept*, or directly from Late Latin *conceptus* (genitive *conceptūs*) draft or abstract, from classical Latin with the meaning of a taking in, a conceiving, fetus, from *concep-*, stem of *concipere* take in, CONCEIVE. —**conception** n. Before 1333 *concepcioun* act of conceiving; borrowed from Old French *conception*, learned borrowing from Latin *conceptionem* (nominative *conceptiō*), from *concipere* CONCEIVE; for suffix see -TION. The sense of the mental processes forming concepts, is first recorded about 1380. —**conceptive** adj. 1640, conceiving (in the mind); borrowed from Latin *conceptivus*, from *conceptus*, past participle of *concipere* conceive; for suffix see -IVE. —**conceptual** adj. 1662, borrowed from Medieval Latin *conceptualis*, from Late Latin *conceptus* (genitive *conceptūs*) concept; for suffix see -AL¹.

concern v. Before 1420 *concernen* perceive, distinguish; later, refer to, relate (1420); borrowed through Middle French *concerner* concern, touch, belong to, or directly from Medieval Latin *concernere* relate to, belong to, regard, in Late Latin with the meaning of mingle with, mix (Latin *con-* together + *cernere* separate, distinguish, sift). —n. 1589, regard, reference, relation; from the verb. —**concerned** adj. 1656, from *concern*, v. —**concerning** prep. Before 1425, developed from English *concerning*, present participle of *concern*.

concert¹ n. 1665, agreement, accord, harmony, borrowed from French *concert*, from Italian *concerto* concert, harmony,

from *concertare* to accord together. The sense of a public musical performance or entertainment appeared in English in 1689.

concert² *v.* 1598, to unite; later to arrange by agreement (1694); borrowed from French *concert* contrive, adjust, from Italian *concertare* accord together, settle, adjust, possibly from Latin *concertare* contend, discuss, debate (*con-* together + *certare* contend, frequentative form from *certus*, variant past participle of *cernere* separate, decide).

concerto *n.* 1730, an Italian word introduced in an English work on music, from Italian *concertare* accord together; see **CONCERT**², *v.*

concession *n.* 1464, borrowed through Middle French *concession* or directly from Latin *concessiōnem* (nominative *concessiō*), from *concedere* CONCEDE; for suffix see **-SION**. The meaning of a right granted is first recorded in 1856. —**concessionaire** *n.* 1862, borrowed from French *concessionnaire*, from *concession* + *-aire*, from Latin *-arius*; see English suffix **-ARY**.

conch *n.* 1391, shallow bowl; later shell (1410); borrowed from Latin *concha* shellfish, mollusk, from Greek *kónchē* mussel, cockle.

The earlier English forms *conke*, *congh* accord with the English pronunciation of Latin *concha* (kongk).

conciliate *v.* 1545, from Latin *conciliatus*, past participle of *conciliare* unite in feeling, make friendly, from *concilium* convocation, COUNCIL; for suffix see **-ATE**¹. —**conciliation** *n.* 1543, borrowed from Old French *conciliation*, learned borrowing from Latin *conciliatiōnem* (nominative *conciliatiō*), from *conciliare*; for suffix see **-TION**. —**conciliatory** *adj.* 1576, formed from English *conciliate* + *-ory*.

concise *adj.* About 1590, borrowed, perhaps through Middle French *concis* (feminine *concise*), or directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *concisus* cut off, brief, past participle of *concidere* cut up, cut short (*con-* completely + *-cidere*, combining form of *caedere* to cut; see **EXCISE**² cut).

conclave *n.* Before 1393, meeting of cardinals to elect a pope; borrowed through Old French, or perhaps Italian *conclave*, learned borrowing from Latin *conclāve* room that can be locked up (*con-* with + *clāvis* key, bar; see **CLAVICLE**). The meaning of a private assembly is first recorded in English in 1568, probably from a private meeting room (about 1450).

conclude *v.* Before 1325, to shut off an argument; Borrowed from Latin *concludere* close up, end (*con-* completely *-cludere*, combining form of *claudere* shut, **CLOSE**¹). The meaning of reach a conclusion, deduce, appears about 1380. —**conclusion** *n.* Probably about 1370, destiny, fate; later, outcome, result (about 1380); borrowed from Old French *conclusion*, from Latin *conclusiōnem* (nominative *conclusiō*), from *concludere* conclude; for suffix see **-SION**. —**conclusive** *adj.* 1590, summary; later, concluding (1612), and convincing (1649); borrowed from French *conclusif*, *conclusive*, learned borrowing from Late Latin *conclūsivus*, from Latin *conclūs-*, past participle stem of *concludere* close up; for suffix see **-IVE**.

concoct *v.* 1533, digest (food); borrowed from Latin *concoctus*,

past participle of *concoquere* boil together, digest, ripen (*con-* together + *coquere* to COOK). The sense of prepare a soup, drink, etc., is first recorded in English in 1675, and that of make up or devise a story, scheme, etc., in 1792. —**concoction** *n.* 1531, digestion, borrowed possibly from Middle French *concoction*, or directly from Latin *concoctiōnem* (nominative *concoctiō*), from *concoquere* digest; for suffix see **-TION**. The sense of something concocted appears in 1823.

concomitant *adj.* 1607, borrowed from French *concomitant*, learned borrowing from Latin *concomitantem* (nominative *concomitāns*), present participle of *concomitari* accompany, attend (*con-* with, together + *comitari* join as a companion, from *comes*, genitive *comitis* companion). —**n. 1621, from the adjective, though in Francis Bacon's *Of the Advancement of Learning* the Latin *concomitantia* appears, suggesting a direct connection between the English noun and Latin. —**concomitance** *n.* Before 1530, borrowed from Middle French *concomitance*, from Medieval Latin *concomitantia*, from Latin *concomitantem* (nominative *concomitāns*), present participle of *concomitari* accompany; for suffix see **-ANCE**.**

concord *n.* Before 1325, borrowed from Old French *concorde*, learned borrowing from Latin *concordia* agreement, union, harmony, from *concor* (genitive *concordis*) of one mind, agreeing (*con-* together + *cor*, genitive *cordis* HEART). —**concordance** *n.* Before 1387, borrowed from Old French *concordance*, from Medieval Latin *concordantia*, from Latin *concordantem* (nominative *concordāns*), present participle of *concordare* be of one mind, agree, from *concor* (genitive *concordis*) of one mind; for suffix see **-ANCE**.

concordat *n.* 1616, borrowed from French *concordat*, from Middle French *concordat*, learned borrowing from Medieval Latin *concordatum*, noun use of Latin *concordātum*, neuter past participle of *concordare* agree, from *concor* (genitive *concordis*) of one mind; see **CONCORD**.

concourse *n.* 1384, crowd of people; borrowed from Old French *concours*, learned borrowing from Latin *concursus* (genitive *concursūs*) a running together, crowd, from past participle of *concurrere* run together. The sense of an open space as in a park, boulevard, or large building, is first recorded in 1862 in American English.

concrete *adj.* Before 1398, denoting an actual or solid substance; borrowed from Latin *concretus*, past participle of *concreſcere* grow together (into a mass), solidify (*con-* together + *creſcere* grow). Chiefly a term of logic and grammar to contrast with *abstract*, but from the 1600's it spread in the sense of particular, real, as used by Milton, Burke, Lowell, and others. —**n. 1834, mixture of sand, gravel, etc., formed into a mass with cement; earlier, solid mass (1656), from the adjective.**

concubine *n.* About 1300, borrowed from Old French *concubine*, or directly from Latin *concubina* a concubine (*con-* with + *cubare* to lie).

concur *v.* 1410 *concurrere*, borrowed from Latin *concurrere* run together, coincide (*con-* together + *curre* to run). —**concurrency** *n.* Probably before 1425, borrowed through Old

French *concurrence*, or directly from Medieval Latin *concurrentia*, from Latin *concurrentem*, (nominative *concurrēns*), present participle of *concurrere* concur; for suffix see -ENCE. — **concurrent** adj. Before 1398, borrowed through Old French *concurrent*, or directly from Latin *concurrentem* (nominative *concurrēns*), present participle of *concurrere* concur; for suffix see -ENT.

concussion *n.* Before 1400, borrowed from Latin *concussio* (nominative *concussio*), from *concute* shake violently; for suffix see -SION. The medical sense of injury to the brain by a blow, is first recorded in 1541.

condemn *v.* Probably before 1325 *condempnen*; later, *condemnen* to blame, censure (1340); borrowed from Old French *condemner*, *condempner*, learned borrowing from Latin *condemnare* convict, accuse, blame (*con-* intensive + *damnare* cause loss to, condemn, from *damnum* loss, injury). — **condemnation** *n.* About 1384, borrowed from Latin *condemnatio* (nominative *condemnatio*), from *condemnare* condemn; for suffix see -TION.

condense *v.* Probably before 1425, borrowed through Middle French *condenser*, or directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *condensare* make dense, compress, thicken (*con-* together + *densare* make thick, from *densus* thick, DENSE). — **condensation** *n.* 1603, borrowed through French *condensation*, or directly from Late Latin *condensatio* (nominative *condensatio*), from *condensare* make thick; for suffix see -TION.

condescend *v.* 1340, to comply, acquiesce, borrowed from Old French *condescendre*, learned borrowing from Late Latin *condescendere* to stoop, condescend (Latin *con-* together + *dēscendere* DESCEND). The meaning of stoop to the level of inferiors, deign, is first recorded probably about 1435. — **condescension** *n.* 1642, borrowed possibly from Middle French *condescension*, or formed in English after Late Latin *condescensio* (nominative *condescensio*), from *condescendere* condescend; for suffix see -SION.

condiment *n.* Before 1500, seasoning; earlier, a pickling fluid (probably 1440); borrowed from Middle French *condiment*, from Latin *condimentum* spice, from *condire* to preserve, season, a variant (perhaps influenced by *sallire* to salt, preserve) of *condere* to make, build, lay up, store, preserve (*con-* together + *-dere* to put, place); for suffix see -MENT.

condition *n.* Before 1333 *condicioun* provision, stipulation; borrowed from Old French *condition*, *condicion*, learned borrowing from Latin *condicio* (in Late Latin sometimes spelled *conditio*) (nominative *condicio*, *conditio*) stipulation, compact, agreement, apparently from *condicere* talk over together, agree upon (*con-* together + *dicere* to say). — **v.** 1494, make conditions, stipulate; borrowed from Middle French *conditionner*, from Old French, from *condition*, *n.* The sense of bring to a desired condition, is first recorded in 1849. — **conditional** adj. About 1380 *condicional*, *condicional*, borrowed probably from Old French *condicional*, and directly from Latin *condicionalis*, from *condicio*; for suffix see -AL¹.

condole *v.* 1588, to grieve, lament, borrowed from Late Latin *condolere* suffer greatly, suffer with (Latin *con-* with + *dolere*

grieve, suffer pain). The verb in English was influenced by earlier Middle English *condolent* sympathizing, contrite (before 1500). — **condolence** *n.* 1603, sympathetic grief; probably formed in English from Late Latin *condolere* + English *-ence*. For a time, roughly 1600 to 1800, the spelling *condoleance* was used, borrowed from French *condolérance*, from Old French *condouloir* condole, from Late Latin *condolere* + *-ance* -ance, but by 1800 *condoleance* had been leveled to *condolence*.

condom *n.* 1706, of unknown origin. A popular belief that it was named for an 18th-century physician who invented the device has no basis in fact.

condominium *n.* Before 1714, joint rule or sovereignty, New Latin *condominium* (from Latin *con-* together + *dominium* property, ownership). Until 1962 a term of politics and international law but a new sense appeared in American English of individual ownership of an apartment unit, and by 1963 an apartment house with this type of ownership. *Condo* is first recorded in 1964.

condone *v.* 1857, borrowed as a legal term from Latin *condonare* to grant, permit, forgive (*con-* intensive + *dōnare* give, present, pardon, from *dōnum* gift).

Apparently not a back formation of the earlier legal *condonation* (1623). *Condone* appeared in early English dictionaries, such as Blount (1656) and Bailey (1731), but until the 1850's it remained an Anglicized form for a term in law, and was omitted in later dictionaries, such as that of Johnson (1755), Webster (1828), and Craig (1847).

condor *n.* 1604, borrowed from Spanish *cóndor*, from Quechua *ámtur*, the native name.

conduce *v.* About 1400, borrowed from Latin *conducere* to lead or bring together, contribute, serve (*con-* together + *ducere* to lead). — **conductive** adj. 1646, formed from English *conduce* + *-ive*, on analogy with *conduct*, *conductive*.

conduct *v.* Before 1422 *conducted* guided or directed; borrowed from Latin *conductus*, past participle of *conducere* lead or bring together. The sense of to behave in a certain way, is first recorded in 1706–10 was an extension of to direct, manage (1632). The sense of convey appeared in 1740. Middle English *conducten* replaced *conduiten* to guide, control oneself; earlier *condyten*, *conduyten* (about 1400), from *conduit*, *n.* — **n.** About 1441, guide, in the phrase *sauf conduite* safe conduct; borrowed from Latin *conductus* (genitive *conductus*), from the stem *conduc-* of *conducere* conduce. The sense of behavior appeared in 1673. Middle English *conduct*, *n.* replaced earlier *conduit*, *n.*, a guide, escort; earlier *conduyt* a channel or pipe to convey water, etc. (about 1300). — **conduction** *n.* 1538, hiring; later, conveying (1541); borrowed from Middle French *conduction*, from Latin *conductionem* (nominative *conductio*), from *conducere*. — **conductor** *n.* 1526 *conductour* leader; borrowed from Middle French *conducateur*, and directly from Medieval Latin *conductor*, both from Latin *conductor* one who hires, from *conduc-*, past participle stem of *conducere* bring together, hire; for suffix see -OR². *Conductor* replaced earlier *conduitor* a guide or leader (about 1410); borrowed from Old French *conduitor*, from Latin *conductor*. The sense of an orchestra director is first recorded in

English in 1784–85; of a person in charge of a railroad train, etc., in American English in 1832; and of a wire for conducting electricity, in 1737.

conduit *n.* About 1300 *conduyt* (differentiated in meaning from *conduct* in the 1400's); borrowed from Old French *conduit*, from Medieval Latin *conductus* a leading, a pipe, from Latin *conduc-*, stem of *conducere* lead or bring together.

cone *n.* 1562, borrowed from Middle French *cone*, *cône*, or directly from Latin *cōnus* cone, from Greek *kōnos* cone, peak, pine cone. The meaning of the geometrical shape is implicated in Middle English *cone* angle or corner of a quadrant (probably before 1400). —**conic** *adj.* 1570, formed in English after Greek *kōnikós*, from *kōnos* cone; for suffix see -IC. —**conical** *adj.* 1570, formed in English after Greek *kōnikós* conic + English -al¹.

confection *n.* Before 1387 *confeccioun* anything prepared by mixing ingredients; earlier *confeccioun* (1345–46); borrowed from Old French *confection* a confection, learned borrowing from Late Latin *confectionem* (nominative *confectiō*), from Latin *confectionem* a making, preparing, from *conficere* put together, prepare; for suffix see -TION. —**confectioner** *n.* 1591, formed from English *confection* + -er¹. —**confectionery** *n.* 1769, confused with earlier *confectionary* (1599), both words formed in English: *confectionery*, from *confectioner* + -y¹ and *confectionary*, from *confection* + -ary.

confederate *v.* About 1370 *confederen*, borrowed through Old French *confédérer*, from Late Latin *confoederātus*, past participle of *confoederāre* unite in a league (*con-* together + Latin *foederāre* establish by treaty or league, from *foedus*, genitive *foederis*, league, compact); for suffix see -ATE¹. —**adj.** Before 1387 *confederat*; borrowed from Late Latin *confoederātus*, past participle of *confoederāre*; for suffix see -ATE¹. —**n.** 1495, from the adjective. —**confederacy** *n.* About 1380, league, alliance; borrowed from Anglo-French *confederacie*, as if from Late Latin **confoederātia*, from *confoederāre* unite in a league; for suffix see -ACY. —**confederation** *n.* About 1422 *confederacion* league, alliance; borrowed through Middle French *confédération*, or directly from Late Latin *confoederātiōnem* (nominative *confoederātiō*), from *confoederāre*; for suffix see -TION.

confer *v.* 1570, give, grant; earlier, contribute (1528); borrowed perhaps through Middle French *conferer* to give, converse, compare, from Latin *conferre* bring together, consult together, compare (*con-* together + *ferre* bring, carry). Although the meaning of to compare is now obsolete, the abbreviation *cf.* (for Latin *confer* compare) is widely used. —**conference** *n.* 1555, act of conferring; earlier, comparison (1538); borrowed from Middle French *conférence*, or directly from Medieval Latin *conferentia*, from Latin *conferentem* (nominative *conferens*), present participle of *conferre* confer; for suffix see -ENCE.

confess *v.* About 1378 *confessen*, borrowed from Old French *confesser*, from Latin *confessus*, past participle of *confiteri* acknowledge, avow, confess (*con-* intensive + *fatēri* to utter, declare, disclose, related to *fātus*, past participle of *fārī* to speak). —**confession** *n.* About 1378, borrowed from Old

French *confession*, from Latin *confessionem* (nominative *confessio*), from *confiteri* confess; for suffix see -ION. —**confessor** *n.* Before 1376, priest who hears confession; earlier, person who avows Christianity (about 1200); borrowed through Anglo-French *confessour*, Old French *confessor*, or directly from Late Latin *confessor* a confessor (of Christianity), from Latin *confessus*, past participle of *confiteri*; for suffix see -OR².

confetti *n. pl.* 1895, bits of colored paper thrown by celebrators on festive occasions; earlier, candy or plaster imitations of candy, thrown during carnivals in Italy, borrowing of Italian *confetti*, plural of *confetto* sweetmeat, candy, adapted from Old French *confit* confection.

confide *v.* Before 1455 (Scottish), to trust; borrowed from Latin *confidere* have full trust (*con-* completely + *fidere* to trust). The sense of to entrust secrets to is first recorded in 1735.

—**confidant** *n.* 1714, close friend, intimate; earlier, also *confident* (1619 to about 1870); borrowed from French *confident* close friend, from Italian *confidente*, from Latin *confidentem* (nominative *confidēs*), present participle of *confidere* have full trust; for suffix see -ANT and -ENT. —**confidence** *n.* Before 1400, borrowed from Old French *confidence* and directly from Latin *confidentia*, from *confidentem* (nominative *confidēs*), present participle of *confidere* have full trust; for suffix see -ENCE. —**confident** *adj.* 1576, borrowed from Middle French *confident*, learned borrowing from Latin *confidentem* (nominative *confidēs*) firmly trusting, bold, present participle of *confidere* have full trust; for suffix see -ENT. —**confidential** *adj.* 1759, perhaps borrowed from French *confidentiel*, as if from Latin **confidentialis*, from *confidentia*; see CONFIDENCE.

configuration *n.* 1559, perhaps borrowed from Latin *configuratiōnem* (nominative *configuratiō*), from *configurare* (*con-* together + *figurare* to shape); for suffix see -TION.

confine *n.* Usually, **confines**. boundary, limit. About 1400, region, territory, borrowed from Old French *confins*, pl., boundaries, learned borrowing from Medieval Latin *confines*, from Latin *confinia*, plural of *confinium* boundary, from *confine*, neuter of *confinis* having the same boundary (*con-* together + *finis* boundary, limit). —**v.** 1523, border on; borrowed from Middle French *confiner*, from Old French *confiner*, from *confins*, pl., bounds, confines. The sense of to keep within limits, restrain, is first recorded in 1595. —**confinement** *n.* 1646, borrowed from French *confinement*, from *confiner* confine + -ment -ment.

confirm *v.* Probably before 1250 *confirmen* to ratify; later *confermen* (about 1300); borrowed from Latin *confirmare*, and from Old French *confermer*, learned borrowing from Latin *confirmare* make firm, strengthen, establish (*con-* intensive + *firmare* strengthen, from *firmus* FIRM). —**confirmation** *n.* About 1303, ceremony admitting person to church membership; borrowed from Old French *confirmacion*, from Latin *confirmatiōnem* (nominative *confirmatiō*), from *confirmare* confirm; for suffix see -TION. The sense of verification, proof, is first recorded about 1382. —**confirmed** *adj.* (about 1350)

confiscate *v.* 1552, verb use of earlier past participle or adjective; perhaps influenced by Middle French *confisquer*, but bor-

rowed from Latin *cōfiscātus*, past participle of *cōfiscāre* seize for the public treasury (*con-* together + *fiscus* public treasury); for suffix see -ATE¹. — **confiscation** n. 1543, borrowed from Middle French *confiscation*, and as a learned borrowing directly from Latin *cōfiscātiōnem* (nominative *cōfiscātiō*), from *cōfiscāre* confiscate; for suffix see -TION.

conflagration n. 1555, borrowed from Middle French *conflagration*, learned borrowing from Latin *cōnflagrātiōnem* (nominative *cōnflagrātiō*), from *cōnflagrāre* burn up (*con-* intensive + *flagrāre* to burn); for suffix see -TION.

conflict n. Probably before 1425, borrowed from Latin *cōnflīctus* (genitive *cōnflīctūs*), from *cōnflīc-*, stem of *cōnfligere* strike together, clash, fight (*con-* together + *fligere* to strike, dash). —v. Probably before 1425, borrowed from Latin *cōnflīctus*, past participle of *cōnfligere* to conflict, fight.

confluence n. Probably before 1425, borrowed from Late Latin *cōnfluentia*, from Latin *cōnfluentem* (nominative *cōnfluēns*), present participle of *cōnfluere* flow together (*con-* together + *fluere* to flow); for suffix see -ENCE. — **confluent** adj. Probably 1473, borrowed from Middle French *confluent*, learned borrowing from Latin *cōnfluentem* (nominative *cōnfluēns*), present participle of *cōnfluere*; for suffix see -ENT.

conform v. About 1340 *confourmen*, borrowed from Old French *conformer* make or be similar, learned borrowing from Latin *cōnformāre* to make of the same form (*con-* with + *fōrmāre* to shape, from *fōrma* a shape, FORM). — **conformation** n. 1511, borrowed from Latin *cōnformātiōnem* (nominative *cōnformātiō*), from *cōnformāre*. — **conformist** n. 1634, formed from English *conform* + -ist. — **conformity** n. Probably before 1425 *conformite* correspondence in form or manner, resemblance; borrowed from Middle French *conformité*, from Late Latin *cōnformitatem* (nominative *cōnformitās*), from *cōnformis* similar in shape (Latin *con-* with + *fōrma* form); for suffix see -ITY.

confound v. About 1300 *confounden* make uneasy and ashamed; borrowed through Anglo-French *confondre*, Old French *confondre*, from Latin *cōnfundere* pour together, confuse (*con-* together + *fundere* pour). The sense of to confuse, perplex is first recorded before 1376.

confront v. About 1568, stand in front of; borrowed from Middle French *confronter*, learned borrowing from Medieval Latin *confrontare* assign limits, adjoin (Latin *con-* together + *frontem*, nominative *frōns*, forehead). The sense of to face in defiance or hostility, appeared in 1580. — **confrontation** n. 1632, action of bringing persons face to face; borrowed from French *confrontation*, from *confronter* confront + -ation -ation.

confuse v. About 1330, to defeat, frustrate; later implied in *confused* bewildered (1378); borrowed from Old French *confus* confused, from Latin *cōnfusus*, past participle of *cōnfundere* pour together, mix up, CONFOUND. — **confusion** n. About 1300, discomfiture; borrowed from Old French *confusion*, learned borrowing from Latin *cōnfusiōnem* (nominative *cōnfusiō*), from *cōnfundere* confuse; for suffix see -SION. The sense of a confusing, or throwing into disorder appeared about 1380.

confute v. 1529, prove (something) false; borrowed from Latin *cōnfutāre* disprove, restrain, silence (*con-* intensive + *-fūtāre* to beat; or possibly a back formation from earlier English *confutation*. — **confutation** n. 1459 *confutacioun*, borrowed from Latin *cōnfutātiōnem* (nominative *cōnfutātiō*), from *cōnfutāre* confute; for suffix see -TION.

congeal v. About 1380 *congelen*, borrowed from Old French *congeler* freeze; thicken, learned borrowing from Latin *congelāre* (*con-* together + *gelāre* freeze, from *gelū* frost, ice).

congenial adj. About 1625, probably formed in English from *con-* together + Latin *geniālis* of birth or generation; or borrowed from New Latin **congenialis* (*con-* together + *genialis* of birth, from *genius*). The sense of agreeable, suited to is first recorded in 1711.

congenital adj. 1796, borrowed from Latin *congenitus* born with (*con-* with + *genitus* born, past participle of *gignere* beget, bear); for suffix see -AL¹.

congest v. Probably before 1425, borrowed from Latin *congestus*, past participle of *congerere* bring together, collect (*con-* together + *gerere* to carry). — **congestion** n. Probably before 1425, borrowed from Middle French *congestion* accumulation, learned borrowing from Latin *congestiōnem* (nominative *congestiō*), from *congerere* bring together; for suffix see -TION.

conglomerate adj. 1572, borrowed from Latin *conglomerātus*, past participle of Latin *conglomerāre* heap together (*con-* together + *glomerāre* form into a ball, from *glomus*, genitive *glomeris* ball, as of yarn; see CLAM); for suffix see -ATE¹. —n. 1961, from the adjective. —v. 1596, borrowed from Latin *conglomerātus*, past participle of *conglomerāre*; for suffix see -ATE¹. — **conglomeration** n. 1626, borrowed from Late Latin *conglomerātiōnem* (nominative *conglomerātiō*), from Latin *conglomerāre*; for suffix see -TION.

congratulate v. 1548, borrowed, perhaps through Middle French *congratuler*, from Latin *congrātulātus*, past participle of *congrātulārī* congratulate, wish joy (*con-* together + *grātulārī* give thanks, show or express joy); for suffix see -ATE¹. Alternatively *congratulate* may be a back formation in English from the earlier *congratulation*. — **congratulation** n. 1438 *congratulation*, borrowed from Middle French *congratulation*, or directly from Latin *congrātulātiōnem* (nominative *congrātulātiō*), from *congrātulārī*; for suffix see -TION. The plural noun *congratulations* is first recorded in 1632.

congregate v. Probably before 1450, verb use of earlier *congregat*, past participle or adjective (probably before 1425); borrowed from Latin *congregātus*, past participle of *congregāre* collect, assemble (*con-* together + *grex*, genitive *gregis* flock, herd, crowd); for suffix see -ATE¹. — **congregation** n. About 1380 *congregacioun* a gathering, assemblage; borrowed from Old French *congregation*, from Latin *congregātiōnem* (nominative *congregātiō*), from *congregāre*; for suffix see -TION.

The words referring to a sect of Christian worship are first recorded for *Congregational* (1639), *Congregationalist* (1692), *Congregationalism* (1716).

congress n. Before 1400 *congrece* body of attendants; later

congress meeting of armed forces (before 1460), and *congress* a coming together of people, a meeting (1528); borrowed from Latin *congressus* (genitive *congressūs*) a coming together, assembly, encounter, from past participle of *congrēdi* meet with, fight with (*con-* together + *grādī* to step, walk; see *GRADE*). The sense of a meeting of delegates for discussion or settlement of some question is first recorded in English in 1678; the meaning of a lawmaking body of a country, in 1765, and with specific reference to the Congress of the United States, in 1775. —**congressional** adj. Before 1691, formed in English from Latin *congressionem* (nominative *congressiō*) a meeting, encounter (from the stem of *congrēdi* meet with) + English *-al*. —**Congressman** n. (1780) —**Congresswoman** n. (1918)

congruent adj. Probably before 1425, suitable, proper; borrowed from Latin *congruentem* (nominative *congruens*), present participle of *congruere* agree, correspond with, fit (*con-* together + *-gruere*, as in *ingruere* rush into, fall upon, attack, combining form of a lost verb **gruere*, compare *ab-luere* wash off, with *lavere* wash); for suffix see *-ENT*. The sense in geometry of exactly coinciding, is first recorded in 1706. —**congruence** n. About 1443, borrowed from Latin *congruentia*, from *congruentem* (nominative *congruens*), present participle of *congruere* agree, correspond with; for suffix see *-ENCE*. Use in geometry is first recorded in 1879. —**congruity** n. Before 1393, borrowed from Latin *congruitatem* (nominative *congruitās*) agreement, coincidence, from *congruus* agreeing, coinciding; for suffix see *-ITY*. —**congruous** adj. 1599, formed (on the model of Latin *congruus*) from Latin stem *congru-* + English *-ous*.

conic, conical. See *CONE*.

conifer n. 1851, borrowed probably by influence of French *conifère*, from Latin *cōnifer* cone-bearing (*cōnus* *CONE* + *ferre* to carry, *BEAR*²). —**coniferous** adj. 1664, formed from Latin *cōnifer* cone-bearing + English *-ous*.

conjecture n. About 1384, interpretation of signs, forecast; borrowed through Old French *conjecture*, or directly from Latin *conjectūra* a casting together of facts and indications, from the stem of *conicere* discuss, throw together (*con-* together + *-icere*, combining form of *jacere* to throw); for suffix see *-URE*. The sense of guess, surmise, is first recorded in Middle English about 1395. —**v.** Probably before 1425 *coniecturen* to infer from signs and omens, forecast; borrowed from Old French *conjecturer*, from *conjecture*, n. —**conjectural** adj. 1553, implied in earlier *conjecturally* (1447), formed from English *conjecture* + *-al*.

Originally *conjecture* existed alongside *conjecten*, v. (and *conjecte*, n.) in Middle English, but the noun disappeared in the 1500's and during the 1600's *conjecture* took the place of *conjecten*.

conjoin v. About 1380, borrowed from Old French *conjoindre*, stem of *conjoindre*, from Latin *conjungere* to join together (*con-* together + *jungere* to join). —**conjoint** adj. Before 1393, implied in earlier *conjointly* (before 1325), borrowed from Old French *conjoint*, past participle of *conjoindre*.

conjugal adj. 1545, borrowed from Middle French *conjugal*, or

directly from Latin *conjugalīs*, from *conjūnx* (genitive *conjugis*) wife or husband, consort, from *conjungere* join together; for suffix see *-AL*¹.

conjugate v. 1530, verb use of earlier *conjugate*, adj., combined, united (1471); borrowed from Latin *conjūgātus*, past participle of *conjūgāre* to yoke together (*con-* together + *jūgāre* to yoke, from *jūgum* *YOKE*); for suffix see *-ATE*¹. —**conjugation** n. About 1450 *conjagation*, borrowed perhaps through influence of Old French *conjugaison*, from Latin *conjūgātiōnem* (nominative *conjūgātiō*), from *conjūgāre*; for suffix see *-TION*.

conjunction n. 1375, an apparent proximity of two planets; later, act of joining together, union (about 1380), and a word that connects words, phrases, and sentences in grammar (before 1397); borrowed from Old French *conjunction*, *conjonction*, from Latin *conjūnctiōnem* (nominative *conjūnctiō*), from *conjungere* join together (*con-* together + *jungere* *JOIN*); for suffix see *-TION*. The meaning in grammar was probably a direct borrowing from Latin, where the meaning existed as a loan translation borrowed from Greek *syndesmos*. —**conjunctive** adj. About 1475 *conjunctyf* connective; earlier (before 1450) in the grammatical sense "subjunctive," from Latin *conjunctivus*, from *conjunct-*, past participle stem of *conjungere* join together; for suffix see *-IVE*. —**conjunctivitis** n. 1835, New Latin, formed from *conjunctiva* connecting (as of the membrane over the eye) + *-itis* inflammation.

conjure v. About 1280 *conjuren* command or charge on oath, adjure; borrowed from Old French *conjurere*, learned borrowing from Latin *conjūrāre* make a compact, also in Late Latin with the meaning of adjure, entreat, exorcise (Latin *con-* together + *jūrāre* swear). The sense of compel to appear or disappear by magic is first recorded about 1300. The phrase *conjure up* cause to appear (in the mind) by magic, appeared in 1590. —**conjuror, conjuror** n. Probably about 1350, from Middle English *conjuren* + *-er*¹, *-or*².

connect v. Probably 1440 *connecten*; borrowed from Latin *cōnectere* join together (*cō-* together + *nectere* to tie, bind). The spelling *connex* replaced *connect* in the 1500's modeled on the Latin **conexāre* a supposed frequentative form of *cōnectere*, possibly influenced by Middle French *connexer*; but this Latinized form was itself replaced by *connect* in the late 1600's. —**connection** n. About 1385 *conneccion*; later *connexioun* (before 1447); borrowed from Old French *connexion*, learned borrowing from Latin *cōnexiōnem* (nominative *cōnexiō*), from *cōnectere*; for suffix see *-TION*. The spelling with *-tion* became prevalent in American English, influenced by words such as *affection*, *collection*, *direction*. —**connective** adj. 1655–60; earlier *connexive*, borrowed from Latin *cōnexivus* serving to connect, from *cōnex-* past participle stem of *cōnectere* + *-ive*. The spelling with *-tive* was influenced by words such as *effective*.

conniption n. 1833 *conniption-fit*, American English, perhaps a euphemism for *corruption* in the sense of anger, temper (1799).

connive v. 1602, borrowed from French *conniver*, or directly from Latin *connivēre*, spelling variant of the Classical *cōnivēre*

wink at, connive (*con-* together + earlier **cnivēre*, with its frequentative form *nicāre* to blink, wink constantly). —**connivance** n. 1596 *connivence*, borrowed from Middle French, from Latin *cōniventia*, from *cōniventem* (nominative *cōniventis*), present participle of *cōniverē*; for suffix see -ANCE, -ENCE. —**conniver** n. 1639, formed from English *connive* + -er¹.

connoisseur n. 1714, borrowed from French, from Old French *connoisseur*, from *connoistre* know, from Latin *cognōscere* become well acquainted with (*con-* with + *gnōscere* recognize, KNOW).

connote v. Before 1665, imply; borrowed from French *connoter*, from Medieval Latin *connotare* signify in addition to the main meaning (Latin *con-* with + *notāre* to note, from *nota* a mark, sign). Also *connote* may be a back formation in English from the earlier *connotation*. —**connotation** n. 1532, borrowed from Medieval Latin *connotationem* (nominative *connotatio*), from *connotare* connote; for suffix see -TION.

connubial adj. 1656, borrowed from Latin *connubiālis*, a spelling variant of the Classical *cōnubiālis*, from *cōnūbium* marriage (*con-* together + *nūbere*, earlier **sneubere* marry, see NUPTIAL); for suffix see -AL¹.

conquer v. Probably about 1200 *cunquearen*, borrowed through Old French *conquerre*, from Vulgar Latin **conquerere*, re-formed from Latin *conquiere* seek for, procure by effort, win (*con-* completely + *quaerere* seek, procure, gain). —**conqueror** n. Probably before 1300 *conquerur*, borrowed through Anglo-French *cunquerrur*, Old French *conquereor*, from *conquerre* conquer; for suffix see -OR². —**conquest** n. Before 1325, borrowed from Old French *conqueste* (from Vulgar Latin **conquasita*, re-formed from Latin *conquisita*), feminine past participle of *conquerre*.

consanguineous adj. 1601, borrowed from Latin *cōnsanguineus* of the same blood (*con-* together + *sanguineus* of blood); for suffix see -OUS. —**consanguinity** n. About 1400 *consanguinite*, borrowed from Old French *consanguinité*, or directly from Latin *cōnsanguinitatem* (nominative *cōnsanguinitās*), from *cōnsanguineus* consanguineous; for suffix see -ITY.

conscience n. Probably before 1200, borrowed from Old French *conscience*, learned borrowing from Latin *cōscientia* knowledge, consciousness, conscience, from *cōscientem* (nominative *cōsciēns*), present participle of *cōscire* know, be conscious (*con-* intensive + *scire* to know); for suffix see -ENCE. Latin *cōscientia* is probably a loan translation of Greek *synēldēsis* (literally) with knowledge. —**conscientious** adj. 1611, borrowed from earlier French *conscientieux* (now *conscientieux*), learned borrowing from Medieval Latin *conscientiosus*, from Latin *cōscientia* conscience; for suffix see -OUS.

conscious adj. 1601, knowing, privy to; borrowed from Latin *cōsciūs* knowing (something) with another (*con-* intensive + *scire* know). Latin *cōsciūs* was probably a loan translation of Greek *synēldōs*. The sense of having perception, being aware is first recorded in English in 1632. —**consciousness** n. 1632, formed from English *conscious* + -ness.

conscript n. 1800, back formation from CONSCRIPTION; influenced by French *conscrit*, noun use of Old French *conscrit*, adj., drafted, from Latin *cōscriptus*, past participle of *cōscribere* enter in a list, enroll, draw up (*con-* together + *scribere* write). —**v.** 1813, American English, from the noun. —**conscript** n. 1382 *conscriptioun* written agreement or record; later, enrollment or enlistment of soldiers (1529); borrowed from Middle French *conscription*, learned borrowing from Latin *cōscriptiōnem* (nominative *cōscriptiō*) a drawing up of a list, enrollment, a levying of soldiers, from *cōscribere*; for suffix see -TION.

consecrate v. Before 1387, borrowed, possibly by influence of Old French *consacrer*, from Latin *cōsecrātus*, past participle of *cōsecrāre* devote, dedicate as sacred to a deity, deify (*con-* intensive + *sacrāre* make sacred, from *sacr-*, stem of *sacer* SACRED); for suffix see -ATE¹. —**consecration** n. Before 1382, borrowed from Old French *consecration*, learned borrowing from Latin *cōsecratiōnem* (nominative *cōsecratiō*) from *cōsecrāre*; for suffix see -TION.

consecutive adj. 1611, borrowed from French *consécutif* (feminine *consécutive*), from Middle French, learned borrowing from Medieval Latin *consecutivus*, from Latin *cōsecūtus* following closely, past participle of *cōsequi* follow closely (*con-* intensive + *sequi* follow); for suffix see -IVE.

consensus n. 1633, as a nonce coinage; later, as a Latin borrowing (1843) of *cōsensus* (genitive *cōsensus*) agreement, accord, from *cōsens-*, stem of *cōsentire* feel together, agree. —**consensual** adj. 1754, of or having to do with consent; later, by consent (1800); formed from English *consensus* + -al¹.

consent v. Probably before 1200, borrowed from Old French *consentir* + agree, comply, learned borrowing from Latin *cōsentire* feel together, agree, accord (*con-* together + *sentire* feel, think). —**n.** About 1300, borrowed from Old French *consente* agreement, compliance, from *consentir*, v.

consequent adj. 1410, borrowed from Middle French *conséquent* following, resulting, learned borrowing from Latin *cōsequentem* (nominative *cōsequēns*), present participle of *cōsequi* to follow closely; for suffix see -ENT. —**consequence** n. About 1380, an inference or conclusion; borrowed from Old French *consequence* result, learned borrowing from Latin *cōsequentia*, from *cōsequentem* (nominative *cōsequēns*), present participle of *cōsequi*; for suffix see -ENCE. —**consequential** adj. 1626, implied in earlier *consequentially* (1607), formed in English from Latin *cōsequentia* thing resulting, from *cōsequentem* (nominative *cōsequēns*), present participle of *cōsequi* + -al¹.

conserve v. About 1380 *conserven*, borrowed from Old French *conserver* protect, preserve, learned borrowing from Latin *cōservare* preserve (*con-* intensive + *servare* keep, watch, maintain). —**n.** Often, **conserves**. Before 1393, a preservative; borrowed from Old French *conserve*, from *conserver* conserve. The sense of a medicinal preparation of fruit preserved in sugar as a confection or as jam, appeared probably about 1425, and as the plural noun *conserves* confections (before 1425). —**conservation** n. About 1380 *conservacioun* preservation; borrowed

from Old French *conservacion*, and directly from Latin *cōservātiōnem* (nominative *cōservātiō*), from *cōservāre*; for suffix see -TION. —**conservationist** n. (1870) —**conservative** adj. About 1380 *conservatyf*, borrowed from Middle French *conservatif* (feminine *conservative*), learned borrowing from Late Latin *cōservātīvus*, from Latin *cōservātus*, past participle of *cōservāre* conserve; for suffix see -IVE. —n. 1831, member of the Conservative party; from the adjective. —**conservatism** n. (1835) —**conservatory** n. 1563, a preservative, borrowed from New Latin *conservatorium*, from Medieval Latin, from the past participle stem of Latin *cōservāre* conserve; for suffix see -ORY. The sense of a greenhouse is first recorded in 1664, and that of a school for music, drama, etc., in 1842.

consider v. 1375, borrowed from Old French *considerer*, learned borrowing from Latin *cōsiderāre* look at closely, consider; probably originally meaning “examine the stars,” in reference to augury or navigation (*con-* with + *sidus*, genitive *sideris* constellation). —**considered** adj. (probably before 1400) —**considering** prep. (about 1390) —**considerable** adj. About 1449, that can be considered; borrowed from Medieval Latin *considerabilis*, from Latin *cōsiderāre* consider; for suffix see -ABLE. The meaning of worthy of consideration, significant is first recorded before 1619, and then extended to somewhat large in 1651. —**considerate** adj. 1572, well-considered, deliberate; earlier in Middle English *considerat* observed, noted (probably before 1425); borrowed from Latin *cōsiderātus*, past participle of *cōsiderāre*; for suffix see -ATE¹. —**consideration** n. Probably about 1350, contemplation; borrowed from Old French *considération*, learned borrowing from Latin *cōsiderātiōnem* (nominative *cōsiderātiō*), from *cōsiderāre*; for suffix see -TION.

consign v. Before 1449, ratify or attest (as with a sign or seal), borrowed from Middle French *consigner*, learned borrowing from Latin *cōsignāre* furnish or mark with a seal (*con-* with + *signum* seal, SIGN). The sense of hand over, deliver, commit is first recorded in 1528. —**consignment** n. 1563, a sealing with a sign, formed from English *consign* + *-ment*. The general sense of a handing over or delivery, is first recorded before 1668.

consist v. 1526, exist, consist, borrowed through Middle French *consister*, or directly from Latin *cōsistere* take a standing position, remain firm, exist (*con-* intensive + *sistere* cause to stand, place, related to *stāre* be standing, STAND). —**consistence** n. 1598 *consistence* a standing fast, firmness; borrowed from Middle French *consistence* (modern French *consistance*), from Medieval Latin *consistentia*, from Latin *cōsistentem* (nominative *cōsistēns*), present participle of *cōsistere*; for suffix see -ENCE. —**consistency** n. 1594, borrowed from Medieval Latin *consistentia* or from Latin *cōsistentem*; for suffix see -ENCY. —**consistent** adj. 1574, standing still, borrowed from Latin *cōsistentem* (nominative *cōsistēns*), present participle of *cōsistere*. The sense of agreeing, compatible, congruous, is first recorded in 1646.

consistory n. Probably before 1300, a secular tribunal; borrowed from Old North French *consistorie*, *consistoire*, and directly from Late Latin *cōsistōrium* waiting room, meeting

place of the imperial council, the imperial cabinet, from Latin *cōsistere*, see CONSIST; for suffix see -ORY. The meaning of a church council is first recorded before 1325.

console¹ v. comfort. 1693, borrowed from French *consoler*, learned borrowing from Latin *cōsōlārī* offer solace, console (*con-* intensive + *sōlārī* soothe); also possibly be a back formation in English from *consolation*, influenced in its formation by French *consoler*. —**consolation** n. About 1385, borrowed through Old French, or directly from Latin *cōsōlātiōnem* (nominative *cōsōlātiō*), from *cōsōlārī* console; for suffix see -TION.

console² n. cabinet, panel. 1706, ornamental structural support, borrowed from French *console* a bracket, from Middle French, of uncertain origin (possibly shortened from *consoleteur* a sculptured figure originally used as support in church architecture); literally, consoler, from Latin *cōsōlātor* (from *cōsōlārī* CONSOLE¹).

English *console* is first recorded in 1881 with the meaning of a case enclosing the keyboard, knobs, etc., of an organ. This sense was extended to the cabinet enclosing a radio, phonograph (1925), later, to that of a television, tape recorder, or computer set, and to a control panel or switchboard (1944).

consolidate v. 1511–12, borrowed from Latin *cōsolidātus*, past participle of *cōsolidāre* make solid (*con-* intensive + *solidus* SOLID); for suffix see -ATE¹. —**consolidation** n. Before 1400, uniting of a broken bone, healing of a wound, borrowed from Old French *consolidation* and from Latin *cōsolidātiōnem* (nominative *cōsolidātiō*), from *cōsolidāre* make firm, consolidate; for suffix see -TION. The general sense of the action of consolidating, is first recorded in 1603.

consonant n. Probably before 1325, a sound other than a vowel; borrowed through Old French, from Latin *cōsonantem* (nominative *cōsonāns*), present participle of *cōsonāre* sound together, i.e. with the vowels (*con-* together + *sonāre* to sound, from *sonus* a SOUND¹); for suffix see -ANT. —**adj.** 1410, agreeing, consistent, borrowed from Middle French *consonant*, from Latin *cōsonantem* (nominative *cōsonāns*), present participle of *cōsonāre*. —**consonance** n. Before 1420, borrowed through Old French *consonance*, from Latin *cōsonantia* harmony, agreement, from *cōsonantem*; for suffix see -ANCE.

consort n. 1419, colleague, partner, borrowed from Middle French *consort* mate, fellow, partner, wife, learned borrowing from Latin *cōsortem*, accusative of *cōsors* sharer, partner, comrade (*con-* with + *sortem*, accusative of *sors* lot SORT). The sense of husband or wife is first recorded in 1634. —**v.** 1588, to escort, attend; from the noun. —**consortium** n. 1829, borrowed from Latin *cōsortium* partnership, from *cōsors* (genitive *cōsortis*) partner.

conspicuous adj. 1545, borrowed from Latin *cōspicius* visible, striking, from *cōspicere* see, notice (*con-* thoroughly + *specere* look at); for suffix see -OUS.

conspire v. Before 1376 *conspiren*, borrowed from Old French *conspirer*, learned borrowing from Latin *cōspirāre* agree, plot; literally, breathe together (*con-* together + *spirāre* breathe).

—**conspiracy** *n.* 1357, borrowed from Anglo-French *conspiracie*, Old French *conspiratie*, replacing *conspiration* (before 1325), borrowed from Old French *conspiration*, from Latin *cōspīrātiōnem* (nominative *cōspīrātiō*) conspiracy, from *cōspīrāre*; for suffix see -TION. —**conspirator** *n.* 1403, borrowed through Anglo-French *conspiratour*, Old French *conspirateur*, from Latin *cōspīrātōrem*; for suffix see -OR².

constable *n.* Probably about 1200, chief household officer; later, governor of a royal domain, justice of the peace (about 1300); borrowed from Old French *constable*, from Late Latin *comes stabuli* officer of the stable (*comes* COUNT² nobleman + Latin *stabuli*, genitive of *stabulum* stall). The sense of a police officer is first recorded before 1836, preceded by king's peace officer (about 1300), officer of the peace (1597). —**constabulary** *n.* Before 1461, an adaptation of Medieval Latin *constabularia*, replacing earlier *constablerie* (1333); borrowed from Old French *constablerie*, from *constable*; for suffix see -ARY.

constant *adj.* About 1390 *constaunt* steadfast; borrowed from Old French *constant* and directly from Latin *cōstantem* (nominative *cōstāns*) standing firm, stable, present participle of *cōstāre* stand firm (*con-* intensive + *stāre* to STAND); for suffix see -ANT. —**n.** unvarying quantity (in mathematics or physics). 1832, from the adjective (1753). —**constancy** *n.* 1526, probably developed from earlier *constance*, *constaunce* + -y, after the pattern *fragrance/fragrancy*, but ultimately influenced by Latin *cōstantia*, from *cōstantem* (nominative *cōstāns*), present participle, see CONSTANT; for suffix see -ANCY. —**constantly** *adv.* (probably about 1425)

constellation *n.* About 1330, configuration of stars; borrowed from Old French *constellation*, from Late Latin *cōstellātiōnem* (nominative *cōstellātiō*), from *cōstellātus* studded with stars (Latin *con-* with + *stellātus* covered with stars, from *stella* STAR); for suffix see -TION.

consternation *n.* 1611, borrowed from French *consternation* dismay, confusion, learned borrowing from Latin *cōsternātiōnem* (nominative *cōsternātiō*), from *cōsternāre* overcome, confuse, dismay (*con-* with + *sternāre* throw down); for suffix see -TION.

constipate *v.* 1533, implied in earlier *constipat*, *adj.*, constipated (probably before 1425); borrowed from Latin *cōstīpātus*, past participle of *cōstīpāre* press closely together (*con-* together + *stīpāre* press, cram full); for suffix see -ATE¹. *Constipate*, *v.* replaced earlier *constipen* (before 1398; borrowed from Old French *constiper*, from Latin *cōstīpāre*). Modern English *constipate* is in part a back formation from the earlier *constipation*. —**constipation** *n.* Before 1400 *constipacioun* constriction of tissues; borrowed through Old French, or directly from Late Latin *cōstīpātiōnem* (nominative *cōstīpātiō*), from Latin *cōstīpāre*; for suffix see -TION.

constitute *v.* 1442, verb use of earlier adjective *constitute* made up, formed (before 1398); borrowed from Latin *cōstitūtus*, past participle of *cōstituere* set up, appoint (*con-* intensive + -*stituere*, combining form of *statuere* set up). —**constituency** *n.* 1831, formed from English *constituent* + -cy of -ency. —**con-**

stituent *n.* 1622 *constituent*, *constituant* one who constitutes another as an agent (in 1714, one who elects another to public office); borrowed, by influence of French *constituant*, from Latin *cōstituentem* (nominative *cōstituēns*), present participle of *cōstituere*. —**adj.** 1660, probably from the noun. —**constitution** *n.* Probably about 1350 *constitucion* law, regulation, edict; borrowed from Old French *constitution*, *constitucion*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *cōstitutiōnem* (nominative *cōstitutiō*) disposition, nature, arrangement, from *cōstituere*; for suffix see -TION. —**constitutional** *adj.* 1682, formed from English *constitution* + -al¹. —**constitutionality** *n.* 1787, formed from English *constitutional* + -ity. —**constitutionally** *adv.* (1742)

constrain *v.* Probably before 1325 *constreynen*, borrowed from Old French *constraign-*, *constraign-*, stem of *constrindre*, *constrindre*, from Latin *cōstringere* tie tightly together, compress (*con-* together + *stringere* pull tightly). —**constraint** *n.* About 1385 *consteinte*, borrowed from Old French *consteinte*, *consteinte*, originally feminine past participle of *constrindre*, *constrindre*.

constrict *v.* Probably before 1425 (implied in *constrict*, *adj.*); borrowed from Latin *cōstrictus*, past participle of *cōstringere* compress, *CONSTRAIN*. Also a back formation from *constriction*. —**constriction** *n.* Before 1400 *constriction*, borrowed through Middle French or directly from Latin *cōstrictiōnem* (nominative *cōstrictiō*), from *cōstrict-*, past participle stem of *cōstringere*; for suffix see -ION. —**constrictive** *adj.* Before 1400, borrowed from Latin *cōstrictivus*, from *cōstrictus*; for suffix see -IVE. —**constrictor** *n.* Before 1735, formed in English from *constrict* + -or² on the pattern of Latin *conductor* from *conducere*.

construct *v.* probably before 1425 (implied in *construct*, past participle); borrowed from Latin *cōstrūctus*, past participle of *cōstruere* pile together, build up (*con-* together + *struere* pile, build). Also a back formation from *construction*. —**n.** 1871, from the verb. —**construction** *n.* Before 1387 *construccioun* act of construing or translating; borrowed through Old French *construction* or directly from Latin *cōstrūctiōnem* (nominative *cōstrūctiō*), from *cōstrūct-*, past participle stem of *cōstruere*; for suffix see -ION. The sense of putting together appeared probably before 1425. —**constructive** *adj.* Before 1425; borrowed through Old French *constructif* or directly from Latin *cōstrūctivus*, from *cōstrūctus*, from *cōstruere*; for suffix see -IVE.

construe *v.* Before 1376 *construen* analyze parts of a sentence; borrowed from Late Latin *cōstruere* relate grammatically, in Classical Latin build up; see CONSTRUCT.

consul *n.* About 1384, a magistrate in ancient Rome; borrowed through Old French *consul* and directly from Latin *cōsul*, probably originally "one who consults the senate," from *cōsulere* CONSULT. *Consul* appears as "a representative of a government in a foreign country" by 1599. —**consular** *adj.* Probably before 1425, borrowed perhaps by influence of Old French *consulaire*, from Latin *cōsulāris*, from *cōsul*; for suffix see -AR. —**consulate** *n.* Before 1387, government by consuls, borrowed from Latin *cōsulātus* (genitive *cōsulātūs*), from

cōsul; for suffix see -ATE¹. The sense of a consul's office or residence is first recorded in 1702.

consult *v.* 1527, borrowed through Middle French *consulter* and directly from Latin *cōsultāre* *consult*, frequentative form of *cōsulere* take counsel, *consult*, probably originally "to gather (the senate) together" (*con-* together + **selere* take, gather). Also *consult* may be a back formation in English from the earlier *consultation*. — **consultation** *n.* About 1425 (Scottish); borrowed from Middle French *consultation*, from Latin *cōsultātiōnem* (nominative *cōsultātiō*), from *cōsultāre*; for suffix see -TION. — **consultant** *n.* 1697, probably formed from English *consult* + *-ant*, perhaps by influence of French *consultant*.

consume *v.* use up, devour. About 1380, borrowed through Old French *consumer*, and directly from Latin *cōsumere* take up, use up (*con-* intensive + *sūmere* take up, formed from **sus-*, from earlier **subs-*, variant of *sub-* up, + *emere* to take). — **consumer** *n.* About 1425, one who consumes or destroys, formed from English *consume* + *-er*¹. The sense of one who makes use of goods (opposite of *producer*) is first recorded in 1745. — **consumerism** *n.* 1944, American English, formed from English *consumer* + *-ism*.

consummate *adj.* 1447 *consummat*, adjective or participle, borrowed from Latin *cōsummātus*, past participle of *cōsummare* sum up, complete (*con-* intensive + *summa* highest degree, total). — **v.** 1530, fulfill, complete; from the adjective. — **consummation** *n.* Before 1398 *consummacion* completion; borrowed through Old French *consummation*, and directly from Latin *cōsummātiōnem* (nominative *cōsummātiō*), from *cōsummare* complete; for suffix see -TION.

consumption *n.* Before 1398, a wasting of the body by disease, specifically after the 1650's, tuberculosis; borrowed probably through Old French *consumption*, *consumption*, from Latin *cōsumptiōnem* (nominative *cōsumptiō*) a using up, wasting, from the stem of *cōsumere* use up; for suffix see -TION. The literal sense of the use of material appeared before 1535, and the sense in economics (opposite of *production*), in 1662. — **consumptive** *adj.* Probably before 1425. — **n.** Before 1398; both functions of the word ultimately probably formed in English as if from Latin *cōsumpt-*, participial stem of *cōsumere* + English *-ive*.

contact *n.* 1626, action of touching; borrowed perhaps through French *contact*, and directly from Latin *contāctus* (genitive *contāctūs*) a touching, from past participle of *contingere* touch closely (*con-* intensive + *tangere* to touch). The figurative sense of connection, communication (as in *come in contact with*), appeared in 1818. — **v.** 1834, put in contact. The sense of get in touch with (someone) is first recorded in 1927 in American English.

contagion *n.* About 1380, corrupting influence, contamination; later, a communicable disease (before 1398); borrowed from Old French *contagion*, from Latin *contāgiōnem* (nominative *contāgiō*) contact, contagion, related to *contingere* touch closely, *CONTACT*; for suffix see -ION. — **contagious** *adj.* About

1380, borrowed from Old French *contagieux*, from Late Latin *contāgiōsus*, from *contāgiō* a touching; for suffix see -OUS.

contain *v.* Probably before 1300 *contenir* behave in a certain way, restrain (oneself); borrowed from Old French *contenir*, from Latin *continēre* hold together, restrain, contain (*con-* together + *tenēre* to hold). — **container** *n.* About 1443 *container*, formed from Middle English *contenir* contain + *-er*¹. — **containment** *n.* 1655, formed from English *contain* + *-ment*.

contaminate *v.* Probably before 1425, borrowed by influence of Old French *contaminer*, from Latin *contāminātus*, past participle of *contāmināre* bring into contact, contaminate, from a lost noun **con-tāmen*, from earlier **com-tag-smen*, related to *tangere* touch; for suffix see -ATE¹. — **contaminant** *n.* 1934, formed from English *contaminate* + *-ant*. — **contamination** *n.* Probably before 1425, borrowed possibly through Middle French *contamination*, or directly from Latin *contāminātiōnem* (nominative *contāminātiō*), from *contāmināre*; for suffix see -TION.

contemplate *v.* 1592, probably in part a back formation in English from the earlier *contemplation*, and a borrowing from Latin *contemplātus*, past participle of *contemplārī* survey, observe (originally, an augury), consider (*con-* intensive + *templum* area for the taking of auguries, consecrated place, temple); for suffix see -ATE¹. — **contemplation** *n.* Probably before 1200 *contemplaciun* devout meditation; borrowed through Old French *contemplacion*, *contemplation*, and directly from Latin *contemplātiōnem* (nominative *contemplātiō*) the act or fact of looking at or considering, from *contemplārī*; for suffix see -TION. — **contemplative** *adj.* 1340, borrowed from Old French *contemplatif*, *contemplative*, from Latin *contemplātivus*, from *contemplātus*.

contemporaneous *adj.* 1656, borrowed from Late Latin *contemporāneus* (from Latin *con-* together + *tempor-*, stem of *tempus* time + *-āneus*, from *-ānus* -an); for suffix see -OUS.

contemporary *adj.* 1631, originally borrowed on the model of Medieval Latin *contemporarius*, from Latin *con-* together + *temporārius* of time (*tempor-*, stem of *tempus* time + *-ārius* -ary). — **n.** Before 1635, *cotemporary*; later *contemporary* (1646); from the adjective.

contempt *n.* Before 1393, borrowed from Latin *contemptus* (genitive *contemptūs*), from past participle of *contemnere* to scorn, despise (*con-* intensive + pre-Latin **temnere* to slight, scorn, of uncertain origin; the later Classical Latin *temnere* is an artificial form abstracted from *contemnere* by Roman poets). — **contemptible** *adj.* About 1384, worthy of contempt, despicable; borrowed from Latin *contemptibilis*, from *contemptus* (genitive *contemptūs*) contempt; for suffix see -IBLE. — **contemptibly** *adv.* About 1575, formed from English *contemptible* + *-ly*¹. — **contemptuous** *adj.* 1595, formed in English from Latin *contemptus* (genitive *contemptūs*) contempt + English *-ous*.

contend *v.* Probably 1440 *contenden*, borrowed through Middle French *contendre*, or directly from Latin *contendere* exert

oneself, strain, strive (*con-* intensive + *tendere* to stretch). —**contender** *n.* 1547, formed from English *contend*, *v.* + *-er*¹.

content¹ *n.* what is contained. Probably before 1425 *contents*; borrowed through Middle French, and directly from Latin *contentum*, neuter past participle of *continēre* CONTAIN. The singular *content* is recorded earlier (before 1420).

content² *v.* satisfy, please. 1418 *contenten*, borrowed from Middle French *contenter*, from *content*, *adj.*, satisfied, from Latin *contentus* contained, satisfied, from past participle of *continēre* CONTAIN. —**adj.** Probably before 1400, borrowed from Old French *content*, from Latin *contentus* contained, satisfied, past participle of *continēre*. —**contented** *adj.* About 1445, from the verb. —**contentment** *n.* 1437, satisfaction of a claim; borrowed from Old French *contentement*, from *contenter*; for suffix see *-MENT*.

contention *n.* About 1384 *contencioun* strife, borrowed from Old French *contention*, learned borrowing from Latin *contentiōnem* (nominative *contentiō*), from the stem of *contendere* CONTEND; for suffix see *-TION*. —**contentious** *adj.* Before 1500, borrowed through Middle French *contentieux*, and directly from Latin *contentiōsus*, from *contentiōnem*; for suffix see *-OUS*.

contest *v.* 1603, borrowed from French *contester* dispute; oppose, also Middle French, from Latin *contestārī* (*litem*) introduce (a lawsuit) by calling witnesses, bring an action (*con-* intensive + *testārī* be a witness, testify, from *testis* witness). —**n.** 1643, from the verb, but perhaps influenced by French *conteste*, from *contester* to contest. —**contestant** *n.* 1665, borrowed from French *contestant*, present participle of *contester* to contest.

context *n.* Probably before 1425, literary composition; borrowed from Latin *contextus* (genitive *contextūs*), from past participle of *contexere* weave together (*con-* together + *texere* to weave). The sense of surrounding parts of a text, is first recorded about 1568.

contiguous *adj.* 1611, borrowed, perhaps by influence of French *contigu*, from Latin *contiguus* near, touching from *contingere* to touch (*con-* together + *tig-* in compounds the form of *tag-*, root of *tangere* to touch); for suffix see *-OUS*. —**contiguity**, *n.* 1641, borrowed, probably through French *contiguité*, from Latin *contiguitās*, from *contiguus*.

continent¹ *n.* land mass. Probably about 1425, *content*; borrowed from Latin *continentem* component part, noun use of *continentem* (nominative *continēns*) holding together, continuous, the present participle of *continēre* hold together, CONTAIN; for suffix see *-ENT*. The sense of a continuous tract of land, is first recorded in English in 1559. —**continental** *adj.* 1760, formed from English *continent* + *al*¹. The form *Continental*, as of the American Colonies is first recorded in 1774. —**Continental Divide** (1868)

continent² *adj.* showing restraint. Before 1382, borrowed from Old French *continent* and from Latin *continentem* (nominative *continēns*), present participle of *continēre* hold together, restrain, CONTAIN; for suffix see *-ENT*. —**continence** *n.* Before 1387; borrowed through Old French *continence* and

directly from Latin *continentia*, from *continentem*, present participle of *continēre* contain; for suffix see *-ENCE*.

contingent *adj.* About 1385, borrowed through Old French *contingent* or directly from Latin *contingentem* (nominative *contingēns*) happening, touching, present participle of *contingere* happen, touch; see CONTACT; for suffix see *-ENT*. —**n.** 1548, thing happening by chance; from the adjective. The sense of an additional part, group, etc., sent out to augment another, is first recorded in 1727 and the meaning of an unexpected event, in 1623. —**contingency** *n.* 1561, formed from English *contingent* + *-cy* in *-ency*, or possibly on a model of Late Latin *contingentia*, from Latin *contingentem*; for suffix see *-ENCY*.

continue *v.* About 1340 *contynuen*, borrowed from Old French *continuer*, learned borrowing from Latin *continuāre* join together, connect, from *continuus* joining, connecting, from *continēre* hold together, CONTAIN. —**continual** *adj.* Before 1325 *continuel*, borrowed from Old French *continuel*, from Latin *continuus*; for suffix see *-AL*¹. —**continuance** *n.* Before 1349, a keeping up, a going on; borrowed from Old French *continuance*, from *continuant* continuing, from Latin *continuantem* (nominative *continuantis*), present participle of *continuāre*. —**continuation** *n.* About 1380, borrowed through Old French *continuation*, *continuation*, or directly from Latin *continuātiōnem* (nominative *continuātiō*), from *continuāre*; for suffix see *-TION*. —**continuity** *n.* Probably before 1425 *continuite*, borrowed from Middle French *continuité*, from Latin *continuitatem* (nominative *continuitās*), from *continuus* continuous; for suffix see *-ITY*. —**continuous** *adj.* 1642, borrowed, through French *continues*, or directly from Latin *continuus* hanging together, uninterrupted from *continēre*; for suffix see *-OUS*. —**continuum** *n.* 1650, a borrowing of Latin *continuum* a continuous thing, neuter of *continuus* continuous.

contort *v.* Probably before 1425, borrowed from Latin *contortus*, past participle of *contorquere* to twist, twirl (*con-* intensive + *torquere* to twist). —**contortion** *n.* Probably before 1425 *contorsion*, borrowed from Middle French *contorsion*, from Latin *contortio* (nominative *contortio*), from the stem of *contorquere* contort; for suffix see *-TION*. —**contortionist** *n.* 1859, formed from English *contortion* + *-ist*.

contour *n.* 1662, borrowing of French *contour* circumference, outline, from *contourner* go around, perhaps through Italian *contorno*, from Italian and Medieval Latin *contornare* go round, turn around (Latin *con-* with + *turnare* to turn, round off, turn on a lathe, from *turnus* lathe). The word was known earlier meaning bedspread or quilt, in reference to its falling over the sides of the mattress (1423).

contra- a prefix meaning in opposition, counter, against, as in *contradistinction*, *contraindication*. Borrowed from Latin *contrā*, from *contrā*, preposition and adverb, originally meaning in comparison with, from an old ablative singular feminine form of a pre-Latin adjective **com-teros* (**com-terā*, **com-terom*). As a prefix *contra-* existed alongside *countre-* (about 1303).

contraband *n.* Before 1529 *counterbande* smuggling; borrowed from Middle French *contrebande*, from early Italian *contrabando* (now *contrabbando*) unlawful dealing against law or proclama-

tion (*contra-* against, + *bando* proclamation). The meaning of smuggled goods appeared in English in 1599.

contraception *n.* 1886, formed from English *contra-* against + (*con*)ception. —**contraceptive** *n.* 1891, formed from English *contra-* against + (*con*)ceptive. —*adj.* 1918, from the noun.

contract *v.* Probably before 1425 *contracten* make an agreement or contract; occurring in English in part as: 1) a development from verb use of earlier participle and adjective *contract* incurred, contracted (1390), borrowed from Latin *contractus*; and 2) a borrowing from Middle French *contracter*, from Latin *contractus*, past participle of *contrahere* draw together, combine, make an agreement (*con-* together + *trahere* to pull). The sense of make narrow, draw together, is first recorded before 1398, usually with reference to the drawn-up or shrunken appearance of paralyzed limbs. —**n.** Before 1333, borrowed from Old French *contract*, learned borrowing from Latin *contractus* (genitive *contractūs*) agreement, from past participle of *contrahere*. —**contraction** *n.* Before 1398 *contraccioun*; borrowed through Old French *contraction*, or directly from Latin *contractionem* (nominative *contractiō*), from the past participle stem of *contrahere*; for suffix see -TION. —**contractor** *n.* 1548, borrowed from Late Latin *contractor* one who makes a contract, from Latin *contrahere*; for suffix see -OR².

contradict *v.* 1570–76, speak against; borrowed from Latin *contradictus*, past participle of *contradicere* speak against, from *contrā dicere* say in opposition (*contrā* against + *dicere* say). The sense of assert the contrary, deny, is first recorded in 1582. Also *contradict* may be a back formation from earlier *contradiction*. —**contradiction** *n.* Before 1382, borrowed through Old French *contradiction*, or directly from Latin *contradictionem* (nominative *contradictiō*), from *contradicere* speak against; for suffix see -TION. —**contradictory** *adj.* 1534, from earlier noun use (about 1385); borrowed from Late Latin *contradictorius*, from *contradictor* one who opposes, from *contradicere*; for suffix see -ORY.

contrail *n.* vapor trail left by an airplane. 1945, formed from English *con*(densation) + *trail*.

contraption *n.* 1825, dialect use (western England), a formation of unknown origin, possibly suggested by sense of contempt in figurative meaning of *trap* pitfall, snare.

contrapuntal *adj.* 1845, formed in English probably from early Italian *contrapunto* counterpoint + English -al¹.

contrary *adj.* 1340 *contrarie*, borrowed through Anglo-French *contrarie*, also in early Old French, from Latin *contrarius* opposite, hostile, from *contrā* against; for suffix see -ARY. Another spelling, *contraire*, from Old French, is found after 1370 but the spelling disappeared by 1500. —**n.** About 1275 *contrarie*, borrowed through Anglo-French *contrarie*, also in early Old French, from the adjective in Old French.

contrast *v.* 1695, borrowed from French *contraster*, from Italian *contrastare* strive, contend, stand out against, from Vulgar Latin **contrāstare* (Latin *contrā* against + *stare* to STAND). —**n.** 1711, borrowed from French *contraste*, from Italian *contrasto*, from

contrastare to contrast. —**contrastive** *adj.* 1816, formed from English *contrast*, *v.* + -ive.

The verb *contrast* was reintroduced in English as a term of art after having become obsolete. The earlier term spelled *contrast*, from Middle French *contrestre*, was recorded in the late 1400's.

contravene *v.* 1567, borrowed from Middle French *contravenir* to transgress, decline, depart, learned borrowing from Late Latin *contrāvenire* oppose, also in Medieval Latin, transgress (Latin *contrā* against + *venire* to COME). —**contravention** *n.* 1579, borrowed from Middle French *contravention*, from Late Latin **contrāventiōnem* (nominative **contrāventiō*), from *contrāvenire* contravene; for suffix see -TION.

contribute *v.* 1530, give jointly with others; probably a back formation in English from the earlier *contribution*, and in part a borrowing from Latin *contribūtus*, past participle of *contribuere* bring together, add, collect (*con-* together + *tribuere* bestow, assign, allot). —**contribution** *n.* Before 1387, tax; borrowed through Old French *contribution*, and directly from Latin *contributiōnem* (nominative *contributiō*), from *contribuere*; for suffix see -TION. —**contributor** *n.* 1433, borrowed through Anglo-French *contributour*, formed as if from Latin **contributor*, from *contribuere* + -tor; for suffix see -OR². —**contributory** *adj.* 1410, formed as if from Latin **contributōrius*, from *contribūtus*, past participle of *contribuere*; for suffix see -ORY.

contrite *adj.* Probably before 1300 *contrit*, borrowed through Old French *contrit*, and directly from Latin *contritus* (thoroughly) crushed, past participle of *conterere* to wear down, crush (*con-* thoroughly + *terere* rub, grind, wear). —**contrition** *n.* penitence. About 1303 *contricyn*, borrowed through Old French *contricion*, and directly from Latin *contritiōnem* (nominative *contritiō*), from the stem *contrī-* of *conterere* to crush; for suffix see -TION.

contrive *v.* Before 1338 *contreven*, *controven*; borrowed from Old French *contreuer*, *controver*, from Late Latin *contropāre* compare, search out (Latin *con-* together, with + Vulgar Latin **tropāre* to compose, from Latin *tropus* song, musical mode, from Greek *trōpos* mode, style). In the 1400's the prevailing form *contreve* changed to *contrive*, representing a phonetic change that is unexplained; compare *brier*¹, *friar*, and *choir* for a similar change. —**contrivance** *n.* 1627–28, artifice, trick, formed from English *contrive* + -ance. The sense of a mechanical device or arrangement appeared in 1667.

control *v.* 1422 *countrollen* check or verify (accounts); borrowed from Anglo-French and Old French *contreroller*, from *contrerolle* copy of a register, for checking, verification (*contre* against + *rolle* ROLL). The sense of to direct, dominate, is first recorded in 1451. —**n.** 1590, probably in part developed from the verb, and in part borrowed from Middle French *contrôle*, from Old French *contrerolle*. —**controller** *n.* Probably before 1387 *contreroller*; borrowed from Anglo-French *countrerollour*, Old French *contrerolleur*, from *contrerolle*. See COMPTROLLER.

controversy *n.* About 1384, borrowed through Old French *controverisie*, or directly from Latin *contrōversia*, from *contrōversus* turned against, disputed (*contrō-* against, from a lost adverb

contrō*, + Latin *versus*, past participle of *vertere* to turn). —controversial** adj. 1583, borrowed from Latin *contrōversialis*, from *contrōversia*.

contusion *n.* Before 1400, borrowed from Middle French *contusion*, learned borrowing from Latin *contūsionem* (nominative *contūsio*) crushing, bruising, from the participle stem *contūs-* of *contundere* to crush, bruise (*con-* intensive + *tundere* to beat).

conundrum *n.* 1605, a whim; earlier *Cunundrum*, a name for a pedant (1596); of unknown origin. In 1645, in the sense of a pun or word play, it was referred to as an Oxford term, hence possibly it originated as a parody of some Latin term.

convalesce *v.* 1483, borrowed from Latin *convalescere* thrive, convalesce (*con-* intensive + *valēscere* grow strong, from *valēre* be strong, be worth). —**convalescence** *n.* About 1489, borrowed from Middle French, from Late Latin *convalescentia* regaining of health, from Latin *convalescentem* (nominative *convalescēns*), present participle of *convalescere* convalesce; for suffix see *-ENCE*. —**convalescent** adj. 1656, borrowed from French *convalescent*, from Latin *convalescentem* (nominative *convalescēns*), present participle of *convalescere*; for suffix see *-ENT*. —**n.** 1758, from the adjective.

convection *n.* 1623, borrowed from Latin *convectiōem* (nominative *convectiō*), from *convect-*, past participle stem of *convahere* to carry together (*con-* together + *vehere* to carry); for suffix see *-ION*.

convene *v.* About 1425 (Scottish), borrowed from Middle French *convenir*, from Latin *convenire* come together, unite, agree, suit (*con-* together + *venire* COME).

convenient adj. About 1380, borrowed from Latin *convenientem* (nominative *conveniēns*), present participle of *convenire* come together, agree, suit, see *CONVENE*; for suffix see *-ENT*. —**convenience** *n.* Before 1398, conformity, suitability, borrowed through Old French *convenience*, and directly from Latin *convenientia* agreement, meeting, from *convenientem* (nominative *conveniēns*), present participle of *convenire*; for suffix see *-ENCE*.

convent *n.* Probably before 1425, assemblage, alteration (influenced by Latin *conventus*) of earlier *cuvent* (probably before 1200); borrowed through Anglo-French *covent*, from Old French *convent*, from Latin *conventus* (genitive *conventūs*) assembly, from past participle of *convenire* come together, *CONVENE*. The sense of a group of nuns living together, is first recorded before 1450, but that of a group of men or women living as a religious order, is first recorded about 1230 as *cuvent*, which became obsolete by the late 1600's.

convention *n.* Before 1420 *convencioun* agreement; borrowed through Middle French *convention*, or directly from Latin *conventiōem* (nominative *conventiō*) meeting, assembly, covenant, from *convenire* *CONVENE*; for suffix see *-TION*. —**conventional** adj. Before 1475, borrowed from Late Latin *conventionālis*, from Latin *conventiōem* convention; for suffix see *-AL*¹.

converge *v.* 1691, borrowed from Late Latin *convergere* to incline together (Latin *con-* together + *vergere* to incline).

—**convergence** *n.* 1713, formed from English *converge* + *-ence*. —**convergent** adj. 1727–51, borrowed from Medieval Latin *convergentem* (nominative *convergens*), present participle of *convergere*.

conversant adj. About 1390 *conversaunt*, borrowed from Old French *conversant*, from Latin *conversantem* (nominative *conversans*), present participle of *conversari* associate with; see *CONVERSE*¹.

converse¹ *v.* talk. About 1380 *conversen* live, dwell; borrowed from Old French *converser* to live with, learned borrowing from Latin *conversari* associate with, frequentative form of *convertere* to turn about, change, *CONVERT*. The sense of talk informally is first recorded in English in 1615. —**conversation** *n.* 1340, a living together, manner of behaving; borrowed from Old French *conversation*, from Latin *conversatiōem* (nominative *conversatiō*) act of living with, from *conversari* associate with; for suffix see *-TION*. The sense of informal talk, is first recorded in 1580. —**conversational** adj. 1779, formed from English *conversation* + *-al*¹. —**conversationalist** *n.* 1836, formed from English *conversational* + *-ist*.

converse² adj. reversed. 1570, in mathematics; borrowed from Latin *conversus* turned around, past participle of *convertere* *CONVERT*. —**n.** 1570, in mathematics, borrowed from Latin *conversus* turned around; earlier *convers* a convert to a religious faith (before 1325).

conversion *n.* About 1340, turning of a sinner to righteousness; later, transformation (probably before 1425); borrowed from Old French *conversion*, from Latin *conversionem* (nominative *conversio*), from past participle stem *convers-* of *convertere* *CONVERT*; for suffix see *-ION*.

convert *v.* About 1300 *converten*, borrowed from Old French *convertir*, learned borrowing from Latin *convertere* turn about, transform, translate (*con-* intensive + *vertere* to turn). —**n.** 1561, from the verb; replacing earlier *convers* a convert (before 1325); borrowed through Old French *converters*, from Latin *conversus*, past participle of *convertere*. —**convertible** adj. About 1385, borrowed from Old French *convertible*, from Late Latin *convertibilis*, from Latin *convertere*; for suffix see *-IBLE*. —**n.** automobile with a folding top. 1916, American English, from the adjective.

convex adj. 1571, borrowed from Middle French *convexe*, from Latin *convexus* vaulted, arched (probably from *con-* intensive + *-vexus*, found also in *subvexus* sloping upwards from below).

convey *v.* Before 1393 *conveien* carry, transport; earlier, go along with, accompany (before 1325); borrowed through Anglo-French *conveier*, Old French *convoier*, from Vulgar Latin **conviare*, literally, go together on the road (Latin *con-* with + *via* road). —**conveyance** *n.* About 1437, formed from English *convey* + *-ance*. —**conveyer** *n.* 1513–14, **conveyor** *n.* 1647, formed from English *convey* + *-er*¹, *-or*².

convict *v.* About 1340 *convicten*, borrowed from Latin *convictus*, past participle of *convincere* overcome (in argument), convict, *CONVINCE*. —**n.** About 1475, from the verb.

—**conviction** *n.* 1437, borrowed from Late Latin *convictionem* (nominative *convictio*) proof, refutation, from *convict-*, participle stem of Latin *vincere* convince; for suffix see -ION. The sense of a firm belief, is first recorded in 1699.

convince *v.* 1530, overcome in argument; borrowed from Latin *vincere* overcome, convict, convince (*con-* intensive + *vincere* conquer). The sense of persuade is first recorded in 1606. —**convincing** *adj.* (1624)

convivial *adj.* Before 1668, belonging to a feast, festive, borrowed through French *convivial*, or directly from Late Latin *convivialis*, from Latin *convivium* social feast, entertainment (*con-* with + *vivere* to live); for suffix see -AL¹. The sense of sociable is first recorded in the 1700's.

convoke *v.* 1598, borrowed from Middle French *convoyer*, learned borrowing from Latin *convocare* call together (*con-* together + *vocare* to call). —**convocation** *n.* Before 1387, assembly of persons; borrowed from Old French *convocation* and from Latin *convocatio* (nominative *convocatio*), from *convocare* call together; for suffix see -TION.

convolute *v.* 1698, probably a back formation from *convolution*, and possibly also formed as if borrowed from Latin *convolutus*, past participle of *convolvere* roll together (*con-* together + *volvere* to roll). —**adj.** 1794, possibly from the verb, especially in botany. —**convolution** *n.* 1545, a fold, twist, coiled form, formed as if from Latin *convolut-*, past participle stem of *convolvere* to roll up, roll together + -ion.

convoy *v.* 1375 *convoyen* accompany, escort; borrowed from Old French *convoyer*, from Vulgar Latin **conviare*, literally, go together on the road. —**n.** 1500–20, conduct, borrowed from Middle French *convoy*, from *convoyer* to convoy, from Old French.

convulse *v.* 1643, borrowed, perhaps by influence of Middle French *convulsé*, past participle of *convulser*, from Latin *convulsus*, past participle of *convellere* tear violently (*con-* intensive + *vellere* tear away, pull, pluck). Also *convulse* may be a back formation in English from *convulsion*. —**convulsion** *n.* 1585, borrowed from Middle French *convulsion*, and directly from Latin *convulsio* (nominative *convulsio*), from *convuls-*, past participle stem of *convellere*; for suffix see -ION. —**convulsive** *adj.* 1615, formed from English *convulse* + -ive, modeled on New Latin **convulsivus*, from Latin *convulsus*.

coo *v.* 1670, in imitation of the sound. The sense of to murmur softly, is first recorded in English in 1736. —**n.** 1729, from the verb.

cook *n.* Probably before 1200 *coke* man charged with the preparation of food; developed from Old English (about 700) *cōc*, borrowing from Latin *cocus* a cook. The Latin form *cocus* is a variant of *coquus*, related to *coquere* to cook, from pre-Latin **pequ-*, from the original **pequ-*.

For English, cognates exist in Old Saxon *kok* cook, Middle Dutch *coc* (plural *cōke*) and modern Dutch *kok*, Old High German *choh*, *koch* (modern German *Koch*), Swedish *kock*. —**v.** Before 1387 *coke* act as a cook, from the noun. —**cookbook** *n.* 1809, probably American English, but earlier

cookery book (1639). —**cookery** *n.* Before 1393, formed from English *cook*, *v.* or *n.* + -ery. —**cookhouse** *n.* 1296, in surname *Cokehuse*, Middle English *coke* + *huse*. —**cookout** *n.* (1947, American English).

cookie or **cooky** *n.* 1703, American English, probably borrowed from Dutch *koekje* little cake, diminutive of *koek* cake, from Middle Dutch *kōke*; see *CAKE*.

cool *adj.* About 1150 *cole*, developed from Old English *cōl* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Middle Dutch *coel* (modern Dutch *koel*), from Proto-Germanic **kōluz*, related to Old High German *kuoli* cool (modern German *kühl*), and Old Icelandic *kala* be cold. —**v.** Probably about 1200 *colen*, developed from Old English *cōlian* become cool (about 750), from Old English adjective *cōl* cool, replacing earlier *kele* to make cool. —**n.** Probably before 1400, from the adjective. —**coolant** *n.* 1930, formed from English *cool*, *v.* + -ant. —**cooler** *n.* 1575, formed from English *cool*, *v.* + -er¹.

coon *n.* 1742, American English, shortened form of *RAC-COON*.

coop *n.* 1342 *coupe* coop for chickens; earlier, *cupe* a wicker basket (about 1250); developed apparently through Old English **cupe*, a variant of Old English *cype*, *cypa* basket, cask; probably ultimately a borrowing (like Middle Low German *kupe* large pot, Middle Dutch *cupe* cask, and Norwegian *kupe*, Swedish *kupa*, Icelandic *kúpa* bowl, hive, vessel) from Latin *cūpa* tub, cask; see *CUP*. —**v.** 1563–87, from the noun.

cooper *n.* 1176 *Cupere*, as surname; later *coupere* (before 1376), and *cooper* (1589); an early borrowing (like Middle Dutch *cupe* and Middle Low German *kupe*) from Latin *cūpārius*, from *cūpa* cask; see *CUP*.

cooperate *v.* 1604, possibly implied in earlier *cooperante*, present participle (apparently before 1425), borrowed from Latin *cooperantem*, present participle of *cooperari*; but probably borrowed through influence of French *coopérer* from Late Latin *cooperatus*, past participle of *cooperari* to work together (Latin *co-* together + *operari* to work, OPERATE); for suffix see -ATE¹. Also *cooperate* may be a back formation from earlier *cooperation*.

—**cooperation** *n.* 1495, borrowed possibly through Middle French *coopération*, and directly from Late Latin *cooperatio* (nominative *cooperatio*) a working together (Latin *co-* together + *operatio* OPERATION); for suffix see -TION.

—**cooperative** *adj.* 1603, borrowed possibly through French *coopératif*, *coopérative*, and directly from Late Latin *cooperativus* collaborating, from *cooperatus*, past participle of *cooperari*; for suffix see -IVE. —**n.** 1829, from the adjective. —**co-op** *n.* 1872, clipped form of *cooperative* (store); earlier, a clipped form of *cooperator* (1861).

co-opt *v.* 1651, borrowed as a shortened form of Latin *cooptare* (*co-* together + *optare* choose). The usually expected English form borrowed from a Latin verb ending in -are would be *cooptate*, but this form that appeared in English in 1623 is archaic or obsolete today. The extended sense of take over, adopt, commandeer, is first recorded about 1953.

coordinate *adj.* 1641, formed from English *co-* together, equal

+ *-ordinate*, as a parallel to *subordinate*, adj. —**n.** 1823, from the adjective. —**v.** 1665, either from the adjective, or formed from English *co-* together, equal + *-ordinate*, as a parallel to *subordinate*, v.; a back formation from earlier *coordination*. —**coordination** **n.** 1605, orderly combination; borrowed probably through French *coordination*, and directly from Late Latin *coördinātiōnem* (nominative *coördinātiō*), from Latin *co-* together + *ordinātiōnem* (nominative *ordinātiō*) arrangement, ORDINATION; for suffix see *-ATION*. —**coordinator** **n.** 1864, formed from English *coordinate*, v. + *-or*².

coot **n.** About 1300 *cote*, corresponding to Dutch *koet*, earlier Dutch *meercoet* lake coot; of unknown origin.

cop **v.** 1704, capture, catch, perhaps a variant of obsolete *cap* to arrest (1589); borrowed from Middle French *caper* seize, perhaps from Sicilian *capere*, from Latin *capere*; see CAPTIVE. The phrase *cop out* withdraw, drop out, appeared in American English about 1967, probably from the meaning of plead guilty, to a lesser charge as in *cop a plea* (about 1925). The noun *cop-out* has been recorded since 1942. —**n.** 1859, a shortening of *copper policeman* (1846), from *cop*, v. + *-er*¹.

copacetic **adj.** 1919 *copasetic* very good, all right, American English, said to have originated among southern blacks in the 1800's, of uncertain origin.

The suggestion that *copacetic* came from a Hebrew phrase such as (*hā*)*kōl b'seder* all in order, or (unrecorded) *kōl b'sedek* all with justice, is not accepted among scholars of American English.

cope¹ **v.** deal with. Before 1375 implied in *coupyng*, *coupen* come to blows, strike; borrowed from Old French *couper*, *coper* (earlier *colper*) to strike, cut, from *coup*, *colp* a blow; see COUP. The sense of contend or deal with successfully, is first recorded in 1641.

cope² **n.** cape. Probably before 1200 *cope*, developed from earlier *cape* as in compound *cantelcape* (before 1121); borrowed from Medieval Latin *capa* cloak, from Late Latin *cappa* hood, mantle; see CAP. —**v.** Before 1376, cover with or as with a cape, from the noun.

coping **n.** 1601, formed from *cope*², v. provide with a cope + *-ing*. —**coping saw** 1931, from *coping* arching, of an arched or vaulted form.

copious **adj.** Probably about 1350, borrowed from Latin *cōpiōsus* plentiful, from *cōpia* plenty, from *cōpis* well supplied (*co-* with + *ops*, genitive *opis* power, wealth, resources; see OPULENT); for suffix see *-OUS*. It is possible that *copious* was reinforced in English by Old French *copieux*.

copper¹ **n.** metallic element. Probably about 1225, developed from Old English (about 1000) *coper*, an early borrowing (like Middle Dutch *koper* copper, Old Icelandic *koparr*, and Old High German *kupfar*) from Late Latin *cuprum* copper, for Latin *cyprum* from *aes Cyprium* metal of Cyprus, island in the eastern Mediterranean where copper was found in ancient times. —**copperhead** **n.** (1775, American English)

copper² **n.** policeman. 1846, formed from English *cop*, v., to capture, nab + *-er*¹.

copse **n.** 1578, contraction of earlier *koppis* (before 1398), borrowed from Old French *coupeiz*, *copeiz* a cut-over forest, from Gallo-Romance **colpāticium*, from Vulgar Latin **colpāre* to cut, strike, from Late Latin *colpus* a blow; see COUP.

copulate **v.** 1425, to join; later, join sexually (1632); borrowed, possibly by influence of Middle French *copuler*, from Latin *cōpulātus*, past participle of *cōpulāre* join together, link, couple, from *cōpula* bond; for suffix see *-ATE*¹. —**copulation** **n.** About 1385, act of coupling; later, coupling sexually (1483); borrowed from Old French *copulation*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *cōpulātiōnem* (nominative *cōpulātiō*), from *cōpulāre*; for suffix see *-TION*.

English use of Latin *cōpula* as a grammatical term for "linking verb" is first recorded in 1619.

copy **n.** Before 1338 *copie* a written account or record; later *kopy* (about 1385); borrowed from Old French *copie*, from Medieval Latin *copia* reproduction, transcript, from Latin *cōpia* plenty, means; see COPIOUS.

In English, the sense of a written transcript was extended by the 1500's to any specimen of writing ("clean copy") and to any reproduction or imitation. —**v.** Before 1376 *copien* make a copy of, transcribe; borrowed from Old French *copier*, from Medieval Latin *copiare* transcribe, from *copia* transcript. —**copier** **n.** (1597) —**copyright** **n.** (1735); v. (1806, implied in *copyrighted*)

coquette **n.** 1669, borrowing of French feminine of *coquet* male flirt, from Old French *coq* COCK¹ + *-et*-*et*; so called from the similarity to the cock's strutting gait. —**coquetry** **n.** 1656 *coquetterie* pertness; borrowed from French *coquetterie*, from *coquette*; for suffix see *-ERY*.

cor- a prefix, meaning with, together, altogether. It is the form of *com-* before *r*, as in *correlation*. In words from Latin the form *cor-* resulted from assimilation of *com-*, *con-* to the following consonant (*r*).

coracle **n.** 1547, borrowed from Welsh *conwgl*, *cunwgl*, alteration of *conwg*, *cunwg* coracle, skiff, cognate with Middle Irish *curach* coracle, which was the source of earlier Middle English *currok* coracle (probably about 1450).

coral **n.** Before 1300, borrowed from Old French *coral*, from Latin *corallium*, from Greek *korállion*.

corbel **n.** 1360, in the compound *corbeiltable* stone used as a corbel; borrowed from Old French *corbel*, diminutive of *corp* raven, from Latin *corvus* RAVEN; possibly so called because originally the corbel was cut at a slant, so that its profile resembled a raven's beak.

cord **n.** 1199, Probably before 1300, in the compound surname *Cordemaker*, borrowed from Old French *corde*, from Latin *chorda* string, gut, from Greek *chordē*, altered (perhaps by influence of *kardīa* heart) from **chorḗ*. Compare CHORD². —**v.** 1610, tie with a cord; earlier, to string, as a bow (about 1450); from the noun.

cordial **adj.** Before 1400, of the heart; later, hearty (1458); borrowed from Middle French *cordial*, learned borrowing from

Medieval Latin *cordialis* of or for the heart, from Latin *cor* (genitive *cordis*) HEART; for suffix see -AL¹. —**n.** About 1386, medicine, food, or drink that stimulates the heart; borrowed from Medieval Latin *cordialis* of or for the heart. —**cordiality** **n.** 1611, borrowed from French *cordialité*, from *cordial* hearty; for suffix see -ITY.

cordón **n.** 1440, cord or ribbon worn as an ornament or badge, borrowed from Middle French *cordón* ribbon, diminutive of Old French *corde* CORD. The sense of a line of people or things guarding a place, appeared in 1758. —**v.** 1561, to ornament with a cord or ribbon, borrowed from French *cordonner* decorate with a cord or ribbon, from French *cordón*, **n.** The sense of guard with a cordón (1891) is from English *cordón*, **n.**

cordovan **adj.** 1591, of Cordova, Spain, or a kind of leather manufactured there; borrowed from Spanish *cordován*, *cordobán*, from *Córdoba*, Spain. The form *cordewan* (1303) from Old French *cordewan*, *cordōan*, developed into English *cordwain* in the 1400's. —**n.** 1599, from the adjective.

corduroy **n.** 1780, American English, in compound *corduroy road*; later, *corduroys* corduroy trousers (1787–91); perhaps formed from English CORD + *duroy* obsolete name for a kind of coarse woolen cloth, of uncertain origin. The supposed connection with **corde du roi* does not appear in French, early reference being confined to *kings-cordes* (1807). —**adj.** 1789, from the noun.

core **n.** Probably before 1400; earlier *kore* central part of an apple, pear, etc. (probably before 1325); borrowed probably from Old French *cuor*, *coeur* core of fruit, heart of lettuce, but literally, heart, from Latin *cor* HEART. The form *core* is traditionally thought to have replaced *colk* but *colk* is not recorded in Middle English until about 1400. The form *cork* also meaning core of an apple found probably about 1300. The sense of part of a nuclear reactor containing fissionable material is first recorded in 1949. —**v.** Before 1450, from the noun.

corgi **n.** 1926, borrowed from Welsh *corgi*, (*cor* dwarf + *ci* dog; see HOUND).

coriander **n.** 1373, borrowed from Old French *coriandre*, learned borrowing from Latin *coriandrum*, from Greek *koríandron*, variant of *koríannon*.

cork **n.** 1303, borrowed probably in North Africa and Spain from Arabic *qurq*, from Latin *cortex* (genitive *corticis*) bark, CORTEX. The sense of cork sandal (1391) may have been influenced by Spanish *alcorque*, of the same meaning, which derived from Arabic *qurq*. —**v.** 1580, furnish (a shoe) with a cork sole or heel; from the noun. —**corkscrew** **n.** (1720)

corm **n.** 1838, borrowed from New Latin *cormus* (about 1800), from Greek *kormós* stripped tree trunk.

cormorant **n.** About 1330 *cormeraunt*, borrowed as an alteration of Old French *cormaran*, *cormoran*, (earlier) *cormareng*, literally, raven of the sea, from *corb*, *corp* raven + **marenc* of the sea in dialectal *pie mareng* sea magpie (Latin *mare* sea + a suffix -*enc*, -*enge* from Germanic -*ing*); compare Late Latin *corvus marinus* sea raven.

corn¹ **n.** Old English (probably about 750) *corn* seed, grain; earlier in compound *berecorn* barleycorn, grain of barley (about 700); cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *korn* grain, Middle Dutch *coren* (modern Dutch *koren* corn, grain), Middle High German *korn* (modern German *Korn*), Old Icelandic, Swedish, Norwegian, and Danish *korn*, Gothic *kaurn*, Crimean Gothic *korn*.

In the United States the word became restricted to Indian corn or maize, first attested in 1608. The restriction to a single type of grain also occurs in other countries: *corn* usually means wheat in England and oats in Scotland and Ireland, and in parts of Germany *Korn* refers to rye. —**v.** 1456, to provision with corn; later, to granulate (1560) and to salt (1565–73); from the noun. —**cornfield** **n.** (1297, as a surname) —**corny** **adj.** About 1390, tasting strongly of malt; later, of or producing corn (1580); formed from English *corn*¹ + -y¹. The sense of old-fashioned, trite, or sentimental appeared in the 1930's in American English, originally (about 1932) with the meaning "of a kind that appeals to country people; rustic, unsophisticated," perhaps with allusion to earlier *corn-fed*, of the same meaning (1929).

corn² **n.** hardening of skin. Probably before 1425 *corne*; borrowed from Old French *corn* horn, (later) corn on the foot, from Latin *cornū* (genitive *cornūs*) HORN.

cornea **n.** Before 1398, transparent part of the coating of the eyeball; borrowed as a shortening of Medieval Latin *cornea tela* or *tunica* horny web or sheath, from Latin *cornū* (genitive *cornūs*) HORN. Shortening of the Medieval Latin form was probably influenced by Old French *cornee* (1314). —**corneal** **adj.** 1808, formed from English *cornea* + -al¹.

corner **n.** About 1280, borrowed through Anglo-French *corner*, variant of Old French *cornere*, *corniere*, from *corne* horn, corner, from Vulgar Latin **cornea*, from Latin *cornua*, plural of *cornū* (genitive *cornūs*) point, end, HORN. The sense of a difficult position appeared in 1548. —**adj.** 1535, from the noun. —**v.** Before 1387, furnish with corners; from the noun. The sense of going around a corner, as in a race, appeared in 1864, and that of force into a difficult position in 1824 in American English. —**cornerstone** **n.** About 1280; the figurative sense of a foundation or basis, is first recorded before 1325.

cornice **n.** 1563 *cornishe*, borrowed from Middle French *corniche* ornamental molding along a wall, etc., from Italian *cornice*, originally a crow, then (from the bird's curved beak or feet) an ornamental molding, cornice, from Latin *cornicem*, accusative of *cornix* crow. For the sense development, compare CORBEL.

cornucopia **n.** 1508, borrowed from Late Latin *cornūcōpia*, from Latin *cornū cōpia* horn of plenty (*cornū* HORN + *cōpia*, genitive of *cōpia* plenty). The original cornucopia was fabled to be the horn of the goat Amalthea, who suckled the infant Zeus.

corolla **n.** 1671, crown, borrowed from Latin *corōlla* small garland, diminutive of *corōna* garland, wreath, CROWN. The botanical sense appeared in 1753.

corollary *n.* About 1380, borrowed through Old French *corollaire*, and directly from Late Latin *corollarium* corollary, consequence, in Latin *corollarium* money paid for a *corolla* or small garland, gratuity, gift, from *corolla* small garland; for suffix see -ARY.

corona *n.* 1658, borrowed from Latin *corōna* garland, wreath, CROWN.

coronary *adj.* 1610, of or suitable for garlands; borrowed possibly from Middle French *coronaire*, and directly from Latin *corōnarius* of a crown, from *corōna* CROWN; for suffix see -ARY. By 1679 the word was applied to blood vessels which encircle a part of the body, such as the heart, like a crown.

coronation *n.* About 1400 *coronacioun*, borrowed from Late Latin *corōnātiōnem* (nominative *corōnātiō*) a crowning, from Latin *corōnāre* to crown, from *corōna* CROWN; for suffix see -TION.

coroner *n.* Probably about 1350 *corowner* officer of the crown (originally charged with protecting property of the royal family); borrowed from Anglo-French *curuner*, from *coroune* CROWN + -er¹. Original duties were narrowed, until by the 1600's his chief function was to determine cause of death.

corporal¹ *adj.* of the body, bodily. About 1390 *corporel* secular, temporal (probably before 1400) of the body, physical; borrowed from Old French *corporal*, learned borrowing from Latin *corporālis* of the body, from *corpus* (genitive *corporis*) body; for suffix see -AL¹.

corporal² *n.* noncommissioned army officer. 1579, borrowed from Middle French *corporal*, variant (perhaps influenced by *corps* body) of *caporal* a corporal, from Italian *caporale* a corporal, from *capo* head, from Latin *caput* HEAD; for suffix see -AL¹.

corporate *adj.* 1425 *corporat*, borrowed from Latin *corporātus*, past participle of *corporāre* form into a body, from *corpus* (genitive *corporis*) body; for suffix see -ATE¹. — **corporation** *n.* 1439, a legal corporate body, the governing body of an incorporated town; borrowed from Late Latin *corporātiōnem* (nominative *corporātiō*), in Classical Latin, an embodying, physical makeup, from *corporāre* form into a body; for suffix see -TION.

corporeal *adj.* Probably before 1425; formed in English from Latin *corporeus* belonging to the body (from *corpus*, genitive *corporis* body) + English -al¹.

corps *n.* 1a) About 1275 *cors* dead body; later, *corps* (before 1333); and b) probably before 1300 *cors* a live body; later, *corps* (about 1378). 2) 1429 *corps* a body of citizens; later, a band of knights (1464). Borrowed from Old French *corps*, *cors* body, and directly from Latin *corpus* body.

corpse *n.* 1542, variant spelling of earlier Middle English *corps* (before 1333); borrowed from Old French *corps*, *cors*, from Latin *corpus* body.

corpulent *adj.* Before 1398, borrowed from Old French *corpulent* stout, fat, from Latin *corpulentus* fleshy, fat, large, from *corpus* body + -ulentus full of. — **corpulence** *n.* Before 1500 *corpulence* carnal nature; later *corpulence* stoutness; obesity

(1581); borrowed from Middle French *corpulence*, from Latin *corpulentia*, from *corpulentus* stout, fat; for suffix see -ENCE.

corpus *n.* About 1390, in oaths such as *goddes corpus* and by *corpus bones* with reference to the body of Christ; later, body of a person or animal (about 1450); borrowed from Latin *corpus* body. The sense of a body of writings and literature appeared in *Chambers Cyclopaedia*, in 1727.

corpuscle *n.* 1660, small particle or body of matter; borrowed from French *corpuscle*, and from Latin *corpusculum*, diminutive of *corpus* body. The word was not recorded in English with reference to blood cells until 1845–46. — **corpuscular** *adj.* 1667, formed in English, as if from Latin **corpuscularis*, from *corpusculum* + English -ar.

corral *n.* 1582, as a Spanish term for an enclosed yard or pen, used in an English translation; perhaps from Vulgar Latin **currāle*, from Latin *currus* (genitive *currūs*) chariot, cart, from *curre* to run. — **v.** 1847, from the noun. The meaning “capture, secure” appeared in 1860 in American English.

correct *v.* 1345–46, borrowed from Latin *corrēctus*, past participle of *corrīgere* make straight (*cor-* intensive + *-rīgere* combining form of *regere* to direct, lead straight). — **adj.** 1676, borrowed from French *correct* right, proper, from Latin *corrēctus*, past participle of *corrīgere*. — **correction** *n.* 1340, borrowed through Anglo-French *correccioun*, Old French *correction*, from Latin *corrēctiōnem*, from *corrīgere*; for suffix see -TION.

correlate *v.* Before 1742, back formation from *correlation*, or verb use of the earlier noun. — **correlation** *n.* 1561, mutual relation; borrowed from Middle French *corrélation*, formed from *cor-* together + *relation* relation. — **correlative** *adj.* 1530, borrowed from Middle French *correlatif*, *correlative*, formed from *cor-*, variant of *com-* before *r* + *relatif* relative; perhaps suggested by New Latin **correlativus*. — **n.** 1545, from the adjective.

correspond *v.* 1529, borrowed through Middle French *correspondre* be in harmony, agree, or directly from Medieval Latin *correspondere* (Latin *cor-* together, with + *respondere* RESPOND). The sense of communicate by exchanging letters is first recorded in 1645. — **correspondence** *n.* 1413, harmony, agreement; borrowed through Middle French *correspondance*, or directly from Medieval Latin *correspondentia*, from *correspondentem* (nominative *correspondens*), present participle of *correspondere* correspond; for suffix see -ENCE. The sense of communication by letters is first recorded in 1644. — **correspondent** *adj.* Probably before 1425, analogous; borrowed from Medieval Latin *correspondentem*, present participle of *correspondere* correspond; for suffix see -ENT. — **n.** 1630, one who communicates by letters; from the adjective, but probably influenced by French *correspondant*, of the same meaning. The extended sense of one who contributes news (originally through letters) and other material to a newspaper, is first recorded in 1711. — **corresponding** *adj.* (1579)

corridor *n.* 1591, a covered way of a fortification; later, passage (1620), and a long hallway (1814); borrowed from French *corridor*, from Italian *corridore*, alteration (by influence of

corridore runner) of *corridoio*, from Vulgar Latin **curritorium* running place (Latin *currere* to run + *-torium* -ory; see CUR-RENT).

corrigible *adj.* 1451, borrowed from Middle French *corrigible* correctable, learned borrowing from Medieval Latin *corrigibilis*, from Latin *corrige* make straight; for suffix see -IBLE.

corroboration *n.* 1459 *corroboracion* strengthening or support; borrowed through Middle French *corroboration* or directly from Late Latin *corroboratiōnem* (nominative *corroboratiō*), from Latin *corroborāre* strengthen (*cor-* intensive + *rōborāre* make strong, from *rōbur*, genitive *rōboris* oak tree, strength; see ROBUST); for suffix see -TION. The sense "confirmation" is first recorded in 1768. —**corroborate** *v.* 1530, probably back formation of English *corroboration*, possibly influenced by Middle French *corroborer* confirm, from Latin *corroborātus*, past participle of *corroborāre*; for suffix see -ATE¹. —**corroborative** *adj.* 1583, probably borrowed from Middle French *corroboratif*, *corroborative*, formed as if from Latin **corroborativus*, from *corroborāt-*, past participle stem of *corroborāre*; for suffix see -IVE.

corrode *v.* Before 1400, borrowed through Old French *corroder*, or directly from Latin *corrōdere* gnaw away (*cor-* intensive + *rōdere* gnaw; see RODENT). —**corrosion** *n.* Before 1400, borrowed through Middle French *corrosion*, or directly from Late Latin *corrosiōnem* (nominative *corrosiō*), from the stem of Latin *corrōdere*; for suffix see -SION. —**corrosive** *adj.* About 1395, borrowed from Old French *corosif*, *corosive*, or directly as if from Medieval Latin **corrosivus*, from Latin *corrōsus*, past participle of *corrōdere*.

corrugate *v.* 1620; earlier, *corrugate* as a past participle or adjective (probably about 1425); borrowed from Latin *cornūgātus*, past participle of *cornūgāre* (*cor-* intensive + *nūgāre* to wrinkle, from *nūga* wrinkle, of unknown origin); for suffix see -ATE¹. —**corrugated paper** (1897)

corrupt *adj.* 1340 *conrupt*, borrowed from Old French *corrupt*, and directly from Latin *corruptus*, past participle of *corrumpere* destroy, falsify, corrupt (*cor-* intensive + *rumpere* break, RUPTURE). —**v.** About 1385, pervert, debase; possibly from English *corrupt*, *adj.* and later considered as a borrowing from Latin *corruptus*, past participle of *corrumpere*. —**corruption** *n.* Before 1340, destruction, decomposition; borrowed from Old French *corruption*, or directly from Latin *corruptiōnem* (nominative *corruptiō*), from *corrumpere*; for suffix see -TION. —**corruptible** *adj.* Before 1382, borrowed from Old French *corruptible*, and directly from Late Latin *corruptibilis* from Latin *corrupt-*, past participle stem of *corrumpere*; for suffix see -IBLE.

corsage *n.* 1843, bodice; earlier, size of the body (1481); borrowed from Old French *corsage* upper part of the body (*cors* body + *-age* -age). The sense of a bouquet worn on the bodice appeared in 1911 in American English, apparently from the French phrase *bouquet de corsage* bouquet of the bodice.

corsair *n.* 1549, borrowed from Middle French *corsaire* pirate, from Italian *corsaro*, from Medieval Latin *cursarius* runner, from *cursus* hostile excursion, booty, from Latin *cursus* (genitive *cursūs*) a race, journey, from past participle of *currere* to run.

corset *n.* 1299, a kind of laced bodice, borrowed from Old French *corset*, diminutive of *cors* body. The sense of a stiff supporting undergarment is first recorded in 1795.

cortege *n.* 1648, borrowed from French *cortège* retinue, procession, from Italian *corteggio* a train of followers, from *corteggiare* make up the court, from *corte* court, from Latin *cohortem* enclosure, crowd in an enclosure, retinue, accusative of *cohors* enclosure.

cortex *n.* 1653, outer shell, husk; borrowed from Latin *cortex* (genitive *corticis*) bark. The form *cortex* replaced earlier *cortice*, *n.* first recorded probably before 1425. —**cortical** *adj.* 1671, borrowed from Latin *corticālis* of the bark, skin, or hide, from *cortex*; for suffix see -AL¹.

cortisone *n.* 1949, coined as an abbreviation of 17-hydroxy-11 dehydro-cortico-sterone, ultimately from Latin *corticis* (genitive of *cortex* CORTEX) + English *sterol* + *-one*. Originally called Compound E (1936) and obtained from the cortex of the adrenal glands.

corundum *n.* Before 1728, borrowed through Anglo-Indian, from Tamil *kurundam*, also found in Telugu *kuruvindam* and Hindi *kurund* referring to various kinds of sapphire found in India and China.

corvette or **corvet** *n.* 1636, borrowing of French *corvette* small warship, from Middle French *corvette*, *corvot*, probably from Middle Dutch *corver* a fishing boat, also a privateer, of uncertain origin, though the form *corver* was known in Middle English by 1420.

cosine *n.* 1635, but coined in 1620 from *co-* + Medieval Latin *sinus sine*.

cosmetic *n.* 1605, art of beautifying; borrowed from Greek *kosmētikē téchnē*, from feminine of *kosmētikós* skilled in ordering or adorning, from *kosmētós* well-ordered, from *kosmein* to order, adorn, from *kósmos* COSMOS; for suffix see -IC. The sense of a preparation for beautifying is first recorded in 1650, probably from the adjective. —**adj.** 1650, borrowed from French *cosmétique*, from Greek *kosmētikós*.

cosmic *adj.* 1649, borrowed from Greek *kosmikós* of the world or universe; also parallel form of *cosmical* (1583). Modern use of *cosmic* is first recorded in 1846, borrowed from French *cosmique*, from Greek *kosmikós*, from *kósmos* COSMOS; for suffix see -IC. —**cosmic rays** (1925)

cosmo- a combining form meaning: 1 world, universe, as in *cosmology* = science or study of the universe. 2 cosmic rays, as in *cosmogenic* = originating from cosmic rays. 3 Since 1957 it has had the further meaning of outer space, especially the Russian activities in it, and is sometimes equivalent to English *astro-*, as in *cosmonaut*, an adaptation of Russian *kosmonavt* astronaut. Borrowed from Greek *kosmo-*, combining form of *kósmos* world, universe.

cosmography *n.* About 1433 *cosmagraffie* (perhaps earlier, before 1387); borrowed from Late Latin *cosmographia*, from Greek *kosmographiā* (title of a work by Democritus), from

kósmos universe + *-graphiā* drawing, delineation, from *gráphein* write, mark.

cosmology *n.* 1656, borrowed from French *cosmologie*, from New Latin *cosmologia*, from Greek *kósmos* universe + *-logiā* treatment of, *-logy*.

cosmopolitan *adj.* 1844, formed from English *cosmopolite* + *-an*, on the pattern of *metropolitan*. — **cosmopolite** *n.* About 1618, citizen of the world; earlier, a man of this world (1614); borrowed from Greek *kosmopolitēs* (*kósmos* world + *politēs* citizen, from *pólis*). The word apparently dropped out of use in English during the 1700's and was revived in English in the 1800's.

cosmos *n.* Probably about 1200, borrowed from Greek *kósmos* order, ornament; world, universe (so called by Pythagoras who regarded the physical world as a perfectly ordered system). Except for the use in 1200, the word disappears from the record until 1848, in a translation of Humboldt's *Kosmos*.

cost *n.* Probably about 1200, borrowed from Old French *cost*, from *coster* to cost, from Latin *cōstāre* stand together, stand firm, be settled or fixed, stand at a price, *con-* together + *stāre* to STAND). — **v.** About 1378 *costen* to involve great expenditure; earlier, to buy; borrowed from Old French *coster* to cost. — **costly** *adj.* Probably about 1384, formed from *cost*, *n.* + *-ly*¹.

costive *adj.* Before 1400 *costif*, probably borrowed through Anglo-French **costif* (with loss of final *-é*), from Old French *costivé* (past participle of *costiver* to constipate, from Latin *cōnstipāre*), from Latin *cōnstipātus*, past participle of *cōnstipāre*.

costume *n.* 1715, style of dress, etc.; borrowing of French *costume*, from Italian *costume* fashion, habit, custom, from Vulgar Latin **cōnsuētūmen*, corresponding to Latin *cōnsuētūdinem*, accusative of *cōnsuētūdō* habit, usage, CUSTOM. — **v.** 1823, from the noun. — **costume jewelry** (American English, 1933)

cot¹ *n.* portable bed. 1634, borrowed through Anglo-Indian *cot* light bedstead, from Hindi *khat* bedstead, hammock, from Sanskrit or Prakrit *khātva*, probably from Dravidian (compare Tamil *kattil* bedstead).

cot² *n.* cottage. Old English (about 893) *cot* small house, cottage, lair of wild animal; cognate with Old Icelandic *kot* hut, Middle Dutch *cot* cottage, and Middle Low German *kot* cottage (Proto-Germanic **kutan*).

cote *n.* Old English (before 1034) *cote* cottage for poor people, variant of *cot* COT². The sense of shelter for doves, small animals, etc. appeared about 1300.

coterie *n.* 1738, borrowed from French *coterie* circle of acquaintances, in Middle French meaning an association of tenant-farmers, from Old French *cotier* cottager, cotter, from *cote* hut, COTTAGE.

cotillon *n.* 1766 *cotillon* kind of complicated dance; borrowed from French *cotillon* a kind of country dance, from Middle French *cotillon* petticoat, peasant girl's frock, from diminutive

of Old French *cotte*, *cote* COAT. The sense of a formal dance derives from a shortening of *cotillon* ball (1811).

cottage *n.* About 1390 *cottage* small house, borrowed through Anglo-French **cottage* and directly from Old French *cote* (*cote* hut, cottage + *-age*). Anglo-French and Old French *cote* is probably of Scandinavian origin (compare Old Icelandic *kot* hut, COT²). — **cottager** *n.* 1555, formed from English *cottage* + *-er*¹. — **cottage cheese** (1848)

cotter *n.* Before 1338 *coter* pin, wedge, bolt, inserted through a hole in a rod, etc.; perhaps a shortened form of *cotterel* cotter pin or bolt, bracket to hang a pot over the fire; both of uncertain origin. — **cotter pin** 1881, but implied much earlier by *cotter hole* (1649).

cotton *n.* 1286 *coton*, borrowed from Old French *coton*, from Arabic *qutūn*, variant of *qūṭn*. The Arabic is the source of Dutch *keatoen*, German *Katun*, Provençal *coton*, Italian *cotone*, and with the prefixed article *al-* the, Spanish *algodón* and Portuguese *algodão*. — **v.** 1488 (Scottish) form down or nap on; from the noun. The informal sense of get on together, agree, is first recorded in 1567; the sense of to take a liking to is first recorded in 1805.

cotyledon *n.* 1776, embryo leaf in the seed of a plant. New Latin (named by Linnaeus in 1751), from Latin *cotylēdōn* navelwort (a plant) from Greek *kotylēdōn* cup-shaped hollow.

couch *n.* 1340, borrowed from Old French *couche*, earlier *culche*, from *coucher* lay in place, from Latin *collocāre* put in place, put together (*col-* together + *locāre* to place, put, LOCATE). — **v.** Probably before 1300, to overlay as with gold, inlay; borrowed from Old French *coucher* lay in place. The sense of to frame or express in words appeared in 1529.

cougar *n.* 1774, borrowed from French *couguar*, coined in French by contraction of New Latin *cuguacuara*, apparently a misreading of Brazilian Portuguese *çuçuarana*, from Tupi *suasuarana* (*suasu* deer + *rana* false; apparently so called from its tawny color).

cough *v.* Before 1325 *kouwen*, later *coughen* (about 1378); related to Old English *cohhetan* to bluster, probably of imitative origin, as in Middle Dutch *kochen* to cough, Middle High German *küchen* breathe on, exhale, and Old English *ceahhetan* laugh loudly.

The original sound represented by *gh*, in *cough*, was a guttural *ch*, as in Scottish *loch*. As the pronunciation shifted to the sound of *f* in *off* the spelling of many words also changed, as in *draft* for *draught*; but a group of spellings remained fixed; see ROUGH. — **n.** About 1300, from the verb, probably the dating being a defect of the record.

could *v.* past tense of CAN¹. Old English *cūthe*, past tense of *cunnan* (about 725, in *Beowulf*). In Middle English the form was *coude*, *cowde* (about 1350), but in the early 1400's the *l* was inserted on analogy with *should* and *would*. The earliest recorded spelling with *l* is *colde*, about 1400.

coulee *n.* 1804, Canadian English, borrowed through Canadian French *coulée* a small stream or bed of such a stream when

dry, from French *coulée* flow, flow of lava, from feminine past participle of *couler* to flow.

coulomb *n.* 1881, in allusion to Charles de Coulomb, who devised a method of measuring quantity of electricity.

council *n.* 1125 *concilie* assembly of churchmen; later *counseil* (about 1300) and *council* (probably before 1400); borrowed from Old North French *concilie*, Old French *concile*, *cuncile*, learned borrowing from Latin *concilium* gathering, assembly (*con-* together + *-cilium*, related to *calāre* call out).

In early English *council* and *counsel* were frequently confused. In the 1500's *council* became established as a deliberative body, and *counsel* was restricted to the giving of advice. —**councilman** *n.* (before 1637) —**councilor** *n.* (before 1325 *counsallour*; later *councillor*, 1586).

counsel *n.* Probably before 1200 *cunsail* advice, direction; borrowed probably through Anglo-French **cunseil*, and directly from Old French *cunseil*, *conseil*, from Latin *cōsiliū* counsel, deliberation, from *cōsulere* to CONSULT. The sense of a body of advisers is first recorded probably before 1300; the sense of a single adviser, probably about 1250, and of a legal adviser, advocate, lawyer, before 1393. Compare COUNCIL. —**v.** About 1280 *counsaylen* take counsel with oneself, consider; later, to give or seek advice (probably before 1300); borrowed probably through Anglo-French *cunseiler*, and directly from Old French *conseiller*, from Latin *cōsiliārī*, from *cōsiliū* counsel. —**counselor** *n.* Probably before 1200, borrowed probably through Anglo-French *cunseiler*, and directly from Old French *conseillor*.

count¹ *v.* reckon. 1341–42, implied in *counting* reckoning, accounting; borrowed from Old French *cunter*, *conter*, from Latin *computāre* calculate, compute (*com-* together + *putāre* to count, think, consider). —**n.** Before 1325, a reckoning, an accounting; borrowed from Old French *conte*, *cunte*, from Late Latin *computum* calculation, reckoning, from Latin *computāre*. —**countless** *adj.* 1588, formed from English *count*, *n.* + *-less*.

count² *n.* About 1303, nobleman, implied in *counte* a shire; borrowed through Anglo-French *counte* (about 1290), Old French *conte*, *cunte*, from Latin *comitem*, accusative of *comes* member of the imperial court, attendant, associate, companion (*com-* with, together + *it-*, from the root of *ire* to go).

countenance *n.* About 1250 *cuntenaunce* demeanor; borrowed from Old French *cuntenaunce*, *countenance* bearing, behavior, learned borrowing from Medieval Latin *continentia*, from Latin *continentia* self-control, from *continentem* (nominative *continēns*), present participle of *continēre* CONTAIN; for suffix see *-ANCE*. —**v.** 1486, to behave or act, approve; borrowed from Middle French *countenancer*, from *countenance* countenance, from Old French.

counter¹ *n.* table. 1345 *countour* counting table; borrowed through Anglo-French *countour*, Old French *conteoir*, from Medieval Latin *computatorium* place for counting or making accounts (Latin *computātus*, past participle of *computāre* compute, COUNT¹ + *-ōrium* -ory).

counter² *n.* person that counts. About 1300 *countour* accoun-

tant, tax collector; borrowed from Anglo-French *countour*, Old French *conteoir* one who counts, from Latin *computātōrem* (nominative *computātor*) computer, reckoner, from *computāre* compute, COUNT¹; for suffix see *-ER*¹.

counter³ *adv.* opposed. About 1450, borrowed from Middle French *countre* facing, opposite (to), from Latin *contrā* against; see CONTRA-. —**v.** Before 1397 *countren*, borrowed from Old French *countre* opposite (to). —**adj.** 1596, from English *counter-*, prefix.

counter- a prefix meaning: 1 against, in opposition to, as in *counteract* = act against. 2 in return, as in *counterattack* = attack in return. 3 corresponding, as in *counterpart* = corresponding part. Middle English and Anglo-French *countre-*, borrowed from Old French *contre*, *countre* facing, opposite (to), from Latin *contrā* against; see CONTRA-. —**countervail** *v.* (1678) —**counterclockwise** *adv.*, *adj.* (1888) —**counterintelligence** *n.* (1940) —**countersink** *v.*, *n.* (1816)

counterbalance *v.* 1580, borrowed from Middle French *contre-balancer* (*contre-* against, *counter-* + *balancer* BALANCE). —**n.** 1603, either noun use of English verb, or borrowed from French *contre-balance*, *n.*, from the French verb.

counterfeit *adj.* Before 1393 *contrefet*, borrowed from Old French *contrefait* imitated, past participle of *contrefaire* imitate (*contre-* against, *counter-* + *faire* make); perhaps also formed from English *countrefet*, *counterfet*, a past participial form of earlier English *countrefeten*, *v.* —**v.** About 1300 *countrefeten*, borrowed from Old French *contrefait*, past participle of *contrefaire* imitate. —**n.** 1397, from the adjective.

countermand *v.* Before 1420, borrowed from Middle French *contremander* reverse an order or command (*contre-* against, *counter-* + *mander*, from Latin *mandāre* to order). —**n.** 1548, borrowed from Middle French *contremand*, from *contremander* countermand, and possibly from English *countermand*, *v.*

counterpane *n.* 1603, alteration of earlier *counterpoynte* quilt (1467); borrowed from Old French *cuite* *contrepointe* quilt stitched through and through. Old French *contrepointe* was an alteration of *coute* *pointe*, representing Medieval Latin *culcita puncta* quilted mattress (Latin *culcita* cushion + *puncta*, feminine past participle of *pungere* to prick, stab). The substitution of *pane* coverlet, for *pointe* was a semantic development, English *pane* being a borrowing from Old French *pan* cloth, from Latin *pannus* PANE.

counterpart *n.* 1451 *countre part* duplicate of a legal document; borrowed from Old French *contrepartie* (*contre*, *countre* facing, opposite (to), corresponding, + *partie* copy of a person or thing, originally, feminine past participle of *partir* to divide; see PARTY).

counterpoint *n.* Before 1450, art of singing an accompaniment; borrowed probably through Anglo-French and Old French *contrepoint*, from Medieval Latin **contrapunctum* (in music, *cantus contrapunctus* song or melody pointed against, explained as the accompaniment or second melody indicated by notes jotted down over or under the primary melody),

from Latin *contrā* against + *pūctus* dotted, *pūctum* dot, POINT.

country *n.* Probably before 1250 *contre* one's native land; borrowed from Old French *contree*, *cuntree*, from Vulgar Latin **contrāta* *regiō* region lying opposite, i.e., spread out before one (Latin *contrā* opposite, against + *regiō* REGION). The sense of a land is recorded probably before 1300, and that of a national territory, about 1300. —**adj.** Before 1387, from the noun. —**countryfy** *v.* (usually in *countryfyed*) 1653, formed from English *country* + *-fy*. —**countryfolk** *n.* (about 1300) —**countryman** *n.* (1279) —**countryside** *n.* (about 1450) —**countrywoman** *n.* (1440)

county *n.* About 1378 *counte* domain of a count; earlier, a shire (before 1338), and a shire court (about 1303); borrowed through Anglo-French *counté*, Old French *conté*, *cunté* territory or domain of a lord, from Late Latin *comitatus* court or palace, from Latin *comitatus* train, retinue, from *comes* (accusative *comitem*) a state officer; earlier, attendant of the emperor, associate, companion; see COUNT² nobleman. —**countyseat** *n.* (1803, American English)

coup *n.* Probably before 1400, borrowed from Old French *coup*, *colp* a blow, from Late Latin *colpus*, from Latin *colaphus* a blow with the fist, from Greek *kólaphos* a blow, slap. The meaning of a sudden decisive act is first recorded in 1852, by shortening from *coup d'état*. —**coup de grâce** 1699, borrowing from French, action that quickly kills a suffering person or animal, literally, stroke of grace. —**coup d'état** 1646, borrowing from French, sudden and decisive act in politics, especially the overthrow of a government, literally, stroke of state.

couple *n.* About 1280, a married couple or pair of lovers; later, a pair of things (1338); borrowed from Old French *cople* couple, from Latin *cōpula* bond; later, pair, from **coapla* connected together (*co-* together + **apla*, noun showing means by which something is fastened or connected, derived from *apere* fasten, connect); see APT. —**v.** Probably before 1200 *cuplen*, borrowed from Old French *cople*, from *cople*, *n.*, couple. —**couplet** *n.* 1580, pair of successive lines of verse; borrowed from Middle French *couplet*, diminutive of *couple*, from Old French *cople* couple, couplet.

coupon *n.* 1822, certificate of interest due on an investment bond which can be cut from the bond and presented for interest; borrowed from French *coupon*, from Old French *coupon* piece cut off, from *couper* to cut, from *coup* a blow. The sense of a certificate or one of a series of tickets that gives the holder certain rights, such as to a ride, a discount in price, etc., was introduced by the travel agent Thomas Cook in 1864.

courage *n.* Probably before 1300 *corage* spirit, disposition, nature; borrowed from Old French *corage*, *curage*, from Vulgar Latin **coraticum*, from Latin *cor* HEART; for suffix see -AGE. The sense of bravery, fearlessness is first recorded in English before 1338, stemming from the notion that the heart is the center of feeling, thought, and character. —**courageous** *adj.* Probably before 1300 *corageus* brave, fearless; borrowed from Old French *corageus*, from *corage* courage; for suffix see -OUS.

courier *n.* Probably before 1350 *currur*, borrowed through Anglo-French *courrier*, Old French *coreor*, *corier*, from Italian *corriere*, from *correre* to run, from Latin *currere* to run. The spelling *courier* is first recorded in English in 1770, altered from earlier *courrier* (1718), borrowed from modern French *courrier*.

course *n.* Probably before 1300 *cours* onward movement; borrowed from Old French *cours*, *curs*, from Latin *cursus* (genitive *cursūs*), a running race or course, from past participle stem *curs-* of *currere* to run. The sense of a planned or prescribed series of classes, lectures, etc., is first recorded in English in 1605; probably from French, found in the 1300's and earlier. Earliest instances of the phrase *of course* (literally, of or in the ordinary course) are from 1541, replacing earlier *bi cours* with the same meaning (probably before 1300). —**v.** 1466, to pursue; from the noun.

courser *n.* Probably about 1300, a swift horse; borrowed from Old French *coursier*, *cursier*, *corsier*, from Medieval Latin *cur-sarius*, from Latin *cursus*, see COURSE; for suffix see -ER¹.

court *n.* Probably before 1200 *curt* princely residence or household; borrowed from Old French *cort*, *curt*, from Latin *cōrtem*, accusative of *cōrs* (earlier *cohorte*, accusative of *cohors*) enclosure, courtyard, company, cohort (*co-* together, and a stem *hort-*, related to *hortus* garden, plot of ground; see YARD¹). The sense of homage such as offered at court, attention or courtship (especially in the phrase *pay court to*), is first recorded in 1589. —**v.** 1515 (implied in *courting*); from the noun. —**courthouse** *n.* (probably about 1475) —**courtly** *adj.* (before 1475) —**court-martial** (probably 1435); *v.* (1859). —**courtship** *n.* (1588)

courteous *adj.* Probably about 1350 but rare before 1500, alteration of earlier *curteis* (before 1300) with substitution of -ous, -eous for -is, -eis. Early Middle English *curteis* was borrowed from Old French *curteis*, *corteis*, having courtly bearing or manners (*cort*, *curt* COURT + -eis from Latin -ēnsis). —**courtesy** *n.* Probably before 1200 *curteisie*; borrowed from Old French *curtesie*, *cortisie*, from *curteis*, *corteis*; for suffix see -Y³.

courtesan *n.* 1426 *courtezane*, borrowed from Middle French *courtisane*, *courtisan*, from Italian *cortigiana* prostitute; originally, woman of the court, feminine of *cortigiano*, *cortegiano* one attached to a court, from *corte* court, from Latin *cōrtem* COURT. Compare ARTISAN.

courtier *n.* 1228–29 *Curtier*, as a surname; later *courteours* (about 1300); borrowed through Anglo-French *courteour*, *curteour* courtier, Old French *courtier*, *cortier* judge, from *cort*, *curt* COURT; for suffix see -IER.

cousin *n.* 1160 *Cusin*, as a surname; later, *cosin* a relative, by blood or marriage (probably about 1225) and, a cousin (about 1300); borrowed from Old French *cosin*, *cusin*, from Latin *cōsobrinus* mother's sister's child, cousin (*con-* together + *so-brinus*, from earlier **sosrīnos* cousin on mother's side, from *soror*, genitive *sorōris* SISTER).

couth *adj.* 1896, reintroduced as a back formation from *uncouth*, *adj.* Earlier, in Middle English *couth* courteous, polite

(before 1325, and surviving to the 1500's); in Old English (before 1000) *cūth* known, well-known, renowned, was a past participle of *cunnan* to know (see CAN¹), corresponding to Old Frisian *kūth* known, Old Saxon *cūth*, Old High German *kund*, *chund* (modern German *kund*), and Gothic *kunths* known. Old English *cūth* developed from Proto-Germanic **kúnthaz*.

couturier *n.* 1899, as a modern French term. Earlier *couturière* (1818), from Old French *costurier*, *costurier* dressmaker, from *costure* a sewing, seam, from Vulgar Latin **cōnsūtūra*, from past participle of Latin *cōsuere* sew (*con-* together + *suere* SEW).

cove *n.* Before 1325, a den or cave; later, a narrow valley (probably before 1400), developed from Old English (before 800) *cofa* small chamber, cell; cognate with Middle Low German *kove* hut, Old High German *kubisi*, *chubisi* tent, hut, Middle High German *kobe* pen, stall (modern German *Koben*), and Old Icelandic *kofi* hut, shed, cell (Norwegian *kove* small room). The sense of a small bay is first recorded in English in 1590.

coven *n.* 1500–20, meeting, variant of *covent*, *cuvent* (probably before 1200), earlier form of CONVENT, as found in *Covent Garden* (London). The sense of a gathering of witches appeared in 1662.

covenant *n.* Probably before 1300 *covenant*, borrowed from Old French *covenant* agreement, (originally) present participle of *covenir* agree or meet, from Latin *convenire* come together, CONVENE. —**v.** Probably before 1300, from the noun.

cover *v.* Probably about 1150 *coveren* protect or shelter, borrowed from Old French *covrir*, from Late Latin *cōperire*, from Latin *co-*perire to cover over (*co-* intensive + *operire* to close, cover). —**n.** 1223, in compound *koverchief* kerchief, a woman's covering for the head or veil; later, *koverchief* a wrapping, protective covering (1245), and in *bancover*, *bankcover* protective covering (1346–47); in compounds borrowed from Old French *cuevre*-chiefhead covering, and *covert* table furnishings and utensils for a meal. —**coverage** *n.* 1462, a charge for a booth at a fair; borrowed possibly from Middle French *couvraige* a cover; later, reintroduced in American English in the sense of risk covered by insurance (1912), formed from English *cover* + *-age*. —**covered wagon** (1745) —**covering** *n.* (1303) —**coverlet** *n.* (1303)

covert *adj.* About 1303, borrowed from Old French *covert* (past participle of *covrir* to cover), from Latin *coopertus*, past participle of *coopere* to COVER. —**n.** Probably before 1300, a covering; later, a shelter (1338); borrowed from Old French *covert*, *coverte* cover or shelter, from Medieval Latin *coopertum* a cover, from Latin *coopertus*, past participle; see *covert*, *adj.*

covet *v.* Before 1250 *cuveiten*, later *coveiten* (about 1300); borrowed from Old French *coveitier*, probably derived from Gallo-Romance **cupidietāre*, from **cupidietās*, alteration (influenced by Latin *pietās*, *ānxiētās*, *mediētās*) of Latin *cupiditās* passionate desire, from *cupidus* very desirous, from *cupere* long for, desire. —**covetous** *adj.* About 1250 *covetus*; borrowed from Old French *coveitous*, probably from Gallo-Romance **cupidietōsus*, from **cupidietās*, alteration of Latin *cupiditās* CUPIDITY; for suffix see -OUS.

covey *n.* About 1350, borrowed from Middle French *covée*, from feminine past participle of *cover* incubate, brood, from Latin *cubare* be in a lying position.

cow¹ *n.* female of cattle. Middle English *ku* (before 1200); later, in a place name *Cowmede* (1227); developed from Old English (before 800) *cū*; cognate with Old Frisian *kū* cow, Old Saxon *kō*, Middle Dutch *coe* (modern Dutch *koe*), Old High German *kuo* (modern German *Kuh*), Old Icelandic *kýr* (Norwegian *ku*, Danish and Swedish *ko*), from Proto-Germanic **kwōn*, earlier **kwōm*. Related words outside Germanic are found in Old Irish *bō* cow, Middle Welsh *buw*, Latin *bōs* ox, bull, cow. Greek *bois*, Latvian *gūovs* cow, Armenian *kov*, Sanskrit *gāu-s* ox, bull, cow, Avestan *gāuš*, and Tocharian A *ko* cow, Tocharian B *kau*. —**cowbell** *n.* (1652, American English) —**cowboy** *n.* (1725) —**cowhand** *n.* (1852, American English) —**cowherd** *n.* 1222, developed from Old English *cūhyrde*, -*hierde*, etc. —**cowhide** (before 1399) —**cowlick** *n.* (1598) —**cowslip** *n.* Before 1325, developed from English (about 1000) *cūshype*, literally, cow slime.

cow² *v.* intimidate. 1605, probably borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Danish and Norwegian *kue* to cow, subdue, Old Icelandic *kūga* to force, oppress); of unknown origin.

coward *n.* Before 1250 *couard*, borrowed from Old French *coart*, from *coe* tail, from Latin *cōda*, dialectal variant of *cauda* tail, of uncertain origin; for suffix see -ARD. Perhaps reference to the tail is in allusion to an animal "turning tail" in fright or to the habit of a frightened animal drawing the tail between the hind legs. In the Old French version of *Reynard the Fox*, the name of the hare is *Coart*. —**cowardice** *n.* Probably before 1300, borrowed from Old French *couardise* (*couard*, *coart* coward + *-ise* noun suffix, from Latin *-itia*). —**cowardly** *adv.* (before 1375)

cower *v.* Before 1300 *couren* to skulk, apparently borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *kūra* doze, lie quiet, Danish and Norwegian *kure* and Swedish *kura* to squat); cognate with Middle Low German *kūren* lie in wait (modern German *kauern* to crouch, squat).

cowl *n.* Probably before 1200 *cule*; later, *couel*; developed from Old English *cūle*, earlier *cugele* (about 961); borrowed from Late Latin *cuculla* monk's cowl, variant of Latin *cucullus* hood, of uncertain origin. —**v.** 1536, from the noun. —**cowling** *n.* covering of an aircraft engine (1917).

coxcomb *n.* 1573, fool; also with the meaning "cap worn by clowns," variant of *cock's comb* (1562), since the cap resembled the comb of a cock; earlier *cokkes comb* crest of a cock (about 1400).

coxswain *n.* 1327, officer in charge of a ship's boat and its crew (*cock* ship's boat + *swain* boy).

coy *adj.* Before 1338, quiet, still; earlier, in surname *Coyman* (1230); borrowed from Old French *coi*, earlier *quei*, from Vulgar Latin **quētus*, from Latin *quīētus* resting, at rest. The sense shy or modest, is first recorded about 1386.

coyote *n.* 1759, American English, borrowing of Mexican Spanish *coyote*, from Nahuatl *coyotl*.

cozen *v.* 1561 (implied in *cozener* a cheater); perhaps borrowed from French *cousiner* cheat on the pretext of being a cousin, from *cousin*, *n.*; or developed from Middle English *cosyn* fraud, trickery (1453), of uncertain origin (compare Old French *cozon* dealer, from Latin *cōzionem* horse dealer). — **cozenage** *n.* 1583, formed from English *cozen* + *-age*.

cozy or **cosy** *adj.* 1709 *colsie*, originally Scottish; possibly borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Norwegian *kose* [seg] be cozy, *koselig* cozy).

crab¹ *n.* shellfish. Probably before 1200 *crabbe*; earlier as a surname (1188); developed from Old English (about 1000) *crabba*; cognate with Middle Low German *krabbe* crab, Old High German *krebitz* (modern German *Krabbe*), Old Saxon *krebit*, Old Icelandic *krabbi* (Danish and Norwegian *krabbe*, Swedish *krabba*) crab. — **v.** Probably before 1400 *crabben* to vex, irritate, anger, either from earlier *crabbed*, *adj.*, or from *crabbe* crab¹ or crab² used figuratively. The sense of complain irritably, find fault appeared before 1500. — **crab grass** 1743; earlier, possibly a marine grass of salt marshes (1597).

crab² *n.* sour wild apple; (crab apple, 1712). Probably before 1300 *crabbe*, of uncertain origin (perhaps a transferred use of CRAB¹ the animal, its disposition compared with the sour taste of the fruit). The sense of a sour person is first recorded in 1580, in part a figurative use of *crab* the apple, and later, as a back formation from *crabbed* and also directly from *crab* the animal. — **crabby** *adj.* 1550, crooked, gnarled, cross-grained; formed from English *crab*² sour apple + *-y*¹. The sense of peevish, is first recorded in 1776, in American English.

crabbed *adj.* Before 1376, formed from *crabbe* crab¹ (shellfish) + *-ed*, with reference to the crab's crooked motion, and its perverse disposition; later, the sense of harsh, unpleasant, and bitter to the taste, is recorded (probably about 1390), evolving into the figurative use of sour-tempered, peevish (about 1565), most likely under influence of *crab*² wild apple.

crack *v.* Probably before 1200 *craken* make a bursting or splitting sound; developed from Old English (about 1000) *cracian* make a sharp noise, crack; related to *cearcian* to creak, and cognate with Middle Dutch *craken* to crack, creak (modern Dutch *kraken*), Old High German *krakhōn* (modern German *krachen*), *krach* loud noise (modern German *Krach*). The sense of break something hard with a sharp noise, is first recorded probably before 1300. — **n.** Probably before 1300 *crak* sharp noise; related to Old English *cracian* make a sharp noise. The meaning of split, opening is first recorded about 1450. — **adj.** first-class. 1793, from the noun sense of that which is superior (1637). — **cracked** *adj.* About 1440; later, specifically of the mind (1611). — **cracker** *n.* 1440; specifically a thin crisp biscuit (1739).

crackle *v.* Before 1450 *crackelen*, frequentative form of *cracken* to crack; for suffix see -LE³.

— **cracy** a combining form meaning rule or ruling body or class, as in *aristocracy*. Borrowed from Greek - *kratīā* (as in

aristokratīā rule of the best-born, and *dēmokratīā* rule of the people) from *krátos* power, rule, through Latin -*cratia* and Middle French -*cratie*.

Since the 1800's -*cracy* has become productive in English, especially in the form -*ocracy*, possibly by influence of *bureaucracy* (borrowed from French), for example *technocracy* rule of technical experts (1932).

cradle *n.* Probably before 1200 *cradel*, developed from Old English *cradol* little bed or cot (about 1000) from Proto-Germanic **kerađulās*; cognate with Old High German *kratto*, *krezzo* basket. — **v.** Before 1500 *credelen*, from the noun. — **cat's cradle** (1768)

craft *n.* Old English *cræft* skill or art (before 899), but originally with the meaning of power, strength, might; cognate with Old Frisian *kreft* strength, skill, Old Saxon *kraft*, Old High German *chraft* (modern German *Kraft*), and Old Icelandic *kraptr* strength, virtue (Danish, Norwegian, and Swedish *kraft* strength). The sense *craft* for boat, as in *small craft* is first recorded in 1671–72. — **v.** 1436, make skillfully; earlier, to attain; from the noun. The verb became obsolete after the 1500's, but was revived in the late 1950's, especially by American manufacturers who advertised products "crafted or carefully put together." — **craftsman** *n.* (probably before 1200) — **craftsmanship** *n.* (before 1652) — **crafty** *adj.* Probably before 1200 *crafti* skillful, developed from Old English *cræftig* strong, powerful (about 893); formed from *cræft* craft + *-ig* -*y*¹. The sense of skillful appeared in 971, and that of cunning, wily, probably about 1200.

crag *n.* Before 1325; earlier, in place name *Cragdal* (1218); borrowed from a Celtic source (compare Old Irish *crec*, *carra* rock, cliff, Irish *carraig*, and Welsh *craig* rock, stone). — **craggy** *adj.* Probably about 1400, formed from English *crag* + *-y*¹.

cram *v.* Before 1325 *crommen* fill, stuff, dialectal variant of *crammen* (about 1353); developed from Old English *crammian* (about 1000), derivative of *crimman* to insert; cognate with Old High German *krimman* to press or pinch, Middle High German *krammen* to claw, Old Icelandic *kremlja* to squeeze or pinch (Danish, Norwegian *kramme*, Swedish *krama*).

cramp¹ *n.* metal bar bent at both ends. 1423, borrowed from Middle Dutch *crampe* or Middle Low German *krampe* hook; cognate with Old Saxon *kramp* cramp or clamp, Old High German *kramph*, *krampho* bent or crooked (modern German *Krampe*), Old Icelandic *krappr* (with -*pp*- from -*mp*-) narrow. The sense of something that confines or hinders, constraint, is first recorded in 1719. — **v.** Probably about 1408 *crawmpen* to bend or twist; later *crampe* compress forcibly (before 1555); in part from the noun, and in part from *cramp*², *n.* The figurative sense of restrict, limit or confine, is first recorded in 1625.

cramp² *n.* painful contraction of muscles. About 1378 *crampes*; borrowed from Old French *crampe*, from a Frankish word (compare Old High German *kramph*, *krampe* cramp, spasm, related to *kramph* bent, crooked, Old Icelandic *krappa* to clench; see CRAMP¹). — **v.** Probably about 1425 *crampen*; from the noun. — **writer's cramp** (1853)

cranberry *n.* 1647 *cranberry*, American English, apparently borrowed from Low German *Kraanbere* (*Kraan* crane, from Middle Low German *krān* + *bere* berry; of unknown origin).

crane *n.* 1177, as surname *Crane*, developed from Old English *cran* large wading bird (about 1000); cognate with Old Saxon *kerano* crane, Old High German *kerano* and *chranuh* (modern German *Kranich*), Old Icelandic *trani*, Danish, Norwegian, and Swedish *trane* (with unexplained change of *k-* to *t-*).

The use of *crane* for a machine with a long arm for moving heavy weights, is first recorded as early as 1299 in compound *creneman*; a similar meaning existed in Old High German cognates. —**v.** 1570, hoist or lower with a crane; from the noun.

cranium *n.* Probably before 1425 *craneum*; borrowing of Medieval Latin *cranium*, from Greek *krānion*, related to *kārā* head. —**cranial** *adj.* 1800, formed from English *cranium* + *-al*.

crank *n.* About 1440 *cranke*; earlier *cronk* (1295); developed from Old English (about 1000) *cranc-*, in compound *crancstæf* weaver's instrument, related to *crinca* to bend, yield. The sense of a person with a mental twist, an eccentric, is first recorded in 1833, probably as a back formation of *cranky*. —**v.** 1592, to zigzag, from the noun. The sense of turn a crank, is first recorded in 1908. —**crankshaft** *n.* (1854) —**cranky** *adj.* 1821, capricious, cross-tempered; later, queer, eccentric (1850); formed from English *crank*, *n.* + *-y*.

cranny *n.* About 1440 *crayne* small, narrow opening, scribal error for *cranye*; possibly borrowed as an alteration of Middle French *cran*, *cren* notch, fissure, from *crener* to notch, split, from Medieval Latin *crenare*, from Vulgar Latin **crināre* to split, probably related to Latin *cernere* to separate, sift.

crap *n.* 1898, rubbish; earlier, chaff (before 1425); borrowed from Middle French *crape* siftings, Old French *crappe*, from Medieval Latin *crappa*, *crapinium* chaff. —**v.** 1930, talk nonsense; spoil; earlier, defecate (1846). —**crappy** *adj.* 1846, formed from English *crap*, *n.* + *-y*.

crape *n.* piece of crepe used in mourning. 1446, variant of *crepe*, possibly borrowed from Middle French *crepe*; see CREPE.

crappie *n.* 1856, American English, kind of fish; apparently borrowing of dialectal Canadian French *crappé*.

craps *n.* 1843, American English, borrowing of Louisiana French *craps* the game of hazard (ancestor of *craps*), from English *crabs* the lowest throw in hazard, being two aces (1768), from CRAB¹ shellfish.

crash *v.* Probably before 1400 *crasschen*, *craschen* break in pieces; about 1390, earlier, make a crashing sound; probably of imitative origin, like *clash*, *dash*, etc.; but compare Middle English *crāsen* to shatter, from Old French *crasir*, and Middle English *cruschen* to crush, from Old French *croissir*. The sense of wreck a vehicle (or originally an airplane), have a collision, is first recorded in 1910. —**n.** 1580, sudden loud noise; from the verb. The sense of a sudden business failure or financial ruin, is first recorded in 1817.

crass *adj.* 1545, thick, fat, gross; borrowed from Middle French *crasse*, from Latin *crassus* solid, thick, dense, related to *crātis* wickerwork, hurdle. The sense of grossly dull or stupid appeared in 1660, though it was used earlier in French (as in *ignorance crasse*).

crate *n.* 1397–98, hurdle, grillwork, borrowed from Latin *crātis* wickerwork, lattice, HURDLE. The sense of large box is first recorded in 1688 with the spelling *creat*. —**v.** 1871, from the noun.

crater *n.* 1613, mouth of a volcano; borrowed from Latin *crāter*, from Greek *krāter* bowl for mixing wine with water. —**v.** 1884, from the noun.

cravat *n.* 1656 *crabbat*, borrowed from French *cravate*, from special use of *Cravate* Croat (in Régiment de Royal-Cravate), from German dialect *Krabate*, from Serbo-Croatian *Hrvat* a Croat. The cravat came into fashion in France in the 1600's in imitation of the linen scarf worn by Croatian mercenaries in the French military service.

crave *v.* Probably before 1200 *craven*, developed from Old English (about 1000) *crāfian* demand by right; cognate with Old Icelandic *kræfja* to demand, (Danish *kræve*, Norwegian *kræve*, and Swedish *kräva*). The sense of long for is first recorded before 1375.

craven *adj.* Probably before 1200 *cravant* vanquished, defeated; perhaps borrowed from Old French *crevanté*, past participle; or even *crevant*, present participle of *crever* burst, rattle, from Latin *crepare* to crack, creak. The sense of cowardly, is first recorded probably before 1400.

craw *n.* About 1395 *crawe* pouch in a bird's gullet; earlier *crei* neck or throat (about 1250); developed from Old English **craeg*, **craga*; cognate with Middle Dutch *crāghe* neck, throat (modern Dutch *kraag* collar), Middle High German *krage* neck, throat (modern German *Kragen* collar, neck).

crawfish *n.* 1624, American English, variant of CRAYFISH. —**v.** 1842, American English, back out, from the noun (in allusion to the animal's manner of moving backward).

crawl *v.* Before 1400 *crawlen*; earlier *crewlen* (about 1200); borrowed from a Scandinavian source (Old Icelandic *krafla*, Danish, Norwegian *kravle*, Swedish *kravla* to crawl). —**n.** 1818, from the verb.

crayfish *n.* 1555 *crefisse*, alteration (influenced by *fish* in some confusion with *-vis*, **-vish*) of earlier *crevis* (1311–12); borrowed from Old French *crevice*, from a Frankish word (compare Old High German *krebiz* CRAB¹ shellfish).

crayon *n.* 1644, borrowed from French *crayon* pencil, (originally) chalk pencil, from *craie* chalk, from Latin *crēta*, chalk. —**v.** 1662, from French *crayonner*, from French *crayon*, *n.*

craze *n.* About 1369 *crasen* perforate; later, shatter (about 1399); borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Swedish *krasa* to crack, Norwegian *krase* to crush), possibly imitative of the sound.

A figurative sense of break down in health (1450) is fol-

lowed by the sense of break down mentally, make insane (1496–97). The literal meanings developed into become minutely cracked (1832), as of glaze on pottery. —**n.** 1534, a flaw or defect; from the verb. The sense of a mania appeared in 1813 and that of a fad in 1877. —**crazy** adj. 1576, broken down, sickly; later, insane, mad (1617); formed from English *craze*, *n.* + *-y*¹. —**crazy bone** (1876, American English)

creak *v.* Before 1325 *creken* utter a harsh cry, apparently of imitative origin. The sense of squeak loudly, is first recorded in 1583. —**n.** 1605, from the verb. —**creaky** adj. 1834, formed from English *creak* + *-y*¹.

cream *n.* 1378 *creem*, earlier *creyme* (1332); borrowed from Old French *creme*, *craine*, *creme*, a blending of Late Latin *chrīma* ointment, from Greek *chrīma* an anointing, unguent + Late Latin *crānum* cream, of uncertain origin, perhaps from Gaulish (compare Welsh *cramen* scab, Breton *crammen*, *cremmen*, Middle Irish *screm* surface, skin). The Middle English word replaced Old English *rēam* cream. —**v.** 1440, to foam, froth; later, add cream to (1834), and to apply cream to (1921); from the noun. —**creamier** *n.* (1858, dish for skimming cream; later, pitcher for cream, 1877). —**creamy** adj. (about 1450) —**cold cream** (1381, as a custard; later, a preparation for the skin, 1709).

crease *n.* 1665, alteration of earlier *creaste* furrow, fold, or ridge, perhaps a variant of *crest*; found in *creste* fold in a length of cloth (1433); earlier, bony ridge (before 1398). —**v.** 1588 *crested*, past participle, perhaps alteration of *crested*, past participle of *crest*.

create *v.* About 1380, borrowed from Latin *creātus*, past participle of *creāre* to make, produce, from a lost noun *crē-yā* growth, related to *crēscere* arise, grow; for suffix see *-ATE*¹. —**creation** *n.* About 1390 *creacion* a created thing, borrowed through Old French *création*, or directly from Latin *creātiōnem* (nominative *creātiō*), from *creāre* create; for suffix see *-TION*. —**creative** adj. 1678, probably borrowed from French *créatif*, *créative*, from Latin *creātus*, past participle of *creāre* create; for suffix see *-IVE*. —**creator** *n.* About 1300 *creatour*, *creatur* God, borrowed through Anglo-French *creatour*, Old French *creator*, *creatur*, *creatour*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *creātōrem* (nominative *creātor*), from past participle stem of *creāre* create; for suffix see *-OR*². The word was not generally capitalized *Creator* until the appearance of the King James Bible (1611).

creature *n.* About 1280, human being; borrowed from Old French *creature*, and probably directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *creātūra*, from past participle stem of *creāre* create; for suffix see *-URE*.

credence *n.* About 1338, borrowed from Medieval Latin *credentia*, from Latin *crēdētem* (nominative *crēdēns*), present participle of *crēdere* believe, trust; for suffix see *-ENCE*. —**credential** adj. 1470, recommending for credit, accrediting; borrowed from Medieval Latin *credentialis*, from *credentia* credence; for suffix see *-AL*¹. —**credentials** *n.pl.* Before 1674, letters of recommendation or introduction; earlier, testimonial (1660, in singular); from *credential*, adj.

credible adj. About 1380, borrowed from Latin *crēdibilis*, from *crēdere* believe; for suffix see *-IBLE*. —**credibility** *n.* 1594, borrowed from Medieval Latin *credibilitas*, from Latin *crēdibilis* credible; for suffix see *-ITY*.

credit *n.* 1542, borrowed from Middle French *crédit* belief, trust, from Italian *credito*, learned borrowing from Latin *crēditum* a loan, thing entrusted to another, from past participle of *crēdere* to trust, entrust, believe. —**v.** 1541, trust (a person) with goods or money; formed from the noun and borrowed directly from Latin *crēditus*, past participle of *crēdere*. —**creditable** adj. 1526 credible, worthy of belief; later, bringing credit or honor (1659); formed from English *credit*, *v.*, *n.* + *-able*. —**creditor** *n.* Probably 1435 *creditor*, borrowed through Anglo-French *creditor*, Old French *créditeur*, learned borrowing from Latin *crēditōrem* (nominative *crēditor*), from *crēdere*; for suffix see *-OR*².

credo *n.* Probably before 1200, the Apostles' Creed or the Nicene Creed; borrowed from Latin *crēdō* I believe, 1st person singular present indicative of *crēdere* to believe, trust. *Credo* is the first word of the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds in Latin; and became the name for either Creed. The general sense of formula or statement of belief is first recorded in 1587.

credulous adj. 1576, borrowed from Latin *crēdulus* from *crēdere* to believe; for suffix see *-OUS*. —**credulity** *n.* Probably before 1425 *credulite* readiness to believe; borrowed through Middle French *credulité* or directly from Latin *crēdulitatem* (nominative *crēdulitās*), from *crēdulus*; for suffix see *-ITY*.

creed *n.* Before 1225 *crede*, developed from Old English (before 1000) *crēda* Christian article or statement of belief, such as the Apostles' Creed, from Latin *crēdō* I believe. The sense of any statement of belief or cherished opinion is first recorded in 1613.

creek *n.* 1449 *creke* inlet; earlier in *Krekeset* (place name, 1198), alteration (by influence of Middle Dutch *kreke* creek) of the earlier *kryk* (1220–30), also in place name *Sayercrik* (1160–80). The term was probably borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare dialectal Swedish *krik* corner, bend, creek, cove, Old Icelandic *kriki* corner, nook, related to *kriker* bend, creek, and *krökr* hook). Middle English *crike* may have been reinforced by Anglo-French *crique* (1386), from the Normans, who were of Scandinavian origin. The sense of small stream or brook, is first recorded in 1622, in American English.

creel *n.* 1323–24 *crele*, borrowed perhaps from Old French **crēille* (compare Middle French *crille* latticework), from Latin *crātīcula*, diminutive of *crātis* wickerwork.

creep *v.* Probably before 1200 *crepen*, developed from Old English *crēopan* (about 899); cognate with Old Frisian *kriāpa* to creep, Middle Low German *krūpen*, Middle Dutch *crūpen*, Old Icelandic *krjúpa* (Danish *krybe*, Norwegian *krype*, and Swedish *krypa* to creep), from Proto-Germanic **kreupanan*. —**n.** 1818, a creeping motion; from the verb. The slang sense of a despicable person is first recorded in 1935, in American English, perhaps an extension of robber or sneak thief (1914).

—**creeper** *n.* 1440 *crepere*, developed from Old English (before 1000) *crēopere* + (*crēopan* to creep + *-ere* -er¹). —**creepy** *adj.* 1794, formed from English *creep* + *-y*¹.

cremate *v.* 1874, back formation of *cremation*; occasionally, perhaps also an artificial borrowing from Latin *cremātus*, past participle of *cremare* to cremate. —**cremation** *n.* 1623, borrowed from Latin *cremātiōnem* (nominative *cremātiō*), from *cremare*; for suffix see *-TION*. —**crematory** *n.* 1876, **crematorium** *n.* 1880, from New Latin *crematorium*, from Latin *cremātus* (past participle of *cremare*) + *-orium* -ory.

crenelated *adj.* 1823, formed from English *crenel* one of the open spaces of a battlement (1481, from Middle French *crenel* notch, a diminutive form of Old French *cren* notch; see CRANNY) + *-ate*¹ + *-ed*². —**crenelation** *n.* 1849, formed from English *crenelate* + *-ation*.

Creole or **creole** *n.* 1697 *Cirole* a native of the West Indies, etc., of European or African descent; later *Creole* (1737); borrowed from French *créole*, from Spanish *criollo* person native to a locality, from Portuguese *crioulo*, diminutive of *cria* person (especially a servant) raised in one's house, from *criar* to raise or bring up, from Latin *creāre* to produce, CREATE.

In 1792 the word is recorded in American English as applied to a descendant of early French or Spanish settlers in Louisiana. The sense of a creolized language is first recorded in 1879. —**adj.** 1748, from the noun. —**creolize** *v.* 1818, to lounge or pass time quietly; later, to naturalize in the West Indies, etc. (1834); formed from English *creole* + *-ize*. A *creolized language* (1932) is a language developed from a mixture of two or more languages.

creosote *n.* 1835, borrowing of German *Kreosot*, from Greek *kreos-*, combining form of *kréas* flesh + *sōtēr* savior, preserver, from *sōizein* save, preserve. Originally so called from its use in surgery and medicine as a powerful antiseptic. —**v.** 1846, from the noun.

crepe *n.* 1797, borrowed from French *crêpe*, from Old French *crēpe*, from Latin *crispa*, feminine of *crispus* curled, CRISP. The sense of a thin pancake, usually curled or rolled up, is first recorded in 1877. —**crepe paper**, 1895 *crepe tissue paper*.

crescendo *n.* 1776, borrowing of Italian *crescendo* increasing, from Latin *crēscendō*, ablative case of the gerund of *crēscere* arise, grow. The figurative sense of an increase in force or effect, is first recorded in 1785.

crescent *n.* 1399 *cressaunt* crescent-shaped ornament; later, crescent of the moon (before 1460); borrowed through Anglo-French *cressaunt*, from Middle French *creissant* growing (*creistre* to grow), from Latin *crēscēntem* (nominative *crēscēns*), present participle of *crēscere* arise, grow; for suffix see ENT.

cross *n.* Old English (before 700) *cresse*, *cressa*, *cæse*; cognate with Middle Low German *kerse*, *karse* cross, Middle Dutch *kerse* (modern Dutch *kers*), Old High German *kresso*, *kressa* (modern German *Kresse*). The shift of *r* (by metathesis) in Old English *craese* and Middle Low German *karse*, is similar to that in GRASS.

crest *n.* About 1312, replacing Old English *hrīs*; borrowed from Old French *creste* tuft, comb, summit, from Latin *crista* tuft or plume. —**v.** About 1380, put a crest on; from the noun.

cretaceous *adj.* About 1675, borrowed from Latin *crētāceus* chalky, from *crēta* chalk; for suffix see *-OUS*. —**Cretaceous** *adj.* (1832) —**n.** 1851, from the adjective.

cretin *n.* 1779, borrowed from French *crétin*, from French Alpine dialect (probably of Savoy or Valais) *crétin* a kind of dwarfed and deformed idiot, from Vulgar Latin **christianus*, from Latin *christianus* CHRISTIAN. In many Romance languages the equivalents of *Christian* have the general meaning of human being, but as a euphemism carry the sense of poor fellow. —**cretinism** *n.* 1801, formed from English *cretin* + *-ism*, reinforced by French *crétinisme*.

crevasse *n.* 1823, borrowing of French *crevasse*, from Old French *crevace* a burst or split.

crevice *n.* About 1380 *crevace*; earlier *crevice* (probably about 1350) and *crevesse* (probably before 1350); borrowed from Old French *crevace*, from Vulgar Latin **crepācea*, from Latin *crepāre* to crack, creak.

crew *n.* About 1437 *crewe* group of soldiers, reinforcement of a military force; borrowed from Middle French *crue*, from Old French *creüe* an increase, recruit, from feminine past participle of *creistre* grow, from Latin *crēscere*; see CRESCENT. The sense of any group of people working or acting together, is first recorded in English in 1570. —**v.** 1935, from the noun.

crewel *n.* 1598, embroidery done originally with worsted yarn; earlier, a thin worsted yarn (1494), of unknown origin.

crib *n.* Old English (before 1000) *cribbe*, *crib* manger; cognate with Old Saxon *kribbia* manger, Old High German *krippa* (modern German *Krippe*). The sense of a child's bed, is first recorded in English in 1649. —**v.** Before 1460, to eat from a manger; later to confine as in a crib (1605); from the noun. The sense of to steal, is first recorded in 1748, and of plagiarizing in 1778.

cribbage *n.* 1630, probably formed from English *crib*, *n.* + *-age*.

crick *n.* About 1424 *crikke*, of uncertain origin (perhaps imitative of the sudden check or spasm in a muscle).

cricket¹ *n.* insect. Before 1325 *criket*; earlier as a surname (1198); borrowed from Old French *criquet* a cricket, from *criquer* to creak, rattle, crackle, of imitative origin; found also in Middle Dutch *crekel* (modern Dutch *krekel*) and Low German *Krekel* cricket.

cricket² *n.* ball game. 1598, apparently borrowed from Old French *criquet* goal post in game of bowls, stick, perhaps from Middle Dutch *cricke* stick, staff. The sense of fair play is first recorded in 1851. —**v.** About 1809, from the noun.

crime *n.* About 1250 *cryme* sinfulness; later, offense punishable by law (1384); borrowed from Old French *crime*, *crimne*, from Latin *crimen* (genitive *criminis*) charge, indictment, offense.

—**criminal** adj. About 1400; borrowed through Middle French *criminel*, and directly from Latin *crimīnālis* of or pertaining to crime, from *crīmen* (genitive *crīmīnis*) crime; for suffix see -AL¹. —**n.** Before 1626, from the adjective.

crimp *v.* 1698, to compress, curl, shrink; earlier, in a single use *crympen* be drawn together (before 1398); possibly originally developed from Old English *gecrympian* to crimp, curl, but generally agreed to have been reintroduced from Dutch or Low German *krampen* to shrink, crimp, from Middle Dutch *crimpen* or Middle Low German *krampen* to shrink, shrivel, crimp. The word *crimpen* to wrinkle, shrivel up (about 1378) is associated with *crumple*, but may also have direct connection with *crimp*. —**n.** 1863, American English, natural curl in wool fiber; from the verb.

crimson *n., adj.* 1416 *crimesyn*, *cremesin*; borrowed from early Spanish *cremesin*, early Italian *cremesino*, and directly from Medieval Latin *cremesinus*, all from Arabic *girmazī* of or belonging to the kermes (insect from which a deep red dye was obtained). —**v.** make crimson. 1601, from the adjective.

cringe *v.* Probably about 1200 *crengen* twist or bend, often haughtily; corresponding to Old English **crengan*, a causative form derived from Old English *cringan* give way, fall (in battle), shrink into a bent position. —**n.** 1597, from the verb.

crinkle *v.* About 1386 *krynkelen* turn or wind repeatedly; developed from the stem of Old English *crincan* to bend, yield; for suffix see -LE³. —**n.** 1596, probably from the verb. An apparent noun form is found in Middle English place names, such as *Krinkelker* (1212).

crinoline *n.* 1830, borrowed from French *crinoline* hair cloth, from Italian *crinolino* (*crino* horsehair, from Latin *crinis* hair + *lino* flax, thread, from *linum*; so called from the original mixture of these fibers).

cripple *n.* Probably about 1200 *crupel*; later *cripel* (about 1330); developed from Old English *crypel* (about 950), related to *cryppan* to crook, bend. The Old English *crypel* is cognate with Old Frisian *kreppel* cripple, Middle Dutch *cropele*, *crepel* (modern Dutch *kreupele*), Middle Low German *kroppel*, *kreppel*, Middle High German *krüppel* (modern German *Krüppel*), and Old Icelandic *kryppill* cripple from Proto-Germanic **krupilaz*. —**v.** Before 1250 *criplen* move or walk lamely, from Middle English *cripel*, *n.* The sense of make a cripple of, lame, is first recorded before 1325.

crisis *n.* Probably about 1425, turning point in a disease; borrowed from Latin *crisis*, from Greek *krīsis* a separating, discrimination, decision, from *krīnein* to separate, decide, judge. The sense of decisive moment, is first recorded in English in 1627.

crisp *adj.* 1 curly. Before 1325 *crisp* having a curled or fretted surface; earlier, *crisp* (about 1300) and as a surname *Crips* (about 1200), *Crispe* (1279); developed from Old English (about 900) *crisp* curly; borrowed from Latin *crispus* curled. 2 brittle. Before 1530, origin uncertain; perhaps imitative of the sound made by things described as “crisp,” such as the burning of dry sticks on a fire. Noun use as early as 1381, for a kind of

crisp pastry is suggestive of a possible source for the adjective. —**v.** 1 to curl. Probably about 1390, from the adjective, possibly influenced by Old French *crispir* and Latin *crispāre* to curl. 2 to become brittle. 1805, from the adjective. —**crispy** *adj.* 1 curly (before 1398). 2 brittle (1611). Both senses from English *crisp* + -y¹.

crisscross *v.* 1818, alteration of Middle English *Crist-crosse* (about 1475) and earlier *Cros-Kryst* (probably about 1390) referring to the mark of a cross formerly written before the alphabet in hornbooks. The mark itself stood for the phrase *Crist-cross me speed* (“May Christ’s cross give me success”), a formula said before reciting the alphabet. —**adj.** 1846, from the verb. —**n.** 1848, American English, the game of tick-tack-toe, from the verb. The sense of a transverse crossing, is first recorded in 1876, and of a network of intersecting lines, in 1881.

criterion *n.* 1661, borrowed from Greek *kritērion* means for judging, standard, from *kritēs* judge. Earlier, the word is recorded in English spelled with the Greek letters (1613, 1622, etc.). The Latinized form *criterium* is recorded before 1631 and was used occasionally until the late 1800’s.

critic *n.* 1588, one who passes judgment; later, one who judges the merits of books, plays, etc. (1605); borrowed from Middle French *critique*, learned borrowing from Latin *criticus* literary critic, from Greek *kritikós* one who is able to judge, noun use of adjective, from *kritēs* judge, from *krīnein* to separate, decide, judge; for suffix see -IC. —**critical** *adj.* 1590, given to passing judgment, formed in English from Latin *criticus*, from Greek *kritikós* able to judge + English -al¹. The sense “of the nature of a crisis, decisive, crucial,” is first recorded in English in 1649, influenced by now obsolete English *critic*, *adj.* and Late Latin *criticus* decisive, critical, from Greek *kritikós* suitable for deciding, able to judge. —**criticism** *n.* 1607, formed from English *critic* + -ism. —**criticize** *v.* 1649, formed from English *critic* + -ize.

critique *n.* 1702, alteration of earlier *critick* art of criticism (1656); borrowed from French *critique*, from Greek *kritikē technē* the critical art, feminine of *kritikós* critical, able to judge; see CRITIC. —**v.** write a critique upon, review, criticize. 1751, from the noun.

croak *v.* 1547, from *crok* (before 1460), *crouken* (before 1325), perhaps imitative, but possibly developed from Old English *crāc(ettan)* to croak, related to Old English *cracian* make a sharp noise, CRACK. —**n.** 1561, deep hoarse cry; from the verb.

crochet *n.* 1846, borrowing of French *crochet*, from Old French *crochet*, diminutive of *croche*, *croc* hook, from a Germanic source (compare Old Icelandic *krökr* hook). —**v.** knit with a hooked needle. 1858, from the noun.

crock *n.* Old English (about 1000) *crocc*, *crocca*; related to *crūce* pitcher, and cognate with Old Frisian *kerocha* pot, Old Saxon *knūka*, Middle Dutch *crūke* (modern Dutch *kruike*), Middle High German *knūche* pot, Old High German *krūog* pitcher (modern German *Krug*), and Old Icelandic *krúka* (Danish, Norwegian *kruke*, and Swedish *kruka*) pot, from Proto-

Germanic **krōgu-*. —**crockery** *n.* 1719, formed from English *crook* + *-ery*.

crocodile *n.* 1563, alteration (influenced by Latin *crocodilus*) of Middle English *cokedrille* (probably before 1300); borrowed from Old French *cocodrille*, from Medieval Latin *cocodrillus*, itself an alteration of Latin *crocodilus*, from Greek *krōkōdilos* crocodile, lizard.

crocus *n.* Before 1398, borrowed through Old French *crocus*, and directly from Latin *crocus*, from Greek *krōkos* saffron, crocus.

crone *n.* About 1390; earlier, as a surname *Hopcrone* (1323–24); borrowed through Anglo-French *carogne*, as a term of abuse, from Old North French *carogne*, *caroigne* cantankerous woman, literally, CARRION.

crony *n.* 1665 *chrony*, said to be originally a term of college or university slang, perhaps as a borrowing from Greek *chrōnios* lasting, from *chrōnos* time.

crook *n.* Probably before 1200 *crok*, borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *krōkr* hook, Danish *krog*, Norwegian, Swedish *krok*); cognate with Old High German *krācho* hooked tool. The figurative sense of a person who is crooked, a swindler or criminal, is first recorded in 1879 in American English. —*v.* Probably before 1200 *croken* to bend, curve; apparently from *crok*, *n.* —**crooked** *adj.* Probably before 1200 *croked* bent, curved; formed in part from the past participle of *croken* to crook, and in part from *crok* crook + *-ed*, as in *hunched*, etc. The figurative sense of dishonest is first recorded in 1708, in American English.

croon *v.* Probably about 1400 *crownen* hum, sing, or murmur in a low tone; later, *croynen* (about 1460); borrowed from Middle Dutch *krōnen* to lament, mourn, groan; cognate with Old High German *krōnan* to chatter, prattle, of imitative origin.

crop *n.* Old English (about 700) *cropp* rounded head or top of an herb, sprout; later, *craw* of a bird (about 1000); cognate with Old High German *kropf* swelling on a bird's throat, *craw* of a bird (modern German *Kropf*), Old Icelandic *kroppr* (Danish *krop*, Norwegian, Swedish *kropp*) body. The sense of the produce of a field, harvest, is first recorded about 1300. —*v.* Probably before 1200 *croppen* remove the top of a plant; from the noun. The general meaning of cut off is first recorded before 1440.

croquet *n.* 1858, borrowed from Northern French dialect *croquet* hockey stick, from Old North French *croquet* shepherd's crook, variant of Old French *crochet* CROCHET.

crossier *n.* 1203 *crozier*; later *crossier* (1483) one who carries a cross before a prelate or the crook of a bishop, and (about 1400) *crozier* the pastoral staff itself; borrowed from Old French *croisier*, from *crois* CROSS; and through Anglo-French *crossier*, from Old French *crossier*, *crozier* crook bearer, from *crosse*, *croce* hook, pastoral staff, from a Frankish word (compare Old High German *krucka* CRUTCH); for suffix see *-IER*.

cross *n.* Old English (963–84) *cross*, replacing earlier Old English *rōd*, and borrowed from Old Irish *cross* (probably through Scandinavian; compare Old Icelandic *kröss*), from Latin *crux* (genitive *crucis*) stake, cross; originally, a tall, round pole.

Other forms of the word are also recorded in English: Old English *cruc*, borrowed from Latin *crucem*, and Middle English *croiz*, *crois*, borrowed through Anglo-French *cross*, and from Old French *croiz*, *crois*, but they became obsolete after 1450. —*v.* Probably before 1200 *crossen* make the sign of the cross over; from the noun. The sense of to cancel by drawing lines across, strike out, is first recorded in 1443, and that of go across, probably before 1400. —*adj.* 1523, from the noun and elliptical use of the earlier adverb (probably before 1200 in *across*). The sense of ill-tempered, peevish, is first recorded in 1639, from the earlier sense of contrary, opposed to (1565). —**cross-examine** *v.* (1664) —**cross-eyed** *adj.* (1791) —**cross-purposes** *n.pl.* (1666) —**crossroad** *n.* (1719) —**crossways** *adj., adv.* (1300)

crotch *n.* 1539, fork, probably in part a variant of CRUTCH, and in part a variant of *croche* crook, crosier, borrowed from Old North French *croche* shepherd's crook, variant of *crok* hook; see CROCHET. The meaning of part of the body where the legs meet is recorded in English before 1592.

crotchety *adj.* 1825, formed from English *crotchet* whim or fancy (1573) + *-y¹*. Originally *crotchet* referred to an architectural ornament of curled leaves (about 1395); borrowed from Old French *crochet*, diminutive of *croche*, *crok* hook.

crouch *v.* Probably about 1395; probably borrowed from Old French *crochir* become bent, crooked, from *croche* hook. —*n.* 1597, from the verb.

croup¹ *n.* disease of the throat and windpipe. 1765, noun use of obsolete verb *croup* to cry hoarsely, croak (1513); probably of imitative origin. —**croupy** *adj.* 1834, formed from English *croup* + *-y¹*.

croup² *n.* rump of a horse, etc. Probably before 1300 *croupe*, borrowed from Old French *croupe*, *crope*, from a Frankish word (compare Old High German *kropf* swelling on a bird's throat; see CROP).

croupier *n.* 1707, person who stands behind and assists a game player; borrowed from French, from *croupe*, originally, one who rides behind on the CROUP² (of a horse, etc.). The meaning of attendant at a gambling table, is first recorded in 1731.

crouton *n.* 1806, borrowing of French *croûton* small piece of toasted or fried bread, from *croûte* crust, from Old French *cruste*; see CRUST.

crow¹ *v.* cry. About 1250 *crowen*, developed from Old English (about 1000) *crāwan* make the cry of a rooster; cognate with Old High German *krāen* to crow (modern German *krähen*), of imitative origin; see CRANE. The figurative sense show one's happiness and pride, is first recorded in English in 1522. —*n.* Probably before 1200 *crau*; later *crowe*, from *crowen* to crow.

crow² *n.* bird. About 1250 *crowe*; earlier, as a surname (1188); developed from Old English (before 700) *crāwe*; cognate with Old High German *krāwa* crow (modern German *Krāhe*), Old Saxon *krāia*, and Old Icelandic *krāka* crow, *krāker* raven (Danish *krage*, Norwegian *kråke*, and Swedish *kråka* crow). —**crowbar** *n.* 1748, in American English; formed from English *crow* bar of iron used as a lever (before 1400) + *bar*. —**crow's-feet** *n.* (about 1385) —**crow's-nest** *n.* 1818, a small lookout near the top of a ship's mast; earlier, the nest of a crow (probably before 1300).

crowd *v.* About 1380 *crowden* to push, jostle, crowd; earlier, to press on, hurry (probably about 1225); developed from Old English *crūdan* to press, drive, hasten (937); cognate with Middle Dutch *crūden* to press, push, Middle High German *krotten* to press, oppress, and Norwegian *kryda* to crowd. —**n.** 1567, from the verb, and replacing earlier *press*.

crown *n.* 1111 *coronan* royal crown; later *crune* wreath placed on the head of a victor, diadem, royal crown (probably before 1200), and *coroune* (1300); borrowed through Anglo-French *coroune*, from Old North French *curune* (Old French *corone*), from Latin *corōna* wreath, garland, crown, from Greek *korōnē* anything curved, kind of crown. The two forms *crune*, *coroune* existed together in Middle English but only *crune*, *crown* survived after the 1500's. —**v.** Probably before 1200 *crunen* place a crown on the head; borrowed through Anglo-French *corouner*, from Old French *coroner*, from Latin *corōnāre*, from *corōna* crown. —**crowning** *adj.* 1611, that crowns; later, that makes perfect or complete (1651).

crucial *adj.* 1706, cross-shaped, as of an incision in the body; borrowing of French *crucial* (used as a medical term), from Latin *crux* (genitive *crucis*) CROSS; for suffix see -AL¹. The sense of decisive, critical, is first recorded in 1830 a translation of *instantia crucis* crucial instance (1620), *crucis* referring to the cross-signpost at a fork in a road.

crucible *n.* Probably before 1425 *crusible*; borrowed from Medieval Latin *crucibulum* melting pot for metals, originally a night lamp, possibly Latinization of a Romance word like Old French *croisuel*. The figurative sense of a severe test or trial, is first recorded about 1645.

crucify *v.* Before 1325 *crucifien*, borrowed from Old French *crucifier*, from Vulgar Latin **crucificāre* replacing Late Latin *crucifigere*, literally, fasten to a cross (*crucifigere*, dative of Latin *crux* CROSS + *figere* fasten); for suffix see -FY.

The figurative sense of to torment is first recorded in English in 1621. —**crucifix** *n.* Probably before 1200, borrowed through Old French *crucifix*, and directly from Late Latin *crucifixus*, from past participle of *crucifigere* crucify. —**crucifixion** *n.* Before 1410, borrowed from Late Latin *crucifixionem* (nominative *crucifixio*), from *crucifigere* crucify; for suffix see -ION.

crude *adj.* About 1395, in a raw state, unrefined; borrowed from Latin *crūdus* rough, RAW. The extended sense of rude, lacking grace or refinement, is first recorded in English in 1650. —**crudity** *n.* Probably before 1325 *crudite*, borrowed through Middle French *crudité* and directly from Latin *crū-*

ditātem (nominative *crūdītās*), from *crūdus* crude; for suffix see -ITY.

cruel *adj.* Probably before 1200, severe, strict; later pitiless, heartless (about 1300); borrowed from Old French *cruel*, from Latin *crūdēlem* unfeeling, cruel, related to *crūdus* rough, RAW. —**cruelty** *n.* Probably before 1200 *cruelte*; borrowed from Old French *cruelté*, from Latin *crūdēlitātem* (nominative *crūdēlitās*), from *crūdēlem* cruel; for suffix see -TY².

cruet *n.* About 1300, a church vessel to hold wine or water; borrowed possibly through Anglo-French *cruet*, or directly from Old French *cruet*, diminutive of *crue* pot, from a Frankish word (compare Middle High German *krüche* pot, CROCK).

cruise *v.* 1651, borrowed from Dutch *kruisen* to cross, sail crossing to and fro, from *kruis* cross, from Latin *crux* CROSS. —**n.** 1706, from the verb. —**cruiser** *n.* 1695, ship that cruises, privateer; borrowed from Dutch *kruiser*, from *kruisen* to cruise; for suffix see -ER¹. An earlier use *croisier*, *croiser* (1679) refers to pirates, perhaps from French *croiseur* ship and captain, which may have influenced the noun use in English.

cruller *n.* 1805, American English; borrowed apparently from Dutch *kruller*, from *krullen* to curl, from Middle Dutch *crullen*; see CURL.

crumb *n.* About 1150 *crume* a small bit of bread; developed from Old English *cruma* (about 975); cognate with Middle Dutch *crūme* crumb (modern Dutch *kruim*), Middle Low German *krōme*, Middle High German *krume* (modern German *Krume*).

The final *b* began to appear about 1450, by analogy with Old English words such as *dumb*. —**crumby** or **crummy** *adj.* 1767 *crumby* like crumbs; 1579 *crummy* like crumbs; earlier, easily crumbled (1567); formed from English *crum(b)* + -y¹. The slang sense of inferior, disagreeable, is first recorded in 1859.

crumble *v.* 1577, variant (probably influenced by the new spelling *crumb*) of earlier *kremelen* (about 1475); developed from Old English **crymēlan*, a frequentative form of *gescrymman* to break into crumbs, from *cruma* crumb; for suffix see -LE³.

crumpet *n.* 1694, a thin griddlecake; perhaps developed from *crompid* cake wafer, literally, curled-up cake (1382), from *crompid*, past participle of *crumpen* curl up.

crumple *v.* Before 1325 *crumplen*, apparently a frequentative form of *crumpen* to curl up; developed from Old English (before 800) *crump* bent, crooked; cognate with Old Icelandic *keropna* draw together, *krappr* narrow (-pp- from -mp-); for suffix see -LE³.

crunch *v.* 1814, alteration of earlier *craunch* (1631), probably of imitative origin, but perhaps influenced by *crush*, *munch*. —**n.** 1836, from the verb. The sense of a critical point or crisis was popularized by Winston Churchill, whose use of it was first recorded in 1939. —**crunchy** *adj.* 1892, formed from English *crunch*, *v.* + -y¹.

crusade *n.* 1706, alteration of earlier *croisade* (1577), influenced by the stem *cruz-* of Spanish *cruzada*. In the 1500's early

modern English *croisade* was borrowed from Middle French *croisade*, alteration of Old French *croisee* *crusade*, also influenced by Spanish *cruzada* in adapting the suffix *-ada* to Middle French *-ade*. Old French *croisee* from *crois* *cross*, derived from Latin *crux*; Spanish *cruzada*, literally, a marking with the cross, derived from the feminine past participle of *cruzar*, from Medieval Latin *cruciare*, from Latin *crux* (genitive *crucis*) *CROSS*.

The Middle English forms *croiserie*, *creiserie* (about 1300) were borrowed from Old French *croiserie* and were replaced by *croisade* in the 1500's.

The figurative sense of an aggressive movement or campaign against some public evil, is first recorded in 1786. —**v.** 1732, from the noun. —**crusader** *n.* 1743, formed from English *crusade* + *-er*¹, and replacing earlier *croisader*, borrowed from, or imitative of, French *croisadeur*.

crush *v.* Before 1349 *crowsen*; later, *cruschen* (probably before 1400); borrowed from Old French *croissir*, *cuissir* to crash, smash, from a Frankish word (compare Gothic *kriustan*, Old Swedish *krýsta* to gnash). —**n.** 1599, act of crushing; earlier, *crusche* a crash (before 1338); from the verb.

crust *n.* Probably before 1325, hard outer part of bread; borrowed through Old French *crouste*, or directly from Latin *crusta* *rind*, *crust*, *shell*. The geological sense of the outer portion of the earth, is first recorded in English in 1555. —**v.** Before 1382, borrowed from Old French *crouster*, from *crouste* *crust*. —**crusty** *adj.* Before 1400, formed from English *crust*, *n.* + *-y*¹.

crustacean *n.* 1835, water animals with hard shells, jointed bodies and appendages, from New Latin *Crustacea* the name of this class of animals, from neuter plural of *crustaceus* having a hard shell (from Latin *crusta* *shell*, *CRUST*) + English *-an*. —**adj.** 1858, from the noun; earlier *crustaceous* (1646).

crutch *n.* Probably before 1200 *cruche*, developed from Old English (about 900) *cryc*, cognate with Old Saxon *krucka* *crutch*, Middle Dutch *crucke*, Old High German *krucka* (modern German *Krücke*), from Proto-Germanic **krukjō*. The figurative sense of a prop or support is first recorded in English in 1602. —**v.** 1642, from the noun.

crux *n.* 1718, a difficulty, riddle, puzzling question, probably shortened from the Medieval Latin phrase *crux interpretum* interpreters' cross, torment of interpreters, from Latin *crux* (genitive *crucis*) *cross*. The extended sense of the critical or central point is first recorded in 1888.

cry *v.* Probably before 1200 *crien* *beg*, implore; borrowed from Old French *crier*, from Vulgar Latin **crītāre*, from Latin *quiritāre* *cry out*, *wail*, of uncertain origin.

The meaning of make a noise of grief or pain is first recorded about 1280. In this sense *cry* has replaced *weep* in everyday speech. —**n.** About 1280, borrowed from Old French *cri*, from Vulgar Latin **crītum*, from **crītāre* to cry. —**crier** *n.* 1221, as a surname *Criur*; later *crior*, *criour* an officer who makes public announcements, town crier (probably about 1350); and *crier* (before 1387); borrowed from Old French *criere*, from *crier*, *v.* —**crybaby** *n.* (1851, American English)

cryo- a combining form meaning very cold, freezing, very low temperature, as in *cryobiology* (study of the effects of freezing on living things). Borrowed from Greek *kryo-*, combining form of *krýos* *icy cold*, related to *kryerós* *chilling*.

cryogenic *adj.* 1902, formed from English *cryo-* *freezing* + *-genic* *having to do with production*.

crypt *n.* 1667, borrowed through French *crypte*, and directly from Latin *crypta* *vault*, *cavern*, from Greek *kryptē*, feminine of *kryptós* *hidden*, from *kryptein* to hide. —**cryptic** *adj.* Before 1638, borrowed from Late Latin *crypticus*, from Greek *kryptikós*, from *kryptós* *hidden*; for suffix see *-ic*.

crypto- or **crypt-** (before vowels) a combining form meaning: 1 *hidden*, *secret*, as in *cryptogram* = *secret writing*, or *cryptology* = *the study of secret writing*. 2 *secretly*, *disguised*, *not open or acknowledged*, as in *crypto-fascist* = *secretly fascist*. Borrowed from Greek *kryptós* *secret*, *hidden*; see *CRYPT*.

cryptography *n.* 1658, borrowed from French *cryptographie* (from Greek *kryptós* *hidden* + *-graphiā* *writing*, *-graphy*). —**cryptogram** *n.* 1880, probably formed from English *crypto* + *-gram*.

crystal *n.* Old English *cristal* *clear ice*, *transparent mineral* (about 1000); borrowed from Old French *cristal*, learned borrowing from Latin *crystallum* *ice*, *crystal*, from Greek *krýstallós* *ice*, *rock crystal*. Between the 1400's and 1600's the English spelling gradually adopted the Latin form *crystal*. —**adj.** Probably about 1380, composed of *crystal*; from the noun. —**crystalline** *adj.* Before 1398 *cristalline*, borrowed from Old French *cristalin* *like crystal*, learned borrowing from Latin *crystallinus*, from Greek *krýstállinos* *of crystal*, from *krýstallós*. —**crystallization** *n.* 1665, formed from English *crystallize* + *-ation*. —**crystallize** *v.* 1598, formed from English *crystal* + *-ize*.

cub *n.* 1530 *cube* *young fox*, of unknown origin, but perhaps cognate with Old Icelandic *kobbi* *seal*, *-kubbi* *block*, *lump*; see *COB*¹ and possibly related to Old Irish *cuib* *cup*, *whelp*, *cū* *dog*. The native English word for *cub* is *whelp*.

cubbyhole *n.* 1825, of uncertain origin; possibly formed from English *cub* *pen* (1546) + *-y*² + *hole*, and perhaps related to, or influenced by, *cuddy* *small room*, *cupboard* (1793); earlier, *small cabin on a boat* (1660).

cube *n.* 1551, borrowed through Middle French *cube*, or directly from (and replacing) Latin *cubeus*, from Greek *kýbos* *cube*, a hollow above the hips of cattle. The mathematical sense of the third power of a quantity, is first recorded in 1557. —**v.** 1588, *raise to the third power*, *find the cube of*; borrowed from Middle French *cuver*, from *cube*, *n.*, and replacing earlier *cuicen* (before 1500), from earlier *cuik*, *adj.* (before 1500). The sense of *cut into cubes*, is first recorded in 1947. —**cubic** *adj.* Before 1500, borrowed from Middle French *cuibique*, from Latin *cuibicus*, from Greek *kybikós*, from *kýbos* *cube*; for suffix see *-ic*. —**cubical** *adj.* Before 1500, probably formed from English *cubic* + *-al*¹. —**cubism** *n.* 1911, borrowed from French *cuisme* (coined in 1908), from French *cube* *cube* + *-isme* *-ism*.

cubicle *n.* About 1450, bedroom, borrowed from Latin *cubiculum*, from *cubare* to lie down, (originally) bend oneself. The word in its original sense of "bedroom" became obsolete in the 1500's, but it was reintroduced in the 1800's, especially in English public schools, for a small sleeping compartment in a dormitory; from this evolved the current sense (attested since 1926) of any small compartment or partitioned space.

cuckold *n.* About 1250 *kukeweld*, apparently borrowed from Old French *cucuault* cuckold, from *cucu* CUCKOO + pejorative suffix *-ault*; supposedly so called either because the female cuckoo changes mates frequently or because she lays her eggs in the nests of other birds. —*v.* 1589, from the noun.

cuckoo *n.* Before 1300 *cuccu*; earlier, as a surname *Kuku* (1191); borrowed from or influenced by Old French *cucu*, which is of imitative origin. —*adj.* 1627, from the noun. The slang sense of crazy, silly, is first recorded in 1918 in American English, from the earlier noun meaning of a foolish or stupid person (1581).

cucumber *n.* About 1384 *cucumer*; later *cucumber* (probably 1440); borrowed from Old French *cocombre*, *coucombre*, from Latin *cucumerem*, accusative of *cucumis* cucumber.

cud *n.* Probably about 1200 *cude* food that cattle and similar animals return to the mouth to rechew; earlier, gum or resin; developed from Old English (about 1000) *cudu*, earlier *cwidu*, *cwudu* cud or tree resin.

cuddle *v.* About 1520 *culde*, implied in *culdylng* in a song but not found again until 1719; apparently a dialectal word of nursery origin. —**cuddly** *adj.* 1863, formed from English *cuddle* + *-y*¹.

cudgel *n.* Probably before 1200 *cuggel*, earlier as a surname (1187); developed from Old English *cygel* (about 897). —*v.* 1596, beat with a cudgel.

cue¹ *n.* hint. 1553 *q*, letter said to have been used to mark the point at which an actor was to enter or begin a speech, and explained as an abbreviation of Latin *quando* when. In 1565 it was spelled out *quew*; in the context of speeches in Shakespeare's works it is found both as *Q* in *Richard III* and as *cue* in *Hamlet* and *Midsummer Night's Dream*. —*v.* 1928, from the noun.

cue² *n.* stick. 1731, pigtail, variant of *queue* (1592); borrowed from French *queue*, literally, tail, from Old French; see *QUEUE*. The sense of a billiard cue is first recorded in 1749.

cuff¹ *n.* band of the sleeve. Before 1376 *coffe* mitten, glove; later, *cuffe* (1410); of uncertain origin. The sense of a band around the sleeve, is first recorded in 1522, and that of turned-up hems on the legs of trousers, about 1911. —**cuff links** (1897)

cuff² *v.* hit. 1530 *cuffe*, of uncertain origin; perhaps borrowed from Swedish *kuffa* to thrust, push. —*n.* 1570 *cuffe* a blow with the hand, buffet, apparently from the verb.

cuirass *n.* 1464, armor for the chest and the back; borrowed from Middle French *cuirasse*, from Late Latin *coriacea vestis*

garment of leather, from Latin *corium* leather, hide. The word is traditionally thought to have been borrowed into Middle French from Italian *corazza*, but that is impossible because of the age of the French word.

cuisine *n.* 1786, borrowing of French *cuisine*, literally, kitchen, from Vulgar Latin **cocina*, variant of Latin *coquina* cookery, kitchen, from *coquere* to COOK.

cul-de-sac *n.* 1738, vessel closed at one end, borrowing of French *cul-de-sac*, literally, bottom of the sack (*cul* bottom, from Latin *cūlus* bottom and *sac* sack, from Latin *saccus* SACK¹). The meaning of a blind alley, especially in its figurative sense, is first recorded in 1800.

culinary *adj.* 1638, borrowed perhaps through French *culinaire* (1546), from Latin *culinārius*, from *culina* kitchen, of uncertain origin; for suffix see *-ARY*.

cul *v.* About 1225 *culen* choose, select; earlier *cullen* put through a strainer (probably before 1200); borrowed from Old French *cueill-*, stem of *cuillir*, *coillir* collect, gather, select, from Latin *colligere* COLLECT. The sense of gather, pluck (flowers, fruits, etc.), is first recorded in 1634. —*n.* Before 1618; from the verb.

culminate *v.* 1647, borrowed from Late Latin *culminātus*, past participle of *culmināre* to crown, from Latin *culmen* (genitive *culminis*) top, related to *celsus* high; for suffix see *-ATE*¹. Also possibly a back formation of *culmination*. —**culmination** *n.* 1633, probably borrowed from French *culmination*, from Late Latin *culmināre* culminate; for suffix see *-ATION*.

culottes *n.pl.* 1911, American English, borrowed from French *culottes* knee breeches, from *cul* bottom, backside.

culpable *adj.* Before 1338; earlier *coupable* (about 1280); borrowing of Old French *coupable*, *culpable*, from Latin *culpābilis*, from *culpāre* to blame, from *culpa* fault, crime, blame; for suffix see *-ABLE*.

culprit *n.* 1678, used in the formula "Culprit, how will you be tried?" Apparently this word was formed by the accidental running together of two words (a fusion facilitated by the use of abbreviations in legal writing): Anglo-French *culpable* guilty, abbreviated *cul.*, and *prit* or *prist*, variant of Old French *prest* ready, from Latin *praestō* ready. The original unabbreviated phrase had been *Culpable: prest d'averrer (nostre bille)* Guilty: ready to aver (our indictment). The abbreviated form, *Cul. prit*, was later mistaken for an appellation addressed to the accused, so that by 1700 Dryden used it in the sense of "the accused" and by 1769 it was used (partly by influence of Latin *culpa* fault, offense) to mean "an offender."

cult *n.* 1617, worship or homage; later, system of religious worship (1679); borrowed through French *culte*, learned borrowing from Latin, and directly from Latin *cultus* (genitive *cultūs*) cultivation, care, worship, from *cult-*, stem of *colere* to till, cultivate, attend to.

cultivate *v.* 1620–55, formed (probably through influence of French *cultiver* and Spanish *cultivar*) from Medieval Latin

cultivat-, past participle stem of *cultivare*, from *cultivus* under tillage, from Latin *cultus*, past participle of *colere* to till; for suffix see -ATE¹. The figurative sense of train, refine, is first recorded in English in 1681–86. —**cultivation** *n.* Before 1700, formed from English *cultivate* + *-ion*. Though cited as a borrowing from French, no record of *cultivation* appears in French before 1700.

culture *n.* Probably 1440, tillage; borrowed from Middle French *culture*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *cultura* a tending, care, cultivation, from *cult-*, the past participle stem of *colere* to till; for suffix see -URE.

The figurative sense of cultivation of the mind or body through education or training, is first recorded about 1510. —**cultural** *adj.* 1868, relating to the cultivation of plants, etc.; probably formed from English *culture* + *-al*¹, possibly by influence of earlier French *cultural* (1863). The sense relating to culture of the mind, manners, etc., is first recorded in English in 1875.

culvert *n.* 1773, of uncertain origin. The word is possibly of English dialectal origin. A connection with French *couloir* passage, corridor, track, from *couler* to flow, has not been established.

cumber *v.* About 1300 *cumberen*, also *comberen* (1348); borrowed probably from Old French *combrer* prevent, impede, from *combre* barrier, especially of a river, from Gallo-Latin **comboros* that which is carried together (*com-* together + *-boros*, related to the source of Latin *ferre* to carry), and Old English *beran* BEAR² carry. Related to ENCUMBER. —**cumbersome**, **cumbrous** *adj.* Both forms: 1375, formed from English *cumber* + *-some*¹, and + *-ous*.

cum laude 1893 (but used at Harvard University as early as 1872), American English, borrowed from New Latin or Medieval Latin *cum laude*, literally with praise (Latin *cum* with + *laude*, ablative of *laus*, genitive *laudis* praise). The phrase probably came into American usage from the academic Latin of Germany (as at the University of Heidelberg).

cummerbund *n.* 1616, borrowed from Hindi *kamarband*, from Persian (*kamar* waist, loins + *band*, *bandh* band, tie).

cumulate *v.* 1534, borrowed perhaps through Middle French *cumuler*, or directly from Latin *cumulātus*, past participle of *cumulāre* heap up, from *cumulus* heap; for suffix see -ATE¹. —**cumulative** *adj.* 1605, formed in English from Latin *cumulātus* (past participle of *cumulāre* to heap) + English *-ive*. **cumulus** *n.* 1659, heap or pile; borrowed from Latin *cumulus* heap. The meteorological use is first recorded in 1803.

cuneiform *adj.* 1677, borrowed from French *cunéiforme* (from Latin *cuneus* wedge, of unknown source, + French *-forme* -form). In 1818 the word is first recorded in English as applied to the wedge-shaped characters of the ancient inscriptions of Persia, Assyria, etc., perhaps influenced by the same meaning found in French *cunéiforme* (1813). —**n.** 1862, cuneiform character or writing; from the adjective.

cunning *adj.* Before 1338 *konnyng*, *konnyng* skillful, clever, present participle of *connen* to know, developed from Old English *cunnan* to know (how); for suffix see -ING².

The pejorative sense of sly, sharp, crafty, developed probably before 1402. The informal sense of attractive, cute, is first recorded in 1844 in American English. —**n.** Probably about 1300 *kunning* knowledge; later *konnyng* cleverness, shrewdness (before 1375); from gerund of *connen* to know.

cup *n.* Old English *cuppe* drinking vessel (about 1000); borrowed from Late Latin *cuppa* cup, a variant of Latin *cūpa* tub, cask. The Late Latin word is also the source of Old Frisian *kopp* cup, head, Middle Low German *kopp* cup, Middle Dutch *coppe* (modern Dutch *kopje* cup, head), Old High German *kopf*, *chupf* cup (modern German *Kopf* head). In the Romance languages, Late Latin *cuppa* was the source of Italian *coppa*, Provençal, Spanish, and Portuguese *copa*, and Old French *coupe*, all meaning cup. —**v.** Before 1398, to draw blood by applying a glass cup ("cupping glass") to the skin; from the noun. The sense of form a cup, become cup-shaped, is first recorded in 1830. —**cupboard** *n.* (1375) —**cupcake** *n.* (1828, American English) —**cupful** *n.* (about 1150)

cupid or **Cupid** *n.* 1380 *Cupid*, borrowed, perhaps by influence of Old French *Cupidon*, from Latin *Cupīdō*, personification of *cupīdō* desire or love, from *cupere* to desire or long for, COVET.

The sense of a sculptured figure or representation of Cupid is first recorded in 1611. —**cupidity** *n.* 1436 *cupidite*, borrowed from Middle French *cupidité*, learned borrowing from Latin *cupīditatem* (nominative *cupīditās*) passionate desire, from *cupīdus* desirous, from *cupere* to desire; for suffix see -ITY.

cupola *n.* 1549, borrowing of Italian *cupola*, + from Late Latin *cūpula* little cask, small vault, diminutive of Latin *cūpa* cask, barrel.

cupreous *adj.* 1666, borrowed from Late Latin *cupreus*, from *cuprum*, alteration of Latin *cyprum* COPPER; for suffix see -OUS. —**cupric** *adj.* 1799, formed from English *cupr(eous)* + *-ic*, or from Late Latin *cuprum* copper + English *-ic*.

cur *n.* Probably before 1200, both *curre* vicious dog, cowardly dog, and *cur-dogge* the Devil (in later Middle English use, both terms could mean either a bad dog or a good dog); perhaps borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare dialectal Swedish *kurre* house dog, related to Old Icelandic *kurra* to grumble); cognate with Middle Dutch *corre* house dog, literally, grumbling animal, and Middle High German *kurren* to growl, grunt, probably ultimately of imitative origin.

The figurative sense of contemptible person, is first recorded in 1590.

curate *n.* Probably 1382, spiritual guide, one who cures; borrowed from Medieval Latin *curatus* person having the cure of souls, from *cura* cure (of souls), from Latin *cūra* care. The meaning of a clergyman who assists a pastor was first recorded in 1557.

curator *n.* Probably about 1375 *curature* person having the care of souls; borrowed from Anglo-French *curatour*, Old French *curateur*, learned borrowing from Latin *cūrātorēm* (nominative *cūrātor*) overseer, guardian, from *cūrāre* care for, from *cūra* care; for suffix see -OR².

The general meaning of a manager (borrowed directly from Latin *cūrator*) is first recorded in English in 1632, later, the specialized sense of a person in charge of a museum, library, etc., is found in 1661.

curb *n.* a fusion of two related words: 1) 1477 *corbe* strap used to restrain a horse, from earlier verb *courben* to bow down, make stop (about 1378); borrowed from Old French *corber*, *courber*, from Latin *curvāre*, from *curvus* curved. The figurative sense of a check or restraint is first recorded in 1613, probably from the verb. 2) 1511 *corbe* curved border, as of a well; earlier *curb* a curved piece of timber (1324); borrowed from Old French *corbe*, *courbe* curved object, curve, from *corp*, *corbe*, adj., curved, from Latin *curvus* curved. The extended sense of a border, as of a sidewalk, is implied in *curbstone* (1791). —**v.** 1530, put a curb on a horse; from the noun (*corbe* strap). The figurative sense of to check, restrain, is first recorded in 1588.

curd *n.* Before 1500 *curd*, alteration (by metathesis of *u* and *r*) of earlier *crud* (before 1376); probably related to Old English *crūdan* to press, drive. —**v.** 1471 *curden* make into curd, curdle, alteration of earlier *crudden* (before 1382); from *crud*, *n.*, curd. —**curdle** *v.* 1627–47, alteration of earlier *crudle* (1590); frequentative form of *crud* curd; for suffix see -LE³.

cure *n.* Probably before 1300 *coure*, and *cure*, care, heed, charge; borrowed through Old French *cure*, or directly from Latin *cūra* care, concern, attention, management, from Old Latin *coīrā*-. The sense of medical care or treatment, healing, restoration to health, is first recorded in English about 1380. —**v.** About 1378 *curen* take care of; later, to restore to health, heal (about 1384); borrowed from Old French *curer*, from Latin *cūrāre* take care, care for, attend, manage, from *cūra* care. —**curable** *adj.* Before 1398, borrowed through Old French *curable*, or directly from Latin *cūrābilis*, from *cūrāre* take care; for suffix see -ABLE. —**cure-all** *n.* (1821, in American English) —**curative** *adj.* Probably before 1425, borrowed from Old French *curatif*, *curative*, from Latin *cūrāt-*, past participle stem of *cūrāre*.

curette or **curet** *n.* 1753, borrowing of French *curette* (*curer* to cleanse, heal, CURE + -ette -ette). —**curettage** *n.* scraping or cleaning by means of a curette. 1897, borrowing of French *curettage* (*curette* curette + -age -age).

curfew *n.* About 1330 *corfu* the ringing of a bell at a fixed hour in the evening (originally, as a signal to cover or put out fires); borrowed through Anglo-French *coeverfu*, Old French *covefeuf*, literally, cover fire (*covrir* to COVER + *feu* fire, from Latin *focus* hearth).

The practice of ringing a bell at a fixed hour in the evening continued long after the original purpose of putting out fires and lights became obsolete. In time the signal was used to regulate the movements of inhabitants after dark, especially in periods of political disorder and war. By the 1800's the word meant an official regulation to keep off the streets at fixed hours.

curie *n.* 1910, unit for measuring the intensity of radioactivity; named for Pierre Curie who, with his wife Marie, discovered the element radium.

curio *n.* 1851, American English, informally shortened form of *curiosity*.

curious *adj.* About 1340 *curiose* eager to know, inquisitive; borrowed from Old French *curios*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *cūriōsus* full of care, taking pains, curious, from *cūra* care; for suffix see -OUS. The sense of exciting curiosity, singular, odd, queer, is first recorded in 1715. —**curiosity** *n.* Probably about 1378 *curiosite* inquisitiveness; borrowed from Old French *curiosité*, learned borrowing from Latin *cūriōsitätē* (nominative *cūriōsītās*), from *cūriōsus* curious; for suffix see -ITY. The meaning of an object of interest is first recorded in English about 1645.

curium *n.* 1946, New Latin, formed after Pierre Curie and his wife Marie, discoverers of radium, + -ium.

curl *v.* 1440 *curlen*, alteration (by metathesis of *u* or *o* and *r*) of earlier *crollen* (about 1380), from *crolle*, *crul*, adj., curly (probably before 1300), and earlier *Cnrl* (1191, as surname); probably developed from an unrecorded Old English word. Early Middle English forms are cognate with Frisian *krull*, *krulle* lock of hair, curl, Middle Dutch *crulle* curl, Middle High German *krol*, *krolle*, Norwegian *krull*, and Danish *krølle*, all meaning curl. —**n.** 1602, from the verb. —**curler** *n.* 1748 (hair); 1638 (game). —**curling** *n.* 1440, action of curling the hair. —**curly** *adj.* 1772–84, formed from English *curl*, *n.* + -y¹.

curlew *n.* About 1340 *curlu* a quail; later, *corlue* a wading bird (about 1378); borrowed from Old French *corlieu*, *corlue*, perhaps in the meaning runner, messenger (from *corre* to run), since this bird is a good runner.

curlicue *n.* 1843 *curlycue*, formed in American English from *curly* + *cue*², as corresponding to French *queue* + tail; possibly also influenced by the name and form of the letter Q.

curmudgeon *n.* 1577 *curmudgen*, of unknown origin. It has been suggested that the first syllable is the word *cur* dog; the ending is similar to those of *bludgeon* and *dudgeon*, also of unknown origin. Another suggestion is to associate -mudgeon with Middle English *margin* (later *mudgeon*) dirt, refuse, dregs, but there is no known evidence for this connection.

currant *n.* 1540 *currante*, shortened from earlier *Raysyn* of *Curans* raisin of Corinth (1391), the -s ending probably mistaken for the plural inflection. The Middle English was borrowed through Anglo-French *raisin* de *Corauntz* raisin of Corinth, from Old French *Corinthe*, from Latin *Corinthus*, from Greek *Kórinthos*; so called because currants were produced chiefly in Greece and probably exported from Corinth.

currency *n.* 1657, a flow or course; probably developed from obsolete *currence*, modeled on Medieval Latin **currentia* a current of a stream, from Latin *currentem*, present participle of *currere* to run; for suffix see -ENCY; or from *current*, on the pattern of *decent*, *decency*. The sense of circulation of money is first recorded in 1699, suggested by earlier meaning of in circulation as a medium of exchange (1481).

current *adj.* Probably before 1300 *curraunt* running, flowing; borrowed from Old French *corant*, *curant* running, present

participle of *corre*, *curre* to run, from Latin *currere* to run; for suffix see -ENT. The sense of in general circulation, prevalent, is first recorded in 1563, and that of occurring in the present, in 1608. —**n.** Before 1425, borrowed from Middle French *corant*, *curant*, from Old French *corant*, *curant*, present participle of *corre*, *curre* to run.

curriculum *n.* 1824, borrowing of New Latin (1633), from Latin *curriculum* a running, course, career, from *curre* to run. —**curricular** *adj.* 1798, pertaining to driving carriages; formed from Latin *curriculum* (race) course + English -*ar*. The sense pertaining to a school's curriculum, is first recorded about 1909.

curry¹ *v.* rub. About 1300 *coureyen*, borrowed probably through Anglo-French *curreier*, *curreier*, from Old French *correier*, originally *conreier* put in order, prepare, *curry* a horse (con-intensive + *reier* arrange, make ready, from *rei* order, preparation, from Germanic; compare Old English *ræde* READY). —**curry favor** About 1510, alteration by folk etymology of earlier *curry favel* (probably about 1400), apparently borrowed from Old French *correier favel* to be false, be hypocritical (about 1310); literally, to *curry* the fallow-colored horse (in medieval allegories a symbol of cunning or deceit). Middle English *favel*, *fauvel* (before 1338) was borrowed from Old French *fauvel*, of Germanic origin (ultimately from the same source as English *fallow*), but was confused with *favel* flattery or guile; borrowed from Old French *favele* lying, deception, from Latin *fābella* diminutive of *fābula* FABLE. —**currycomb** *n.* (1678, in American English)

curry² *n.* sauce. 1681, borrowed from Tamil *kari* sauce, relish for rice. An earlier form *carriel* (1598) came through Portuguese *caril* from Kannada (a Dravidian language of India) *karil*. —**v.** 1839, from the noun. —**curry powder** (1810)

curse *n.* Late Old English (before 1050) *curs* a prayer or wish that evil or harm befall one, of uncertain origin; possibly a borrowing from Latin *cursus* COURSE in the medieval church sense of the set of daily liturgical prayers, applied to "the set of imprecations," especially in the *grete curse*, a formula read in churches four times a year setting forth the offenses which entailed excommunication. —**v.** Probably before 1160 *cursen*; developed from late Old English (about 1050) *cursian* to utter a curse or curses, blasphemy; apparently from the noun. —**cursed** *adj.* Probably before 1200, condemned; later, "damned" as an expression (about 1386) or deserving a curse (before 1300).

cursive *adj.* 1784, borrowed from French *cursif*, *cursive*, from Medieval Latin *cursivus*, from Latin *cursus* (genitive *cursūs*) a running, from past participle of *curre* to run; for suffix see -IVE.

cursor *n.* movable indicator on the display screen of an electronic computer, typesetter, etc. (1972), extended sense of a sliding part of any instrument (such as a slide rule or, later, a filter on a radar screen) that facilitates computing or sighting (1594), a use probably influenced by Middle French *curseur* (1562); earlier, a runner or messenger (1305); borrowed from Latin *cursor* runner, see CURSORY; for suffix see -OR².

cursor *adj.* 1601, probably borrowed from Middle French *cursoire* rapid (used of boats, winds, rumors), from Late Latin *cursorius* of a race or running, from Latin *cursor* runner, from *cursum*, past participle of *curre* to run; for suffix see -ORY.

curt *adj.* 1425; earlier, *Courteuse* (1366, in a surname); borrowed through Old French *court*, *cort*, or directly from Latin *curtus* (cut) short, shortened; cognate with Old English *sc(e)ort* SHORT, from Proto-Germanic **skurtās*, and *scieran* to cut, SHEAR. The meaning of concise, brief, condensed, terse, is first recorded in 1630, and the extended sense of so brief as to be impolite or rude (1831).

curtail *v.* Probably about 1471 *curtaylen* to restrict, limit, apparently an alteration (influenced by *taylen* to cut, from Old French *tailler*; see TAILOR) of Middle French *courtault* made short (*court* short, from Latin *curtus* CURT + -*ault*, pejorative suffix of Germanic origin). The meaning of shortened by cutting off a part appeared in 1553, followed by the sense of diminish, lessen, in 1589.

curtain *n.* About 1303 *curteyn* piece of hanging cloth (enclosing a bed); borrowed from Old French *curtine*, *cortine*, from Late Latin *cōrtina* a curtain, from Latin *cōrtem*, earlier *cohortem* enclosure, courtyard, COURT. Late Latin *cōrtina* was a loan translation in the Vulgate, perhaps misapplied to render Greek *aulāi* curtain (from *aulē* court, courtyard), used in the Septuagint (Exodus 26:1, etc.). —**v.** Probably before 1300 *curtynen* surround or cover with a curtain; from the noun.

curtsy *n.* 1546, expression of respect by action or gesture, variant of COURTESY. The specific reference to a bow made by bending the knees is first recorded in 1575. —**v.** Before 1553, make a curtsy, show courtesy to; from the noun.

curve *v.* Probably before 1425 *curved*, past participle form of unrecorded verb, from *curve*, *adj.*, bent (also probably before 1425); borrowed from Latin *curvus* curved, crooked, bent. The unrecorded Middle English verb was probably also borrowed from Latin *curvare* to bend, from *curvus* curved. —**n.** 1696, probably from the earlier adjective *curve* bent, curved. —**curvaceous** *adj.* 1936, American English, formed from *curve*, *n.* + -*aceous* (adjective suffix chiefly used in botany, from Latin -*āceus*, but here used facetiously). —**curvature** *n.* Probably before 1425, perhaps later reinforced by Middle French *curvature*, both the Middle English and Middle French from Latin *curvātūra* bending, from *curvātus*, past participle of *curvare* to curve; for suffix see -URE.

cushion *n.* 1302–03 *quissin*; later, *quyschen* (before 1350) and *cushoon* (1397); borrowed from Old French *coissin*, *coussin* seat cushion, probably variants from Vulgar Latin **coxīnum*, from Latin *coxa* hip, thigh. —**v.** 1735–38, from the noun.

cushy *adj.* 1915, easy, comfortable, Anglo-Indian, formed from Hindi *khūsh* pleasant, healthy, happy (from Persian *khūsh*) + English -*y*¹.

cusp *n.* 1585, entrance to an astrological house or division of the heavens; later, peak, apex or pointed ornament; borrowed from Latin *cusps* a point, spear, pointed end of anything.

cuspid *n.* 1743, geometrical point; borrowed from Latin *cuspidem* (nominative *cuspidis*) point. The sense of a tooth with a point, canine tooth, is first recorded in English in 1878.

cuspidor *n.* spittoon. 1871 *cuspador*, American English, borrowing of Portuguese *cuspidor* spittoon, from *cuspir* to spit, from Latin *cōspuere* spit on (*con-* intensive + *spuere* to spit; see SPEW).

cuss *n.* 1775, American English, troublesome person or animal, an alteration of *curse*, but often used without consciousness of the origin; in some dialects the alteration may represent a regular phonetic development, as *ass* from *arse*. The literal sense of a curse has been recorded since 1843. —**v.** to curse. 1815, American English, alteration of *curse*. —**cussed** *adj.* 1840, American English, alteration of *cursed*.

custard *n.* About 1353 *custadis*, pl.; later *crustarde* meat or fruit pie (1399); borrowed probably from Old Provençal *croustado*, from *crosta* crust, from Latin *crusta* CRUST. The spelling *custard* appeared about 1450, and the sense of a baked or boiled pudding (about 1600).

custody *n.* Before 1449 *custodye*, borrowed from Latin *custodia* guarding or keeping, from *custōs* (genitive *custōdis*) guardian, keeper; for suffix see -Y³. —**custodial** *adj.* 1772, formed from Latin *custodia* + English -al¹. —**custodian** *n.* 1781, formed from English *custody* + -an, replacing *custode* custodian of a friary (about 1400); borrowed through Old French *custode* from Latin *custōdem*, accusative of *custōs*.

custom *n.* Probably before 1200 *custume*, borrowed from Old French *costume*, *custume*, from Vulgar Latin **cōnsuētūmen*, corresponding to Latin *cōnsuētūdinem*, accusative of *cōnsuētūdo* habit or usage, from *cōnsuētus*, past participle of *cōnsuēscere* accustom (*con-* intensive + *suēscere* become used to, accustom oneself, related to *suī* of oneself). Customs taxes on imports was originally a tax levied on goods on their way to the market (about 1390). The singular, *costome* an exaction of a tax or tribute (about 1330) gradually replaced the Old English term *toll*. —**customary** *adj.* 1523, held by custom rather than law; borrowed through Anglo-Latin *customarius* subject to tax, from *custuma*, from Anglo-French *custume* CUSTOM; for suffix see -ARY. The general sense of usual or habitual, is first recorded in 1607. —**customer** *n.* Before 1399, customs official; formed from *custom* + -er¹. The meaning of a buyer appears in 1409 and the sense of a fellow or chap (usually with some pejorative qualifier, such as tough, ugly, strange) in 1589.

cut *v.* Probably before 1300 either as *cutten*, or *kitten*; of uncertain origin (possibly borrowed from a Scandinavian source; compare Swedish dialect *kuta*, *kata* to cut, *kuta* knife, and Icelandic *kuti* knife). —**n.** 1530, gash, wound; from the verb. The sense of a stroke or blow with a knife, sword, etc., is first recorded in 1601. —**cutoff** *n.* (1647) —**cutout** *n.* (1851) —**cutter** *n.* (1177) —**cutthroat** *n.* (1535); *adj.* (1567)

cutaneous *adj.* 1578, borrowed from New Latin *cutaneus*, from Latin *cutis* skin, HIDE²; for suffix see -OUS.

cute *adj.* 1731, acute, clever, shortened from ACUTE. The

informal sense of attractive, pleasing, is first recorded in 1834, in American English students' slang.

cuticle *n.* 1615, borrowed from Latin *cuticula*, diminutive of *cutis* skin. The specific sense of skin at the base of a nail, is first recorded in 1907. Earlier *cuticles* (before 1475) probably refers to membranes of the intestines.

cutlass or **cutlas** *n.* 1594 *coutelace*, borrowed from Middle French *coutelas*, probably from Italian *coltellaccio* large knife, from *coltello* knife, from Latin *cultellus* small knife, diminutive of *culter* knife, plowshare.

cutler *n.* Before 1400 *coteler*, earlier, in an Anglo-French surname *Cuteler* (1207); borrowed from Old French *coutelier*, from *coutel* knife, from Latin *cultellus*, see CUTLASS; for suffix see -ER¹. —**cutlery** *n.* 1340 *cotellerie*, borrowed from Old French *coutellerie* cutting utensils, from *coutel* knife; for suffix see -ERY.

cutlet *n.* 1706, borrowed from French *côtelette*, from Old French *costelette* cutlet, little rib; diminutive with -ette of original diminutive *costele* with -el, diminutive of *coste* rib, side, from Latin *costa*; see COAST. The English spelling has been influenced by *cut* and the diminutive form -let, as if *cutlet* = a small cut (of meat).

cuttlefish or **cuttle** *n.* Probably before 1425 *cutyl*, variant of *codel* (before 1425); developed from Old English (about 1000) *cudele* the cuttlefish. In form the Old English is sometimes associated with Middle Low German *küdel* container, pocket, Old High German *kiot* bag, pocket, Old Icelandic *koddi* cushion, testicle, and with Old English *codd*.

-**cy** a suffix forming abstract nouns and meaning: 1 office, position, or rank, as in *chaplaincy* = office or position of a chaplain; 2 quality, condition, or fact of being, as in *delicacy* = quality of being delicate, *bankruptcy* = condition of being bankrupt. Borrowed from Latin -*cia*, -*tia* (often through French -*cie*, -*tie*), from the stem endings -*c-* or -*t-* and the suffix -*ia*, equivalent to English -y³; or from Greek -*klā*, -*keia*, -*tlā*, -*teia*, from the stem endings -*k-* or -*t-* and the suffix -*lā*, -*cia*, equivalent to English -y³. The suffix occurs in English chiefly in the forms -*acy*, -*ancy*, and -*ency*.

cyanide *n.* 1826, formed from English *cyan-*, *cyano-* combining forms for carbon and nitrogen compounds (from Greek *kýanos* dark-blue enamel, lapis lazuli) + -*ide*; so called because the compound radical (*cyanogen*) enters into the composition of a dark-blue pigment.

cybernetics *n.* 1948, American English, formed from Greek *kybernētēs* steersman, pilot (from *kybernán* to steer) + English -*ics*; coined by Norbert Wiener, American mathematician. —**cybernetic** *adj.* 1951, back formation from *cybernetics*. —**cybernation** *n.* 1962, formed as a blend of English *cybernetics* + (*autom*)ation.

cycle *n.* Before 1387 *cicle* recurrent period of time; borrowed through Old French *cycle*, or directly from Late Latin *cyclus*, from Greek *kýklos* circle, ring, WHEEL. —**v.** 1842, revolve in cycles, from the noun. The meaning of ride a bicycle is first

recorded in 1883. —**cyclic** adj. 1794, borrowed through French *cyclique*, or directly from Latin *cyclicus*, from Greek *kyklíkōs*, from *kýklos* circle; for suffix see -IC. —**cyclist** n. 1882, one who rides a bicycle; formed from English *cycle*, v. + -ist.

cyclo-, before vowels **cycl-**, a combining form meaning: 1 circle, ring, used especially with reference to rotation, as in *cyclometer* = instrument that measures arc of a circle or rotation of a wheel. 2 cycle, alternation, as in *cyclothymia* = alternation of liveliness and depression. 3 in chemistry, arrangement of atoms in a ring, cyclic, as in *cyclohexane* = form of hexane considered as a ring of six bivalent radicals. Borrowed from Greek *kyklo-*, combining form of *kýklos* ring, circle.

cyclone n. 1848, borrowed from Greek *kyklōn* moving in a circle, whirling around, present participle of *kykloōn* move in a circle, whirl, from *kýklos* circle; so called because the cyclone's winds move in a circular course. —**cyclonic** adj. 1860, formed from English *cyclone* + -ic.

cyclopedia n. 1636 *cyclopaedia*, shortened form of *encyclopaedia* ENCYCLOPEDIA; later, book on all branches of one subject (1728). —**cyclopedic** adj. Before 1843, formed from English *cyclopedia* + -ic.

cyclorama n. 1840, formed from English *cyclo-* circle, ring + (*pan*)orama; probably influenced by the earlier *diorama*.

cyclotron n. Before 1935, American English, formed from *cyclo-* + -tron, as if from Greek **kýklōtron*, from *kykloōn* to whirl, from the path of the accelerated particles.

cygnet n. 1400 *cignet*, borrowed from Anglo-French diminutive of Old French *cisne*, *cigne* swan, from Latin *cygnus*, variant of *cynus*, from Greek *kýknos*; for suffix see -ET. The spelling *signet* prevailed in English until the 1600's, when it was replaced by *cygnet*, after French and Latin forms.

cylinder n. 1570, borrowed probably through Middle French *cylindre*, from Latin *cylindrus* roller, cylinder, from Greek *kýlindros* a cylinder, roller, roll, from *kylindein* to roll. —**cylindrical** adj. 1646, formed in English from French *cylindrique* + English -al; for suffix see also -ICAL.

cymbal n. About 1340, partly developed from Old English *cimbal* (about 825); and partly borrowed from Old French *cymbale*. Both the Old English and Old French derived from Latin *cymbalum*, from Greek *kýmbalon* a cymbal, from *kýmbe* bowl, drinking cup.

cyme n. 1725 *cime* sprout of a plant, such as cabbage; borrowed from French *cime* shoot or sprout of cabbage, and directly from Latin *cýma* a sprout, from Greek *kýma* young sprout, anything swollen, from *kyetn* become pregnant.

cynic n. 1547–64, one of a group of ancient Greek philosophers who sneered at wealth and personal comfort; borrowed through Middle French *cynique*, or directly from Latin *Cynicus*, from Greek *Kynikós*, literally, doglike, from *kýōn* (genitive *kynós*) dog. The sense of a sneering, sarcastic person is first recorded in English in 1596, but was already implicit in the name of the philosophical sect associated with its principles of asceticism. —**cynical** adj. 1588, formed from English *cynic* + -al. —**cynicism** n. 1672, formed from English *cynic* + -ism.

cynosure n. 1601, center of attraction or attention; earlier, guiding star (1596); borrowed from Middle French *cynosure*, from Latin *Cynosūra Ursa Minor*, a constellation containing the North Star, formerly used as a guide by sailors, from Greek *kynósoura*, literally, dog's tail (*kýōn*, genitive *kynós* dog; *ourá* tail).

cypress n. About 1175, borrowed from Old French *cipres*, learned borrowing from Latin *cyparissus*, from Greek *kypárisos*, which was apparently a borrowing, like earlier Latin *cupressus* cypress, from a language of the Mediterranean region.

cyst n. 1713, saclike growth, shortened form of New Latin *cystis* (the form cited in English from 1543 to 1758), from Greek *kýstis* bladder, pouch. —**cystic** adj. 1634, borrowed from French *cystique*, from New Latin *cysticus*, from *cystis* cyst; for suffix see -IC.

cyt- the form of *cyto-* before vowels, as in *cytaster* (star-shaped structure of a cell).

-cyte a combining form meaning cell of an organism, as in *leucocyte* (white blood cell). Borrowed from Greek *kýtos* a hollow space or container.

cyto- a combining form meaning cell or cells of organisms, as in *cytology* = study of cells and *cytoplasm* = protoplasm of a cell. Borrowed from Greek *kyto-*, combining form of *kýtos* a hollow space or container.

cytology n. 1889, possibly borrowed from French *cytologie* (*cyto-* cell + *-logie* -logy). —**cytologist** n. (1895)

cytosine n. 1894, formed in English from *cyto-* cell + (*rib*)ose ribose (a sugar), + -ine².

czar n. 1555, borrowed through earlier Polish *czar*, from Russian *tsar'*, from Old Slavic *tsěsar'*, from Gothic *kaisar*, from Greek *Kaisar*, from Latin *Caesar*.

The transferred sense of a person with dictatorial power, such as a baseball czar, is first recorded in 1866 in American English, when the word was applied to President Andrew Johnson. —**czarina** n. 1717, borrowed from Italian *czarina*, from German *Zarin* (earlier *Czarín*), feminine of *Zar*, from Russian *tsar'*. The feminine form in Russian is *tsaritsa*. —**czarist** adj. (1954)

D

dab *n.* Probably before 1300, heavy blow with a weapon. —*v.* Before 1307, deliver a heavy blow with a weapon. Both noun and verb are of uncertain origin. The meaning of strike lightly appeared 1532, and that of pat with something soft or moist, in 1562.

dabble *v.* 1557, wet by splashing; probably a frequentative form of DAB. Middle English *dable* in the surname *Dablewife* (1336) is of uncertain meaning, perhaps meddler, dabbler. The modern sense of do superficially is first recorded in 1625. —**dabbler** *n.* 1611, formed from English *dabble*, *v.* + *-er*¹.

dachshund *n.* About 1881, borrowing of German *Dachshund* (*Dachs* badger + *Hund* hound); perhaps so called for its use in hunting badgers.

dactyl *n.* metrical foot of three syllables. Before 1382, borrowed from Latin *dactylus*, from Greek *dáktylos* finger, dactyl, of unknown origin; so called from its three parts, suggesting the three joints of the finger.

dad or **daddy** *n.* Before 1529 *dadye* and 1553 *dad*, of uncertain origin, but probably from children's speech. —**daddy-longlegs** *n.* (before 1814).

Dada *n.* 1920, borrowed from French *dada* hobbyhorse (a child's word), from the title of a literary periodical, *être sur son dada* to be on (that is, ride) one's hobbyhorse, founded in Zürich in 1916 by Tristan Tzara, a Rumanian poet, and Jean Arp, a French artist and poet.

dado *n.* 1664, borrowing of Italian *dado* cube or pedestal. The meaning of a wood rail or paneling on the lower part of the walls of a room, is first recorded in 1787.

daffodil *n.* 1548, variant of (obsolete) *affodill* (before 1400); borrowing of Medieval Latin *affodillus*, from Latin *asphodelus*, from Greek *asphódēlos*, of unknown origin. The initial *d* has not been explained.

daffy *adj.* 1884, perhaps formed from DAFT, or from *daff*, *daffe* a halfwit, simpleton (about 1330, earlier as a surname *Daf*, 1253; of unknown origin) + *-y*¹.

daft *adj.* Probably about 1200 *daffte* mild, gentle, meek, developed from Old English (about 1000) *gedæfte* gentle, becoming, from Proto-Germanic **gadafijaz*.

About 1300 the meaning of dull appeared, perhaps because a person who is mild or gentle might be taken as dull or stupid, a development that parallels SILLY. The later sense of foolish,

silly (1440), probably developed from analogy with *daffe*, *n.* a halfwit and *daffish*, *adj.* dull-witted.

dagger *n.* Before 1375 *dagare*, apparently altered form of Old French *dague* dagger, from Old Provençal *dague* or Italian *daga*, of uncertain origin.

daguerreotype *n.* 1839, borrowing of French *daguerreotype*, from the name of Louis *Daguerre*, its inventor + French *type* type.

dahlia *n.* 1804, New Latin, named (in 1791) after Anders *Dahl*, a Swedish botanist, who found the plant in Mexico in 1788.

daily *adj.* 1421 *daly*, also *dayly* (1423), and *daily* (1447), found in Old English *dæglic* (in compounds, such as *twādæglic* once in two days); cognate with Old High German *tagalīh* (modern German *täglich*) and Old Icelandic *dagligr*; for suffix see *-LY*².

dainty *adj.* About 1300 *deinte* delightful, pleasing, developed from a noun meaning esteem, affection (before 1250), and found as a surname *Deintie* (1199); borrowed from Old French *daintie*, *daintié* price, value, delicacy, pleasure, from Latin *dignitatem* (nominative *dignitas*) worthiness, worth, beauty, from *dignus* worthy. The noun sense of a choice bit of food, a delicacy, is first recorded about 1300.

dairy *n.* About 1300 *deierie*, formed with Anglo-French *-erie* *-ery* from *deie*, *daie* maid, dairymaid, corresponding to Old English *dæge* kneader of bread, which is cognate with Old Icelandic *deigja* housekeeper, female servant from Proto-Germanic **daijō*.

dais *n.* Probably before 1300 *deys*, and *deis* (about 1300); borrowed from Anglo-French *deis*, in Old French *dais* table, platform, canopy, from Latin *discus* disk-shaped object, discus, from Greek *dískos* quoit, dish, disk. The word died out in English about 1600, but was revived after 1800.

daisy *n.* Before 1300 *daiseie*; earlier, as surname *Dayeseye* (1281); developed from Old English *dægesege* (about 1000), and *dægesege* *ēage* day's eye, in allusion to closing of the petals in the evening.

dale *n.* Probably before 1200 *dale*, developed from Old English *dæl* (before 899). Old English *dæl* (from Proto-Germanic **dalan*) is cognate with Old Saxon, Middle Dutch, and modern Dutch *dal* valley, Old High German *tal* (modern German *Tal*), Old Icelandic *dall*, Gothic *dal* valley.

dally *v.* Probably before 1300 *daylen* to talk, converse; later, to chat, converse idly (probably about 1390); possibly borrowed from Anglo-French *daliere* to amuse oneself, of uncertain origin. The meaning of act in a frivolous manner, is first recorded about 1440. — **dalliance** *n.* Before 1349, formed from English *dally* + *-ance*.

dam¹ *n.* wall to hold back water. Probably before 1400; earlier, body of water (about 1340, and as a surname *Dam*, 1230), cognate with Old Frisian *damm* dam, Middle High German *tam*, *tamm* (modern German *Damm*), Old Icelandic *damm*, from Proto-Germanic **dammaz*. — **v.** Probably before 1475 *dammen* to stop up or block, from the noun.

dam² *n.* female parent of animals. Before 1325 *dame*; earlier *dam* mother, mother superior (probably before 1200), see DAME. Originally *dam* was used in all the senses of *dame* (i.e. lady, female ruler, housewife, schoolmistress, mother), but in the 1500's the sense of mother was differentiated to *dam*.

damage *n.* Probably before 1300, borrowed from Old French *damage* loss caused by injury (*dam* damage, from Latin *damnum* loss, hurt, damage + *-age* -age); see DAMN. — **v.** About 1330, borrowed from Old French *damagier*, from Old French *damage*, *n.*

damask *n.* 1378, silk woven with an elaborate pattern; earlier, name for Damascus (about 1250); borrowed from Medieval Latin *damascus*, from Latin *Damascus* the ancient city and capital of Syria, famous for its steel and silk fabrics, from Greek *Damaskós* Damascus.

dame *n.* Probably before 1200, mother superior; about 1200, lady or female ruler; later, housewife (before 1338); borrowed from Old French *dame*, from Late Latin *domna*, Latin *domina* lady, mistress of the house, from *domus* house; compare MADAM. In Old French *dame* the *a* developed from *o* in Latin *domina* when the word was unaccented before the next word. The slang sense of woman is attested in American English since 1902.

damn *v.* About 1280 *dampnen* to condemn; borrowed from Old French *damner*, from Latin *damnāre*, from *damnum* damage, loss, hurt. Latin *damnum* is related to *daps* sacrificial meal, possibly from an ancient religious term. — **n.** 1619, from the verb. — **adj.** 1775, shortened from *damned* (probably before 1405); earlier, *dampned* (about 1378) from the past participle of *damn*, *v.* — **damnable** *adj.* Before 1333 *dampnable* deserving punishment; borrowed from Old French *damnable*, from Latin *damnābilis*, from *damnāre*; for suffix see -ABLE. — **damnation** *n.* Before 1300 *dampnacioun* consignment to hell; borrowed from Old French *dampnation*, from Latin *damnātiōnem* (nominative *damnātiō*), from *damnāre*; for suffix see -TION.

damp *n.* 1316, noxious vapor; possibly found in Old English **damp*; cognate with Middle Dutch or Middle Low German *damp* vapor and with Old High German *damp* vapor, steam (modern German *Dampf*), Middle High German *dimpfen* to steam, smoke, and Old Icelandic *dumba* dust, *dimma* darkness, *dimmr* dark; see DIM. Old High German *damp* derives from Proto-Germanic **dampaz*. The meaning of dampness, hu-

midity, moisture, is not recorded in English until 1706, with a single possible, but ambiguous use, in 1586. — **v.** 1380, to suffocate; from the noun. The meaning of moisten is first recorded in English in 1671, though a sense of deaden, depress, "wet down" spirits or zeal is recorded in 1548. — **adj.** 1590, dazed or stupefied; from the noun. The meaning of moist or slightly wet is first recorded in 1706. — **dampen** *v.* (1380) surviving Middle English form of *damp*, *v.* — **dampener** *n.* 1887, formed from English *dampen* + *-er*¹.

damsel *n.* Probably about 1225, borrowed from Old French *dameisele*, from Gallo-Romance **domnicella*, diminutive of Latin *domina* lady, mistress of the house; see DAME.

damson *n.* Before 1475 *damson*, developed from earlier *dam-esene* plum tree (about 1390); borrowed from Latin *prunum damascēnum* plum of Damascus, from Greek *Damaskēnōn*, neuter of *Damaskēnós* of Damascus, from *Damaskós* Damascus.

dance *v.* Probably before 1300 *dauncer*, borrowed from Old French *dancier*, of uncertain origin. — **n.** Probably before 1300 *daunce*, borrowed from Old French *daunce*, from *dancier* to dance. — **dancer** *n.* 1440 *dauncere*; earlier as a surname *Dancere* (1130); borrowed from Old French **dauncier*, or formed from Middle English *dauncen* + *-er*¹.

dandelion *n.* Probably about 1425 *dandelyon*; developed from earlier *dent-de-lyon* (1373) and *Daundelyon* (1363, as a surname); borrowed from Middle French *dent de lion*, literally, lion's tooth (from its toothed leaves), a translation of Medieval Latin *dens leonis* (Latin *dēns* tooth + *leōnis*, genitive of *leō* lion).

dander *n.* 1832, possibly a figurative use of *dander*, variant of *dunder* dregs of cane juice used to ferment rum; borrowed from Spanish *redunder* to overflow.

dandle *v.* 1530 *dandyll*, move up and down playfully, of uncertain origin; compare Italian *dandolare*, variant of *dondolare* to rock, swing, dangle.

dandruff *n.* 1545; the origin of the first element, *dand-*, is unknown; the second element probably came from Northumbrian or East Anglian dialect *huff*, *hurf* scab, from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *hrūfa* scab, *hrjūfi* scabby, leprosy). The word is cognate with Old English *hrēof* rough, scabby, leprosy, Old High German *hruf* scab, *riob* leprosy from Proto-Germanic **Hreufaz/Hrufaz*.

dandy *n.* About 1780, fop, fashionable person, of uncertain origin; possibly shortened from *Jack O'Dandy*, with the same meaning (1632). The usage originated in Scotland, where *Dandy* is a diminutive of the name *Andrew*. — **adj.** 1792, fine, superior, in American English; probably from the noun.

danger *n.* Before 1250 *daunger* arrogance, insolence, later *dagere* (before 1338); borrowed through Anglo-French *daunger*, from Old French *dangier* power to harm, mastery, alteration (influenced by *dam* damage; see DAMAGE) of *dongier*, from Vulgar Latin **domniārium* or **dominiārium* power, from Latin *dominium* sovereignty; see DOMINION. The meaning of something that causes harm, a risk or peril, appeared about 1378; — **dangerous** *adj.* Before 1200 *dangerus* difficult to deal

with, haughty or aloof; borrowed through Anglo-French *dangerous*, from Old French *dangeros*, *dangerous*, from *danger*; for suffix see -OUS.

dangle *v.* About 1590, probably borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Norwegian and Danish *dingle*, Swedish and Icelandic *dingla*, hang loosely).

Danish *adj.* Before 1387 *Danysche*, formed from *Danes*, pl., people of Denmark (before 1338) + *-ische* -ish¹; borrowed from Old Icelandic *Danir*, also in Late Latin *Danī*. Middle English also had earlier *Densce* (probably before 1200) and *Denescæ* (1070), Old English *Denisc*. The phrase *Danish pastry* is first recorded 1934 and the clipped form *Danish* in 1963.

dank *adj.* Probably before 1400, borrowed probably from a Scandinavian source (compare Swedish *dank* marshy spot, related to Old Icelandic *dǫkk* pool).

dapper *adj.* About 1440 *dapyr* elegant; borrowed from Middle Dutch *dapper* agile, strong, sturdy; cognate with Middle Low German *dapper* heavy, stout, Old High German *tapfar* heavy, Middle High German *tapfer*, *dapper* firm, full, weighty, bold (modern German *tapfer* brave), Old Icelandic *dapr* sad, dreary, from Proto-Germanic **dapraz*.

dapple *adj.* 1551, marked with round spots. —**n.** 1580. —**v.** 1599, both noun and verb apparently from the participial adjective *dappled* (about 1400) and *dapple*, *adj.* (1551); of uncertain origin.

dare *v.* Old English (about 950) *darr*, *dear*, originally the 1st and 3rd person singular present indicative of *duran* to dare; the form *dearst* 2nd person singular is recorded about 725. Old English *duran* is cognate with Old High German *gitaran* to dare, Gothic *gaders* I dare, from Proto-Germanic **ders-/dars-/durs-*. —**n.** 1594, from the verb. —**daredevil** *n.* (1794); *adj.* (1832). —**daring** *n.* About 1385, from the verb.

dark *adj.* Probably about 1200 *dork*; later *derk* (about 1280); developed from Old English *deorc* (about 725, in *Beowulf*), from Proto-Germanic **derkaz*; cognate with Old High German *tarchannen* to hide something (in a dark place). —**n.** About 1225 from the verb. —**Dark Ages** (1876; earlier **dark ages**, 1748). —**darken** *v.* About 1300, found in Old English *deorcan*.

darling *n.* Probably about 1150 *derling*; later *darlyng* (before 1450); developed from Old English *dēorling* (before 899), formed from *dēor*, *dēore* DEAR + *-ling*, noun suffix. —**adj.** 1509, from the noun.

darn¹ *v.* mend. About 1600, borrowed from Middle French dialect *darnier* mend, from *darne* piece, from Breton *darn*, related to Welsh *darn* piece, fragment, part. It is possible that some connection exists between *darn* and *dern* to conceal, hide. —**n.** 1720, from the verb.

darn² *v.* curse. 1781, American English, euphemism for *damn*; probably influenced by *tarnal* (shortened variant of *eternal*). —**darned** *adj.* 1815, confounded (used as an expletive, 1808); *adv.* 1806, extremely.

dart *n.* Probably before 1300, borrowed from Old French *dart*, from a Germanic source (compare Old English *daroth* dart, from Proto-Germanic **darōthuz*, Old High German *tart* dart or javelin, and Old Icelandic *darradhr* dart, javelin, or peg). —**v.** About 1385, pierce with a dart, from the noun.

dash *v.* Probably before 1300, of uncertain origin, but probably formed like other verbs, such as *clash*, *bash*, *smash*, etc., from some imitative notion of sound of striking or motion (compare Swedish *daska* to slap, strike, Danish *daske* to drub, Dutch *daske* to beat, strike). —**n.** About 1390, from the verb. —**dashboard** *n.* (1846) —**dashing** *n.* (about 1450, splash-ing).

dastard *n.* About 1440, coward, dullard (stupid person), apparently formed from **dast* dazed, past participle of *dasen* to daze + *-ard*; see DAZE. —**dastardly** *adj.* (1567)

data *n.pl.* of **datum**, which see.

date¹ *n.* time. About 1330, borrowed from Old French *date*, probably a learned borrowing from Medieval Latin *data*, noun use of the feminine singular form of Latin *datus* given, past participle of *dare* give. In Latin *data*, agreeing with the unexpressed or omitted *epistula* letter, was abstracted from such a phrase as the following, found in Cicero: *d. pr. K. Iūn. Athēnīs*, abbreviated form of *data pridie Kalendās Iūniās Athēnīs*, with the meaning (letter) given (to a messenger) the day before the calends of June at (or from) Athens. Since such a formula was employed so often, usually at the close of a letter, the first word of the formula, *data*, became the term for the time stated.

The meaning of an appointment or engagement, is first recorded in 1885 in American English. —**v.** Apparently before 1400 *daten* to mark (a letter, etc.) with a date, fix the date or time of (an event, etc.); from *date*, *n.* The meaning of mark as old-fashioned or outdated, is first recorded in 1895.

date² *n.* fruit. About 1300, borrowed from Old French *date*, from Old Provençal *datil*, from Latin *dactylus*, from Greek *dáktylos* date; originally, finger. The leaves and fruit of the date palm are shaped somewhat like fingers.

dativ *n.* About 1434 *datif*, borrowed from Latin *dativus cāsus* case of giving, from *datus*, past participle of *dare* to give (translation of Greek *dotikē ptōsis*, from *dotikós* related to giving, from *dotós* given); for suffix see -IVE.

datum *n., pl. data.* information or fact. 1646, in plural *data*, borrowing of Latin *datum* (thing) given, past participle (neuter) of *dare* give; see DATE¹ time.

daub *v.* Probably about 1380, borrowed from Old French *dauber*, originally, to whitewash, plaster, probably from Latin *dealbare* (dē- thoroughly + *albāre* whiten, from *albus* white; see ALB). —**n.** 1446, from the verb. —**dauber** *n.* Before 1382 *daubere*; earlier, as a surname *Daubour* (1263).

daughter *n.* About 1385 *doughter*, earlier *dohter* (1110); developed from Old English *dohtor* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Saxon *dohtar* daughter, Old Frisian *dochter*, Old and Middle High German *tohter* (modern German *Tochter*), Old Icelandic *dóttir* (with -tt- for -ht-), and Gothic *daúhtar*, from

Proto-Germanic **dohtēr*, earlier **dhuktēr*. —**daughter-in-law** *n.* (before 1382)

daunt *v.* Before 1325 *danten* frighten or discourage; earlier, overcome, vanquish (before 1300); borrowed from Old French *danter*, variant of *donter*, from Latin *domitāre*, frequentative form of *domāre* to tame; see **TAME**. —**dauntless** *adj.* (1593).

dauphin *n.* 1418, Middle French *dauphin*, from Old French *daufin*, originally, a family name, from Medieval Latin *Dalpinus*, for Latin *delphinus*, literally, DOLPHIN (because their banners bore a dolphin as their symbol). The last lord of Dauphiné (a province ruled by the family *Delphinus*) wished the title to be perpetuated, and upon ceding the province to Philip of Valois in 1349, made it a condition that the title be borne by the oldest son of the French king.

davenport *n.* 1902 *Davenport Bed Couch*, earlier, a small ornamental writing table (1853); apparently the name of its manufacturer.

davit *n.* 1373 *daviot*, borrowed from Anglo-French *daviot*, in Old French *daviet*, originally, a diminutive of the name *Davi* David. In English this device was also called a *dauid* in the 1600's.

Davy Jones 1751, the spirit of the sea; also **Davy Jones's locker** bottom of the sea (1803); nautical slang of unknown origin.

daw *n.* small bird. Probably before 1425 *dawe*; cognate with Old High German *taha*, from Proto-Germanic **dāHwō*.

dawdle *v.* Before 1656, origin uncertain; perhaps variant of *daddle* slow in motion. —**dawdler** *n.* (1818)

dawn *v.* 1499, a back formation from *dawninge* (about 1250); probably from a Scandinavian source (compare Danish *dagning*, from *daga* to dawn). Middle English *dawninge* was a replacement of Old English *dagung* (also in Middle English *daweing* dawn), from *dagian* to become day, derived from the root of *dæg* DAY, and cognate with Old High German *tagēn* and Old Icelandic *daga* to dawn. —**n.** 1599, from the verb *dawn*.

day *n.* Probably before 1200 *dai*, developed from Old English *dæg* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Saxon, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *dag* day, Old Frisian *dei*, *dī*, Old High German *tag* (modern German *Tag*), and Gothic *dags*, from Proto-Germanic **daǵaz*, and also cognate with Gothic *fidur-dōgs* of four days, Old Icelandic *dagr* day and *dagn* day, half-day.

English *day* is not related to Latin *diēs* day. —**daybreak** *n.* (1530) —**daydream** *n.* (1685); *v.* (1820). —**daylight** *n.* Probably about 1150 *daies liht*; later, *dæi-liht* (probably before 1200) and *dailigt* (about 1300). —**daytime** *n.* (1533)

daze *v.* Probably about 1380 *dasen*; borrowed probably from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic **dasa*, *dasask* become exhausted, related to *dāsi* blunderer); cognate with

Middle Dutch *dasen* act silly. —**n.** 1825, from the verb; earlier, an old name for mica, from its glitter (1671).

dazzle *v.* 1481 *dasel*, *dasle*, frequentative form of Middle English *dasen* DAZE. —**n.** 1627, from the verb. —**dazzler** *n.* (before 1800) —**dazzling** *adj.* (1571)

D-day *n.* 1918, the date set for the beginning of a military operation, *D* being an abbreviation for *day*, probably on the pattern of (1918) *H-hour*.

de- a prefix derived mainly from Latin *dē-* (from preposition *dē* down, down from, away from) or the French equivalent *de-*, *dé-*, in words borrowed from Latin or French, and meaning: 1 down, lower, as in *depress* = *press down*. 2 off, away, as in *derail* = *off the rails*. 3 thoroughly, completely, as in *despoil* = *spoil completely*, or some other extended meaning, as in *deceive*, *delay*, *deride*.

In a few words English *de-* and French *dé-* are from Old French *des-* representing Latin *dis-* (also meaning away), as in *debauch* (Old French *desbaucher*), or apart, as in *deploy* (French *déployer*, Old French *desploier*, Latin *displicāre*).

In English, *de-* is productive especially in the meaning of undoing or doing the opposite of an underlying verb, as in *depopulate*, *decentralize*, and forming verbs from nouns to mean get rid of, as in *debug*, *defog*, or to move from, as in *deplane*, *detrain*.

deacon *n.* Old English *dēacon*, *dīacon* (before 899); learned borrowing from Latin *diāconus*, from Greek *diákonos* servant of the church, religious official.

dead *adj.* Old English *dēad* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *dād* dead, Old Saxon *dōd*, Middle Dutch *doot*, *dood* (modern Dutch *dood*), Old High German *tōt* (modern German *tot*), Old Icelandic *daudhr*, and Gothic *dauths*, from Proto-Germanic **daudās*; related to **DIE** become dead. —**adv.** completely, absolutely. Before 1393, a figurative extension of the primary adverbial meaning of in the manner characteristic of death. —**n.** Old English (about 950), from the adjective by absolute use. —**deaden** *v.* 1720; formed from English *dead*, *adj.* + *-en*¹.

deaf *adj.* Old English *dēaf* (about 750); cognate with Old Frisian *dāf* deaf, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *doof*, Middle Low German *dōf*, Old High German *toup*, *toub* deaf (modern German *taub*), Old Icelandic *daufi*, Gothic *daufs* unperceptive, from Proto-Germanic **daubaz*. —**deafen** *v.* (1597).

deal *n.* Old English (before 700) *dāel*; cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *dēl* part, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *deel*, Old High German *teil* (modern German *Teil*), Old Icelandic *deile*, and Gothic *dails*. Related to **DOLE**

The meaning of an act of dealing in business, a transaction, bargain (as in *a fair deal*, *make a deal*), derived from the verb and is first found in 1837. —**v.** Old English (about 725) *dēalan*; cognate with Old High German *teilan* distribute (modern German *teilen*), Old Icelandic *deila*, and Gothic *dailjan*. The sense of "deal with" is first recorded about 1200. —**dealer** *n.* (about 1000) —**dealing** *n.* (1378)

dean *n.* About 1330 *den* head of a chapter of canons; earlier, in a surname *Denesclerk* (1285); borrowed from Old French *deien*, from Late Latin *decānus* master, commander of ten soldiers, monks, etc., from Latin *decem* TEN.

The meaning of head of a college division is first recorded in English in 1524, although its usage is found in the Medieval Latin of England and Scotland from the 1200's.

dear *adj.* About 1250 *dere*, later *deere* (about 1380); developed from Old English (about 725) *dēore* precious, valuable, costly; cognate with Old High German *tiuri* and Old Icelandic *dýrr*, costly from Proto-Germanic **deurijaz*. In polite forms of address, *dear* (as in "Dear Sir") is first recorded about 1450. The modern spelling *dear* appeared in the 1500's. —**adv.** Old English (about 1000) *dēore*; cognate with Old High German *tiuro*; see the adjective. —**n.** Before 1375, probably shortened from *dear one*, *my dear*, originally as a term of address, and then a noun; possibly by influence of similar use of Old French *chier* and Latin *cānus*. —**dearly** *adv.* Probably about 1300 *dere*, later *deere* (about 1385); developed from Old English *dēorlice* (about 750).

dearth *n.* Probably about 1300 *derthe*, scarcity, with the likely original meaning of costliness; formed from the root of Old English *dēore* DEAR. Middle English *derthe* is cognate with Old Saxon *diuritha* splendor, glory, love, Middle Dutch *dierte* (modern Dutch *duurte*), Old High German *tiurida*, *diurida* glory, Middle High German *tiurde* great value, and Old Icelandic *dýrdh* glory, from Proto-Germanic **deurithō*. The original sense of the Middle English word referred to a famine, when food is scarce and costly, but the word was extended to the meaning of scarcity of anything, about 1330.

death *n.* Old English *dēath* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *dāth* death, Old Saxon *dōth*, Middle Dutch *doot*, *dood* (modern Dutch *dood*), Old High German *tōd* death (modern German *Tod*), Old Icelandic *daudhi*, and Gothic *dauthus*, from Proto-Germanic **dauthuz*; related to DIE¹ become dead. —**deathbed** *n.* (about 725, in *Beowulf*, meaning the grave; later, the bed on which one dies, about 1300). —**deathless** *adj.* (1589)

debacle *n.* 1848, disaster; originally, breaking up of ice in a river (1802); borrowed from French *débâcle* breaking up of ice, disaster, from *débâcler* to free, from Middle French *desbacler* to unbar (*dé-* off, *un-*, from Latin *dis-* + *bâcler* to bar, from Old Provençal *baclar* from Vulgar Latin **bacculāre*, from **baculum* bar, staff, variant of Latin *baculum* stick; see BACILLUS).

debark *v.* 1654, disembark, borrowed from French *débarquer* (*dé-* off, from Latin *dis-* + *barque* BARK³ ship).

debase *v.* 1568, formed in English from *de-* down + BASE² low, on the analogy of *abase*.

debate *n.* Before 1325 *debat* quarrel, dispute; borrowed from Old French *debat*, from *débatre* to fight, contend (*de-* down, completely + *batre* to beat). —**v.** About 1380 *debaten* to fight, oppose; borrowed from Old French *débatre* to fight. —**debatable** *adj.* (1536)

debauch *v.* Before 1595, borrowed from Middle French *débaucher* entice from work or duty; earlier, split or separate;

originally, trim (wood) to make a beam; from Old French *desbaucher* (*des-* de- + *bauch* beam, earlier *balc*, from Frankish **balk*; compare Old High German *balko* beam; see BALK). —**n.** 1603, borrowed from French *débauche*, from *ébaucher* to debauch. —**debauchery** *n.* 1642, formed from English *debauch*, *v.* + *-ery*.

debenture *n.* 1437 *debentur*, written acknowledgment of a debt borrowed from Latin *dēbentur* they are owing (occurring at the head of a list of sums owed), 3rd person plural present passive of *dēbere* to owe; see DEBT.

debility *n.* Probably before 1425 *debilitate*, borrowed from Middle French *débilité*, from Latin *dēbilitātem* (nominative *dēbilitās*), from *dēbilis* weak (*dē-* from, away + *-bilis* strength); for suffix see -ITY. —**debilitate** *v.* 1533, borrowed from Latin *dēbilitātus*, past participle of *dēbilitāre* weaken, from *dēbilis* weak; for suffix see -ATE¹.

debit *n.* Before 1455 *dubete* debt, later *debyte* (before 1475); borrowed through Middle French *débet*, or directly from Latin *dēbitum* thing owed, neuter past participle of *dēbere* to owe; see DEBT. —**v.** 1682, from the noun.

debonair or **debonaire** *adj.* Probably before 1200 *debonere*, borrowed from Old French *debonaire*, from the phrase *de bon aire* of good disposition.

debouch *v.* 1745, borrowed from French *déboucher* emerge from, issue, open, from Old French *desbouchier* open out (*dé-* away, off + *bouche* opening, mouth, from Latin *bucca* mouth).

debris or **débris** *n.* 1708, borrowing of French *débris*, from obsolete French *débriser* break down, crush, from Old French *debrisier* (*de-* away, down + *brisier* to break, from Vulgar Latin **brisiāre*, from Late Latin *brisāre*, possibly of Gaulish origin; compare Old Irish *brissim* I break (*-ss-* for *-st-*).

debt *n.* About 1280 *dette*; earlier, *deatte* (probably before 1200); borrowed from Old French *dete*, from Latin *dēbitum* thing owed, neuter past participle of *dēbere* to owe, originally, keep something from someone (*dē-* away + *habēre* to have). About 1405 the spelling *debtes*, pl., appeared in imitation of the Latin. —**debtor** *n.* Probably before 1200 *dettour*; borrowed possibly through Anglo-French *detour*, in Old French *detor*, *dettor*, *detour*, etc., from Latin *dēbitor* a debtor, from *dēbitus*, past participle of *dēbere*.

debut or **début** *n.* 1751, borrowing of French *début*, from *débiter* make the first appearance, play first (*dé-* from + *but* starting point, goal, from Old French *bot*, *boul* end). —**v.** 1830, from the noun, or from French *débiter* to debut. —**debutante** or **débutante** *n.* 1801, borrowing of French *débutante*, present participle of *débiter*.

deca- or **dec-** a combining form meaning ten, as in *decasyllable*, *decathlon*; and in the terminology of the metric system, ten times a basic unit, as in *decaliter*, *decameter*. Borrowed from Greek *déka* TEN.

decade *n.* Probably about 1451, a group of ten things; borrowed from Middle French *décade*, learned borrowing from

Late Latin *decas* (accusative *decadem*), from Greek *dekás* (accusative *dekáda*) group of ten, from *déka* TEN. The meaning of a period of ten years is first recorded in English in 1605.

decadence *n.* 1549, borrowed from Middle French *décadence*, learned borrowing from Medieval Latin *decadentia* decay, from *decadentem* (nominative *decadens*) decaying, present participle of *decadere* to decay (Latin *dē-* apart, down + *cadere* to fall); for suffix see -ENCE. —**decadent** *adj.* 1837, borrowed from French *décadent*, back formation from *décadence*; for suffix see -ENT.

decagon *n.* 1613–39, borrowed from New Latin *decagonum*, from Greek *dekágōnon* (*déka* TEN + *gōnā* angle).

decalcomania *n.* 1864, borrowed from French *décalcomanie*, from *décalquer* transfer a tracing (*dē-* off + *calquer* to press, from Italian *calcare*, from Latin *calcāre* tread on, press + *-manie* craze). It was so called because the practice was much in vogue in France during the 1840's, and in England some twenty years later. —**decal** *n.* 1937, a shortening formed from *decalcomania*.

decamp *v.* 1676, break camp, borrowed from French *décamper* (*dē-* away, off + *camp* CAMP). The meaning of abscond is first recorded in English in 1792.

decant *v.* 1633, perhaps borrowed from Medieval Latin *decantare* (*de-* down + Latin *canthus*, *cantus* in transferred sense of lip of a jug). —**decanter** *n.* 1712, a container, formed from English *decant*¹ + *-er*¹. —*v.* 1825, from the noun.

decapitate *v.* 1611, borrowed through French *décapiter*, from Late Latin *dēcapitātus*, past participle of *dēcapitāre* (Latin *dē-* off + *caput*, genitive *capitis* HEAD); for suffix see -ATE. —**decapitation** *n.* 1650, borrowed from French *décapitation*, from Medieval Latin *decapitationem* (nominative *decapitatio*), from Late Latin *dēcapitāre* decapitate; for suffix see -ION.

decathlon *n.* 1912, from *deca-* ten, + Greek *áthlon* (earlier *áethlon*) contest, prize. —**decathlete** *n.* 1968, blend of *decathlon* and *athlete*.

decay *v.* 1475 *decayen* to decrease, borrowed from Middle French *decāir*, from Old French *decāir* fall away or decline, apparently from Old Provençal or Norman dialect (*dē-* off, away + *cāir* fall, from Vulgar Latin **cadere*, from Latin *cadere* to fall). The meaning of decline or deteriorate, is first recorded before 1500, followed by decompose or rot, in 1580. —*n.* 1442, from the verb.

decease *n.* Before 1338 *desces*, later, *deces* (before 1393); borrowed from Old French *decès*, from Latin *dēcessus* (genitive *dēcessus*) death, departure, from the past participle stem of *dēcedere* die (*dē-* away + *cēdere* go). —*v.* 1433, from the noun. —**deceased** *adj.* 1489, from *decesed*, past participle (1458); *n.*, **the deceased** (1625). —**decendent** *n.* 1599, borrowed from Latin *dēcēdentem* (nominative *dēcēdēns*), present participle of *dēcedere* to die.

deceit *n.* Probably before 1300 *disceyte*; later *deceyte* (about 1325); borrowed from Old French *deceite*, past participle of *deceivre* DECEIVE. —**deceitful** *adj.* (about 1450)

deceive *v.* About 1300 *deceiven*, borrowed from Old French *deceiv-*, stem of *deceivre*, from Vulgar Latin **dēcipēre*, corresponding to Latin *dēcipere* ensnare (*dē-* away + *capere* take). —**deceiver** *n.* About 1384, borrowed from Old French *deceveur* (with influence of stem *deceiv-* in Middle English *deceiven*) + *-er*¹.

deceleration *n.* 1897, formed from English *de-* do the opposite of + *acceleration* a speeding up. —**decelerate** *v.* 1899, back formation of *deceleration*.

December *n.* 1122, borrowed from Old French *decembre*, from Latin *December*, from *decem* TEN, this being originally the tenth month of the early Roman calendar (which began with March). The ending *-ber* from *-bris* in a form such as **decemembris*, is an adjective form.

decent *adj.* 1539, borrowed through Middle French *décent*, or directly from Latin *decentem* (nominative *decēns*), present participle of *decēre* be fitting, proper, or suitable. Related to DECORATE, DEXTER, DIGNITY, and DOCILE. —**decency** *n.* 1567; borrowed, perhaps by influence of earlier French *décece*, from Latin *decentia*, from *decentem*, present participle of *decēre*; for suffix see -CY.

deception *n.* About 1412 *decepcioun*; borrowed through Middle French *déception* and directly from Late Latin *dēceptionem* (nominative *dēceptiō*), from Latin *dēceptus*, past participle of *dēcipere* DECEIVE; for suffix see -TION. —**deceptive** *adj.* 1611, borrowed from obsolete French *déceptif*, *déceptive*, from Late Latin *dēceptivus*, from Latin *dēcept-*, past participle stem of *dēcipere*; for suffix see -IVE.

deci- a combining form meaning tenth, especially in the terminology of the metric system a tenth part of a basic unit, as in *decigram*, *decimeter*. Coined by abbreviation of Latin *decimus* tenth, from *decem* TEN.

decibel *n.* 1928, formed from English *deci-* tenth, + *bel* unit of sound equal to 10 decibels, from the name of Alexander Graham Bell.

decide *v.* Before 1393 *deciden*, borrowed through Old French *decider*, and directly from Latin *dēcidere* to decide; literally, cut off, terminate (*dē-* off + *cadere* to cut). Another form of the verb existed in Middle English, *decisen* (recorded probably before 1425), borrowed from Latin *dēcīsus*, past participle of *dēcidere*, but it was displaced by *deciden*. —**decided** *adj.* (1790) —**decidedly** *adv.* (1790)

deciduous *adj.* 1688, borrowed from Latin *dēciduus* that falls off or down, from *dēcidere* fall off (*dē-* away, off + *cadere* to fall); for suffix see -OUS.

decimal *adj.* 1608, borrowed from Medieval Latin *decimalis* of tithes or tenths, from Latin *decima pars* tenth part; Latin *decima*, feminine of *decimus* tenth, from *decem* TEN; for suffix see -AL¹. —*n.* 1641, from the adjective. —**decimal point** (1873, but cited in use as early as 1704).

decimation *n.* Before 1449, the demanding and paying of tithes; later, the killing of every tenth man as punishment of

mutiny (1580), and destruction on a large scale (1682); borrowed probably through Middle French *décimation*, from Late Latin *decimatiōnem* (nominative *decimatiō*) the taking of a tenth or tithing, from Latin *decimāre* to take the tenth, from *decimus* tenth, from *decem* TEN; for suffix see -TION. —**decimate** v. 1600, probably a back formation of *decimation*, for suffix see -ATE¹.

decipher v. 1528 *discipher* to discover, 1529 *decypher* to reveal; later *decipher* to decode (1545); formed from English *dis-*, *de-* + *cipher*, probably as a loan translation of Middle French *déchiffrer*, *deschiffrer* to decode or reveal (*de-*, *des-* *de-* + *chiffre* CIPHER).

decision n. About 1454, borrowed from Middle French *décision*, from Latin *dēcisiōnem* (nominative *dēcisiō*), from *dēcidere* DECIDE; for suffix see -SION. —**decisive** adj. 1611, borrowed from French *décisif*, *décisive*, from Medieval Latin *decisivus*, from Latin *dēcis-*, past participle stem of *dēcidere*; for suffix see -IVE.

deck n. 1466 *dekke* a covering over part of a boat; the meaning may have developed in English from the general sense of a covering, borrowed probably from Middle Dutch *dec* roof, covering, cloak, from *decken* to cover. The sense of a deck on a boat, is not recorded in Dutch until 160 years after its appearance in English. By 1513 the sense was extended in English to the platform of a ship, and later to a pack of cards (about 1593). —v. 1513, to cover, 1514 to clothe, adorn; borrowed from Dutch *dekken*, from Middle Dutch *decken* to cover. *Deck* replaced Old English *theccan* to cover. The slang sense of knock down, is first recorded about 1953. —**deckhand** n. (1844, in American English)

declaim v. About 1385 *declamen*, borrowed through Middle French *déclamer*, or directly from Latin *dēclāmāre* (*dē-* away, out + *clāmāre* to cry, call, shout). The form *declaim* replaced the earlier spelling in the 1600's by influence of *claim*. —**declamation** n. Before 1387, borrowed perhaps through Middle French *déclamation*, or directly from Latin *dēclāmātiōnem* (nominative *dēclāmātiō*), from *dēclāmāre* declaim; for suffix see -TION.

declare v. Before 1338 *declaren* decide a legal question; borrowed perhaps through Old French *declarer*, or directly from Latin *dēclārāre* make clear (*dē-* thoroughly + *clārāre* make clear, from *clārus* CLEAR). The meaning of proclaim or state appeared in 1399. —**declaration** n. About 1380, borrowed probably through Old French *declaration*, from Latin *dēclārātiōnem* (nominative *dēclārātiō*), from *dēclārāre*; for suffix see -ATION. —**declarative** adj. About 1445, borrowed perhaps through Middle French *déclaratif*, *déclarative*, or directly from Late Latin *dēclārātīvus*, from Latin *dēclārāt-*, past participle stem of *dēclārāre* for suffix see -IVE. —**declaratory** adj. 1440, borrowed from Medieval Latin *declaratorius*, from Latin *dēclārator* a declarer, from *dēclārāre* for suffix see -ORY.

declension n. About 1434 *declension*, an irregular formation borrowed (through Old French *declinaison*, learned borrowing from Latin), from Latin *dēclīnātiōnem* (nominative *dēclīnātiō*) grammatical variation, inflection, a turning away, from *dēclīnāre* DECLINE; for suffix see -SION.

decline v. Before 1376 *declinen*, borrowed from Old French *decliner* turn aside, from Latin *dēclīnāre* to bend, turn aside, inflect, decline (*dē-* from + *clīnāre* to bend). The sense of turn or bend downward is first recorded in English before 1420; and that of refuse politely or turn down, about 1631. —n. Before 1325, borrowed from Old French *declin*, from *decliner* decline, from Latin *dēclīnāre*. —**declination** n. 1395, borrowed from Old French *declination*, from Latin *dēclīnātiōnem* (nominative *dēclīnātiō*), from *dēclīnāre* decline; for suffix see -ATION.

declivity n. 1612, borrowed probably through influence of French *déclivité*, from Latin *dēclīvitātem* (nominative *dēclīvitās*), from *dēclīvis* sloping downward (*dē-* down + *clīvus* slope, related to *clīnāre* to bend); for suffix see -ITY.

decompose v. Before 1751, formed from English *de-* + *compose*, v., possibly by influence of earlier French *décomposer*, from parallel constituents in French. —**decomposition** n. 1762, as if formed from English *decompose* + *-tion* but distinct from earlier use of *decomposition* (1659) "a further compounding of already composite things" from *decomposite* (1622, borrowed from Late Latin *dēcompositus*, loan translation of Greek *parasynthetos* formed or derived from a compound word *de-* in the Latin use meaning formed or derived from).

decor n. 1897, scenery or furnishing of a theater stage, surroundings; borrowing of French *décor*, from *décorer* to ornament, from Latin *decorāre*; see DECORATE. The sense of decoration, furnishings, etc. of a room, is first recorded in 1926. v.

decorate v. 1530, originally, a past participle and adjective (probably before 1425); borrowed from Latin *decorātus*, past participle of *decorāre* to ornament, from *decus* (genitive *decoris*) adornment, related to *decere* be fitting or suitable, for suffix see -ATE¹. Development of the verb in English was also influenced by earlier Middle French *décorer* to ornament. —**decoration** n. Probably before 1425 *decoracioun*, borrowed through Middle French and directly from Late Latin *dēcorātiōnem* (nominative *dēcorātiō*), from Latin *decorāre*; for suffix see -ATION. —**decorative** adj. Probably before 1425, borrowed from Middle French *décoratif*, *décorative* from Latin *decorāt-*, past participle stem of *decorāre*; for suffix see -IVE. —**decorator** n. 1755, borrowed from Latin *decorāre*; for suffix see -OR².

decorum n. Before 1568, borrowing of Latin *decōrum* that which is proper or seemly, noun use of the adjective *decōrus* seemly, from *decor* (genitive *decōris*) grace, related to *decere* be proper; see DECENT. —**decorous** adj. 1664, from Latin *decōrus* proper or seemly.

decoy n. 1625, place for luring wild ducks, but recorded earlier in prison slang with the meaning of swindler (1618), though the connection is doubtful. It is possible that *decoy* was formed from earlier *coy* (1621) place for luring ducks, (appearing first in the combination *coy-duck*), from Dutch *kooi* cage, from Latin *cavea* enclosure, cavity; see CAGE. The origin of *de-* is uncertain. —v. 1660 *duckoy*, from the noun.

decrepit adj. Before 1439, borrowed from Middle French *décrépit*, from Latin *dēcrepitus* (*dē-* down + **crepitus*, past participle

ple of *crepāre* crack, break). —**decrepitude** *n.* 1603, borrowed from French *décrepitude*, ultimately from Latin *dēcrepitus* decrepit; for suffix see -TUDE. Modern English *decrepitude* replaced *decrepitus* (about 1433), borrowed directly from the Latin.

decry *v.* 1617, denounce, borrowed from French *décrier*, from Old French *descrier* cry out, announce (*des-* down, out, from Latin *dis-* + *crier* to CRY). Related to DESCRY.

dedicate *v.* Probably before 1425 *dedicaten*, developed from earlier *dedicat* adjective and past participle meaning of consecrated or hallowed (about 1390); borrowed from Latin *dēdicātus*, past participle of *dēdicāre* consecrate, proclaim, affirm (*dē-* away + *dicāre* proclaim, related to *dicere* speak, say; see DICATION); for suffix see -ATE. —**dedication** *n.* Before 1382 *dedicacioun*, in the Wycliffe Bible; borrowed through Old French *dedicacion*, or directly from Latin *dēdicōtionem* (nominative *dēdicātiō*), from *dēdicāre* consecrate, proclaim; for suffix see -TION. —**dedicatory** *adj.* 1565, formed in English as if from Late Latin **dēdicatōrius*, from Latin *dēdicatōr* dedicatōr + English -y¹.

deduce *v.* 1410 *deducen* demonstrate, argue or infer from a text; borrowed from Latin *dēducere* lead down, derive; later, in Medieval Latin with the meaning of infer logically (*dē-* down + *ducere* to lead).

deduct *v.* 1419, borrowed from Latin *dēductus*, past participle of *dēducere* lead down, derive; see DEDUCE. From the 1400's *deduct* and *deduce* had nearly all senses in common, but gradually during the 1600's *deduct* became restricted to the sense of subtract, which is now obsolete for *deduce*. —**deduction** *n.* Probably before 1425 *deducioun*, borrowed through Middle French *dédution*, or directly from Latin *dēductiōnem* (nominative *dēductiō*), from *dēducere*; for suffix see -TION. *Deduction* serves as the agent noun for both *deduce* and *deduct* in all their senses. —**deductive** *adj.* 1646, possibly formed from English *deduct* + *-ive*; or borrowed through French *déductif*, *déductive*, or directly from Late Latin *dēductivus*, from *dēduct-*, past participle stem of *dēducere*. —**deductible** *adj.* 1856, formed from English *deduct* + *-ible*.

deed *n.* Before 1200 *dēde*, developed from Old English *dēd* a doing, act (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *dēd*, *dēde* deed, Old Saxon *dād*, Middle Dutch *daet* (modern Dutch *daad*), Old High German *tāt* (modern German *Tat*), Old Icelandic *dādh*, Gothic *ga-dēths*, from Proto-Germanic **dēdāls*, related to DO¹ act. The meaning of a written document containing a contract is first recorded before 1338. —*v.* 1806, in American English, from the noun.

deep *adj.* Before 1150 *dep*; earlier, in place name *Depehill* (1119), developed from Old English *dēop* (about 725); cognate with Old Frisian *diap* deep, Old Saxon *diop*, *diap*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *diep*, Old High German *tiuf*, *tiof* (modern German *tief*), Old Icelandic *djúpr*, and Gothic *diups*, from Proto-Germanic **deupaz*. —*adv.* Probably about 1200 *depe*, developed from Old English (before 1000) *dēope* deeply. —*n.* About 1250 *depe*, developed from Old English (before 1000) *dēop* deep water, especially of the sea, a meaning now

known in the phrase *the deep* (before 1333). —**deepen** *v.* Before 1605, formed from English *deep*, *adj.* + *-en*¹. —**deep-sea** *adj.* (1626) —**deep-seated** *adj.* (1741).

deer *n.* Probably about 1200 *der* animal, beast, developed from Old English *dēor* (before 899); cognate with Old Frisian *diar*, *dier* animal, beast, Old Saxon, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *dier*, Old High German *tior* (modern German *Tier*), Old Icelandic *dýr*, and Gothic **dius* (dative plural *diuzam*), from Proto-Germanic **deuzán*.

During the Middle English period, specific application to the deer family became distinct, and by the 1400's it became the usual sense of the word in English. —**deerskin** *n.* (1396)

deface *v.* 1340 *defacen* to blot out, obliterate; later, to mar or make ugly (about 1385); borrowed from Old French *defacier*, *desfacier* (*de-*, *des-* away from + *face* FACE). —**defacement** *n.* 1561, formed from English *deface*, *v.* + *-ment*.

defame *v.* About 1303 *defamen*, borrowed from Old French *defamer*, *difamer*, from Medieval Latin *defamare*, from Latin *difamāre* to spread abroad by ill report (*dif-*, variant of *dis-* before *f* + *fama* a report, rumor). —**defamation** *n.* 1303 *dyffamacyun*; borrowed from Old French *difamacion*, from Medieval Latin *defamatio*, from Latin *diffamatiōnem* (nominative *diffamatiō*), from *diffamāre*; for suffix see -ATION. —**defamatory** *adj.* 1592, borrowed probably from Middle French *difamatoire*, from Medieval Latin *diffamatorius*, from Latin *diffamāre*; for suffix see -ORY. —**defamer** *n.* About 1340, formed from English *defame*, *v.* + *-er*¹, perhaps by influence of Old French *difameur* and Medieval Latin *diffamator*, *defamator*.

default *n.* 1250 *defaute* an offense, crime or sin, later, failure (about 1280); borrowed from Old French *defaute*, from *defaillir* (by influence of *faute* and *faillir*), and from Medieval Latin *defalta* a deficiency or failure, possibly a form of **defallere*, **defallire* fail (Latin *dē-*, *dis-* away + *fallere* to be wanting). —*v.* Before 1382 *defauten* to be lacking, from the noun, possibly by influence of Old French *defaut*, *defalt*, 3rd person singular present tense of Old French *defaillir*.

defeat *v.* About 1380 *deffeten* overcome, borrowed from Old French *defait*, *desfait*, past participle of *defaire*, *desfaire*, from Vulgar Latin **diffacere* undo, destroy (from Latin *dis-* un-, not + *facere* to DO¹ perform). —*n.* 1590, from the verb. —**defeatism**, *n.* 1918, borrowed from French *défaitisme*, from *défaite* defeat; for suffix see -ISM. —**defeatist** *n.* 1918, borrowed from French *défaitiste* (applied to the Russians), from *défaite* a defeat; for suffix see -IST.

defecate *v.* 1575, to clear of impurities; earlier *defecate* purified (1533), past participle; borrowed from Latin *dēfaecātus*, past participle of *dēfaecāre* (re-formed from *dēficāre*) cleanse from dregs, purify, from the phrase *dē faece* from dregs, plural *faeces*, the Latin original of FECES; for suffix see -ATE. The English verb was influenced by Middle French *défequer* to defecate. The sense of excrete, was first recorded in the 1860's in the United States. —**defecation** *n.* 1623, a clearing of impurities; borrowed from Late Latin *dēfaecatiōnem* (nominative *dēfaecatiō*), from Latin *dēfaecāre* cleanse from dregs; for suffix see

-TION. The sense of discharge of feces appeared in 1830, in a textbook of anatomy translated from French.

defect *n.* Probably before 1425, a lack; later, a flaw or fault (about 1450); borrowed from Middle French *defect*, and directly from Latin *dēfectus* (genitive *dēfectūs*) failure, revolt, from past participle of *dēficere* to fail, desert, be DEFICIENT. —*v.* 1579, to damage; later to rebel or desert; borrowed from Latin *dēfectus*, past participle of *dēficere*. —**defection** *n.* 1544, borrowed from Latin *dēfectionem* (nominative *dēfectiō*), from *dēficere*; for suffix see -TION. —**defective** *adj.* 1345–46, borrowed from Middle French *dēfectife* *dēfective*, and directly from Late Latin *dēfectivus*, from *dēfec-*, stem of Latin *dēficere*; for suffix see -IVE. —**defector** *n.* 1662, perhaps borrowed from Latin *dēfector* *revolter*, from *dēficere*, or more likely, formed from English *defect*, *v.* + -or².

defend *v.* About 1250 *defenden*, from Old French *defendre*, and directly from Latin *dēfendere* ward off, protect (*dē-* from, away + *-fendere* to strike, push). Related to FEND and OFFEND. —**defendant** *n.* Before 1400, person defending himself in a lawsuit; earlier, *defense* (about 1390), and as an adjective (probably about 1300); borrowed from Old French *defendant*, present participle of *defendre* defend; for suffix see -ANT. —**defender** *n.* About 1300 *defendour*; earlier in a surname *Defendur* (1222); borrowed through Anglo-French, from Old French *defendeor*, from *defendre*; for suffix see -ER¹.

defense *n.* Probably before 1300, fusion of: 1) *defens*, *defence* a fortified place; borrowed from Old French *defens*, from Latin *dēfensum* thing protected or forbidden, from neuter past participle of *dēfendere* ward off, protect, and 2) *defense* act of defending oneself; borrowed from Old French *defense* defense, prohibition, from Latin *dēfensa* defense, vengeance, from feminine past participle of *dēfendere* ward off, DEFEND. —**defenseless** *adj.* (about 1530) —**defensible** *adj.* About 1300 *defensable* ready to fight; borrowed from Old French *defensable*, from Late Latin *dēfensābilem*, from Latin *dēfensāre* to ward off, frequentative form of *dēfendere* to defend. After the 1450's *defensable* was replaced by *defensible*, borrowed from Late Latin *dēfensibilem*, from *dēfens-*, past participle stem of Latin *dēfendere*; for suffix see -ABLE and -IBLE. —**defensive** *adj.*, *n.* Before 1400, borrowed from Old French *defensif*, *defensive*, and directly from Medieval Latin *defensivus*, from *defens-*, past participle stem of Latin *dēfendere*; for suffix see -IVE.

defer¹ *v.* delay. About 1375 *differren*; later *deferren* (about 1382); borrowed from Old French *differer*, learned borrowing from Latin *differre* set apart, put off, delay; (also) be different, differ (*dif-* apart, + *ferre* carry). Originally *defer* was the same word as DIFFER but the two separated in meaning, and the spelling with *def-* developed as the stress shifted to the second syllable, and as confusion arose by association with *defer*².

defer² *v.* yield. Before 1447 *differren* to refer; borrowed from Middle French *déferer*, learned borrowing from Latin *dēferre* carry away, refer (matter) to anyone, transfer, grant (*dē-* down, away + *ferre* carry). —**deference** *n.* Before 1660, a respectful yielding; borrowed from French *déférence*, from *déferer* defer. —**deferential** *adj.* 1880, formed from English *deference*, as if

from Medieval Latin *deferentia* + -ial; or possibly from English *deferent*, *adj.* + -ial.

defiance *n.* Probably before 1300, borrowed from Old French *defiance*, challenge, from *defiant*, present participle of *dēfier*, DEFY. —**defiant** *adj.* Before 1837, borrowed from French *défiant*, present participle of *dēfier* defy, from Old French *desfier*, *desfier*.

deficient *adj.* 1581, borrowed from Latin *dēficiētem* (nominative *dēficiēns*), present participle of *dēficere* to desert, fail (*dē-* down, away + *facere* to DO¹ perform); for suffix see -ENT. —**deficiency** *n.* 1634, either formed from English *deficiency* + -cy, or formed as if borrowed from Late Latin *dēficiētia*, from Latin *dēficiētem*, present participle; for suffix see -ENCY.

deficit *n.* 1782, borrowing of French *déficit*, from Latin *dēficit* it is wanting, 3rd person singular present indicative of *dēficere* to be DEFICIENT.

defile¹ *v.* make filthy. Before 1400 *defilen*, alteration of earlier *defoulen* (about 1280); borrowed from Old French *dēfouler* trample down, violate (*dē-* down + *fouler* to tread, thicken cloth, from Vulgar Latin **fullāre*, from Latin *fullō* FULLER). English *defoulen* was probably re-formed as *defile* by analogy with the synonymous pairs *filen* (Old English *fyllan*, from *fūl* foul) and *foulen* to FOUL, for which a parallel synonymous pair is found in *befilen*, *befoulen* to pollute. The association of *defoulen* with *foul* contributed to the sense of pollute materially or morally, a meaning not inherent in the Old French word. —**defilement** *n.* 1571, formed from English *defile* + -ment.

defile² *n.* narrow passage. 1685, borrowed from French *défilé*, noun use of past participle of *défiler* march by files (*dé-* off + *file* FILE² row). —*v.* march in a line or by files. 1705, borrowed from French *défiler*.

define *v.* About 1380 *diffynen* to specify; to end, behave at the end; borrowed through Anglo-French, from Old French *definir*, *diffinir* to end, terminate, determine, and borrowed directly from Latin *dēfinire* to limit, determine, explain (*dē-* completely + *finire* to bound, limit, from *finis* boundary). —**definite** *adj.* Before 1500 *diffinyte* defined; borrowed from Latin *dēfinitus*, past participle of *dēfinire* to limit. —**definition** *n.* About 1384 *diffinicioun* decision; borrowed from Old French *deffinition*, and directly from Latin *dēfinitionem* (nominative *dēfinitioniō*), from *dēfinire*; for suffix see -TION. —**definitive** *adj.* About 1390 *diffynytyf* decisive, conclusive; borrowed from Old French *definitif*, *definitive*, from Latin *dēfinitivus*, from *dēfini-*, past participle stem of *dēfinire*; for suffix see -IVE.

deflect *v.* About 1555, borrowed from Latin *dēflectere* to bend aside or downward (*dē-* away, aside + *flectere* to bend). —**deflection** *n.* 1603 *deflexion* modification of the meaning or form of a word, later, deviation from a usual course (1605), originally formed in British English as *deflexion*, rendered after Latin as *deflex-* + -ion; or borrowed from Late Latin *dēflexiōnem* (nominative *dēflexiō*) from *dēflectere* deflect; for suffix see -TION.

defoliate *v.* 1793, a back formation of *defoliation*, or possibly

borrowed from Late Latin *dēfoliātus*, past participle of *dēfoliāre* shed leaves (Latin *dē-* from, away + *folium* leaf; see **BLADE**). —**defoliant** *n.* 1943, formed from English *defoliate* + *-ant*. —**defoliation** *n.* 1659, formed in English from Late Latin *dēfoliāre* *defoliate* + English *-tion*.

deform *v.* About 1400 *difform* mar or disfigure; borrowed from Old French *deformer*, *desformer*, a blend of Latin *dēformāre* put out of shape, disfigure, and the variant **disformāre*, and Medieval Latin *difformare*. —**deformation** *n.* Before 1449, transformation; borrowed from Old French *deformation*, and directly from Latin *dēformātiōnem* (nominative *dēformātiō*), from *dēformāre* *deform*; for suffix see *-ATION*. —**deformity** *n.* 1413, borrowed from Old French *deformité*, from Latin *dēformitās* deformity, from *dēformis* deformed, from *dēformāre* disfigure.

defray *v.* 1543, borrowed from Middle French *defraier*, *desfraier* (*de-*, *des-* out + *fraier* spend, from Old French *frāis*, costs, damages caused by breakage, from Latin *frāctum*, neuter of past participle of *frangere* **BREAK**).

deft *adj.* Before 1450 *defte* adept, apt; earlier, mild or gentle (before 1250), from *daffte* (probably before 1200); see **DAFT**. *Deft* and *daft* developed from Old English *gedæfte* mild, gentle, but differentiated in later development: *daft* meek and gentle, later, dull, foolish, and *deft* apt, adept, skillful.

defunct *adj.* 1599, earlier *the defunct*, as a noun (1548); borrowed through Old French *defunct*, or directly from Latin *dēfūctus* dead, deceased, discharged, from past participle of *dēfungi* to discharge, finish (*dē-* off, completely + *fungi* perform or discharge a duty).

defy *v.* Probably before 1300 *defyen* renounce faithfulness to, reject, borrowed from Old French *defier*, from Vulgar Latin **disfidāre* (Latin *dis-* away + *fidus* faithful). The meaning challenge is first recorded before 1338.

degenerate *adj.* 1494, borrowed (perhaps through influence of Middle French *dégénérer*), from Latin *dēgenerātus*, past participle of *dēgenerāre* depart from one's kind, fall from ancestral quality, from the phrase *dē genere* down from one's noble descent (*dē* and *genus*, genitive *generis* birth or descent); for suffix see *-ATE*¹. —**n.** 1555, from the adjective. —**v.** 1545, from the adjective, probably by influence of Latin *dēgenerāre*, and also directly Latin *dēgenerāt-*, past participle stem of *dēgenerāre* + English *-ate*¹. —**degeneration** *n.* 1607, borrowed through French *dégénération*, or directly from Late Latin *dēgenerātiōnem* (nominative *dēgenerātiō*), from Latin *dēgenerāre*; for suffix see *-ATION*.

degree *n.* Probably about 1200, borrowed from Old French *degre* a degree, step, rank, earlier *degret*, from Vulgar Latin **dēgradus* a step, from Late Latin *dēgradāre* used in the unrecorded meaning of step down (Latin *dē* down + *gradus*, genitive *gradūs* step).

deify *v.* About 1340, make godlike; borrowed from Old French *deifier*, from Late Latin *deificāre*, from *deificus* making godlike, divine, from Latin *deus* god, **DEITY**; for suffix see *-FY*. —**deification** *n.* Before 1393 *deificacion*, borrowed from Late

Latin *deificātiōnem* (nominative *deificātiō*), from *deificāre* deify; for suffix see *-ATION*.

deign *v.* About 1300 *deignen*, *deinen* consider something fit or worthy; borrowed from Old French *deignier*, from Latin *dignārī* to deem worthy or fit, from *dignus*; see **DIGNITY**. The meaning of condescend appeared in 1589, developing from take or accept graciously (1576).

deism *n.* 1682, formed from English *de(ist)* + *-ism*, by influence of French *déisme*, from Latin *deus* god, **DEITY**; for suffix see *-ISM*. —**deist** *n.* 1621, borrowed from French *déiste*, from Latin *deus* god; for suffix see *-IST*.

deity *n.* About 1300 *deite*, divine nature or divinity; borrowed from Old French *deité*, learned borrowing from Late Latin *deitātem* (nominative *deitās*) divine nature, coined by St. Augustine, from Latin *deus* god; for suffix see *-ITY*.

deject *v.* Before 1420 *deiecten* throw or cast down, borrowed, probably by influence of Old French *degeter*, *dejeter*, *dejecter*, from Latin *dējectus*, past participle of *dēicere* to cast down (*dē-* down + *-icere*, combining form of *jacere* to throw). The sense of depress or dispirit is first recorded before 1500. —**dejection** *n.* About 1420 *deieccion* unhappiness or humiliation, borrowed from Old French *dejection*, and directly from Latin *dējectionem* (nominative *dējectiō*), from *dējec-*, stem of *dēicere*; for suffix see *-TION*. The sense of depression of spirits is first recorded before 1500.

delay *v.* Probably before 1300 *deleien*, from Old French *delaier* (*de-* from, away + *laier* leave, let). —**n.** Before 1250, borrowed from Old French *delai*, from *delaier*, *v.*

delectable *adj.* Before 1396, borrowed from Old French *delectable*, learned borrowing from Latin *dēlectābilis*, from *dēlectāre* to **DELIGHT**.

delegate *n.* Before 1475, borrowed through Old French *delegat*, or directly from Latin *dēlēgātus*, past participle of *dēlēgāre* to send as a representative (*dē-* from, away + *lēgāre* send with a commission; see **LEGATE**); for suffix see *-ATE*³. —**v.** 1530, possibly developed in English from *delegate*, *n.* (or, obsolete, *adj.*); or borrowed, by influence of Middle French *déléguer*, from Latin *dēlēgātus*, past participle of *dēlēgāre*; for suffix see *-ATE*¹. —**delegation** *n.* 1611, possibly formed from English *delegate*, *v.* + *-ion*, replacing earlier *delegacie* (recorded about 1460); or borrowed through French *délégation*, or directly from Latin *dēlēgātiōnem* (nominative *dēlēgātiō*), from *dēlēgāre* to delegate; for suffix see *-TION*. The meaning of a group or body of delegates appeared in 1818.

delete *v.* 1534 (possibly 1495) destroy, eradicate; later, erase, as printed matter (about 1605); borrowed from Latin *dēlētus*, past participle of *dēlēre* destroy, blot out, efface, back formation from *dēlēvi*, originally perfect tense of *dēlinere* to daub, erase by smudging (*dē-* from, away + *linere* to smear; wipe). —**deletion** *n.* 1590, from Latin *dēletīōnem* (nominative *dēletīō*), from *dēlēre* destroy; for suffix see *-TION*.

deleterious *adj.* 1643, borrowed from New Latin *deleterius*,

from Greek *dēlērios*, from *dēlēēr* destroyer, from *dēlēsthai* to hurt, injure; for suffix see -OUS.

deliberate *adj.* Probably before 1425; borrowed from Latin *dēliberātus*, past participle of *dēliberāre* weigh, consider well (*dē*-entirely + *-liberāre*, apparently an alteration, perhaps influenced by *liberāre* liberate, of *librāre* to balance, weigh, from *libra* scale). —**v.** 1550, borrowed from Latin *dēliberātus*, past participle of *dēliberāre*; replacing earlier *deliberen*, borrowed through Old French *deliberer*, or directly from Latin *dēliberāre*; for suffix see -ATE¹. —**deliberation** *n.* About 1385 *deliberacioun*, borrowed through Old French *deliberation*, or directly from Latin *dēliberatiōnem* (nominative *dēliberatiō*), from *dēliberāre*; for suffix see -TION. —**deliberative** *adj.* 1553, borrowed through Middle French *dēlibératif*, *dēlibérative*, or from Latin *dēliberātivus*, from *dēliberāt-*, past participle stem of *dēliberāre*; for suffix see -IVE.

delicate *adj.* About 1375, self-indulgent, loving ease; borrowed through Old French *delicat*, or directly from Latin *dēlicātus* alluring, delightful, dainty, probably related (at least by folk etymology) to *dēliciae* a pet, and *dēlicere* to allure, entice, DELIGHT.

The meaning of fine, soft (applied to cloth) is recorded in Middle English probably before 1425, and that of sensitive, feeble, (about 1390). —**delicacy** *n.* About 1375, pleasure, gratification, formed from English *delicate* + *-cy*. The meaning of something that pleases the palate, a fine food, appeared before 1450. The meaning of fineness of texture, substance, etc., occurs before 1586.

delicatessen *n.* 1889, American English, borrowing of German *Delikatessen*, plural of *Delikatesse* a delicacy, fine type of food, from French *délicatesse*, from *délicat* delicate, fine, from Latin *dēlicātus* DELICATE.

delicious *adj.* Probably before 1300 *delicious*, borrowed from Old French *delicieux*, from Late Latin *dēliciōsus* delicious, delicate, from Latin *dēliciae*, pl., a delight, from *dēlicere* to allure, entice, DELIGHT.

delight *n.* Probably before 1200 *delit*, borrowed from Old French *delit*, from *delitier* please greatly, charm, from Latin *dēlectāre* to allure, delight, charm, frequentative form of *dēlicere* entice (*dē*- away + *lacere* entice). —**v.** Probably before 1200 *deliten*, from Old French *delitier* please greatly, from Latin *dēlectāre*. —**delightful** *adj.* Before 1400, formed from Middle English *delite* + *-ful*. The spelling *delight* came into use in the late 1500's under the influence of such words as *light*, *flight*, etc.

delineate *v.* 1559, borrowed from Latin *dēlineātus*, past participle of *dēlineāre* (*dē*- completely + *lineāre* draw lines, from *linea* LINE); for suffix see -ATE¹. —**delineation** *n.* 1570, formed from English *delineate* + *-ion*, and borrowed from Latin *dēlineatiōnem* (nominative *dēlineatiō*) sketch, description, from *dēlineāre* to outline, sketch; for suffix see -ATION.

delinquent *n.* 1484 *delinquaunt*, borrowed from Middle French *dēlinquant*, from present participle of *dēlinquer* be at fault, fail, offend, and directly from Latin *dēlinquentem* (nominative *dēlinquēns*), present participle of *dēlinquere* be at fault,

fail, offend (*dē*- off + *linquere* to leave); for suffix see -ENT. —**adj.** 1603, borrowed from Latin *dēlinquentem* (nominative *dēlinquēns*), present participle of *dēlinquere* —**delinquency** *n.* 1636, borrowed from Latin *dēlinquentia*, from *dēlinquentem*, present participle of *dēlinquere*; for suffix see -ENCY.

delirium *n.* 1599, borrowing of Latin *dēlirium* madness, from *dēlirāre* be crazy, rave; literally, go off the furrow, from the phrase *dē līrā* (*dē* off, away and *līrā* furrow). —**delirious** *adj.* 1703, formed from English *de-liri(um)* + *-ous*.

deliver *v.* Probably before 1200 *delivren* set free, liberate, borrowed from Old French *delivrer*, from Late Latin *dēliberāre* (Latin *dē*- away + *liberāre* to free, LIBERATE). The sense of hand over, transfer, convey, is first recorded about 1280; that of bring (a woman) to childbirth (that is, unburdened or set free), about 1300; and to give forth, project, throw, in 1597. —**deliverance** *n.* About 1300, borrowed from Old French *delivrance* (*delivrer* set free + *-ance*). —**delivery** *n.* 1425 *delevrey*, and *delyvere* (1442); noun use in Middle English of Middle French *delivree*, feminine past participle of *delivrer* deliver, from Old French *delivrer*.

dell *n.* Before 1250 *dele*; earlier, in place name *Brixisdelle* (1225); developed from Old English *dell*; cognate with Middle Dutch *delle* dell, Middle High German *telle* (modern German *Delle* dent, depression), and Gothic *ib-dalja* slope of mountain, from Proto-Germanic **daljō*. Related to DALE.

delta *n.* Probably about 1200, the fourth letter of the Greek alphabet, shaped like a triangle (Δ), later as a place name *Delta*, (1555); both senses borrowed from Greek *dēlta*, from Semitic (compare Hebrew *dāleth* fourth letter of the Hebrew alphabet).

delude *v.* About 1408 *delluden*, borrowed from Latin *dēludere* (*dē*- down, to one's detriment + *ludere* to play). —**delusion** *n.* About 1421 *dilusioun*, borrowed from Latin *dēlusiōnem* (nominative *dēlusiō*), from *dēlūs-*, past participle stem of *dēludere* delude; for suffix see -SION. —**delusive** *adj.* 1605, formed from English *delus(ion)* + *-ive*; or from Latin *dēlūs-*, past participle stem of *dēludere* + English suffix *-ive*.

deluge *n.* About 1380, later *Deluge* the great Biblical flood (probably before 1430); borrowed from Old French *deluge* (earlier *deluve*), and from Latin *diluvium*, from *diluvare* wash away (*dis*- away + *-luere*, combining form of *lavare* to wash). —**v.** 1593, from the noun.

deluxe *adj.* 1819, borrowing of French *de luxe*, literally, of luxury (*de* of + *luxe* luxury, from Latin *luxus*, genitive *luxūs* excess, abundance, LUXURY).

delve *v.* Probably before 1200 *delven*, developed from Old English (before 830) *delfan* to dig.

demagogue *n.* 1648, borrowed from Greek *dēmagōgós* leader of the people, popular leader, (also) demagogue (*dēmos* people + *agōgós* leader, from *agein* to lead). The earliest English sense was pejorative. Borrowing of this word into English was influenced by Old French *demagogue*, 1361. —**demagogic** *adj.* 1831, borrowed from Greek *dēmagōgikós*, from *dēmagōgós* dem-

agogue; for suffix see -IC. —**demagoguery** *n.* 1855, American English, formed from *demagogue* + -*ery*.

demand *v.* Before 1382 *demaunden* ask, make an inquiry; borrowed from Old French *demandier* to request, from Latin *dēmandāre* entrust, charge, with a commission (*dē-* completely + *mandāre* to order). The English sense of ask for as a right (1434) arose from an Anglo-French legal sense and may have been influenced by the Medieval Latin sense of demand, request. —**n.** About 1280 *demaunde*, borrowed from Old French *demande*, from *demandier*.

demarkation *n.* 1727–52, borrowed (perhaps through French *démarchation*) from Spanish *demarkación*, from *demarkar* to delimit, mark out the bounds of (*de-* off + *marcar* to mark); for suffix see -TION. The Spanish *demarkación* was first used in 1493 in the phrase *línea de demarcación*, a boundary laid down by Pope Alexander VI to divide the New World between the Spanish and Portuguese. —**demarkate** *v.* 1816, back formation from *demarkation*.

demean¹ *v.* lower in dignity. 1601, formed from *de-* down + MEAN² low in quality or social position; probably patterned on DEBASE, and perhaps developing also out of occasional confusion with *demean*².

demean² *v.* behave in a certain way. Probably before 1300 *demaynen* to handle, manage, conduct, borrowed from Old French *demener* (*de-* completely + *mener* to lead, direct, from Late Latin *mināre* to drive, from Latin *minārī* threaten, drive with shouts). The sense of behave in a certain way evolved (before 1420) from the now obsolete meaning of conduct, manage. —**demeanor** *n.* Probably before 1472 *demenure*, formed from Middle English *demenen*, *demaynen* behave + -*or*¹.

demented *adj.* 1644, from now archaic *dement* drive mad + -*ed*² (1545). The verb *dement* was borrowed probably through Middle French *démenter*, from Late Latin *dēmentāre*, from Latin *dēmentem* out of one's mind, from the phrase *dē mente* (*dē* out of and *mēns*, ablative *mente* MIND). —**dementia** *n.* mental deterioration. 1806, borrowing of Latin *dēmentia* (*dēmentem* out of one's mind + -*ia* abstract noun suffix).

desmerit *n.* 1421, blameworthy act, offense; earlier, worthiness of punishment (1399); borrowed from Old French *desmerite* (*des-* not, opposite of + *merite* MERIT), and from Latin *dēmeritum*, from past participle stem of *dēmerēre* to merit, deserve (*dē-* thoroughly + *merēre* to merit). The Latin prefix *dē-* was mistaken for meaning not, opposite, and so in Old French *desmerite* has both the sense of merit and of fault.

demesne *n.* 1491, respelling of earlier *demeyne* (probably before 1300); borrowed from Old French *demeine*, *demaïne*, from Latin *dominicus*, from *dominus* lord. The respelling is a borrowing from Anglo-French legal scribes.

demi- a prefix meaning: 1 half, half-sized, or partial, as in *demigod* = half god. 2 smaller than usual, as in *demitasse* = smaller than the usual cupful. Borrowed from Middle French, from Old French *demi* half, from Late Latin *dīmedius*, reformed for Latin *dīmīdius* (*dis-* apart + *medius* MIDDLE).

demijohn *n.* 1769, a partial loan translation, a play on words of French *dame-jeanne* Lady Jane, its popular fanciful name.

demimonde *n.* 1855, borrowing of French *demi-monde* (*demi-* half, *DEMI-* + *monde*, learned borrowing from Latin *mundus* world). The term was popularized in the title of a successful play by Alexandre Dumas fils.

demise *n.* 1442 *dimisse* transfer of an estate by will, borrowed from Middle French *demise*, feminine past participle of *demettre* dismiss, put away (*des-* away, from Latin *dis-* + Middle French *mettre* put, from Latin *mittere* let go, send). The meaning of death is first recorded about 1754 because a person's estate is transferred upon his death.

democracy *n.* 1574, borrowed through Middle French *démocratie*, learned borrowing from Medieval Latin *democratia*, from Greek *dēmokratīā*, from *dēmos* common people, district + *krátos* rule, strength; for suffix see -CRACY. —**democrat** *n.* 1790, a republican of the French Revolution, as opposed to an aristocrat; borrowed from French *démocrate*, from *démocratie* democracy. The use of *Democrat* for a member of a principal U.S. political party is first recorded in 1839. —**democratic** *adj.* 1602, borrowed from French *démocratique*, from Medieval Latin *democraticus*, from Greek *dēmokratikós*, from *dēmokratīā* democracy; for suffix see -IC. The use of *Democratic* for a U.S. political party is first recorded in 1829.

demolish *v.* 1570–76, borrowed from Middle French *démoliss-*, stem of *démolir* to destroy, tear down, learned borrowing from Latin *dēmōliri* tear down (*dē-* down + *mōliri* build, construct, from *mōlēs*, genitive *mōlis* massive structure); for suffix see -ISH². —**demolition** *n.* 1549, borrowed from Middle French *démolition* destruction, from Latin *dēmōlitiōnem* (nominative *dēmōlitiō*), from *dēmōliri*; for suffix see -TION.

demon *n.* Probably before 1200, borrowed from Late Latin *daemōn*, *dēmōn* evil spirit, from Latin *daemōn* spirit, from Greek *daimōn* (genitive *daímonos*) lesser god, good or bad spirit. —**demoniac** *adj.* About 1405 *demonyak*; earlier, as a noun (about 1395), borrowed from Late Latin *daemoniacus*, as if from Greek **daimoniakós*, for which only *daimonikós* exists; see DEMONIC. —**demonic** *adj.* 1662, borrowed from Late Latin *daemonicus*, from Greek *daimonikós*, from *daimōn* god, spirit; for suffix see -IC.

demonstrate *v.* 1552, borrowed, possibly by influence of Middle French *démonstrer*, from Latin *dēmōnstrāre*, past participle of *dēmōnstrāre* (*dē-* entirely + *mōnstrāre* to point out, show, from *mōnstrum* divine omen, wonder); for suffix see -ATE¹. Also, *demonstrate* may be a back formation of *demonstration*. —**demonstration** *n.* About 1380, borrowed from Old French *demonstration*, or directly from Latin *dēmōnstrātiōnem* (nominative *dēmōnstrātiō*), from *dēmōnstrāre*; for suffix see -TION. —**demonstrative** *adj.*, *n.* About 1395, borrowed from Old French *demonstratif*, *demonstrative*, from Latin *dēmōnstrātīvus*, from past participle stem of *dēmōnstrāre*; for suffix see -IVE. —**demonstrator** *n.* 1611, probably formed from English *demonstrate*, *v.* + -*or*².

demoralize *v.* About 1793, to corrupt the morals of; borrow-

ing of French *démoraliser*, and Anglicized after *de-* remove, take + *moral*, adj. + *-iser* -ize. The sense of lower the morale of, is first recorded in 1848.

demote *v.* About 1891, American English, from *de-* down + (*pro*)*move*. —**demotion** *n.* 1901, American English, from *de-* down + (*pro*)*motion*.

demotic *adj.* 1822, of or relating to the simplified, popular form of ancient Egyptian writing; borrowed from Greek *dē-motikós* of or for the common people, from *dēmos* common people; for suffix see *-ic*. The sense of relating to the popular written or spoken form of Modern Greek, is first recorded in English in 1927.

demur *v.* Probably before 1200 *demeorien* linger or wait, borrowed from Old French *demorer*, *demourer* delay or retard, from Latin *dēmōrārī* (*dē-* + *mōrārī* to delay, from *mora* a pause, delay). The meaning of object appeared about 1639. —**n.** About 1250 *demure* a delay, objection; borrowed from Old French *demor*, *demore*, *demoure*, from *demorer*, *demourer*. —**demurrer** *n.* 1523, pause; borrowed through Anglo-French, as a noun use of the Old French infinitive *demorer*, *demourer* to linger.

demure *adj.* 1377 *dimuir*; later *demure* calm, still (before 1420); probably formed in English from *di-*, *de-* (origin and meaning uncertain) + Old French *meür* discreet, from Latin *mātūrus* MATURE; or borrowed from Anglo-French *demuré* (Old French *demoré*), past participle of *demorer* stay, influenced by Old French *meür*. See DEMUR.

den *n.* Old English *denn* (about 725, in *Beowulf*), from Proto-Germanic **danjan*; related to *denu* valley; cognate with Middle Low German *denne* lair, depression, valley, and Old Dutch *denne* cave, den. The sense of a small, cozy room is first recorded in 1771, developed from *denne* a private chamber (about 1340). —**v.** Before 1250, to seek shelter; from the noun.

denature *v.* 1685, to make unnatural; later, to make unfit for eating or drinking (1878); borrowed from French *dénaturer*, from Old French *desnaturer* (*des-*, *dé-* do the opposite of + *nature*). —**denatured** *adj.* 1878, from past participle of English *denature*, *v.*

dendrite *n.* 1727–51, treelike marking on stones, borrowed from Greek *dendritēs* of a tree, from *déndron* tree, related to *drýs* TREE. The anatomical sense of a branching part of a nerve cell, is first recorded in 1893.

dengue *n.* 1828, American English, borrowed from West Indian Spanish *dengue* (1827), from an African source (compare Swahili *kidingapopo* dengue; and possibly Giryama, an East African language, *kidhindhido* fever).

denial *n.* See under DENY.

denigrate *v.* 1526, probably from earlier past participle *denigrate* blackened, discolored (before 1425); borrowed possibly by influence of Old French *denigrer*, from Latin *dēnigrātus*, past participle of *dēnigrāre* to blacken (*dē-* completely + *nigr-*, stem of *niger* black); for suffix see *-ATE*¹. —**denigration** *n.* Probably before 1425 *denigracioun*, borrowed from Late Latin *dēnigrā-*

tiōnem (nominative *dēnigrātiō*) a blackening, from Latin *dēnigrāre* to blacken; for suffix see *-ATION*.

denim *n.* 1695, a type of serge; a borrowing of French (*serge*) *de Nîmes*, (*serge*) from Nîmes, town in France where it was manufactured. The meaning of a coarse cotton cloth is probably first recorded in 1850 in American English, and the plural *denims*, overalls or trousers made of denim, is first recorded in 1868. Compare JEANS and BLUE JEANS.

denizen *n.* 1419 *densyn*; later *denizeine* (1433); borrowed from Anglo-French *deinzein* (*deinz* within or inside, from Late Latin *deintus*, from Latin *dē* from, and *intus* within + *-ein*, from Latin *-ānus* -an).

denomination *n.* Before 1398 *denominacioun* a mentioning by name; borrowed from Old French *denomination*, and directly from Latin *dēnōminātiōnem* (nominative *dēnōminātiō*) a calling by other than the proper name, metonymy, from *dēnōmināre* to name (*dē-* completely + *nōmināre* to name, NOMINATE); for suffix see *-TION*. The sense of a value or kind of money, is first recorded in 1660; that of a religious sect or group, before 1716. —**denominational** *adj.* 1838, formed from English *denomination* + *-al*¹. —**denominator** *n.* 1542, borrowed, possibly by influence of Middle French *dénominateur*, from Medieval Latin *denominator*, from Latin *dēnōmināre* to name; for suffix see *-OR*².

denote *v.* 1592, borrowed from Middle French *dénoter*, learned borrowing from Latin *dēnotāre* denote, mark out (*dē-* completely + *notāre* to mark). —**denotation** *n.* About 1532, indication; borrowed through Middle French *dénotation*, or directly from Latin *dēnotātiōnem* (nominative *dēnotātiō*), from *dēnotāre*; for suffix see *-ATION*. The sense of exact, literal meaning (contrasted with *connotation*) appeared in 1843.

denouement *n.* 1752, outcome; borrowing of French *dénouement* an untying, from *dénouer* untie, from Old French *desnouer* (*des-* un-, out, from Latin *dis-* + *nouer* to tie, knot, from Latin *nōdāre*, from *nōdus* a knot, NODE).

denounce *v.* Before 1325 *denuncen* proclaim someone to be something bad, later *denounce* to inform (probably about 1380); borrowed through Old French *denoncier*, *denuntier*, from Latin *dēnūntiāre* (*dē-* down + *nūntiāre* proclaim, announce, from *nūntius* messenger). Two forms exist in English *denounce* and *denunciate*, both borrowed ultimately from Latin *dēnūntiāre*, but *denunciate* is not widely used and only its noun form *denunciation* is generally found to complement the verb *denounce*. —**denunciation** *n.* Probably before 1425, public proclamation, borrowed, perhaps by influence of Old French *denonciation*, from Latin *dēnūntiātiōnem* (nominative *dēnūntiātiō*), from *dēnūntiāre* denounce; for suffix see *-TION*.

dense *adj.* Probably before 1425, borrowed from Middle French *dense*, and directly from Latin *dēnsus* thick, crowded. The sense of stupid, thick-headed, is first recorded in English in 1822. —**density** *n.* 1603, borrowed from French *densité*, from Latin *dēnsitatem* (nominative *dēnsitās*) thickness, from *dēnsus* thick; for suffix see *-ITY*.

dent *n.* Probably about 1225, stroke or blow, dialectal variant

of DINT, n. The meaning of an indentation, is first recorded in 1565, apparently influenced by INDENT, v., make a dent in. —v. About 1395, *dentén* (implied in *dentyng*) dialectal variant of *dinten* to beat with blows (about 1225), from *dint*, n.

dental *adj.* 1594, borrowed through Middle French *dental* of or for teeth, from Late Latin *dentālis*, from Latin *dēns* (genitive *dentis*) TOOTH; for suffix see -AL¹. —**dentifrice** n. Probably before 1425 *dentifricie*, borrowed from Latin *dentifricium* (*dēns*, genitive *dentis* tooth + *fricāre* to rub; see FRICTION). —**dentist** n. 1759, borrowed from French *dentiste*, from *dent* tooth, from Latin *dentem* (nominative *dēns*) tooth; for suffix see -IST. —**dentistry** n. 1838, formed from English *dentist* + -ry.

denture n. 1874, borrowed from French *denture* set of teeth, from Middle French *denteüre*.

denude v. Probably before 1425 *denuden*, borrowed through Middle French *dénuder*, from Latin *dēnūdāre* (*dē-* away + *nūdāre* to strip, from *nūdus* bare, NUDE).

denunciate v. 1593, to make a denunciation against. For *denunciation* see DENOUNCE.

deny v. Before 1325 *denyen*, borrowed from Old French *denier*, *denoier*, from Latin *dēnegāre* (*dē-* away + *negāre* refuse, say no, NEGATE). —**denial** n. 1528, formed from English *deny* + -al²; replacing *denyance* (1468); for suffix see -ANCE.

deodorant n. 1869, formed in English, as if from Latin **deodorantem*, present participle of **deodorāre* to remove the smell, from *odōrem* smell or odor. —**deodorize** v. 1858, formed in English from *de-* take away + Latin *odōrem* smell + -ize.

depart v. About 1250 *departen* part from each other; borrowed from Old French *departir*, from Late Latin *departīre* divide (Latin *dē-* from + *partīre*, *partīrī* to part, divide, from *pars*, genitive *partis*, PART). —**departure** n. 1441, borrowed from Middle French *departeüre*, *desparteüre*, from Old French *departeüre*, (*departir* + -ure -ure).

department n. 1450 *departement* departure; borrowed from Middle French *département*, *despartement*, from *departir*; for suffix see -MENT. The Middle and Old French words also had the meaning of a group of people, from which English later borrowed the sense of a separate division or part (before 1735). —**departmental** *adj.* 1791, borrowed from French *départemental*, from *departement* + -al¹. —**department store** (1887, from an earlier concept of specialized departments in a large store, 1847).

depend v. 1410 *dependen* be conditioned on, be because of; borrowed from Middle French *dependre* to hang from, hang down, from Vulgar Latin **dēpendere*, from Latin *dēpendere* (*dē-* from, down + *pendere* to hang, be suspended). —**dependable** *adj.* 1735; formed from English *depend* + -able. —**dependence** n. 1414 *dependance*, borrowed from Middle French *dépendance*, from *dēpendre*; for suffix see -ANCE. Respelling of the ending -ence, which was established by the early 1800's, was influenced by the Latin. —**dependency** n. 1594, formed from English *dependence*, *dependance* + -cy. —**dependent** *adj.* Before 1398 *dependaunt*, borrowed from Old French *dependant*,

present participle of *dependre*. From the 1400's on, the spelling *dependent* gradually became dominant, after Latin. —n. 1425, from the adjective, generally spelled -ent, especially in American English.

depict v. Before 1420 *depicten* to disguise, later, to portray, paint, draw (probably about 1430); borrowed from Latin *dēpictus*, past participle of *dēpingere* (*dē-* down + *pingere* to PAINT). —**depiction** n. 1688, borrowed from French *depiction*, from Latin *dēpictiōnem* (nominative *dēpictiō*), from *dēpic-*, stem of *dēpingere*; for suffix see -TION.

depilatory *adj.* 1601 *depilatorie*, borrowed from French *dépilatoire*, *adj.*, from Latin *dēpilātus* having one's hair plucked (*dē-* completely + *pilātus*, past participle of *pilāre* deprive of hair, from *pilus* hair); for suffix see -ORY. English *depilatory* replaced earlier *depilative*, *adj.* (1562, formed in English from Latin *dēpilāt-*, past participle stem of *dēpilāre* + English suffix -ive). —n. 1606 *depilatorie*, borrowed from French *dépilatoire*, n.

deplete v. 1807, back formation of *depletion*. —**depletion** n. 1656, from Late Latin *dēplētiōnem* (nominative *dēplētiō*) blood-letting, from Latin *dēplēre* to empty (*dē-* off, away + *plēre* to fill); for suffix see -TION.

deplore v. 1559, to give up as hopeless; later, to regret deeply (1567); borrowed from Middle French *deplorer*, or directly from Latin *dēplōrāre* deplore, bewail (*dē-* entirely + *plōrāre* weep, cry out). —**deplorable** *adj.* 1612, borrowed through French *déplorable*, or directly from Late Latin *dēplōrābilis* mournful, lamentable, from *dēplōrāre*; for suffix see -ABLE.

deploy v. 1786, borrowed from French *déployer* unroll, unfold, from Old French *desployer* unfold (earlier *despleier*, from Latin *displicāre* unfold, scatter, from *dis-* + *plicāre* to fold) —**deployment** n. 1796, borrowed from French *déploiement*, from *déployer* deploy; for suffix see -MENT.

deponent *adj.* About 1450, (of verbs) passive in form but active in meaning; borrowed from Latin *dēpōnentem*, present participle of *dēpōnere* put off or aside (*dē-* off, aside + *pōnere* to put, place). The term was used by Latin grammarians for verbs which, though passive in form, had "put aside" their passive meanings. —n. 1548, one who gives a sworn testimony or deposition; earlier, a deponent verb (1530); borrowed from Medieval Latin *deponentem* (nominative *deponens*), present participle of *deponere* to testify, (also) to lay aside, from Latin *dēpōnere* to put down, deposit.

deport v. 1474, behave or conduct oneself in a certain way, borrowed from Middle French *deporter* (*de-* thoroughly, formally, + *porter* to carry, bear oneself). The sense of banish, is first recorded before 1641; borrowed from French *déporter*, from Latin *dēportāre* carry off, transport, banish (*dē-* off, away + *portāre* carry). —**deportation** n. 1595, borrowed from Middle French *déportation*, from Latin *dēportātiōnem* (nominative *dēportātiō*), from *dēportāre*; for suffix see -TION. —**deportment** n. 1601, borrowed from French *déportement*, from *déporter* behave; for suffix see -MENT.

depose v. Probably before 1300 *deposen*, borrowed from Old French *deposer* (*de-* down + *poser* put, place). —**deposition** n.

1399, borrowed from Latin and Late Latin *dēpositiōnem* (nominative *dēpositiō*) a putting down, removal, testimony, from *dēposi-*, past participle stem of *dēponere* put down, deposit; for suffix see -TION. The sense of sworn testimony in writing, is first recorded in 1425; see DEPENDENT, n.

deposit v. 1624, borrowed from Latin *dēpositus*, past participle of *dēponere* lay aside, put down, deposit (*dē-* away + *pōnere* to put; see POSITION). —n. 1624, borrowed from Latin *dēpositum*, neuter past participle of *dēponere*. —**depositor** n. 1565, borrowed from Latin *dēpositor* one who deposits. 1624, borrowed from French *dépositeur* one who deposits. —**depository** n. 1656, borrowed from or patterned on Medieval Latin *depositorium*, from Latin *dēposi-*, past participle stem of *dēponere*; for suffix see -ORY.

depot n. 1794, a depositing; 1795, warehouse; borrowing of French *dépôt* a deposit or place of deposit, from Middle French, from Old French *depost* a deposit or pledge, learned borrowing from Latin *dēpositum* a deposit, neuter past participle of *dēponere* lay aside, deposit.

deprave v. Before 1376 *depraven* vilify, later, corrupt (before 1382); borrowed through Old French *depraver*, or directly from Latin *dēprāvare* corrupt (*dē-* completely + *prāvus* crooked). —**depravity** n. 1641, formed from English *deprave* + -ity.

deprecate v. 1624, supplicate, pray; back formation from *deprecation* (1566), or borrowed from Latin *dēprecātus*, past participle of *dēprecārī* plead in excuse, avert by prayer (*dē-* away + *precārī* PRAY); for suffix see -ATE¹. The sense of show disapproval of, is first recorded in 1641. —**deprecation** n. 1566, prayer; borrowed from Middle French *deprécation*, from Latin *dēprecātiōnem* (nominative *dēprecātiō*), from *dēprecārī* avert by prayer; for suffix see -TION. The sense of a strong expression of disapproval, is first recorded in 1612–15.

depreciate v. 1564 *depreciaten*, borrowed from Latin *dēpretiātus*, past participle of *dēpretiāre* (*dē-* down + *pretium* PRICE); for suffix see -ATE¹. —**depreciation** n. 1767, formed from English *depreciate* + -ion.

depredation n. 1483, borrowed through Middle French *dēprédation*, or directly from Late Latin *dēpraedātiōnem* (nominative *dēpraedātiō*), from Latin *dēpraedārī* to pillage; for suffix see -TION. —**depredate** v. 1626, either a back formation from earlier *depredation* (1483), or borrowed from Latin *dēpraedātus*, past participle of *dēpraedārī* to pillage (*dē-* thoroughly + *praedārī* to plunder); for suffix see -ATE¹.

depress v. Probably about 1380, *depressen* put down by force, overcome; borrowed from Old French *depresser*, learned borrowing from Late Latin *dēpressāre*, frequentative form of Latin *dēprimere* press down (*dē-* down + *primere* to press). The literal sense of push down, is first recorded about 1425; that of deject, make gloomy, in 1621, and the economic sense of lower in value, about 1878. —**depressant** n. 1876, formed from English *depress* + -ant. —**depression** n. About 1391, angular distance of a celestial body below the horizon, borrowed through Old French *depression*, or directly from Medieval Latin *depressionem*, from Latin *dēpressiōnem* (nominative

dēpressiō) a pressing down, from *dēpress-*, past participle stem of *dēprimere*; for suffix see -ION. The sense of a state of dejection is first recorded about 1425, but the formal sense of psychology did not appear until 1905. The sense of a downturn in business, is first recorded in 1793.

deprive v. Before 1338 *depriven* force to give up, rob, divest, exclude, dismiss; borrowed from Medieval Latin *deprivare* (Latin *dē-* entirely + *privāre* release from, deprive). —**deprivation** n. 1445 *deprivacion*, borrowed from Medieval Latin *deprivationem* (nominative *deprivatio*), from *deprivare* deprive; for suffix see -TION.

depth n. Before 1382 *depthe*, cognate with Old Saxon *diupitha* depth, Middle Dutch *diepde* (modern Dutch *diepte*), Middle Low German *dēpede*, Middle High German *tiufede*, Old Icelandic *dýpt*, and Gothic *diupitha*, from Proto-Germanic **deupithō*; derived from the root of Old English *dēop* DEEP.

depute v. Probably about 1350 *deputen* to appoint, assign, select; borrowed from Middle French *deputer*, learned borrowing from Late Latin *dēputāre* to destine, allot, from Latin *dēputāre* consider as (*dē-* away + *putāre* to think, count, consider). —**deputation** n. Before 1393, borrowed from Medieval Latin *deputationem* (nominative *deputatio*), from Latin *dēputāre*; for suffix see -ATION. —**deputize** v. 1730–36, formed from English *deputy* + -ize. —**deputy** n. 1406 *depute*, borrowed through Anglo-French *deputé*, noun use of the past participle of Middle French *deputer* appoint, assign; for suffix see -Y⁴.

derange v. 1776, throw into confusion, borrowed, possibly by influence of earlier English *derangement*, from French *déranger*, from Old French *desrengier* disarrange (*des-* do the opposite of + *reng*, *renc* line, row, RANK). The sense of disorder the mind, make insane, is first recorded in 1825. —**derangement** n. 1737, borrowed from French *dérangement*, from *déranger*; for suffix see -MENT.

derby n. stiff hat first manufactured in the U.S. in 1850, but not recorded in American English until 1870; derived from the *Derby* a horse race run annually in England, at which this type of hat was frequently worn, apparently after the fashion of the Earl of Derby. The general sense of any important race, is first recorded in 1875, in American English, for the *Kentucky Derby*. The original *Derby* horse race was founded by the twelfth earl of *Derby* in 1780, whose title is from the name of a county in central England, called in Old English (959) *Dēorbȳ* deer village or homestead (*dēor* DEER + *bȳ* habitation, homestead, from a Scandinavian source, and found in Old English names of places where Scandinavians settled; see also BYLAW).

derelict adj. 1649, borrowed perhaps through obsolete French *derelict*, or directly from Latin *dērelictus*, past participle of *dērelinquere* abandon (*dē-* entirely + *relinquere* leave behind, RELINQUISH). —n. 1670, from Latin *dērelictus*. —**dereliction** n. 1597, borrowed perhaps through obsolete French *dereliction*, or directly from Latin *dērelictionem* (nominative *dērelictio*), from *dērelic-*, past participle stem of *dērelinquere*; for suffix see -TION.

deride n. 1530, borrowed from Middle French *derider*, learned borrowing from Latin *dēridere* ridicule (*dē-* down + *ridere* to

laugh). —**derision** *n.* Probably about 1408, borrowed from Old French *derision*, learned borrowing from Latin *dērisiōnem* (nominative *dērisiō*) from *dēridere*; for suffix see **-SION**.

derive *v.* About 1385, borrowed from Old French *deriver*, learned borrowing from Latin *dērivāre* lead or draw off (a stream of water), from the phrase *dē rīvō* (*dē* from and *rīvus* the stream). The sense of trace the origin of (a word) is first recorded in 1559. —**derivation** *n.* Probably before 1425, a draining off; later, the tracing of the origin of a word (1447); borrowed from Middle French *dérivation*, from Latin *dērivātiōnem* (nominative *dērivātiō*), from *dērivāre*; for suffix see **-TION**. —**derivative** *adj.* Probably before 1425 *derivatif* drawing off (blood) —*n.* About 1450 *derivative* a derived word or form. Both noun and adjective borrowed from Middle French *derivatif*, *dérivative*, from Late Latin *dērivātīvus*, from Latin *dērivāre*; for suffix see **-IVE**.

derma *n.* 1706, layer of skin beneath the epidermis; borrowed, possibly by influence of French *derme*, from Greek *dérma* (genitive *dérmatos*) skin. —**dermatologist** *n.* (1861) —**dermatology** *n.* 1819, formed from English *dermat-*, *dermato-*, combining form, borrowed from Greek *dérma* (genitive *dérmatos*) skin + **-ology**.

derogatory *adj.* 1502–03 *derogatorie*; perhaps borrowed through Middle French *dérógatoire*, or directly from Latin *dērogātōrius*, from *dērogāre* detract from; for suffix see **-ORY**. —**derogate** *v.* Before 1420 *derogaten*, borrowed from Latin *dērogātus*, past participle of *dērogāre* repeal in part, detract from (*dē-* away from + *rogāre* ask, question, propose); for suffix see **-ATE**¹.

derrick *n.* 1727, originally, a gallows, a hanging, or a hangman (early 1600's); formed from *Derick* surname of a hangman at the Tyburn gallows, London, during the reign of Elizabeth I (often referred to in contemporary theatrical productions).

derring-do *n.* The phrase appeared originally about 1385 as *dorryng don*, literally, daring to do, from *durriung* daring, present participle of *durren* to DARE, and *don* (infinitive) to do. In the 1500's, by misspelling it became *derring do* and developed as a compound noun with the meaning of daring deeds, desperate courage.

derringer *n.* 1853, American English, in allusion to Henry Deringer, American gunsmith who invented and manufactured this pistol in the 1840's. Its popularity spawned many imitations that often bore the misspelled name "Derringer" on their locks.

dervish *n.* 1585 *dervis*, Muslim religious mendicant; borrowed from Turkish *derviş*, from Persian *darvēš*, *darvīš* beggar, poor. The spelling *dervish* appeared in 1847.

descant *n.* About 1400 *dyscant*, *deschaunt*, counterpoint; borrowed from Anglo-French *deschaunt*; later *descant* (before 1450), from Old North French *descant*. Both forms in French, and some uses of *descant* in English, were borrowed from Medieval Latin *discantus* (Latin *dis-* asunder, apart + *cantus* song). —*v.* Before 1450 *discanten* to sing in counterpoint; probably borrowed from Medieval Latin *descantare*, *discantare*

to play or sing a descant, from *discantus*, *n.* The meaning of talk or discuss at length is first recorded in English before 1661.

descend *v.* Probably before 1300 *decenden*, later *descenden* about 1375; borrowed from Old French *descendre*, learned borrowing from Latin *dēscendere* (*dē-* down + *scandere* to climb). The sense of spring from, originate, is first recorded about 1375. —**descendant** *n.* 1600, borrowed from French *descendant*, from Old French, present participle of *descendre* descend. —**adj.** About 1460, borrowed from Middle French *descendant* (see noun). —**descent** *n.* Probably before 1300 *decente*, borrowed from Old French *descente*, from *descendre*.

describe *v.* Probably before 1425 *describen*, borrowed from Latin *dēscribere* write down, transcribe, copy, sketch. The later Middle English *describen* replaced earlier *descriven* (before 1250); borrowed from Old French *descrire*, from Latin *dēscribere* (*dē-* down, out + *scribere* write). —**description** *n.* About 1380, borrowed from Old French *description*, and directly from Latin *dēscriptiōnem*, from *dēscript-*, stem of *dēscribere*; for suffix see **-TION**. —**descriptive** *adj.* 1751, borrowed from Late Latin *dēscriptīvus* containing a description, from Latin *dēscript-*, stem of *dēscribere*; for suffix see **-IVE**.

descri¹ *v.* see; discern. Probably about 1300 *discrien* see, discover; later *descrien* (1375); borrowed from Old French *descrire*, *descrire* describe, make visible, from Latin *dēscribere* DESCRIBE.

descri² *v.* proclaim. About 1350 *discrien* announce; earlier *descrien* to challenge (before 1338); borrowed from Old French *decrier*, *descrier* call out, proclaim; see **DECRY**.

desecrate *v.* Before 1677, destroy the sacredness of; earlier, to dismiss from holy orders, (1674); formed from English *de-* do the opposite of + *-secrate*, in *consecrate*, perhaps influenced by Old French *dessacer* to profane, violate (*des-*, from Latin *dis-* + *sacer* consecrate). —**desecration** *n.* Before 1717, formed from English *desecrate* + **-ion**.

desegregate *v.* 1953, in American English, formed from *de-* do the opposite of + *segregate*; or possibly a back formation from *desegregation*. —**desegregation** *n.* 1952, in American English, formed from English *de-* do the opposite of + *segregation* separation of blacks from white society or institutions (1903, American English).

desert¹ *n.* Probably before 1200, borrowed from Old French *desert*, from Late Latin *dēsertum*, literally, thing abandoned, noun use of neuter past participle of Latin *dēserere* forsake, **DESERT**². —**desertification** *n.* 1973, formed from English *desert* + **-ification** causing to become (as in *calcification*).

desert² *v.* leave, forsake. About 1380, borrowed from Old French *deserter* to abandon, from Late Latin *dēsertāre*, frequentative form of *dēserere* leave, literally, undo or sever connection (*dē-* undo + *serere* join). —**deserter** *n.* 1635, formed from English *desert*², *v.* + **-er**¹. —**desertion** *n.* 1591, borrowed from Middle French *désertion*, from Late Latin *dēsertiōnem* (nominative *dēsertiō*), from Latin *dēserere* leave; for suffix see **-TION**.

desert³ *n.* suitable reward or punishment. About 1300, borrowed from Old French *deserte*, past participle of *deservir* be

worthy to have, from Latin *dēservire* serve well, see DESERVE. The plural *deserts*, as found in *one's just deserts*, is first recorded about 1380.

deserve *v.* About 1225 *deserven*, borrowed from Old French *deservir*, from Latin *dēservire* serve well (*dē-* completely + *servire* to SERVE). —**deserving** *n.* Probably about 1300, from *deserve*, *v.* —**adj.** 1576, from noun.

desiccate *v.* 1575, from earlier *desiccatt* dried up (1425, past participle and adjective); borrowed from Latin *dēsiccātus*, past participle of *dēsiccāre* (*dē-* thoroughly + *siccāre* to dry); for suffix see -ATE¹. —**desiccation** *n.* Probably before 1425 *desiccacioun* a drying up, borrowed through Middle French *dessication*, or directly from Late Latin *dēsiccātiōnem* (nominative *dēsiccātiō*), from Latin *dēsiccāre*; for suffix see -TION.

design *v.* Before 1398 *designen* design or shape (something); borrowed from Latin *dēsīgnāre* mark out, devise (*dē-* out + *signāre* to mark, from *signum* a mark, SIGN). —**n.** 1588, borrowed from Middle French *desseign* purpose, project, design, from Italian *disegno*, from *disegnare* to mark out, from Latin *dēsīgnāre* mark out, devise. —**designer** *n.* 1649, a plotter or schemer; later, one who makes artistic designs (1662); formed from English *design*, *v.* + -*er*¹.

designation *n.* 1398, act of marking or pointing out; borrowed through Old French *designation*, and directly from Latin *dēsīgnātiōnem* (nominative *dēsīgnātiō*), from *dēsīgnāre* mark out, devise, appoint; for suffix see -TION. The sense of appointing or nominating for office or duty, is first recorded in English in 1605. —**designate** *adj.* 1646, appointed, selected; borrowed from Latin *dēsīgnātus*, past participle of *dēsīgnāre* appoint for office. —**v.** 1791, appoint for duty or office, either from the adjective in English, or a back formation from *designation*.

desire *v.* Probably about 1200, borrowed from Old French *desirer*, from Latin *dēsīderāre* long for, wish for, (originally) await what the stars will bring, from the phrase *dē sidere* from the stars or constellation (*dē-* from + *sidus*, genitive *sīderis* heavenly body, star, constellation; see SIDERIAL). —**n.** Probably before 1300, borrowed from Old French *desir*, from *desirer* to desire. —**desirable** *adj.* Before 1382, borrowed from Old French, from *desirer* to desire; for suffix see -ABLE. —**desirous** *adj.* Before 1300, borrowed through Anglo-French *desirous*, from Old French *desireus*, *desidros*, from Vulgar Latin **dēsīderōsus*, from the stem of Latin *dēsīderāre*; for suffix see -OUS.

desist *v.* 1459 *desisten*, borrowed from Middle French *dēsister*, learned borrowing from Latin *dēsistere* (*dē-* off + *sistere* stop, come to a stand).

desk *n.* 1363–64 *deske* a reading desk, lectern, or study desk; borrowed from Medieval Latin *desca* table, from Italian *desco* table, desk, from Latin *discus* quoit, platter, dish, from Greek *dískos*.

desolate *adj.* Probably about 1350 *desolat*, borrowed from Latin *dēsōlātus*, past participle of *dēsōlāre* leave alone, desert, (*dē-* completely + *sōlāre* make lonely); for suffix see -ATE¹. —**v.** 1384 *desolaten*, borrowed, perhaps by influence of Old French *desoler*, from Latin *dēsōlātus*, past participle of *dēsōlāre* leave

alone; for suffix see -ATE¹. —**desolation** *n.* Before 1382, borrowed from Old French *desolation*, from Late Latin *dēsōlātiōnem* (nominative *dēsōlātiō*), from Latin *dēsōlāre*; for suffix see -TION.

despair *n.* About 1300 *dyspayr*; borrowed probably from Old French **despeir*, earlier form of *despoir* (perhaps on the pattern of Old French *espeir* hope, earlier form of *espoir*), from *desperer* lose hope, despair, from Latin *dēspērāre* (*dē-* without, + *spērāre* to hope). —**v.** About 1340, borrowed from Old French *despeir*, accented stem of *desperer*, from Latin *dēspērāre*.

desperado *n.* 1647, reckless criminal; person in despair or in a desperate condition (1610); apparently a refashioning of earlier, and now obsolete *desperate* a desperate person (1563), or a reckless criminal (1611), from DESPERATE, *adj.* The ending -*ado* is suggestive of Spanish, and is found in Old Spanish *desperado*, but what prompted its use in English is unknown.

desperate *adj.* Probably about 1400 *desperat* filled with despair, hopeless; borrowed from Latin *dēspērātus*, past participle of *dēspērāre* lose hope, DESPAIR; for suffix see -ATE¹. —**desperation** *n.* About 1370, borrowed through Middle French *desperacion*, or directly from Latin *dēspērātiōnem* (nominative *dēspērātiō*), from *dēspērāre*; for suffix see -TION.

despicable *adj.* 1553, borrowed from Late Latin *dēspicābilis*, from Latin *dēspicārī* look down on; for suffix see -ABLE.

despise *v.* Probably before 1300 *despisen*, from Old French *despis*-, stem of *despire*, from Latin *dēspicere* look down on, scorn (*dē-* down + *specere* look at).

despite *n.* Probably before 1300 *despit*, *despite*, borrowed from Old French *despit*, from Latin *dēspēctus* (genitive *dēspēctūs*) a looking down on, from *dēspicere* DESPISE. —**prep.** in spite of. Before 1420, a shortening of *in despite of* (about 1300), loan translation of Old French *en despit de*.

despoil *v.* About 1300 *despoilen*, borrowed from Old French *despoillier*, from Latin *dēspoliāre* (*dē-* entirely + *spoliāre* to strip of clothing, rob, from *spolium* armor, booty, SPOIL).

despond *v.* 1655, borrowed from Latin *dēspondēre* to give up, lose, lose heart (sometimes rendered *dēspondēre animum*), resign, from the sense of promise (a woman) in marriage (*dē-* away + *spondēre* to promise). —**despondence** *n.* (1676) —**despondency** *n.* (1653) —**despondent** *adj.* (1699) —**despondently** *adv.* (before 1677)

despot *n.* 1585, title of a Christian ruler of a province in the Turkish Empire, from Middle French *despot*, *despote*, and Italian *dispoto* a lord or lordlike governor; borrowings from modern Greek, from Greek *despótēs* master of a household, lord, absolute ruler. The pejorative or hostile sense of the word already existed to some extent in Greek, especially in reference to the Roman emperors, but it became established during the French Revolution, when it was applied by the revolutionaries to Louis XVI. —**despotic** *adj.* 1650, borrowed from French *despotique*, from Greek *despotikós*, from *despótēs* master; for suffix see -IC. —**despotism** *n.* 1727, borrowed from French *despotisme*, from *despote* despot; for suffix see -ISM.

dessert *n.* 1600 *desert*; later *dessert* (1666); borrowing of Middle French *dessert* last course, literally, removal of what has been served, from *desservir* to remove what has been served (*des-* remove, undo, + Old French *servir* to SERVE).

destine *v.* Before 1300, (implied in *destininge*, gerund); borrowed from Old French *destiner*, from Latin *destinare* determine, appoint, choose, make firm or fast (*dē-* completely, formally + *-stināre*, earlier **-stanāre*, related to *stāre* to STAND). —**destination** *n.* Before 1400 *destynacyone* destroy; later intention (before 1656), and place where a person or thing is destined (1787); borrowed from Old French *destination*, and directly from Latin *destinātiōnem* (nominative *destinātiō*), from *destināre*; for suffix see -TION. —**destiny** *n.* About 1350 *destene*, borrowed from Old French *destinée* (feminine past participle of *destiner*), from Latin *destinātus*, past participle of *destināre*.

destitute *adj.* About 1384, abandoned, forsaken; borrowed from Latin *destitūtus*, past participle of *destituere* forsake (*dē-* away + *statuere* put, place, causative of *stāre* to STAND). The sense of lacking necessities, needy, is first recorded in 1539. —**destitution** *n.* About 1425, deprivation or loss; borrowed from Old French *destitution*, and directly from Latin *destitutiōnem* (nominative *destitutiō*) forsaking, from *destituere*.

destroy *v.* Probably before 1200 *destruēn*, later *destruēn* (before 1300); borrowed from Old French *destruire* from Vulgar Latin **destrūgere*, a refashioning (influenced by the Latin past participle *destrūctus*) of Latin *destruere* tear down, demolish (*dē-* un-, down + *struere* to pile, build). —**destroyer** *n.* Before 1382 *destruyer*, formed from Middle English *destruēn* + *-er*, and also borrowed from Old French *destruere*, *destruieour*; see DESTROY.

destruction *n.* Probably about 1300 *destruicioun*, borrowed from Old French *destruction* and directly from Latin *destruītiōnem* (nominative *destruītiō*), from *destruī-*, stem of *destruere* tear down; see DESTROY; for suffix see -TION. —**destruct** *v.* 1957, back formation from *destruction*; first used in *self-destruct* but now used in the science community. —**destructible** *adj.* 1755, probably formed in English from *destruct(ion)* + *-ible* on the model of Late Latin *indestruībilis*, *destruī-*, past participle stem of Latin *destruere*; for suffix see -IBLE. —**destructive** *adj.* 1490, borrowed from Old French *destruīf*, *destruīf*, from Late Latin *destruīfivus*, from *destruī-*, past participle stem of Latin *destruere*; for suffix see -IVE.

desuetude *n.* Before 1460 *dissuetude*, disuse; borrowed from Middle French *désuétude*, learned borrowing from Latin *dēsuetūdō* (genitive *dēsuetūdinis*), from *dēsuetus*, past participle of *dēsuescere* become unaccustomed to (*dē-* away, from + *suēscere* become used to); for suffix see -TUDE.

desultory *adj.* 1581, borrowed from Latin *dēsultōrius* pertaining to a *dēsultor* (a rider in a circus who jumped from one horse to another), hasty or casual, superficial, from *dēsul-*, stem of *dēsilire* jump down (*dē-* down + *salire* to jump, leap); for suffix see -ORY. The extended sense of without aim or method is first recorded in 1740, but the sense of unconnected is recorded even earlier, before 1704.

detach *v.* 1684, borrowed from French *détacher*, from Old French *destachier* (*des-* apart + *attachier* ATTACH). —**detachable** *adj.* 1818, formed from English *detach*, *v.* + *-able*. —**detachment** *n.* 1669, borrowed from French *détachement*, from *détacher* detach; for suffix see -MENT.

detail *n.* 1603, borrowed from French *détail*, from Old French *detail* small piece or quantity, from *detaillier* cut in pieces (*dē-* entirely, from Latin *dē-* + *taillier* to cut in pieces). The word was first used in the phrase “in detail,” from French *en détail* retail. From the sense of a retail, item by item sale, the meaning developed into dealing with matters item by item. —**v.** 1637–50, borrowed from French *détailler* cut up in pieces, retail, narrate in particular, from Old French *detaillier*. —**detailed** *adj.* (1740)

detain *v.* About 1425 *deteynen* hold back; borrowed from Middle French *detenir*, from Old French *detenir* to hold off, keep back, from Gallo-Romance **dētenire*, replacing Latin *dētinēre* hold off, keep back, detain (*dē-* from, away + *tenere* to hold). The spelling *detain* was gradually established in the 1600's, in association with words such as *contain*, *maintain*, *retain*.

detect *v.* Probably before 1425 *detecten* expose, uncover; borrowed from Latin *dētēctus*, past participle of *dētegere* uncover, disclose (*dē-* un, off + *tegere* to cover). —**detection** *n.* 1427, exposure, accusation; probably borrowed from Latin *dētēctiōnem*, from *dētegere* uncover; for suffix see -TION. —**detective** *n.* 1856, probably shortened form of earlier *detective police* (1843); formed from English *detect* + *-ive*.

détente *n.* 1908, easing of strained relations; borrowing of French *détente*, literally, a loosening, slackening, from Old French, from Vulgar Latin *dētēndita*, feminine of the past participle of *dētēndere* loosen (*dē-* from, away + *tēndere* stretch). An earlier Anglicized use *detent*, borrowed from French *détente*, had the meaning of the catch which regulates the strike in a clock (1688).

detention *n.* 1443 *detencion*, borrowed from Middle French *détention*, from Late Latin *dētēntiōnem* (nominative *dētēntiō*), from Latin *dētēnere* DETAIN; for suffix see -TION. The sense of confinement appeared about 1570, in a reference to Queen Mary of Scotland's confinement.

deter *v.* 1579, borrowed from Latin *dēterrēre* (*dē-* away + *terrēre* frighten; see TERROR). —**deterrent** *adj.*, *n.* 1829, borrowed from Latin *dēterrentem* (nominative *dēterrens*), present participle of *dēterrēre*; for suffix see -ENT.

detergent *adj.* 1616, borrowed, perhaps through French *détergent*, from Latin *dētergentem*, present participle of *dētergere* wipe away (*dē-* off, away + *tergere* to rub, polish, wipe). —**n.** 1676, from the adjective.

deteriorate *v.* 1644, borrowed (probably through influence of French *détériorer*, learned borrowing from Latin *dēteriōrāre*), and directly from Late Latin *dēteriōrātus*, past participle of *dēteriōrāre*, from Latin *dēterior* worse, a contrastive form of an earlier adjective **dēter* lower, from *dē* down; for suffix see -ATE¹. —**deterioration** *n.* 1658, borrowed from French *détérioration*,

from Late Latin *deterioratiōnem* (nominative *deterioratiō*), from *deteriorare* deteriorate; for suffix see -TION. It is also possible that *deterioration* was formed in English.

determinate *adj.* 1391, borrowed from Latin *determinātus*, past participle of *determināre* DETERMINE; for suffix see -ATE¹.

determine *v.* 1350–54 *determinen* to decide a case; later, to ascertain or interpret (about 1380) borrowed from Old French *determiner*, or as a learned borrowing directly from Latin *determināre* set limits to (*dē-* off + *termināre* to mark the end + boundary, from *terminus* end, limit; see TERM). —**determination** *n.* 1350–54 *determination*, borrowed from Old French *determination*, or directly from Latin *determinatiōnem* (nominative *determinatiō*), from *determināre*; for suffix see -ATION.

detest *v.* Before 1535, borrowed from Middle French *détester*, learned borrowing from Latin *dētestārī* express abhorrence for, literally, denounce with one's testimony (*dē-* from, down + *testārī* be a witness, from *testis* witness; see TESTAMENT). —**detestable** *adj.* 1415, borrowed from Middle French *détestable*, and directly from Latin *dētestābilis*, from *dētestārī*; for suffix see -ABLE.

detonate *v.* 1729, a back formation from English *detonation*, or possibly borrowed (through influence of French *détoner*, learned borrowing from Latin *dētonāre*), from Latin *dētonātus*, past participle of *dētonāre* to release one's thunder, roar out (*dē-* down + *tonāre* to THUNDER); for suffix see -ATE¹. —**detonation** *n.* 1677–86, borrowed from French *détonation*, probably from Medieval Latin *dētonationem* (nominative *dētonatio*), from Latin *dētonāre*; for suffix see -ATION.

detour *n.* 1738, borrowing of French *détour*, from Old French *destour*, from *destourner* turn aside (*des-* aside + *tourner* to TURN). —**v.** 1836, from the noun.

detract *v.* Probably before 1425, disparage; borrowed through Middle French *détracter*, or directly from Latin *dētractus*, past participle of *dētrahere* take down, pull down, disparage (*dē-* down + *trahere* to pull; see TRACT). English *detract* is probably also back formation of *detractio*. —**detractio** *n.* 1340, in *Ayenbite of Inwynt*; borrowed from Old French *detractiūm*, from Latin *detractiōnem* (nominative *detractiō*), from *dētrahere*. —**detractor** *n.* About 1384, borrowed through Anglo-French *detractour*, from Old French *detracteur*, and directly from Latin *detractor*, from *dētrahere*; for suffix see -OR².

detriment *n.* About 1425, borrowed through Middle French *détriment*, or directly from Latin *dētrimentum*, from stem *dētrī-* of *dēterere* impair, wear away (*dē-* away + *terere* to rub, wear). —**detrimental** *adj.* 1656, formed from English *detriment* + -al¹.

detritus *n.* 1795, a wearing away, decomposition; borrowed from Latin *dētritus* (genitive *dētrītūs*) a wearing away, from stem *dētrī-* of *dēterere* wear away; see DETRIMENT. The sense of matter produced by wearing away (1802) is probably borrowed from French *détritus*, from Latin *dētrītus*.

deuce *n.* two (in dice and card games). About 1475 *deus* two-spot in a game of dice; later, a throw in dice which turns up as

two, the lowest and unluckiest throw (1519); borrowed from Middle French *deus*, from Latin *duōs* (nominative *duo*) TWO. The meaning in tennis (1598), was influenced by French *à deux de jeu* at two from the game.

deuterium *n.* 1933, borrowed from Greek *deutérion* (neuter of *deutérios*) having second place, from *deúteros* second, see DEUTERONOMY + -ium. Coined by American chemist Harold C. Urey because the isotope (H^2) has twice the mass of H^1 or protium.

Deuteronomy *n.* About 1395 *Deuteronomye*, in the Wycliffe Bible, borrowed from Late Latin *Deuteronomium*, from Greek *Deuteronómion*, literally, second law (*deúteros* second + *nómos* law; see NIMBLE). The book was so called because it contains a repetition of the Decalogue and parts of Exodus, but the name is based on a mistranslation into Greek (*to deuteronómion tolto* this second law) of the Hebrew phrase in the Septuagint *mishneh hattōrah hazzōth* a copy of this law.

devastate *v.* 1634, possibly a reformation of earlier *devast* (1537); borrowed from Middle French *dévaster*, from Latin *dēvastāre*; also, by traditional pattern, borrowed from Latin *dēvastātus*, past participle of *dēvastāre* lay waste completely (*dē-* completely + *vastāre* lay waste, from *vastus* empty, desolate, WASTE). In some uses, *devastate* may be a back formation from earlier *devastation*. —**devastation** *n.* 1461, borrowed probably through Middle French *dévastation*, from Late Latin *dēvastatiōnem* (nominative *dēvastatiō*), from Latin *dēvastāre* lay waste; for suffix see -TION.

develop *v.* 1656, unfold, unwrap; borrowed from French *développer*, and replacing earlier English *disvelop* (1592, borrowed from Middle French *desveloper*). Both French and Middle French forms derive from Old French *desveloper*, *desvoloper* (*des-* undo, + *veloper*, *voloper* wrap up, ENVELOP). —**development** *n.* 1756, formed from English *develop* + -ment, on the pattern of French *développement*.

deviate *v.* Before 1633, borrowed from Late Latin *dēviātum*, past participle of *dēviāre* turn aside, from Latin *dēvius* out of the way, remote; see DEVIOUS. —**deviant** *adj.* that deviates. Probably before 1400 *deviaunt*; borrowed from Late Latin *dēviantem* (nominative *dēviāns*), present participle of *dēviāre* deviate; for suffix see -ANT. —**n.** one that deviates. 1471, from the adjective. —**deviation** *n.* About 1385 *deviation*; borrowed from Medieval Latin *deviationem* (nominative *deviatio*), from Late Latin *dēviāre* deviate; for suffix see -TION. —**devious** *adj.* 1599, out of the way; borrowed from Latin *dēvius*, from the prepositional phrase *dē viā* (*dē* off, *viā* way); for suffix see -OUS. The figurative sense of erring, deceitful, appeared in 1633.

device *n.* Probably before 1300 *devise* intent, desire; also something devised, arrangement or contrivance (about 1300); borrowed from Old French *devis* division, separation, disposition, wish, desire, and *devise* division, separation, plan, design, will, wish, desire, from Latin *dīvīsus*, *dīvīsa*, past participle of *dividere* to DIVIDE.

devil *n.* 1 Satan. Before 1295 *devel* Satan; earlier, *deovel* (probably before 1200). 2 any evil spirit or devil. Probably before

1200 *devel* (often plural *devels*). The Middle English forms developed from Old English *dēofol* (before 1000) and (about 725, in *Beowulf*) *dēofla* evil spirits; also *diobul* (before 800), *diābul*, *diavol*; borrowed from Late Latin *diabolus*, from Greek (New Testament) *diábolos* (in Jewish and Christian use, Devil, Satan; in broad use, accuser, slanderer), from *diaballein* to slander, attack, literally, throw across, (*dia-* across, through + *ballein* to throw; see BALL² dance). Greek *diábolos* is a loan translation of Hebrew *sātān* in the Old Testament. The English spelling with *dev-*, *div-* is a shortening of Old English *dēofol*, *diobul*, etc., and in some dialects where the *v* was lost, produced shortened forms such as Scottish *deil*. —**v.** 1593, to play the devil; from the noun. —**devilish** adj. Probably before 1439 *develish* fiendish, wicked, formed from Middle English *devel* devil + *-ish*¹.

devious adj. See under DEVIATE.

devise *v.* Probably about 1225 *devisen* to form, fashion; later, to plan, contrive (about 1300); borrowed from Old French *deviser* dispose in portions, arrange, plan, contrive, from Vulgar Latin **dīvisāre*, frequentative form of Latin *dividere* to DIVIDE.

devoid adj. Probably before 1400, a shortening or variant of *devoided*, past participle of earlier *devoiden* remove, void, vacate (probably before 1300); borrowed from Old French *devoidier*, *desvoidier* (des- out, away, from Latin *dis-* + *voidier* to empty, from *voide* empty, VOID).

devote *v.* 1586, associated in meaning and form with *devout* and possibly developed from earlier *devote*, *devot*, adj. devoted, dedicated, faithful (about 1449), the forms being early variants of *devout*; borrowed from Latin *dēvōtus*, past participle of *dēvovēre* dedicate by a vow (*dē-* down, away + *vovēre* to vow). —**devotion** *n.* Probably before 1200 *devociun*, borrowed from Old French *devotion*, from Latin *dēvōtiōnem* (nominative *dēvōtiō*), from *dēvō-*, stem of *dēvovēre*; for suffix see -TION.

devour *v.* Before 1333 *devouren*, borrowed from Old French *devorer*, learned borrowing from Latin *dēvorāre* swallow down (*dē-* down + *vorāre* swallow).

devout adj. Probably before 1200 *devot* pious, later *devout* (about 1300); borrowed from Old French *devot*, *devout* devoted, learned borrowing from Latin *dēvōtus* given up by vow, devoted, past participle of *dēvovēre* dedicate by vow.

dew *n.* Probably before 1200 *deu*, developed from Old English *dēaw* (about 725); cognate with Old Frisian *dāw* dew, Old Saxon *dau*, Middle Dutch *dau* (modern Dutch *dauw*), Old High German *tou*, *touwes* (modern German *Tau*), from Proto-Germanic **dauwaz*, and related to Old Icelandic *dogg* (genitive *doggar*). —**dewdrop** *n.* Probably before 1200. —**dewy** adj. Before 1387 *dewy*, developed from Old English *dēawig* (before 1000).

dewlap *n.* About 1350 *dewe lappe* (*dewe*, origin and meaning uncertain + *lappe* LAP¹ loose piece).

dexterity *n.* 1527 *dexterite*, borrowed from Middle French *dexterité*, from Latin *dexteritatem* (nominative *dexteritās*), from *dexter* skillful, dexter; for suffix see -ITY. It is also found in

Middle English *dexter* the right hand. —**dexterous** adj. 1622, skillful, clever; earlier convenient, suitable (1605, replacing earlier *dexterious*, 1597); formed in English, from earlier English *dexter* skillful (1597) or directly from Latin *dexter* skillful + English suffix -ous.

dextrose *n.* 1869, formed from English *dextr-* to the right, from Latin *dexter* right + -ose, chemical suffix denoting a sugar. The substance was so called from its polarization of light to the right in spectroscopy.

di-¹ a prefix meaning: 1 double, twofold, as in *dicotyledon*; or two, having two, as in *digraph*. 2 having two radicals, atoms, etc., as in *dioxide*. Borrowed from Latin *di-*, from Greek *di-* (earlier **dwi-*), related to *dýo* TWO.

di-² a form of the prefix *dis-* before b, d, l, m, n, r, v, sometimes g and j in words borrowed from Latin (often through Old French), such as *digest*, *dilute*, *direct*; formed as Latin *dī-* before most voiced consonants.

di-³ a form of the prefix *dia-* before vowels, as in *dielectric*, *diorama*.

dia- a prefix, mainly in words borrowed from Greek (directly or through Latin or Old French), meaning through, across, apart, by, thoroughly, as in *diagonal*, *diagnosis*, *diaphanous*, *diaphragm*. Borrowed from Greek *dia-*, from the preposition *diá* through, across, by, related to Latin *dis-* apart, DIS-.

diabetes *n.* Probably before 1425 *diabete*, disease characterized by excessive discharge of urine containing glucose; borrowed from Middle French *diabète*, and from Latin *diabētēs*, from Greek *diabētēs* excessive discharge of urine, literally, a passer-through, siphon, from *diabainein* go through (*dia-* through + *bainein* to go).

diabolic adj. About 1399 *deabolik*, borrowed from Old French *diabolique*, and from Late Latin *diabolicus*, from Greek *diabolikós* devilish, from *diábolos* DEVIL; for suffix see -IC. —**diabolical** adj. 1503, formed from English *diabolic* + -al¹.

diacritic adj. 1699, serving to distinguish (different sounds represented by the same letter); earlier, critical (1677); borrowed from Greek *diakritikós* that separates or distinguishes, from *diakrínein* to separate, distinguish (*dia-* apart + *krínein* distinguish, separate). —**n.** diacritic mark. 1866, from the adjective.

diadem *n.* About 1300 *diademe*, borrowed from Old French *diademe*, and directly from Latin *diadēma* cloth band worn around the head as a sign of royalty, from Greek *diádēma*, from *diadēin* to bind across (*dia-* across + *dēin* to bind, related to *desmós* band).

diagnosis *n.* 1681, New Latin, from Greek *diagnōsis* a discerning, distinguishing, from *diagignōskein* discern, distinguish (*dia-* apart + *gignōskein* learn, to KNOW). —**diagnostic** adj. 1625 *diagnosticke*, borrowed from French *diagnostique*, from Greek *diagnōstikós* able to distinguish, from *diagnōstós* to be distinguished, from *diagignōskein* distinguish; for suffix see -IC. —**diagnose** *v.* 1861, back formation from *diagnosis*.

diagonal *adj.* 1563 *diagonal*; earlier implied in *diagonally*, *adv.* (1541), and also in Middle English *diagonally*, *adv.* (probably before 1425); borrowed from Middle French *diagonal*, from Latin *diagonalis*, from *diagōnus* slanting line, from Greek *diagōnios* from angle to angle (*diá* across + *gōnīa* angle, related to *gōny* KNEE); for suffix see -AL¹.

diagram *n.* 1619, borrowed from French *diagramme*, learned borrowing from Latin *diagramma*, from Greek *diágramma* (genitive *diágrammatos*) that which is marked out by lines, from *diagráphein* mark out by lines, delineate (*dia-* across, out + *gráphein* write, mark, draw). —**v.** 1840, from the noun.

dial *n.* Before 1420, sundial; earlier, the dial of a compass (1338); apparently borrowed from Medieval Latin *dialis* daily, from Latin *diēs* day; see DEITY. Medieval Latin *dialis* was probably abstracted from a phrase such as *rota dialis* daily wheel. A single use is cited in Old French *dial* time piece, clockwork, and could be the source in Middle English, —**v.** 1653, from the noun.

dialect *n.* 1577, form of speech of a region or group; earlier, critical examination (1551); borrowed from Middle French *dialecte*, from Latin *dialectus* local language, way of speaking, conversation, from Greek *diálekto*, from *diálēgesthai* converse with each other (*dia-* across, between + *lēgein* speak).

dialectic *n.* 1586, borrowed from Latin *dialectica*; replacing earlier *dialatik* logic, metaphysics (before 1382); borrowed from Old French *dialetique*, *dialectique*, from Latin *dialectica*, from Greek *diálektikē téchnē* art of discussion or discourse, from feminine of *diálektikós* skilled in discourse, from *diálekto* discourse, conversation, see DIALECT; for suffix see -IC. —**dialectical** *adj.* 1 argumentative, logical (1548). 2 of or belonging to a speech dialect (1750). Both uses formed from English *dialectic* + -AL.

dialogue *n.* Probably before 1200 *dyaloge*; borrowed from Old French *dialoge*, from Latin *dialogus*, from Greek *diálogos*, related to *diálēgesthai* converse (*dia-* across, between + *lēgein* speak; see LEGEND).

dialysis *n.* 1861, borrowed from Greek *diálýsis* dissolution, separation, from *diályein* dissolve, separate (*dia-* apart + *lýein* loosen; see LOSE).

The term was used in logic about 1550, and was reintroduced by Thomas Graham, 1805–69, Scottish chemist who discovered the process. The sense of separation of waste matter from the blood by a machine is first recorded in 1914.

diameter *n.* Before 1387, borrowed from Old French *diame*, learned borrowing from Latin *diameter*, from Greek *diámetros* diagonal of a circle or parallelogram (*dia-* across, through + *metron* a MEASURE). —**diametric** *adj.* 1802, shortening of *diametrical* (1553), formed on English *diameter* + -ic. English *diametrical* was formed from English *diameter* + -ical patterned on Greek *diámetrikós*, from *diámetros*.

diamond *n.* About 1325 *diamand*; borrowed from Old French *diamant*, learned borrowing from Medieval Latin *diamantem* (nominative *diamas*), alteration (influenced by Greek words in *dia-*) of Vulgar Latin **adimantem*, from Latin *ada-*

mantem (nominative *adamās*) the hardest metal, (later) diamond. The sense of a baseball infield area appeared in American English in 1875.

diaper *n.* About 1330 *diapre* a fabric with a repeated pattern of figures; borrowed from Old French *diapre*, earlier *diaspre* ornamental cloth, from Medieval Latin *diaspnum*, from Medieval Greek *diaspros* (*dia-* entirely, very + *aspros* white; earlier, rough, from Latin *asper* rough). Shakespeare used the word in 1596 with the meaning of towel, napkin, cloth. The meaning of a folded cloth used as underpants for a baby to absorb waste matter, is first recorded in 1837.

diaphanous *adj.* 1614, borrowed from Medieval Latin *diaphanus*, from Greek *diaphanēs* (*dia-* through + *phainesthai*, middle voice, representing the subject as acting upon itself, to *phainein* to show, see FANTASY); for suffix see -OUS.

An earlier form, *diaphane*, *adj.* (1561, perhaps suggested by *diaphanite* transparency, about 1477), was borrowed from Middle French *diaphane*, from Greek *diaphanēs*.

diaphragm *n.* 1398 *difragma*; borrowed, perhaps by influence of Old French *diaphragme*, from Late Latin *diaphragma*, from Greek *diáphragma* (genitive *diáphragmatos*) partition, barrier, from *diáphrassein* to barricade (*dia-* across + *phrassein* to fence or hedge in).

diarrhea *n.* Before 1398 *diarria*, borrowed, probably through Old French *diarrie*, from Latin *diarrhoea*, from Greek *diárrhoia* diarrhea, literally, a flowing through, from *diárrhein* to flow through (*dia-* through + *rhein* to flow). The word was respelled on the Latin model in the 1500's.

diary *n.* 1581, a daily record of events, a journal; borrowed from Latin *diarium*, from *diēs* day, formed in Latin as a nominative to *diem*; for suffix see -ARY.

The sense of a book specially for keeping a daily record is first recorded in Ben Jonson's *Volpone* (1605).

diaspora *n.* 1876, borrowing of Greek *diasporá*, from *diásperein* to scatter about, disperse (*dia-* about, across + *sperein* to scatter). An earlier form *diaspore* (1805) is used as a term for aluminum hydrate, in reference to its dispersion when heated.

diastase *n.* 1838, borrowing of French *diastase*, from Greek *diástasis* separation (*dia-* apart + *stásis* a standing, from *sta-*, stem of *histánai* cause to STAND).

diastole *n.* 1578, normal rhythmical dilation of the heart; borrowed probably through Middle French *diastole*, from Late Latin *diastolē*, from Greek *diastolē* dilation, from *diastéllein* expand, dilate (*dia-* apart + *stéllein* to send).

diatonic *adj.* 1603 *diatonique* of the ancient Greek musical scale; later, of a standard major or minor musical scale (1694); borrowed from French *diatonique*, and, probably also influenced by Italian *diatonico*, from Latin *diatonicus*, from Greek *diatōnikós* (*dia-* through + *tōnos* tone, from *telnein* to stretch).

diatribe *n.* 1643 *diatribe* discourse, critical dissertation; earlier *diatriba* (1581); borrowed from French *diatribe* and directly from Latin *diatriba* learned discussion, from Greek *diatribē*

discourse, study, literally, a wearing away of time (*dia-* away + *tribein* to wear, rub).

The meaning of bitter and violent criticism, invective, is found in 1804; apparently borrowed from this use in French.

dice *n. pl.* Probably before 1300 *dys*, in plural of *dy* DIE² cube. The form *dys* was altered before 1399 to *dyse*, *dyce* and by 1479 to *dice*. *Dice* was sometimes used as a singular (with plural *dices*) between 1400 and 1700. —**v.** Before 1399 *dyce* to cut into cubes; later to play with dice (about 1415); from *dyce*, *n.*, *dice*.

dichotomy *n.* 1610, borrowed from Greek *dichotomía* a cutting in half (*dícha* in two + *témnein* to cut).

dicker *v.* 1802, American English, perhaps related to earlier *dicker*, *n.*, a unit or package of ten items, especially hides (1799); developed from Middle English *diker*, with the same meaning (1275); earlier *dyker* (1266), suggesting Old English **dicor* (compare German *Decher* bale of ten hides); ultimately an early borrowing from Latin *decuria* parcel of ten, from *decem* TEN.

dicotyledon *n.* 1727, New Latin *dicotyledones*, formed from Greek *di-* twice + *kotylēdōn* cup-shaped, hollow, from *kotylē* cup, hollow.

dictate *v.* 1592, say aloud for another to write down; borrowed from Latin *dictātus*, past participle of *dictāre* say often, prescribe, frequentative form of *dicere* tell, say; for suffix see -ATE¹. The sense of to command, is first recorded in 1621. —**n.** 1594, order that must be obeyed; borrowed from Latin *dictātum*, noun use of *dictātus*, past participle of *dictāre*; see verb. —**dictation** *n.* Before 1656, authoritative utterance; borrowed from Late Latin *dictationem* (nominative *dictatiō*), from *dictāre* dictate; for suffix see -TION. —**dictator** *n.* Before 1387, Roman judge invested with absolute power; borrowed, perhaps by influence of Old French *dictateur*, from Latin *dictātor*, from *dictāre* dictate; for suffix see OR². —**dictatorship** *n.* (1586)

diction *n.* 1700; earlier, a word (1542); borrowed through Middle French *diction*, or directly from Late Latin *dictiōnem* (nominative *dictiō*), from Latin, a saying, expression, word, from *dic-*, stem of *dicere* speak, tell, say; related to Latin *dicāre* proclaim, dedicate; for suffix see -TION.

dictionary *n.* 1526, borrowed from Medieval Latin *dictionarium* collection of words and phrases, from Latin *dictiōnem* (nominative *dictiō*) word, see DICTION; for suffix see -ARY.

dictum *n.* 1706, formal statement, saying; earlier, edict (1670); replacing earlier *dite* (probably before 1400). Both English words borrowed from Latin *dictum* thing said, from neuter of *dictus*, past participle of *dicere* say; see DICTION.

didactic *adj.* 1658, borrowed, probably through French *didactique*, from Greek *didaktikós* apt at teaching, from *didaktós* taught (from *didáskein* teach); for suffix see -IC.

die¹ *v.* stop living. About 1300 *dien*, alteration of earlier *deien* (probably about 1200), corresponding to, and possibly borrowed from Old Icelandic *deyja*; cognate with Old Saxon *dōian*

to die, Old High German *touwen* (from Proto-Germanic **daujanan*). The word *die* was not recorded in Old English, though the related words DEAD and DEATH were, and some scholars have posited an Old English **diegan*, **dēgan*. In Old English the meaning of die was expressed by *steorfan* (see STARVE), *sweltan* die of heat (see SWELTER), and *wesan deað* be dead. —**die-hard** *n.* (1844); *adj.* (1871)

die² *n.* one of a pair of dice. Probably before 1300 *dy* (plural *dys* dice); later *de* (before 1338); borrowed from Old French *de*, of uncertain origin; but represented widely in Romance languages, as in Spanish, Portuguese, and Italian *dado*, and in Provençal *dat* and Catalan *dau*. Some scholars trace these words to Latin *datum* given, in the sense of that which is given or decreed, especially by lot or fortune. In English, *dice* is by far the more frequent word in referring to the game; *die* usually refers to a stamping block or tool, a sense that is first recorded in 1699.

diesel or **Diesel** *n.* 1894, in allusion to Rudolf Diesel, German mechanical engineer, who designed this engine in the 1890's —**v.** 1971, American English, from the noun.

diet¹ *n.* food or special selection of food. Probably before 1200 *diète*, borrowed from Old French *diète*, from Medieval Latin *dieta*, from Latin *diaeta* prescribed way of life, from Greek *diāita*, originally, way of life, regimen, dwelling, from *di-aitasthai* lead one's life, live, and from *diaitân*, originally, separate, select (food and drink), frequentative form of **di-ainysthai* take apart (*dia-* apart + *ainysthai* take). —**v.** Before 1376 *diēten*, borrowed from Old French *diēter*, from *diète*, *n.* —**dietary** *adj.* 1614, adjective use of earlier *dietary*, *n.* (about 1450); borrowed from Medieval Latin *dietarius*, *adj.*, *n.*, from Latin *diaetārius*, from *diaeta*, see *diet*, *n.*; for suffix see -ARY. —**dietetic** *adj.* 1579, borrowed through Middle French *diététique*, from Greek *diaitētikós*, from *diaitēsis* way of life, from *diaitasthai* lead one's life, live; for suffix see -IC. —**dietitian** *n.* 1846, formed from English *diet*, *n.* + *-itian* (alteration of *-ician*, as in *physician*), replacing earlier *dietist* (1607).

diet² *n.* formal assembly. About 1450; later, a national law-making body (1565); borrowed from Medieval Latin *dieta*, variant of the commoner *diaeta* daily office, of the Church, daily duty, assembly, meeting of councilors. But this word *dieta*, though from Greek *diāita* course of life (and therefore from the same source as DIET¹), came to be associated in a peculiar way with Latin *diēs* day; see DIARY.

dif- a form of the prefix *dis-* before *f* in a few words borrowed from Latin, as in *differ*, *diffract*, *diffuse*; formed in Latin by assimilation of the *s* to the following consonant (*f*).

differ *v.* About 1380 *differen* be different; earlier *differen* put off, defer (about 1375); borrowed from Old French *diferer*, learned borrowing from Latin and borrowed directly from Latin *differre* to set apart, differ (*dif-* + *ferre* carry; see BEAR). The distinction in form in modern English (*defer*, *differ*) comes from a variation in stress, the transitive senses becoming *defer* and the intransitive senses becoming *differ*.

difference *n.* 1340, borrowed from Old French *différence*,

learned borrowing from Latin *differentia*, from *differentem* (nominative *differēns*), present participle of *differre* to set apart, DIFFER. —**different** adj. About 1384, borrowed from Old French *different*, from Latin *differentem* (nominative *differēns*), present participle of *differre* DIFFER. —**differential** adj. 1647, borrowed from Medieval Latin *differentialis*, from Latin *differentia*, see DIFFERENCE; for suffix see -IAL. —**differentiate** v. 1816, formed in English on the model of French *différencier*, from *différent* different, from Old French *different*, from Latin *differentem*; for suffix see -ATE¹.

difficulty n. 1380, borrowed from Old French *difficulté*, from Latin *difficultātem* (nominative *difficultās*), from *difficilis* hard (*dis-* not, away from + *facilis* easy, FACILE); for suffix see -TY². —**difficult** adj. Before 1400, back formation from Middle English *difficulte* difficulty.

diffident adj. Before 1460, borrowed from Latin *diffidentem* (nominative *diffidens*), present participle of *diffidere* to mistrust, lack confidence (*dis-* away + *fidere* to trust). —**diffidence** n. Before 1400, borrowed from Latin *diffidentia* lack of confidence, distrust, from *diffidentem*, present participle of *diffidere*.

diffract v. 1803, probably a back formation from earlier *diffraction*; but analyzed as borrowed from Latin *diffract-*, stem of *diffRACTUS*, past participle of *diffRINGERE* break in pieces, shatter (*dis-* apart + *frangere* to BREAK). —**diffraction** n. 1671, borrowed from French *diffraction*, from New Latin *diffractionem* (nominative *diffractione*), from Latin *diffRACT-*, stem of *diffRINGERE* break in pieces; for suffix see -TION.

diffuse adj. 1413, confused, obscure; implying the concrete sense of scattered, unrecorded before 1475; borrowed from Latin *diffusus*, past participle of *diffundere* scatter, pour out (*dis-* apart, in every direction + *fundere* pour). —**v.** Before 1400, from the adjective. —**diffusion** n. About 1385, from Latin *diffusionem* (nominative *diffusiō*), from *diffūd-*, stem of *diffundere* scatter; for suffix see -SION.

dig v. Probably before 1200 *diggen*, of uncertain origin; perhaps ultimately related to DIKE and DITCH. The slang sense of understand, appreciate, is first recorded in American English in 1936. —**n.** 1674–91, tool for digging; from the verb. —**digger** n. 1440, formed from English *dig*, v. + -er¹.

digest n. Before 1387, a collection of laws; borrowed from Latin *digesta* collection of writings, from neuter plural of *digerere*, past participle of *digerere* to separate, divide, arrange (*dis-* apart + *gerere* to carry). —**v.** Before 1398 *digesten* arrange in the mind or in a treatise; assimilate food in the stomach and intestines, borrowed from Latin *digestus*, past participle of *digerere* to separate, arrange (*dis-* apart + *gerere* to carry). —**digestible** adj. About 1387–95, borrowed from Old French *digestible*, from Latin *digestibilis*, from *digest-*, past participle stem of *digerere*; for suffix see -IBLE. —**digestion** n. About 1395, borrowed from Old French *digestion*, from Latin *digestiōnem* (nominative *digestiō*) a dividing or dissolving of food, digestion, from *diges-*, stem of *digerere*; for suffix see -TION. —**digestive** adj. 1425; earlier, as a noun; borrowed from Old French *digestif*, *digestive*, from Latin *digestivus*, from past participle stem of *digerere*; for suffix see -IVE.

digit n. Probably before 1400, borrowed from Latin *digitus* finger (because the numerals below ten were originally supposed to be counted on the fingers), from earlier **dicitus*, originally meaning pointer, related to Latin *dicere* tell, say, *indicāre* point out. —**digital** adj. Probably about 1425, of a number below ten; borrowed from Latin *digitalis*, from *digitus* finger; for suffix see -AL¹.

digitalis n. 1664, the foxglove plant (from which the medicine is derived), New Latin *digitalis*, possibly adopted by influence of Middle French *digitale*, from Latin *digitalis* pertaining to the finger, from *digitus* finger. The name was coined in 1542 by Leonhard Fuchs, German physician and botanist, in allusion to its German name *Fingerhut* thimble (after Medieval Latin *digitale* thimble), so called from the shape of the plant's corolla.

dignify v. About 1449 *dignifien* to honor, exalt; earlier, to judge something worthwhile to do (probably before 1425); borrowed from Middle French *dignifier*, learned borrowing from Late Latin *dignificāre* make worthy, from Latin *dignus* worthy, see DIGNITY; for suffix see -FY. —**dignified** adj. (1667)

dignity n. Probably before 1200 *dignete*, borrowed from Old French *digneté*, learned borrowing from Latin *dignitatem* (nominative *dignitās*) worthiness, from *dignus* worthy, proper, fitting, related to Latin *decēre* be proper or decent; for suffix see -ITY. —**dignitary** n. (1672)

digress v. 1529, turn aside; get off the main subject; earlier, to translate, depart from the language of an original; borrowed from Latin *digressus*, past participle of *digredī* to deviate (*dis-* apart, aside + *gradī* to step, go). Alternatively, *digress* may be a back formation from *digression*. —**digression** n. About 1385, borrowed from Old French *digression*, or directly from Latin *digressiōnem* (nominative *digressiō*), from *digredī* to deviate; for suffix see -SION.

dike n. About 1250 *dik* a ditch, wall; developed from Old English (847) *dīc* narrow place dug in the earth, trench, DITCH; cognate with Old Saxon and Old Frisian *dik* mound, dam, Middle Dutch *dijk* (modern Dutch *dijk*), Middle High German *tīch* pond (modern German *Teich*), Old Icelandic *dīki* marsh, ditch, from Proto-Germanic **dīk-*. —**v.** About 1300 *diken* to make a ditch or a dike, developed from Old English *dician*, from the noun.

dilapidate v. 1570, probably a back formation of *dilapidation*, but usually analyzed as a borrowing, perhaps influenced by Middle French *dilapider*, from Latin *dilapidāus*, past participle of *dilapidāre*. —**dilapidation** n. About 1425 (Scottish); borrowed from Late Latin *dilapidatiōnem* (nominative *dilapidatiō*), from Latin *dilapidāre* pelt with stones, ruin, destroy (*dis-* asunder + *lapidāre* throw stones at, from *lapis*, genitive *lapidis* stone); for suffix see -TION.

dilate v. Before 1393, describe at length, borrowed from Old French *dilater*, learned borrowing from Latin *dilatāre* make wider, enlarge (*dis-* apart + *lātus* wide). The sense of make wider or larger, is first recorded in English probably

before 1400. —**dilation** *n.* 1598, formed from English *dilate* (on the erroneous assumption that the ending is the suffix *-ate*) + *-ion*. This form has largely replaced earlier *dilatation*, *n.* (about 1390); borrowed from Middle French *dilatation*.

dilatory *adj.* Probably before 1450 *delatarye*; later *dilatory* (before 1475); borrowed through Middle French *dilatatoire* and directly from Latin *dilatātorius*, from *dilatōr* a procrastinator, from *dilatāus*, a form serving as past participle of *differre* delay, DEFER¹; for suffix see *-ORY*.

dilemma *n.* 1523, borrowed from Late Latin *dilemma*, from Greek *dilēmma* (genitive *dilēmματος*) double proposition (*di*-two + *lēmma*, genitive *lēmmatos* premise, anything taken, from a stem *lēph-*, originally *lāph-*, which figures in some of the forms of *lambánein* to take, but was once part of an entirely different verb).

dilettante *n.* About 1733, one delighted by or fond of the fine arts, Italian *dilettante* a lover of music or painting, from *dilettare* to delight, from Latin *dēlectāre* DELIGHT.

diligence *n.* 1340, borrowed from Old French *diligence* attention, care, learned borrowing from Latin *diligentia* attentiveness, carefulness, from *diligentem* (nominative *diligēns*) attentive, assiduous, careful, originally the present participle of *diligere* value highly, love, choose (*dis-* apart + *legere* choose, gather); for suffix see *-ENCE*. —**diligent** *adj.* 1340, borrowed from Old French *diligent*, learned borrowing from Latin *diligentem* (nominative *diligēns*), present participle of *diligere* value highly; for suffix see *-ENT*.

dill *n.* 1373 *dill*; earlier *dile* (about 1150), found in Old English (before 700) *dile*; cognate with Old Saxon *dilli* dill, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *dille*, Old High German *tilli* (modern German *Dill* with *D-* from Low German), Danish *dild*, and Swedish *dill*.

dilly *n.* 1935, American English, from earlier English *dilly* (1909), *adj.*, delightful, delicious, of unknown origin.

dilute *v.* About 1555, borrowed from Latin *dilūtus*, past participle of *dilūere* dissolve, wash away, dilute (*dis-* apart + *-luere*, combining form of *lavare* to wash, LAVE); see DELUGE. —**adj.** 1605, borrowed from Latin *dilūtus*, past participle of *dilūere*; see verb. —**dilution** *n.* 1646, formed from English *dilute* + *-ion*. Late Latin *dilūtōnem* (in St. Jerome) had a special sense of refutation, and was probably not the source of the English word, which had the literal sense of act of making thinner or watering down when it appeared.

dim *adj.* Old English *dimm* dark, gloomy (before 1000); cognate with Old Frisian *dimm* dark, dusky, *dim*, Old Icelandic *dimmr*, from Proto-Germanic **dimbaz*, and, Old High German *timber*; related to DAMP. —**v.** Before 1200, from the adjective.

dime *n.* 1786, American English, silver coin worth ten cents; found in Middle English *dime* a tenth, tithe (about 1378); borrowed from Old French *dime*, earlier *disme*, from Latin *decima* (pars) tenth (part), from *decem* TEN.

dimension *n.* Before 1398 *dimencioun* measurement, size, borrowed from Latin *dimēnsionem* (nominative *dimēnsiō*), from stem of *dimētiri* to measure out (*dī-*, *dis-* + *mētiri* to MEASURE); for suffix see *-SION*.

diminish *v.* 1417 *deminishen*, a blend of two verbs of similar meaning: 1) About 1384 *diminuen* detract, disparage; later, reduce, lessen (1410); borrowed from Old French *diminuer* make small, learned borrowing from Latin *diminuere* break into small pieces, variant of *dēminuere* lessen, diminish (*dē-* completely + *minuere* make small); and 2) Before 1382 *myrushen* make small, diminish; earlier, *menusen* (probably before 1350); borrowed from Old French *menuisier*, from Vulgar Latin **minūtiāre*, altered (by influence of Late Latin *minūtiae* small pieces) from Late Latin *minūtāre*, frequentative form of Latin *minuere* make small, from *minus* smaller, (originally) small. Related to MINCE, MINOR, and MINUTE² small; for suffix see *-ISH*².

diminution *n.* About 1303 *dymynucyun* a lessening or decrease, borrowed from Old French *diminution*, learned borrowing from Latin *diminūtiōnem*, variant of *dēminūtiōnem* (nominative *dēminūtiō*), from *dēminuere* DIMINISH; for suffix see *-TION*.

diminutive *n.* Before 1398 *dymynutyf*; borrowed from Old French *diminutif* (feminine *diminutive*), from Latin *diminūtivum*, variant of **dēminūtivum*, from **dēminūtivus* small, from *dēminuere* DIMINISH; for suffix see *-IVE*. —**adj.** Before 1398, borrowed from Old French *diminutif* (feminine *diminutive*), from Latin **dēminūtivus*, variant of *dēminūtivus* small.

dimity *n.* 1440 *demyt*; later *dimite*; borrowed probably directly from Late Greek *dimitos* of double thread (Greek *di-* double + *mitos* warp thread), possibly reinforced by later Italian *dimiti* plural of *dimito* (1454).

dimple *n.* Probably before 1400 *dympull*; earlier in a place name *Kerlingdimpil* (1200–10); of uncertain origin, but perhaps cognate with Old High German *tumphilō* whirlpool (modern German *Tümpel* pool), from Proto-Germanic **dumpilaz* and *tupfen* to wash, see DIP; for suffix see *-LE*¹.

din *n.* Probably before 1200 *dine*, developed from Old English (before 1000) *dyne*; cognate with Old High German *tuni* din, Old Icelandic *dynr*, from Proto-Germanic **duniz*. —**v.** Probably before 1200, dialectal *dunien*; later *dinen* (about 1250); developed from Old English *dynnan* to resound (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Saxon *dunnian* sound forth, Middle High German *tünen* to roar, and Old Icelandic *dynja* to rumble; related to the noun.

dine *v.* About 1300 *dinen*, borrowed from Old French *disner*, *dīner*, originally, take the first meal of the day, from unaccented stem of Gallo-Romance **disjūnāre*, from **disjejunāre* to break one's fast (Latin *dis-* undo + Late Latin *jejunāre* to fast, from Latin *jejunus* fasting, hungry). *n.* 1815; earlier, in *diner out* (1807–08); formed from English *dine*, *v.* + *-er*¹. —**dining room** (1601)

ding *v.* 1819, possibly abstracted from *ding-dong*, *n.* (1659), of imitative origin. —**n.** 1749; possibly earlier (though it is ad-

verbal in use); possibly abstracted from *ding-dong*, v. (about 1560).

dinghy or **dingey** *n.* 1810, borrowed from Hindi *ḍirigī*, variant of *ḍirigī* small boat, perhaps from Sanskrit *drōṇa-m* wooden trough, related to *drū-s* wood, TREE.

dingy *adj.* 1736, (Kentish dialect), dirty; of uncertain origin; for suffix see -Y¹. A figurative sense, shabby or squalid, is found in 1854.

dinky *adj.* 1858, earlier, neat or trim (1788), from Scottish dialect *dink* finely dressed, trim (1508); of unknown origin; for suffix see -Y¹.

dinner *n.* About 1300 *diner* midday meal; borrowed from Old French *disner*, *dîner*, noun use of the infinitive *disner*, *dîner*, to DINE; for suffix see -ER³.

dinosaur *n.* 1841, borrowed from New Latin *dinosaurius*, from Greek *deinós* terrible + *saúros* lizard, of unknown origin.

dint *n.* Probably about 1200 *dint*; earlier dialectal *dunt* (probably before 1200); developed from Old English *dynt*, blow dealt in fighting (before 900); cognate with Old Icelandic *dynt* blow, kick (modern Icelandic *dintur* dint), *dytt*, from Proto-Germanic **duntiz*. The phrase *by dint* of by force of or by means of, is first recorded probably before 1400.

diocese *n.* Before 1338 *dyocise*, borrowed from Old French *diocese*, learned borrowing from Late Latin *diocēsis*, variant of *diocēsis*, from Greek *diolkēsis* diocese, province; originally, economy, housekeeping, from *diokēin* manage a house, administer (*dia-* thoroughly + *oikein* live in, manage, from *oikos* house, dialectal *wōikos*).

dip *v.* About 1150 *dipen* immerse in liquid; later *dippen* to baptize (probably about 1200); developed from Old English (about 975) *dyppan* baptize by immersion (from Proto-Germanic **dupjanan*), related to *diepan* immerse, dip, from Proto-Germanic **daupijanan*; see DEEP. —**n.** 1599, from the verb. —**dipper** *n.* About 1395 *dippere* a diving waterfowl; earlier, in a surname *Dypere* (1310, and *dypere*, 1296–97); formed from Middle English *dipere*, v. + -er¹. The meaning of a utensil for dipping up water, etc., is recorded in American English about 1783.

diphtheria *n.* 1857, New Latin *diphtheria*, from French *diphthérie*, from Greek *diphthērā* hide, leather (of unknown origin); from the tough membrane developed in the throat. The French word replaced earlier *diphthērite* (1821).

diphthong *n.* Probably about 1475 *dypon*; later *diptonge* (1483); borrowed from Middle French *diptongue*, from Late Latin *diphthongus*, variant of Latin *diphthongus*, from Greek *diphthongos* (di- double + *phthóngos* sound, voice; related to *phthēn-gesthai* utter, speak loudly).

diploma *n.* About 1645, official state document, charter; borrowed from Latin *diplōma*, from Greek *diplōma* (genitive *diplōmātos*) license, chart, paper folded double, from *diplōn* to double, fold over, from *diplōs* double, from di- two + -plo-s,

fold. The meaning “an academic diploma” appears in English in 1682.

diplomacy *n.* 1796, borrowed from French *diplomatie*, from *diplomate* diplomat, on the pattern of *aristocratie* aristocracy, *aristocrate* aristocrat; for suffix see -CY. —**diplomat** *n.* 1813, either a back formation from English *diplomatic*, or borrowed from French *diplomate*, back formation from *diplomatique* diplomatic. —**diplomatic** *adj.* 1711, pertaining to official documents; borrowed from New Latin *diplomaticus* (1695), from Latin *diplōma* (genitive *diplōmātis*) official document conferring a privilege, see DIPLOMA; for suffix see -IC. In the 1780’s *diplomatic* referred to official documents exchanged between countries. The sense of tactful appeared in 1826.

dipterous *adj.* 1773, borrowed from New Latin *dipterus* two-winged, after French *diptère*, from Greek *dípteros* (di- two + *pterón* wing); for suffix see -OUS.

dire *adj.* 1567, borrowed from Latin *dirus* fearful, awful, boding ill, from Oscan and Umbrian; cognate with Greek *deinós* fearful, terrible, *deós* fear.

direct *v.* About 1385 *directen* to address or direct (a letter, document, spoken words); borrowed from Latin *directus* straight, past participle of *dirigere* set straight (*di-*, from *dis-* apart + *regere* to guide). —**adj.** 1391, borrowed, possibly through Old French *direct*, and from Latin *directus*, past participle of *dirigere* set straight. —**direction** *n.* About 1385, guidance, regulation; borrowed through Old French *direction* and directly from Latin *directiōnem* (nominative *directiō*), from *dirēg-*, stem of *dirigere* set straight; for suffix see -TION. —**directive** *adj.* About 1454, borrowed through Middle French *directif*, *directive* and from Medieval Latin *directivus*, from *direct-*, past participle stem of Latin *dirigere*. —**n.** 1642, from the adjective. For suffix see -IVE. —**director** *n.* About 1454, a guide; formed from Middle English *directen* + -or², and probably borrowed from Anglo-French *directour*, from Late Latin *director*, from *dirigere*; for suffix see -OR². —**directory** *n.* Before 1449, a guide; borrowed from Late Latin *directōrium*, from Latin *directōrius* that directs, from *direct-*, past participle stem of Latin *dirigere*; for suffix see -ORY.

dirge *n.* Probably before 1200 *dirige* memorial service; borrowed from Latin *dirige* direct! (imperative of *dirigere* to DIRECT); probably from its use in the Latin antiphon *Dirige, Domine, Deus Meus*, “Direct, O Lord, my God,” taken from Psalm 5:9 to open the Matins service in the Office of the Dead. The contracted form *dirge* is first recorded in 1430, though earlier *derge* exists (1389).

dirigible *n.* 1885, probably by influence of French *dirigeable*, from the adjective, meaning capable of being directed or guided (1581, formed in English from Latin *dirigere* DIRECT + English -ible, as if from a Latin word **dirigibilis*).

dirt *n.* 1434 *dyrt* something worthless or degrading; probably before 1425 *dird*, *dert*, alteration by transposition of *r* and *i*, of earlier *drit*, *drytt* mud, dirt, dung (before 1300); borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *drit* excrement, related to *drīta* defecate; cognate with Old English *drītan*,

Middle Dutch *drieten*, modern Dutch *drijten*, and Old High German *trīzan*, from Proto-Germanic **drītanan*). —**dirty** adj. Probably before 1425 *dyrtty*, alteration of earlier *dritty* (before 1398), formed from Middle English *drit* dirt + *-y*¹. —**v.** 1591, from the adjective.

dis- a prefix meaning: 1 opposite of, lack of, not, as in *dishonest* = not honest. 2 do the opposite of, as in *disallow* = do the opposite of allow. 3 apart, away, as in *discard*. Middle English *dis-* (earlier *des-*); borrowed from Old French *des-*, from Latin *dis-* apart, or directly from Latin *dis-*, cognate with Old English, Old Frisian, and Old Saxon *te-* apart, Old High German *zi-*, *ze-*, Greek *diá* through.

In Latin *dis-* became *dif-* before *f* and *dī-* before most of the voiced consonants (*b, d, l, m, n, r, v* and sometimes *g* and *j*); these changes are reflected in words taken from Latin and preserving the Latin form, such as *differ*, *digest*, *dilute*, *divert*.

disabled adj. 1444, formed from Middle English *dis-* + *abled*, past participle of *ablen*, *v.* make able or fit.

disagree *v.* 1473–74, borrowed from Middle French *désagréer* (*dés-* *dis-* + *agréer* to AGREE). —**disagreeable** adj. Probably before 1400, borrowed from Old French *desagréable* (*des-* *dis-* + *agréable*, see AGREEABLE).

disappoint *v.* 1494 *disapointen* frustrate the expectation of; earlier, dispossess of appointed office (1434); borrowed from Middle French *desappointer* undo the appointment of (*des-* *dis-* + *appointer* APPOINT). —**disappointment** *n.* 1614, formed from English *disappoint* + *-ment*; possibly by influence of French *désappointement*.

disarm *v.* About 1380, borrowed from Old French *desarmer* (*des-* *dis-* + *armer* to ARM²). —**disarmament** *n.* 1795, formed from English *dis-* + *armament*, possibly influenced by French *désarmement*.

disarray *v.* Before 1387; formed from English *dis-* + *array*, *v.*; probably modeled on Old French *desareer* to put in disorder. —**n.** About 1415, from the verb, perhaps by influence of Old French **desarei*.

disaster *n.* 1591, borrowed from Middle French *désastre*, from Italian *disastro* (*dis-* away, without, + *astro* star, because an unfavorable position of a star or planet was thought to cause such mishaps or calamities). —**disastrous** adj. 1586 *desastrous* ill-starred; later, calamitous (1603); borrowed from Middle French *désastreux*, from earlier Italian *disastroso*, from *disastro* disaster; for suffix see -OUS.

disburse *v.* 1530 *disbourse*, borrowed from Middle French *desbourser* (*des-*, apart + *bourse*; see BURSAR). —**disbursement** *n.* 1596, formed from English *disburse* + *-ment*, after Middle French *déboursement*.

disc *n.* variant of DISK, modeled on Latin *discus*.

discard *v.* Before 1586, discharge, dismiss; later, reject a playing card from the hand (1591), and cast aside (1598); formed from English *dis-* away + *card*¹, *n.* —**n.** 1742, from the verb.

discern *v.* About 1380 *discernen* perceive, distinguish; bor-

rowed from Old French *discerner* distinguish, separate, and directly as a learned borrowing in English from Latin *discernere* (*dis-* off, away + *cernere* distinguish, separate). —**discernible** adj. 1586 *discernable*, borrowed from Middle French *discernable*, from Old French *discerner*; for suffix see -IBLE. The early spelling in English with *-able* gradually changed to *-ible* in imitation of Latin (found in Late Latin *discernibilis*) after 1650. —**discernment** *n.* 1586, formed from English *discern* + *-ment*.

discharge *v.* Before 1338, borrowed from Old French *deschargier* unload, from Late Latin *discarricare* (*dis-* do the opposite of + *caricare* load). —**n.** 1390, borrowed from Old French *descharge* act of unloading, from the Old French verb.

disciple *n.* Probably before 1200 *deciple*; later *disciple* (before 1225); developed from Old English (about 900); borrowed from Latin *discipulus* pupil. As *capulus* handle, was formed from *capere* take hold of, so *discipulus* was formed from a lost compound **discipere* to grasp intellectually, analyze thoroughly (*dis-* apart + *capere* take; compare its frequentative form *discipitare* debate; see CAPTIVE). Middle English *deciple*, *disciple* was influenced by Old French *deciple*, *disciple*. —**disciplinary** *n.* 1593, formed in English from Medieval Latin *disciplinarius* + English -AN. —**disciplinary** adj. 1593, borrowed from Medieval Latin *disciplinarius* pertaining to discipline, from Latin *disciplina* instruction. —**discipline** *n.* Probably before 1200; borrowed through Old French *descepline*, and directly from Latin *disciplina* instruction given to a disciple, from *discipulus* DISCIPLE. —**v.** About 1300, probably borrowed through Old French *descepliner* and directly from Medieval Latin *disciplinare* chastise, from Latin *disciplina* instruction.

disclaim *v.* 1434, borrowed through Anglo-French *disclaimer*, Old French *desclamer* (*des-* *dis-* + *clamer* CLAIM); and through Anglo-Latin *disclamare* renounce (Latin *dis-* *dis-* + *clāmāre* cry out, CLAIM). —**disclaimer** *n.* About 1436, borrowing of Anglo-French *disclaimer*, the infinitive used as a noun.

disclose *v.* Before 1393 *desclosen*, *disclosen*, borrowed from Old French *desclos*, past participle of *desclore* (*des-* *dis-* + *clōre* to CLOSE). —**disclosure** *n.* Before 1598, formed from English *disclose* + *-ure*, on the model of *closure*.

disco *n.* 1964, American English, shortened form of DISCOTHEQUE. In 1975 *disco* was applied to a kind of music played in discotheques.

discolor *v.* About 1380 *discolouren*, borrowed from Old French *discolourer* (*des-* *dis-* + *colourer* to color, from Latin *colōrāre* to COLOR). —**discoloration** *n.* 1642, formed from English *discolorate* (probably before 1425, borrowed from Medieval Latin *discolorat-*, past participle stem of *discolorare*, supplanting Latin *dēcolōrāre*) + *-ation*.

discomfit *v.* Probably before 1200 *descumfit* defeated, overthrown, borrowed from Old French *desconfit*, past participle of *desconfire* to defeat, destroy (*des-* not, + *confire* make, prepare, accomplish). The Old French word *desconfit* was borrowed into English as a participle ("he was *desconfit*") but subsequently (about 1300) was considered as the stem of a verb,

desconfiten, and a new past participle and past tense, *disconfited*, developed in the 1300's.

The sense of disconcert is first recorded in English in 1530, probably by association with *discomfort*, both words having the same pronunciation in some speech areas. —**discomfiture** *n.* Probably before 1350 *discomfitoure* act of being overthrown; borrowed from Old French *desconfiture*, from *desconfit*; for suffix see -URE.

disconnection *n.* 1735 *disconnexion*, British variant of *disconnection* (1875, English *dis-* + *connection*, British *connexion*). —**disconnect** *v.* 1770, possibly a back formation from *disconnection*, *disconnexion*, or formed from English *dis-* + *connect*.

disconsolate *adj.* About 1385 *disconsolat* cheerless, depressing, borrowed, perhaps by influence of Old French *desconseillé* discouraged, from Medieval Latin *disconsolatus* comfortless (Latin *dis-* away + *cōsolātus*, past participle of *cōsolārī* CONSOLE). The meaning of unhappy, forlorn, appeared probably before 1400.

discord *n.* About 1230 *descorde*, later *discord*, (1325); borrowed from Old French *discorde* disagreement, learned borrowing from Latin *discordia* discord, from *discors* (genitive *discordis*) disagreeing, discordant; and borrowed from Old French *descord*, *discord* disagreement, discord, from *descorder*, *discorder* to disagree, learned borrowing from Latin *discordāre*, from *discors* (genitive *discordis*) disagreeing, discordant (*dis-* apart + *cor*, genitive *cordis* HEART). The musical sense of dissonance is first recorded before 1398. —**discordant** *adj.* About 1380, borrowed from Old French *discordant*, *discordant*, present participle of *descorder*, *discorder*.

discotheque *n.* 1954, borrowing of French *discothèque* nightclub with recorded music for dancing, record library (1932), from Italian *discoteca* (1927) record collection, record library (*disco* phonograph record, *-teca* collection, as in *biblioteca* book collection, library).

discount *n.* 1622 *discount* deduction, alteration (influenced by English *dis-* + *count*) of French *décompte*, from Old French *descont*, from *desconter* count out (*des-* away + *conter* to COUNT). —**v.** 1629 *discompt*, alteration (influenced by English *dis-*) of French *décompter*, from Old French *desconter* count out.

discourage *v.* 1437 *discoragen* dishearten; borrowed from Middle French *descourager*, from Old French *descoragier* (*des-* away + *corage* COURAGE).

discourse *n.* About 1380, process of understanding or reasoning; alteration (influenced by English *course*) of Latin *discursus* (genitive *discursūs*) a running about, in Late Latin conversation, from the stem of *discurrere* run about (*dis-* apart + *currere* to run). The sense of a discussion, conversation is first recorded in English in 1559, and a formal speech or writing, in 1581. —**v.** Before 1547, run or travel over a region (the literal sense of Latin *discurrere*), from *discourse*, *n.* The sense of hold discourse, converse, is first recorded in 1559.

discourtesy *n.* 1555, formed from English *dis-* + *courtesy*, probably by influence of Middle French *descourtoisie*, and possibly Italian *discortesia*. —**discourteous** *adj.* 1578, perhaps

formed from English *discourtesy* + *-ous*, or independently from *dis-* + *courteous*, probably by influence of Middle French *descortese*, and possibly Italian *discortese*.

discover *v.* Before 1325, reveal, disclose, uncover, borrowed from Old French *descovrir*, from Late Latin *discooperire* (Latin *dis-* opposite of + *cooperire* to cover up). —**discoverer** *n.* Before 1325, an informer, borrowed from Old French *descovrèor*, from *descovrir*. —**discovery** *n.* 1553, probably formed in English on analogy with *recover*, *recovery*, *deliver*, *delivery*.

discredit *v.* 1559, formed from English *dis-* + *credit*, probably by influence of Middle French *discréditer*, and possibly Italian *discreditare*.

discreet *adj.* About 1385 *discret*, borrowed from Old French *discret*, learned borrowing from Latin *discrētus* separated, distinct (in Medieval Latin, discerning, careful), from past participle of *discernere* distinguish, DISCERN. During the 1400's *discret*, *discrete*, and *discreet* were variant spellings for all senses of *discreet* and *discrete*, but in the late 1500's *discreet* was associated primarily with careful, prudent, and *discrete* remained the spelling of the meanings in music, philosophy, medicine, etc., where knowledge of Latin *discrētus* was more widely known.

discrepancy *n.* About 1425, borrowed from Latin *discrepantia* (probably influenced by earlier *discrepant*, *adj.*; 1450, and by Old French *discrepance*), from *discrepantem*, present participle of *discrepare* sound differently, differ (*dis-* apart, off + *crepare* to rattle, crack); for suffix see -ANCY.

discrete *adj.* About 1385, borrowed from Old French *discrete*, learned borrowing from Latin *discrētus* separated, past participle of *discernere* distinguish, DISCERN. Although the word is first recorded in English in the sense of separate, distinct, about 1385, it did not come into general use until the late 1500's.

discretion *n.* About 1303 *dyscrecyun*, borrowed through Old French *discretion*, or directly from Late Latin *discrētiōnem* (nominative *discrētiō*) discernment, from Latin *discrētiōnem* separation, distinction, from *discrē-*, stem of *discernere* to separate, distinguish; for suffix see -TION.

discriminate + *v.* 1628, borrowed from Latin *discriminātus*, past participle of *discrimināre* to divide, separate, distinguish, from *discrimen* (genitive *discriminis*) separation, formed as the noun to *discernere* distinguish, DISCERN for suffix see -ATE¹. The sense of make distinctions of race or color is first recorded in American English in 1866. —**discrimination** *n.* 1646, distinction, 1866, racial distinction; borrowed from Latin *discriminātiōnem* (nominative *discriminātiō*), from *discrimināre* discriminate; for suffix see -TION.

discursive + *adj.* 1599, borrowed through Middle French *discursif*, *discursive*, from Medieval Latin *discursivus*, from Latin *discursus* (genitive *discursūs*), a running about; see DISCOURSE; for suffix see -IVE.

discus *n.* 1656, borrowed from Latin *discus* discus, disk, from Greek *diskos* disk, quoit, platter.

discuss *v.* About 1380 *discussen* examine, investigate; bor-

rowed from Latin *discussus*, past participle of *discutere* strike asunder, break up (*dis-* apart + *quater* to shake). The meaning talk over, debate, is first recorded in 1448. —**discussion** *n.* About 1340, examination, judicial decision; borrowed from Old French *discussion*, from Late Latin *discussio* examination, discussion, from Latin *discussio* a shaking, from *discuss-*, stem of *discutere* strike asunder; for suffix see *-sion*.

disdain *v.* About 1380 *disdaignen*, probably borrowed from Old French *desdeignier* (*des-* do the opposite of + *deignier* treat as worthy, *DEIGN*). —**n.** Before 1338 *desdegne*, alteration of earlier *dedeyne* (about 1300); borrowed from Old French *desdeign*, *desdaign*, from *desdeignier* to disdain.

disease *n.* Before 1338 *deses* absence of ease, discomfort, borrowed from Old French *desaise* (*des-* without, away, + *aise* EASE). The sense of sickness (first recorded as *desese* before 1393) often had to be inferred from the context, with reference to a specific “dis-ease” or discomfort. —**diseased** *adj.* Before 1398 *desesed*, formed from the past participle of Middle English *disesen*, *v.*, afflict with hardship, vex, injure.

disfigure *v.* Probably about 1375, disguise; later, deform, borrowed from Old French *desfigurer*, from Medieval Latin *diffigūre*, from Latin *dis-* + *figūra* figure, from *figūrāre* to figure.

disgrace *v.* About 1549, disfigure, borrowed from Middle French *disgracier*, from Italian *disgraziare*, from *disgrazia* misfortune, deformity (*dis-* + *grazia* grace). The meaning of bring shame upon is first recorded in 1593. —**n.** 1581, borrowed from Middle French *disgrace* misfortune, deformity, from Italian *disgrazia*. —**disgraceful** *adj.* (1591)

disgruntle *v.* 1682, from *dis-* entirely, very + obsolete *gruntle* to grunt, grumble (Middle English *gruntelen*, probably before 1425), frequentative form of *GRUNT*; for suffix see *-LE³*.

disguise *v.* Probably before 1300 *degysen* change appearance to hide identity, also *dysgysen* dress up in an elaborate way (about 1303); both forms borrowed from Old French *desguisier* (*des-* away, off + *guise* style, appearance, *GUISE*). —**n.** Before 1400, from the verb.

disgust *n.* 1598, borrowed from Middle French *desgoust* strong dislike, repugnance (literally) distaste, from *desgouster* have a distaste for (*des-* opposite of + *gouster* to taste). —**v.** 1601, to dislike; later, offend the taste or smell of (1650); borrowed from Middle French *desgouster* to dislike.

dish *n.* Probably before 1200 *disch*, developed from Old English (about 700) *disc* plate, bowl, platter, corresponding to, and possibly borrowed through, a West Germanic word, represented by Old Saxon *disk* table, and Old High German *tisc* dish, table (modern German *Tisch* table); all borrowed from Latin *discus* dish, platter, quoit, from Greek *diskos* disk, platter. The meaning of a particular variety of food served, is first recorded about 1450. —**v.** 1381 *dischen* serve food; from the noun. —**dishcloth** *n.* (1828, earlier *dish clout*, before 1529).

dishearten *v.* 1599, formed from English *dis-* + *hearten*.

disheveled *adj.* About 1410 *discheveled*, alteration of earlier *dischevele* (about 1380) having disarranged or unkempt hair; borrowed from Old French *deschevelé*, past participle of *descheveler* to disarrange the hair (*des-* apart, + *chevel* hair).

dishonest *adj.* 1390, borrowed from Old French *deshoneste*, *desoneste*, perhaps from Medieval Latin **dishonestus* (Latin *dis-* not + *honestus* honorable, *HONEST*). —**dishonor** *v.* About 1250, borrowed from Old French *deshonorer*, *desonorer*, from Latin *dis-* not + *honōrem* honor. —**dishonorable** *adj.* About 1533, formed from English *dis-* + *honorable*.

disinherit *v.* About 1450, formed from English *dis-* + *inherit* and replacing *disherein*. Borrowed from Middle French before 1400.

disinterested *adj.* Before 1612, having no feeling of wanting to know, see, do, etc., unconcerned, in Donne's writings, perhaps replacing his earlier use of *disinterested* (1610) though Donne may have considered this a different word because he uses *disinterested* to mean “impartial”; both words formed from English *dis-* not, without + *interested* and *interested*, the latter alternatively formed possibly from *disinterest* (in spite of its date 1622), borrowed from French *désintéresser* to rid of interest in. First recorded use of the spelling *disinterested* to mean “impartial” is 1659; earlier use meant “unconcerned” (before 1612). First recorded use of *disinterested* to mean “impartial” is 1610; earlier use meant “unconcerned” (1603).

disjoint *v.* Probably 1440, to disrupt or destroy; from English *disjoint*, *n.*, a dilemma, distress (about 1385), a use of the noun probably influenced by Old French *desjoint*, past participle of *desjoindre* to disjoint.

disk or **disc** *n.* 1664 *disk* a round, flat surface like that which the sun or moon presents; later *disc* a discus or quoit (about 1727); borrowed from Latin *discus* quoit, discus, dish, from Greek *diskos*; see *DISH*.

The meaning phonograph record is first recorded in 1888, a year after Emile Berliner patented the Gramophone, which, unlike Edison's phonograph (1877), used a flat disk instead of a cylinder. —**diskette** *n.* floppy disk (flexible magnetic disk for storing information electronically). 1975, formed from English *disk* + *-ette* (diminutive suffix).

dislocate *v.* 1605, from earlier adjective or past participle *dislocate* out of joint (before 1408); borrowed from Medieval Latin *dislocatus*, past participle of *dislocare* put out of place (Latin *dis-* away + *locare* to place, *LOCATE*); for suffix see *-ATE¹*. —**dislocation** *n.* Before 1400, borrowed through Old French *dislocation*, and directly from Medieval Latin *dislocationem* (nominative *dislocatio*), from *dislocare* dislocate; for suffix see *-TION*.

dislodge *v.* Probably about 1408 *disloggen*, borrowed from Old French *desloger* to leave or cause to leave a lodging place (*des-* do the opposite of + *loger* to LODGE).

disloyalty *n.* About 1410 *disloyalte* unfaithful or sinful behavior; borrowed from Middle French *desloyaulte*, Old French *desloialteit* (*des-* not + *loial* loyal); for suffix see *-TY²*. —**disloyal** *adj.* 1417 (inferred from *disloyally*); borrowed from

Middle French *desloyal*, Old French *desloial* (*des-* not + *loial* loyal). An obsolete form *disleal* appears in 1590, borrowed from Italian *disleale*.

dismal *adj.* Probably about 1400, unlucky, unpropitious, developed from earlier *dismale*, n., evil days, unlucky days (about 1300, originally in reference to the unpropitious days of the medieval calendar); borrowed from Anglo-French *dismal* (1250), corresponding to Old French (*li*) *dis mals* (the) bad days, from Medieval Latin *dies mali* evil or unlucky days (Latin *dies* days + *mali*, plural of *malus* bad). Calendars of the Middle Ages marked two days of each month as unlucky days.

The meaning of gloomy, dreary, is first recorded in English in 1593, relating to a dreary or woeful sound.

dismantle *v.* 1579, to tear down fortifications or the like; later, to take apart (1601); borrowed from Middle French *desmanteler* to tear down the walls of a fortress, (literally) divest of a mantle or cloak (*des-* off, away + *manteler* to cloak, MANTLE).

dismay *v.* About 1300 *demayen*; earlier *dismaien* (probably before 1300); apparently borrowed from Anglo-French, Old French **demaier*, **desmaier* (from Latin intensive *dē-* + Old French *esmaier* to trouble, disturb, from Vulgar Latin **exmagāre* divest of power or ability, probably from Latin *ex-* from, out of, and the Germanic stem *mag-*; compare Old High German *magan* have strength, be able). —**n.** Probably before 1300 *desmay* consternation, fear, uneasiness, from the verb.

dismember *v.* About 1300, borrowed from Old French *desmembrer*, from Medieval Latin *dismembrare*, *demembrare* (Latin *dis-*, *dē-* take away + *membrum* member).

dismiss *v.* About 1432 *dismissen*, apparently borrowed from Latin *dīmissus*, past participle of *dīmītere* send away, with the prefix altered in English to *dis-* by analogy with numerous Middle English verbs in *dis-* (*dī-* apart, away + *mittere* send, let go). —**dismissal** *n.* Before 1806, formed from English *dismiss* + *-al*, replacing earlier *dismission* (1547).

disobey *v.* About 1390, borrowed from Old French *desobēir*, a re-formation with *dis-* of Late Latin *inoboedire*, a back formation from *in-oboediēns* not obeying (Latin *in-* not + present participle of *oboedire* obey). —**disobedience** *n.* Probably before 1400 *dysobediāunce*; later Middle English *disobedience* (probably before 1439); borrowed from Old French *desobedience*, a re-formation with *dis-* of Late Latin *inoboedientia* (Latin *in-* not + *oboedientia* OBEDIENCE); for suffix see *-ENCE*. —**disobedient** *adj.* About 1412; borrowed from Middle French *desobedient*, a re-formation with *dis-* of Late Latin *inoboedientem* (Latin *in-* not + *oboedientem* OBEDIENT); for suffix see *-ENT*. The form *disobedient* displaced *disobeissant* (about 1380), *disobeiaunt* (1422), in the 1500's.

disorder *v.* 1503, formed from *dis-* + the verb ORDER, replacing earlier *disordeine* (about 1300); borrowed from Old French *desordainer*, variant of *desordener*, from Medieval Latin *disordinare* throw into disorder, from Latin *dis-* take away + *ordinare* to order, regulate. —**n.** 1530, from the verb.

disorganize *v.* 1793, borrowed from French *désorganiser* (*dés-* not + *organiser* organize).

disparage *v.* Before 1375 *desparagen* degrade socially, as for marrying below rank; borrowed from Old French *desparagier* (literally) lower in rank, degrade (*des-* away + *parage* rank, lineage); for suffix see *-AGE*. The sense of belittle is first recorded in 1536, extended from the meaning of dishonor, discredit (about 1390).

disparate *adj.* 1608, borrowed from Latin *disparātus*, past participle of *disparāre* divide, separate (*dis-* apart + *parāre* get ready, prepare). The meaning of unlike, different was apparently influenced by association with Latin *dispār* unequal, unlike, different.

disparity *n.* About 1555, borrowed from Middle French *disparité* learned borrowing from Late Latin *disparitatem* (nominative *disparitās*) inequality (Latin *dis-* not + Late Latin *paritās*, genitive *paritātis* PARITY); for suffix see *-ITY*.

dispatch *v.* 1517, borrowed from Italian *dispacciare* to send off, hasten, or from Spanish *despachar* to send off (Italian *dis-* not + *-pacciare* in *impacciare* impede, trouble; Spanish *des-* not + *-pachar* in *empachar* impede, trouble; both the Italian and Spanish probably from Old Provençal *empachar* impede, from Gallo-Romance **impāciare*, frequentative form of Latin *impingere* dash against). —**n.** 1550, dismissal, borrowed from Italian *dispaccio*, from *dispacciare*, or from Spanish *despacho*, from *despachar*; see verb.

dispel *v.* Probably before 1400 *dispelen*; borrowed from Latin *dispellere* (*dis-* away + *pellere* to drive, push).

dispende *v.* Probably about 1350 *dispençen*; later *dispençen* (1380); borrowed from Old French *dispenser* give out, learned borrowing from Latin *dispensāre* disburse, administer, distribute (by weight), frequentative form of *dispendere* pay out (*dis-* out + *pendere* to pay, weigh). In Medieval Latin *dispensare* had the meaning of grant a person remission from punishment or exemption from a law. By 1382 this usage was translated directly into English *dispende* to exempt, which evolved into the meaning of do away with (1576), forgo, do without (1607).

—**dispensation** *n.* About 1380 *dispensacion* divine ordering of events, Providence; borrowed through Old French *dispensation*, or directly from Latin *dispensātiōnem* (nominative *dispensātiō*) distribution, management, regulation (in Medieval Latin, pardon, exemption), from *dispensāre* dispende; for suffix see *-TION*. —**dispensary** *n.* 1699, formed in English, probably by influence of French *dispensaire* book of pharmaceutical composition, from Medieval Latin *dispensarium* (for suffix see *-ARY*).

disperse *v.* Probably before 1425 *dispersen*, borrowed from Middle French *disperser* scatter, learned borrowing from Latin *dispersus*. An earlier *dispers*, *adj.*, (1393) was borrowed directly from Latin *dispersus*, past participle of *dispergere* to scatter (*dis-* apart, in every direction + *spargere* to scatter). —**dispersal** *n.* 1821, formed from English *disperse* + *-al*. —**dispersion** *n.* About 1384, dispersion of Jews among the Gentiles, DIASPORA, borrowed through Old French *dispersion* and directly

from Latin *dispersionem* (nominative *dispersio*), from the stem of *dispergere*; for suffix see -SION.

display *v.* Probably before 1300 *desplayen* unfurl or display (a banner), later *displayen* (1338); borrowed from Old French *despleier* unfold, spread out, from Latin *displicare* to scatter (*dis-* un-, apart + *plicare* to fold). The meaning of reveal or exhibit developed probably about 1380. —**n.** 1583, a description; later, an exhibition or show (1665); from the verb.

displease *v.* Probably about 1350 (implied in *displeyng*) later *displezen* (about 1378); borrowed from Old French *desplais-*, present tense stem of *desplaisir* to displease, represented in Anglo-French **despleser*, and refashioned in Vulgar Latin **displacere* for Latin *displicere* displease (*dis-* not + *placere* to please). —**displeasure** *n.* 1427 *displeser*; borrowed from noun use of Old French *desplaisir* to displease.

disport *v.* About 1380, borrowed through Anglo-French *disporter* divert, amuse, from Old French *desporter*, literally, carry away, as of the attention from serious matters (*des-* away + *porter* carry).

dispose *v.* 1373 *disposen* tend toward; borrowed from Old French *disposer*, replacement (influenced by *poser* to place) of Old French *despondere*, from Latin *disponere* put in order, arrange (*dis-* apart + *ponere* to put, place; see POSITION). —**disposition** *n.* About 1380, borrowed from Old French *disposicion*, and from Latin *dispositionem*, from the stem *disposi-* of *disponere* arrange; for suffix see -TION.

disproportionate *adj.* 1555, formed from English *dis-* not + *proportionate*, perhaps after Middle French *disproportionné* (1534).

dispute *v.* About 1300 *desputen*, also *disputen*; borrowed from Old French *desputer*, *disputer*, from Latin *disputare* examine, discuss, argue (*dis-* separately + *putare* to count, consider). —**n.** 1594, borrowed from Middle French *dispute*, from Old French *disputer*, *v.* An earlier form *disput* action of disputing (before 1325), was perhaps merely the infinitive used as a noun. —**disputation** *n.* Before 1387 *disputacioun*, borrowed through Old French *disputation* and directly from Latin *disputatio* (nominative *disputatio*) an argument, dispute, from *disputare*; for suffix see -ATION.

disquisition *n.* 1605, subject for writing; also, investigation (1608–11); borrowed from Latin *disquisitionem* (nominative *disquisitio*), from the stem of *disquirere* inquire (*dis-* apart + *quaerere* seek, ask); for suffix see -TION. The meaning of long speech or formal writing about a subject, is first recorded in 1647.

disrupt *v.* 1657, break up; earlier *disrupt* torn, severed, past participle (probably before 1425); borrowed from Latin *disruptus*, past participle of *disrumpere* (variant of *dirumpere*) break apart, split (*dis-* apart + *rumpere* to break). —**disruption** *n.* Probably before 1425 *disruption* laceration or tearing (of tissue); borrowed from Latin *disruptionem* (nominative *disruptio*), from the stem of *disrumpere*; for suffix see -TION. —**disruptive** *adj.* 1842–43, formed from English *disrupt* + *-ive*.

dissect *v.* 1607, to cut in pieces, divide by cutting; later, to cut apart (an animal or plant) to examine or study (1611); borrowed from Latin *dissectus*, past participle of *dissecare* cut in pieces (*dis-* apart + *secare* to cut). Also the verb may be a back formation from *dissection*. The figurative sense of analyze, is first recorded before 1631. —**dissection** *n.* 1581, borrowed through Middle French *dissection*, from Medieval Latin *dissectionem* (nominative *dissectio*), from the stem of Latin *dissecare*; for suffix see -TION.

dissemble *v.* Before 1420, alteration (influenced by Middle French *dessembler* be unlike) of earlier *dissimule* to disguise, make believe (1380); borrowed through Middle French *dissimuler*, and directly from Latin *dissimulare* to disguise, conceal (*dis-* completely + *simulare* pretend).

disseminate *v.* 1603, earlier *disseminate*, *adj.*, scattered widely (probably before 1425); borrowed from Latin *dissēminātus*, past participle of *dissēminare* (*dis-* in every direction + *seminare* to plant, propagate, from *sēmen*, genitive *sēminis* seed, SEMEN); for suffix see -ATE¹. The borrowing of Middle English *disseminate*, *adj.*, was probably influenced by earlier Middle English *dissem* to scatter (about 1410). —**dissemination** *n.* 1646, either borrowed from Latin *dissēminātiōnem* (nominative *dissēminātiō*), from *dissēminare*; for suffix see -ATION; or formed from English *disseminate* + *-ion*.

dissension *n.* Before 1325, borrowed from Old French *dissen-* sion, and from Latin *dissensionem* (nominative *dissensio*) disagreement, from *dissēns-*, stem of *dissentire* disagree, DISSENT; for suffix see -SION.

dissent *v.* About 1425 (Scottish), borrowed possibly through Middle French *dissentir*, from Latin *dissentire* differ in sentiment (*dis-* differently + *sentire* think, feel). —**n.** 1585, from the verb.

dissertation *n.* 1611, discussion or debate; borrowed from Latin *dissertatiōnem* (nominative *dissertatio*) discourse, from *dissertare* debate or argue, frequentative form of *disserere* discuss, examine (*dis-* apart + *serere* to arrange words); for suffix see -ATION. The sense of a formal, written treatise appeared in English in 1651.

dissident *adj.* About 1534, borrowed from Latin *dissidentem* (nominative *dissidēs*), present participle of *dissidere* to sit apart, be remote, disagree (*dis-* apart + *sedere* to sit). —**n.** 1766, in allusion to Protestants; from the adjective (translation of New Latin *dissidentes*, pl., from Latin *dissidentem*, present participle). —**dissidence** *n.* 1658, perhaps formed from English *dissident* + *-ence*, after Latin *dissidentia*, from *dissidēs*, see DISSIDENT; for suffix see -ENCE.

dissimulate *v.* Probably before 1425, in part, borrowed from Latin *dissimulatus*, past participle of *dissimulare* conceal, disguise (*dis-* completely + *simulare* pretend, SIMULATE); for suffix see -ATE¹. The verbs *dissimulate* and *dissemble* gradually replaced earlier *dissimulen* (1380). By the 1600's use of *dissimulate* became widespread, in part, as a back formation of the earlier *dissimulation*. —**dissimulation** *n.* About 1380, borrowed from Old French *dissimulation*, from Latin *dissimulatiōnem* (nominative *dissimulatio*), from *dissimulare*; for suffix see -ATION.

dissipate *v.* About 1425, probably borrowed from Latin *dissipātus*, past participle of *dissipāre* 'disperse, squander, disintegrate' (*dis-* apart + *supāre* to throw, scatter); for suffix see -ATE¹. *Dissipate*, in some instances may be a back formation from *dissipation*. — **dissipation** *n.* Probably before 1425 *dissipacioun* 'disintegration, dissolution'; borrowed from Latin *dissipatiōnem* (nominative *dissipatiō*), from *dissipāre*; for suffix see -ATION.

dissociate *v.* 1623, verb use of earlier *dissociate*, *adj.*, separated (1548); borrowed from Latin *dissociātus*, past participle of *dissociāre* to separate from companionship (*dis-* apart + *sociāre* to join, from *socius* companion); for suffix see -ATE¹. — **dissociation** *n.* 1611, borrowed probably through French *dissociation*, from Latin *dissociatiōnem* (nominative *dissociatiō*), from *dissociāre* for suffix see -ATION. Possibly also formed from English *dissociate* + -ion.

dissolute *adj.* Before 1382 *dissolut* morally loose, lax, negligent; borrowed from Latin *dissolutus*, past participle of *dissolvere* 'loosen up, DISSOLVE'. — **dissolution** *n.* 1348 *dissolucioun* laxity, frivolity, later, dissipation (1398); borrowed from Old French *dissolution* and directly from Latin *dissolutiōnem* (nominative *dissolutiō*), from *dissolū-*, stem of *dissolvere* DISSOLVE; for suffix see -TION.

dissolve *v.* About 1380, borrowed from Latin *dissolvere* to loosen up, break apart (*dis-* apart + *solvere* to loose, loosen).

dissonance *n.* Probably before 1425 *dissonaunce*, borrowed through Middle French *dissonance* and directly from Late Latin *dissonantia*, from Latin *dissonantem* (nominative *dissonans*), present participle of *dissonāre* 'differ in sound' (*dis-* apart + *sonāre* to SOUND); for suffix see -ANCE. — **dissonant** *adj.* Probably before 1425 *dissonaunte*, borrowed through Middle French *dissonant* and directly from Latin *dissonantem* (nominative *dissonans*), present participle of *dissonāre*; for suffix see -ANT.

dissuade *v.* 1513 borrowed from Middle French *dissuader* and directly from Latin *dissuādere* (*dis-* off, against + *suādere* to urge). — **dissuasion** *n.* Before 1420, borrowed from Middle French *dissuasion* and directly from Latin *dissuāsiōnem* (nominative *dissuāsiō*), from *dissuādere* dissuade; for suffix see -SION.

distaff *n.* Before 1325 *distaf*, stick that holds flax, etc. for spinning; developed from Old English *distæf*, about 1000, (*dis-* bunch of flax + *stæf* stick, STAFF). Probably because spinning was typically done by women in the Middle Ages, *distaff* is recorded in English, by the late 1400's, as a synonym for the female sex, female authority and the female side of a family. In other European languages a similar development occurred.

distant *adj.* About 1391, borrowed from Old French *distant*, learned borrowing from Latin *distāntem* (nominative *distāns*) 'standing apart, separate, distant, present participle of *distāre* stand apart (*dis-* apart, off + *stāre* to STAND); for suffix see -ANT. — **distance** *n.* About 1300 *destaunce* quarrel, estrangement; earlier, a dispute (probably before 1300); borrowed from Old French *distance*, *distance*, and directly from Latin *distāntia* a standing apart, from *distāntem* distant; for suffix see -ANCE. The sense of intervening space, remoteness, is first recorded in

1391. Senses of disagreement or strife were borrowed from Old French, and senses of distance or difference were borrowed chiefly from Latin.

distend *v.* Before 1400, borrowed from Latin *distendere* to swell or stretch out, extend (*dis-* apart + *tendere* to stretch). — **distention** *n.* Probably before 1425 *distension*, borrowed through Middle French *distension* and directly from Latin *distensiōnem*, *distentiōnem* (nominative *distensiō*, *distentiō*), from *distent-*, stem of *distendere*; for suffix see -TION.

distill *v.* Probably about 1378 *distillen* produce (an essence) by condensation given off in drops; borrowed from Old French *distiller*, from Latin *distillāre* 'trickle down in minute drops, as rain or tears' (*dis-* apart + *stillāre* to drip, drop, from *stilla*, drop). — **distillation** *n.* Before 1393 *distillacion*, borrowed perhaps through Old French *distillation* or directly from Latin *distillatiōnem* (nominative *distillatiō*), from *distillāre*; for suffix see -ATION. Also *distillation* may have been formed from English *distill* + -ation. — **distillery** *n.* 1677, the act or art of distilling, later, a place for distilling (1759); formed from English *distill* + -ery or possibly formed from English *distiller* (1777) + -y³.

distinct *adj.* About 1390, developed from past participle of earlier verb *distincten* to distinguish (about 1303); borrowed from Old French *distincter*, from *distinct*, *adj.*, from Latin *distinctus*, past participle of *distinguere* DISTINGUISH. — **distinction** *n.* Probably before 1200 *distinction*, *distinction* division or section, borrowed through Old French *distinction*, and directly from Latin *distinctionem* (nominative *distinctioniō*), from *distinct-*, stem of *distinguere* for suffix see -TION. — **distinctive** *adj.* Probably before 1425, borrowed through Old French *distinctif* and directly from Medieval Latin *distinctivus*, from Latin *distinctus*, past participle of *distinguere*; for suffix see -IVE.

distinguish *v.* 1561, borrowed from Middle French *distinguis-*, stem of *distinguer*, replacing earlier Middle English *distinguen* (about 1340), also borrowed from Old French *distinguer*, learned borrowing from Latin *distinguere* to separate between (*dis-* apart + *-stingere* to prick); for suffix see -ISH². — **distinguishable** *adj.* 1594, formed from English *distinguish* + -able. — **distinguished** *adj.* 1609, distinct; later, famous or celebrated (1714), developed as a special use of the past participle.

distort *v.* About 1586, borrowed from Latin *distortus*, past participle of *distorquere* to twist different ways, distort (*dis-* completely + *torquere* to twist). — **distortion** *n.* 1581, borrowed, possibly in part by influence of Middle French *distorsion*, from Latin *distortiōnem* (nominative *distortiō*), from *distort-*, stem of *distorquere*; for suffix see -TION.

distract *v.* About 1340; borrowed from Latin *distractus*, past participle of *distrahere* draw in different directions (*dis-* away + *trahere* to draw). — **distract** *n.* 1447, borrowed from Old French *distractio*, or directly from Latin *distractiōnem* (nominative *distractiō*), from *distract-*, stem of *distrahere*; for suffix see -TION. Possibly *distractio* was also, formed from English *distract* + -ion.

distraught *adj.* Before 1393 *distraght*, alteration in spelling and pronunciation of earlier *distract*, *adj.*, perplexed, confused (about 1340), past participle of *distracten* DISTRACT. The alteration of *distract* to *distraght* and to *distraught* may be by an association with past participial forms in *-ght* (*caught*, *bought*, *taught*), and perhaps immediately influenced by *straght*, *straught*, forms of *strecchen* to stretch.

distress *n.* About 1280 *destresse*, borrowed from Old French *destresse*, *destresce*, from Gallo-Romance **districtia* restraint, affliction, from Latin *districtus*, past participle of *distringere* draw apart, hinder, also, in Medieval Latin, compel, coerce (*dis-* apart + *stringere* draw tight, press together). —**v.** Probably about 1380, borrowed from Old French *destresser*, *destresser* restrain, afflict, from *destresse*, *destresce*, *n.*, *distress*.

distribute *v.* Probably before 1425, borrowed from Latin *distribūtus*, past participle of *distribuere* deal out in portions (*dis-* individually + *tribuere* assign, allot). —**distribution** *n.* About 1350 *distribucioun*, borrowed through Old French *distribution*, and directly from Latin *distribūtōnem* (nominative *distribūtō*), from *distribuere*; for suffix see *-TION*. —**distributive** *adj.* 1450, borrowed from French *distributif*, *distributive*, from Late Latin *distribūtīvus*, from Latin *distribūtus*, past participle of *distribuere*; for suffix see *-IVE*. —**distributor** *n.* 1526, formed from English *distribute* + *-er*¹, later, respelled after Late Latin *distribūtor* (1752).

district *n.* 1611, borrowed from French *district*, also Middle French, from Medieval Latin *districtus* (genitive *districtūs*) restraining of offenders, jurisdiction, area of jurisdiction, from past participle stem of Latin *distringere* hinder, detain; see DISTRESS. —**district attorney**, American English (1789)

disturb *v.* Probably before 1200 *disturben* to prevent, stop, hinder, later, to stir up, agitate, trouble (about 1300); borrowed from Old North French *distourber*, and directly from Latin *disturbāre* throw into disorder (*dis-* completely + *turbāre* to disorder, disturb, from *turba* turmoil). —**disturbance** *n.* About 1280 *distourbaunce*, borrowed from Old North French *distourbaunce*, from *distourber* disturb; for suffix see *-ANCE*.

disuse *n.* Probably before 1408, from *disuse*, *v.*, (1375); borrowed from Old French *desuser* (*des-* not + *user* use).

ditch *n.* Probably about 1175 *dich*, developed from Old English (847) *dīc* ditch, dike; cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *dīk* ditch, dike, Old Icelandic *díki*; see DIKE. —**v.** About 1385 *dichen* surround with a ditch, build a ditch, from the noun. The sense of abandon, discard, is first recorded in American English in 1899.

dither *v.* 1649, tremble, quake, vibrate, apparently a phonetic variation of earlier *diðderēn* (about 1375), of uncertain origin. —**n.** 1819, tremulous, confused excitement; figurative extension from the verb.

ditto *n.* 1625, (in) the said (month or year), use of dialectal Italian *ditto*. The word developed from Standard Italian *detto* (literally) said, past participle of *dire* to say; the past participle in Italian parallels Latin *dictus*, past participle of *dicere* say. The meaning of the same or exactly the same as appeared before, is

first recorded in English in 1678. —**v.** 1837–40, from the noun.

ditty *n.* Probably before 1325 *ditee*, borrowed from Old French *ditié*, *dité* composition, poem, treatise, from Latin *dictātum* thing dictated, from neuter past participle of *dictāre* DICTATE.

diuretic *adj.*, *n.* Before 1400 *duretik*; later *diuretic* (probably before 1425), borrowed from Old French *diuretique*, from Late Latin *diūrēticus*, from Greek *diourētikós* prompting urine, from *dioureîn* urinate (*dia-* through + *oureîn* URINATE).

diurnal *adj.* About 1390, borrowed from Late Latin *diurnālis*, from *diurnum* day, from Latin *diurnus* daily (modeled on *nocturnus* by night), from *diēs* day.

diva *n.* 1883, borrowed from Italian *diva* goddess (in Dante), fine lady, from Latin *diva* goddess, feminine of *divus* divine (one); see DIVINE.

dive *v.* About 1250 *diven*; earlier dialectal *duven* (probably before 1200); developed by confusion of synonymous forms in a transitive use of Old English *dūfan* (originally v.i.) to dive, duck, sink, with Old English *dýfan* (v.t.) to dip, submerge. Vestiges of the Old English strong verb *dūfan* died out in the 1200's, so that *diven* carried the meaning to dive. Old English *dýfan* is cognate with Old Icelandic *dýfa* to dip, from Proto-Germanic **dūbijanan*; *dūfan* is cognate with Middle Low German *bedoven* covered over, Old High German *tobal* gorge. It is also possible that Old English *dýfan*, and *dyppan* to dip, are related. —**n.** 1700, a plunge; from the verb. The sense of a disreputable tavern or saloon, is first recorded in American English about 1871. —**diver** *n.* 1506, formed from English *dive*, *v.* + *-er*¹.

diverge *v.* 1665, borrowed from Latin *divergere* go in different directions (*di-*, from *dis-* apart + *vergere* to bend, turn). —**divergence** *n.* 1656, borrowed from Latin *divergentem* (nominative *divergēs*), present participle of *divergere*; for suffix see *-ENCE*. —**divergent** *adj.* 1696, borrowed through French *divergent*, from Latin *divergentem* (nominative *divergēs*), present participle of *divergere*; for suffix see *-ENT*. Also *divergent* may be a back formation of earlier *divergence*.

divers *adj.* About 1275, separate, distinct; borrowed from Old French *divers* different or odd, learned borrowing from Latin *diversus* turned different ways (in Late Latin, various), past participle of *divertere* DIVERT. The meaning of various is first recorded in English probably before 1300, and that of several, numerous, before 1400.

diverse *adj.* About 1300 *diverse* separate, distinct; later, various, varied (before 1333); a variant of *divers*. The final *-e* may have been added by analogy with *converse*, *traverse*, etc. —**diversify** *v.* 1481, borrowed from Middle French *diversifier*, from Medieval Latin *diversificare* to render unlike, from *diversus*; for suffix see *-FY*. —**diversity** *n.* About 1340 *diversite*, borrowed from Old French *diversité*, learned borrowing from Latin *diversitatem* (nominative *diversitās*), from *diversus* diverse; for suffix see *-ITY*.

diversion *n.* Probably before 1425, act of diverting; borrowed from Middle French *diversion*, from Late Latin *diversionem* (nominative *diversio*), from Latin *divertere* DIVERT; for suffix see -SION. The meaning of amusement, entertainment is first recorded in English in 1648.

divert *v.* Before 1420 *diverten*, borrowed from Middle French *divertir*, from Old French, learned borrowing from Latin *divertere* turn in different directions, and blended with *devertere* turn aside (*dī-*, variant of *dis-* aside, and *dē-* from + *vertere* to turn).

divest *v.* 1605, alteration of earlier *devest* to strip of possessions, rights, etc. (1563); borrowed from Middle French *devestir*, *devestir*, from Old French *desvestir* (*des-*, away, + *vestir* to clothe). The respelling of English *devest* to *divest* was influenced by Medieval Latin *divestire* undress, remove privileges. —**divestiture** *n.* 1601, formed in English from Medieval Latin *divestit-* (stem of *divestire* remove privileges, from Latin *dī-*, away + *vestire* to clothe) + English *-ure*.

divide *v.* Probably before 1325, borrowed from Latin *dividere* to force apart, cleave, distribute (*dī-* apart, from *dis-* + *-videre* to separate). —**n. 1642, from the verb. —**divider** *n.* About 1526, formed from English *divide* + *-er*¹.**

dividend *n.* 1557, number divided by another; later, share or portion (1600); borrowed from Middle French *dividende*, from Latin *dividendum* thing to be divided, neuter gerundive of *dividere* to DIVIDE.

By the late 1600's *dividend* had replaced the form *divident* a divider or barrier (before 1425; borrowed from Latin *dividentem*, nominative *dividēns*, present participle of *dividere* to divide).

divine *adj.* About 1380 *devyne* of God or a god; godlike; borrowed from Old French *divin*, *divin*, learned borrowing from Latin *divinus* of a god, from *divus* a god, related to *deus* god, DEITY; for suffix see -INE¹. —**n.** Probably before 1300 *devine* soothsayer; later theologian (about 1387); borrowed from Old French *divin*, from Medieval Latin *divinus* theologian, from Latin *divinus* soothsayer, from the adjective in Latin. —**v.** About 1378 *devinen* to conjecture, guess; also *devynen* to foretell, prophesy (before 1376); borrowed through Old French *diviner*, *diviner*, and directly from Latin *divinare* foretell, predict, from *divinus* soothsayer, from the adjective in Latin. —**divination** *n.* Before 1384 *dyvynacioun* foretelling, borrowed from Old French *divination*, learned borrowing from Latin *divinātiōnem* (nominative *divinātiō*), from *divināre*; for suffix see -ATION. —**divinity** *n.* About 1300 *divinite* theology; borrowed from Old French *devinité*, *divinité*, from Latin *divinitātem* (nominative *divinitās*) godhead, divination, from *divinus* of a deity; for suffix see -ITY.

division *n.* Probably about 1350, borrowed from Old French *division*, *devisiun*, from Latin *divisiōnem* (nominative *divisiō*), from *divid-*, stem of *dividere* DIVIDE; for suffix see -SION. —**divisible** *adj.* Probably before 1425, borrowed from Old French *divisible*, from Late Latin *divisibilis*, from *divis-*, stem of Latin *dividere*; for suffix see -IBLE. —**divisor** *n.* Before 1500, borrowed from Middle French *diviseur*, and directly from Latin *divisorum*, from *dividere*; for suffix see -OR².

divorce *n.* About 1378, *devose*, *devorse*, borrowed from Old French *divorce*, from early and legal Latin *divortium* (later *divertium*) separation, dissolution of marriage, from *divertere* to separate, leave one's husband, turn aside, DIVERT. *Divorce* as spelled in Old French and meaning deprivation, is recorded once in Middle English in 1357 and does not reappear until about 1425. —**v.** Before 1400 *devorsen*, borrowed from Old French *divorcer*, from *divorce*, *n.*

divulge *v.* About 1450, borrowed through Middle French *divulguer* and directly from Latin *divulgare* publish, make common (*dis-* apart + *vulgare* make common property, from *vulgus* common people).

Dixie *n.* a name for the Southern States of the U.S.; of uncertain origin, first recorded in 1859.

Among the sources advanced: 1) *Dixie* is a modification of *Dixon* abstracted from *Mason and Dixon's line* (1779). 2) *Dixie* is an allusion to *Dixies*, pl. (unrecorded), said to be applied to bank notes issued by the Citizens Bank of Louisiana before the Civil War, bearing the French *dix* on the ten-dollar bill. 3) that *Dixie* was formed in allusion to a Mr. Dixy or Dixie, a slave owner on Manhattan Island in New York City (forced to move South) whose slaves were unhappy in the South, and remembering their contentment, referred to Dixy's or Dixie's land as a place of contentment. —**Dixieland** *n.* 1917, abstracted from the *Original Dixieland Jass (Jazz) Band* (the first group to make commercial jazz recordings); perhaps earlier, *Dixieland* a style of jazz developed in New Orleans, beginning about 1910.

dizzy *adj.* Probably about 1150 (dialectal) *dusi*; later *dysy* (before 1400); developed from Old English *dysig* foolish, stupid (before 830); cognate with Old Frisian *disig* foolish, stupid, from Proto-Germanic **disiŋaz*; modern Dutch *duizelig* dizzy, giddy; Old High German *tusig* stupid, modern German *Tor* fool, with *r* from *z*, Middle Low German *dūsich* stunned, dizzy, *dwās* foolish, stupid, and Old Icelandic *dūs* calm, lull, *dūsa* to doze; see DOZE.

do¹ *v.* Probably before 1200 *do*, earlier *dou* (before 1121) found in Old English *dōn* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *duā* to do, Old Saxon *dūan*, Middle Dutch *duon* (modern Dutch *doen*), Old and Middle High German *tuon* to do (modern German *tun*).

Originally *do* was the first person singular of the indicative mood of Middle English *don*; the form *does* was an adoption of north English *does* (from Old English, about 950) and gradually replaced earlier *doth*, *doeth* between the 1500's and 1600s.

Past tense *did*, also found in Middle English, developed from Old English *dide*, *dyde*, cognate with Old Saxon *deda*, Old High German *teta*, and Middle High German *tete*. This past tense form, being a reduplication of the present stem, is the only form in modern Germanic that retains visible traces of that way of indicating past tense. (In earliest Germanic the past tense represented by *did*, was used as a suffix to form the past tense of other verbs and was then reduced to *-de* in Old English, and to *-d* in English, usually regarded as *-ed*).

The past participle *done*, in Middle English *don*, *doon*, developed from Old English *gedōn*. Middle English retained an

altered form of the prefix in *ido*, *ydo*, but finally dropped the *-n*. A vestige of the prefix is still evident in *ado*. —**doer** *n.* About 1380 *doere*, formed from Middle English *do*, *don* *do* + *-er*¹. —**doings** *n.pl.* About 1378 *doynge*s, from the gerund *doung* in Middle English (about 1325); for suffix see *-ING*².

do² *n.* the first and last note of the musical scale. 1754, possibly about 1670; borrowing of Italian *do*, used as a substitute for *ut* in the GAMUT.

dobbin *n.* 1596, a slow, gentle, plodding horse, familiar use of *Dobbin*, personal name, diminutive of *Dob*; alteration of *Robin*.

docile *adj.* 1483, easily taught, probably borrowed through Italian *docile*, as a learned borrowing from Latin *docilis* easily taught, from *docēre* teach, related to *doctor* teacher; see *DOCTOR*. The meaning of obedient, submissive, is first recorded in English in 1774.

dock¹ *n.* wharf. 1513, hollow made by a ship run aground, borrowed from Middle Dutch or Middle Low German *docke*, of unknown origin. The meaning of an artificial basin built for ships is first recorded in English in 1552. —**dockyard** *n.* (1704) —**dry dock** (1627); **dry-dock** *v.* 1514, from the noun.

dock² *n.* fleshy part of an animal's tail. Probably about 1390 *dok*, developed possibly from Old English *-docca*, as in *finger-docca* finger muscle (before 750), from Proto-Germanic **dokkō*, apparently meaning "something round"; cognate with Frisian *dok* bundle, bunch, Middle Low German *docke* bundle, doll (modern German *Docke*), Old High German *tocka* doll, and Old Icelandic *dokka* doll, of unknown origin. —**v.** Probably about 1378 *dokken* to abridge, reduce, later, to cut (hair) short (1387–95), and to curtail (probably before 1400); probably from earlier unrecorded use of *dok* dock, *n.* The meaning of deduct from one's pay is first recorded in 1822.

dock³ *n.* place where accused person stands in court. 1586, borrowed from Flemish *dok*, earlier *docke* pen or cage for animals, of unknown origin.

dock⁴ *n.* any of various large weeds. Probably before 1300 *docke*, developed from Old English *docce* (about 1000), from Proto-Germanic **dokkōn*; cognate with Middle Dutch and Middle Low German *docke* dock, and Old Danish *dokka*.

docket *n.* Before 1483 *doggette* a summary or abstract; of uncertain origin. A common spelling in the 1500's was *docquet*, perhaps echoing the diminutive ending *-et* or *-ette*. The meaning of a list of lawsuits to be tried, is first recorded in 1709, in American English.

doctor *n.* About 1303 *doctour* early teacher or father of the Christian Church, borrowed from Old French *doctour*, learned borrowing from Medieval Latin *doctor* religious teacher, adviser, scholar, from Latin *doctor* (genitive *doctoris*) teacher, from *doct-*, stem of *docēre* to show, teach; originally, make to appear right, causative form of *decēre* be seemly, fitting, DECENT; for suffix see *-OR*². The meanings of a person having the highest degree from a university and doctor of medicine are first recorded in English probably before 1378. —**v.** 1599, to confer a degree on; later to treat as a doctor (1712, in American

English); from the noun. The sense of alter the appearance, disguise, or falsify is first recorded in 1774. —**doctorate** *n.* degree of doctor of philosophy. 1676, borrowed from Medieval Latin *doctoratus*, from *doctorare* take a doctor's degree; from *doctor*, *n.*

doctrine *n.* About 1380, teaching or offering advice; later, theories, principles, dogma (about 1384); borrowed from Old French *doctrine*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *doctrina*, teaching, body of teachings, learning, from *doctor* teacher; see *DOCTOR*. —**doctrinaire** *adj.* 1834, borrowed from French *doctrinaire* referring to a French political party whose doctrines were deemed impractical; borrowing of French *doctrinaire*, *n.* from *doctrine* doctrine; for suffix see *-ARY*. The meaning of impractical or stubbornly theoretical, is first recorded in English in 1873. —**doctrinal** *adj.* About 1449, through Middle French *doctrinal*, and directly from Late Latin *doctrinālis* theoretical, from Latin *doctrina*; see *DOCTRINE*; for suffix see *-AL*¹.

document *n.* Probably before 1425, teaching or instruction; borrowed from Middle French *document* lesson or written evidence, from Latin *documentum* example, proof, lesson, (in Medieval Latin, official written instrument, from *docēre* to show, teach; see *DOCTOR*); for suffix see *-MENT*. The meaning of something written which gives information or evidence, is first recorded in English in 1727. —**v.** 1648, to teach; from the noun. The meaning to prove by means of documents is first recorded in English in 1711. —**documentary** *adj.* 1802–12, formed from *document* + *-ary*. The sense of a motion picture, based on actual events is first recorded in English in 1930–32; probably borrowed from French *film documentaire* (1924) and *documentaire*, *n.* (1929). —**documentation** *n.* 1754, formed from English *document*, *v.* + *-ation*.

dodder *v.* 1617, shake, totter, perhaps a variant of *dadder* (1500's), developed from Middle English *daderen* (about 1353), apparently a frequentative form similar to *patter*, *totter*, etc.

dodge *v.* 1568, move so as to avoid; of uncertain origin, perhaps related to Scottish dialectal *dodd* to jog; as *sled* is related to *sledge*. —**n.** 1575, from the verb. —**dodger** *n.* 1568, apparently from *dodge*, *v.* + *-er*¹.

dodo *n.* 1628, borrowed from Portuguese *doudo*, literally, a fool or simpleton, and as an adjective, foolish or silly, the name being applied to the awkward appearance of the bird.

doe *n.* Before 1200 *do* the fallow deer; later the female of the fallow deer (about 1300); developed from Old English *dā* (about 1000); of unknown origin. The meaning of a female rabbit or other animal is first recorded in English in 1607. —**doeskin** *n.* (1425–26)

doff *v.* Before 1375 *doffen* (imperative *dof*) take off; remove; contraction of *do off*. Compare *DON*² put on.

dog *n.* Probably before 1200 *dogge*, developed from Old English *dogga* (about 1050), specifically the name of a powerful breed of dog. *Dogga* was apparently an English word which the Continental languages borrowed (often with the attributive *English*), and is found in French *dogue* mastiff, Spanish *dogo*

terrier, Dutch *dog* mastiff, German *Dogge* Great Dane. In Old English, the nonspecific name for dog was *hund* HOUND. —**v.** 1519, to pursue, track, follow like a dog; from the noun. —**dogfight** *n.* Middle English *dogg feghttyng* (probably before 1500). —**dogged** *adj.* (about 1300) —**doggerel** *n.* (1277); *adj.* (about 1390) —**doghouse** *n.* (1611) —**dog tag** (1918)

dogma *n.* 1638, authoritative opinion, doctrine; used earlier in the plural form *dogmata* (before 1600); borrowed, probably by influence of Middle French *dogme*, from Latin *dogma* philosophical tenet, from Greek *dōgma* (genitive *dōgmatos*) opinion, tenet, from *dokein* to seem good, think; see DECENT. —**dogmatic** *adj.* 1678; shortening of earlier *dogmatical* (1605); borrowed probably through French *dogmatique*, from Latin *dogmaticus*, from Greek *dogmatikós*, from *dōgma* for suffix see —**IC.** —**dogmatism** *n.* 1603, borrowed from French *dogmatisme* teaching of new doctrine, from Medieval Latin *dogmatismus*, after Late Greek *dogmatismós*; from *dōgma*; for suffix see —**ISM.**

doily *n.* 1785–95, small ornamental mat, from *doiley-napkin* (1711), from *doily* a thin woolen fabric (1678), supposedly from Doiley surname of a dry goods dealer in London in the 1600's.

doldrums *n.pl.* 1811, perhaps formed from earlier *dold* dull, foolish, inactive because of age, cold, etc. (before 1460; earlier *dulled*, about 1390, past participle of *dullen*, *dollen*, *v.*, developed from Old English *dol* foolish, (DULL), and the ending *-rum*, perhaps patterned on *tantrum*.

dole *n.* About 1200 *dol* part allotted, developed from Old-English (before 1000) *dāl*, shortened from *gedāl* (about 725) and cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *dēl*, Middle Dutch *deil* (modern Dutch *deel*), Old High German *teil* (modern German *Teil*), Old English *dēl* portion, from Proto-Germanic **dailiz*. —**v.** give out alms, charity. 1465, from the noun. —**doleful** *adj.* Probably before 1300 *diolful*, developed from *diol*, *dol* dole (about 1225, borrowed from Old French *doel*, *duel*, from Late Latin *dolus* grief, from Latin *dolēre* suffer, grieve) + *-ful* full.

doll *n.* Before 1700, a child's toy, a particular application of earlier *doll*, a name of affection for a person, a female pet or a mistress (1560); originally a shortened nickname or endearing form of the name *Dorothy* (as the *l* in *Hal* is a replacement of *r* in Harold, the *l* in *Moll* for the *r* in Mary). —**v.** 1906 *doll up*, from the noun. —**dollhouse** *n.* 1873, in American English; earlier *doll's house* (1783). —**dolly** *n.* 1790, a name of affection for a child's doll; earlier, a name of affection for *Dorothy* (1610).

dollar *n.* 1553, use in correspondence of Low German *daler*, name for the German *Taler*, *Joachimstaler*, a coin of the 1500's made of silver from a mine in *Joachimstal* St. Joachim's valley (town in northwestern Bohemia, where this coin was minted beginning in 1519). By 1581 use of *dollar* was recorded in English for the Spanish peso or piece of eight, a coin commonly found in North America at the time of the Revolutionary War. At the suggestion of Jefferson (1782) the Continental Congress established the *dollar* as the currency of the United States in 1785.

dollop *n.* 1812, dash or splash of something; portion or serving of food; from earlier *dallopp* patch, tuft, or clump of grass (1573); of uncertain origin.

dolmen *n.* 1859, prehistoric tomb, borrowed from French *dolmen*, probably a misapplication by French archaeologists of Cornish *tolmen* hole of stone (compare Welsh *twll* hole, *maen* stone).

dolorous *adj.* Probably before 1400, causing pain, suffering, or hardship; later, sorrowful (about 1450); borrowed from Old French *doloros*, from Late Latin *dolōrōsus*, from Latin *dolor* pain, grief; for suffix see —**OUS.** —**dolor** *n.* Probably before 1300 *dolour*, borrowed from Old French *dolour*, from Latin *dolōrem* (nominative *dolor*) pain, grief, from *dolēre* suffer pain or grief.

dolphin *n.* About 1350 *dolfin* sea mammal; borrowed from Old French *daulphin*, *dalphin*, *daufin*, through Medieval Latin *dalfinus*, for Latin *delphinus* dolphin, from Greek *delphis* (genitive *delphinos*) dolphin. Compare DAUPHIN.

dolt *n.* 1543 (implied in *doltish*); apparently a variant of *dold* dull, foolish, and perhaps influenced by *dulte*, *dolte*, past participle forms of *dullen*, *v.* to dull, make or become dazed or stupid; see DOLDRUMS.

—**dom**, + a suffix forming abstract and collective nouns. 1 added to adjectives to show state or condition, as in *freedom* = state or condition of being free. 2 added to nouns to show: a position, rank, or realm of, as in *kingdom* = realm of a king. b all of those who are, as in *Christendom* = all those who are Christian. In Old English *-dōm* is related to *dōm* judgment, DOOM, and cognate with Old Saxon *-dōm* *-dom*, Old High German *-tuom* (modern German *-tum*), and Old Icelandic *-dōmr*.

domain *n.* About 1425 (Scottish), landed property, demesne; borrowed from Middle French *domaine* (alteration after Medieval Latin *dominium*), from Old French *demaine*, *demeine*, learned borrowing from Latin *dominium* property, dominion, from *dominus* lord, master, owner, from *domus* house.

dome *n.* 1656, rounded roof, borrowed from French *dôme*, from Provençal *doma*, from Greek *dōma* house, housetop (a type of roof that came from the East), related to *dōmos* house.

An earlier and completely distinct English use of *dome* house, home, building, was borrowed directly from Latin *domus* and is first recorded in 1513. A later and equally distinct use meaning a cathedral church (1691) came into English from French *dôme*, which borrowed the word from Italian *duomo*, also from Latin *domus* house.

domestic *adj.* Probably before 1425, made or prepared in the home; borrowed from Middle French *domestique*, learned borrowing from Latin *domesticus* belonging to the household, and directly from Latin *domesticus*, from *domus* house; for suffix see —**IC.** —**n.** 1539, member of household, from the English adjective. —**domesticate** *v.* Before 1639, from *domestic*, *adj.* + *-ate*¹.

domicile *n.* 1442 *domicylie* residence, dwelling; borrowed from Middle French *domicile*, learned borrowing from Latin *domicilium*, and directly from Latin *domicilium*, probably from

earlier **domo-colyom* house-dwelling (*domus* house + *colere* dwell).

domination *n.* About 1375, rule, control; earlier, an angel of the fourth order (probably about 1343); borrowed from Old French *domination*, from Latin *dominātiōnem* (nominative *dominātiō*), from *dominārī* to rule, have dominion over, from *dominus* lord, master, from *domus* home; for suffix see -TION. —**dominant** *adj.* Before 1460 *domynaunt*, borrowed from Middle French *dominant*, from Latin *dominantem* (nominative *domināns*), present participle of *dominārī*; for suffix see -ANT. —**dominate** *v.* 1611, back formation from English *domination*; and borrowed from Latin *dominatus*, past participle of *dominārī* to rule, possibly influenced by Middle French *dominer* dominate.

domineer *v.* 1588, rule or govern arbitrarily, tyrannize; borrowed apparently from Dutch *domineren* to rule, from Middle French *dominer*, learned borrowing from Latin *dominārī* to rule. —**domineering** *adj.* (1588)

dominion *n.* Probably before 1425, borrowed from Middle French *dominion*, from Medieval Latin *dominionem* (nominative *dominio*), from Latin *dominium* ownership; for suffix see -ION.

domino¹ *n.* 1694, a hood with a cloak worn by canons or priests, also a mourning veil worn by women; borrowed from French *domino*, apparently from Latin *dominō*, dative form of *dominus* lord, master.

domino² *n.* 1801, usually **dominoes**, game played with flat, oblong tiles marked with dots; borrowed from French *domino* (1771), probably an extended sense of *domino*¹ (in allusion to the black-colored back of the tiles that resemble the cloak).

don¹ *n.* title. 1523 *Don* (prefixed to a man's Christian name), from Spanish *don*, from Latin *dominus* lord, master. The word was later used in the sense of any distinguished man (before 1634). From 1660, in English universities, a *don* is the head, fellow, or tutor of a college. The head of an underworld syndicate appears in general use before 1963, as a borrowing of Italian *don*, shortening of *donno* master, from Late Latin *domnus*, from Latin *dominus*.

don² *v.* put on (clothing, etc.). Probably before 1350, contraction of *do on*. Compare **DOFF** (from *do off*).

donation *n.* About 1425 (Scottish), borrowed through Middle French *donation* from Latin *donātiōnem* (nominative *donātiō*), from *dōnāre* give as a gift, from *dōnum* gift; for suffix see -TION. —**donate** *v.* 1785, American English, back formation from *donation*.

donjon *n.* Before 1325 *dunjon* large tower of a castle; an early form of **DUNGEON**.

donkey *n.* 1785, of uncertain slang origin, perhaps from English **DUN**² dull grayish-brown + *-key*, a probable diminutive form, possibly parallel to *monkey*.

donor *n.* About 1439 *donour*, borrowed from Anglo-French

donour, in Old French *doneur*, from Latin *dōnātōrem* (accusative of *dōnātor*), from *dōnāre* give as a gift; for suffix see -OR².

doodle¹ *n.* 1937, aimless scrawl, apparently from dialectal English *doodle*, *dudle* fritter away time, trifle, or from association with *dawdle*. —**v.** 1937, from the noun. —**doodler** *n.* (1937)

doodle² *n.* a silly or foolish person. 1628, of uncertain origin; compare Low German *Dudeltopf* simpleton.

doom *n.* Before 1325 *dome*, developed from Old English (about 725) *dōm* law, judgment, condemnation; cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *dōm* statute, law, judgment, Old High German *tuom*, Old Icelandic *dōmr* judgment, decree (Swedish and Danish *dom*), and Gothic *dōms* honor, fame, decree, from Proto-Germanic **dōmaz*. The extended meaning of final fate, destruction, ruin, death is first recorded in English about 1600. —**v.** 1382 *domen* pronounce judgment on, from the noun. —**doomsday** *n.* Before 1200 *domes dai*, developed from Old English (about 975) *dōmes dæg* judgment day, from *dōmes* (genitive of *dōm* judgment) + *dæg* DAY.

door *n.* Probably before 1200 *dore*, earlier *dure* (about 1150). Middle English *dore* developed from Old English (about 1000) *dor* (pl. *donu*) large door, gate; Middle English *dure* developed from Old English *duru* (feminine) door (first recorded about 725, in *Beowulf*), from Proto-Germanic stem **dur-*. The Old English forms are cognate with Old Saxon *dur* gate, *duri*, pl., door, Old High German *tor* gate (modern German *Tor*), *turi*, pl., door (modern German *Tür*), Old Icelandic *dyrr* (feminine pl.) door, and Gothic *daúr* gate, from Proto-Germanic **duran*. —**doorbell** *n.* (about 1815) —**doorknob** *n.* (1846, in American English) —**doorway** *n.* (1799)

dope *n.* 1807, American English, sauce, gravy, borrowed from Dutch *doop* thick dipping sauce, from *dopen* to dip. The concept of thick consistency or thickness connects many senses, as in thick liquid preparation (1800's), thick-headed person (1851), and preparation of opium, a thick, viscous substance when used for smoking (1889), extended to any stupefying narcotic drug, and a preparation of drugs to influence a racehorse's performance (1900). Perhaps because the knowledge of which horse had been dosed with dope would be an advantage to a bettor, the sense of inside knowledge, tip, information developed by 1901. —**v.** 1868, smear, lubricate, American English, from the noun. The phrase *dope out* find out (1906), probably came from *dope*, *n.*, inside information.

dormant *adj.* About 1387–95 *dormaunt* fixed in place, later, in a resting position (about 1500); borrowed from Old French *dormant*, present participle of *dormir* to sleep, from Latin *dormire* to sleep.

dormer *n.* 1592, window of a sleeping room; later, the sleeping room itself (1605); borrowed from Middle French *dormeor* sleeping room, formed from *dormir* to sleep, with *-eor* suffix from Latin *-ātōrem*.

dormitory *n.* 1440 *dormytorye*, borrowed, possibly by influence of Old French *dormitoire*, from Latin *dormitōrium*, from *dormire* to sleep; for suffix see -ORY.

dormouse *n.* About 1425 *dormouse*, possibly from Anglo-French **dormouse* tending to be dormant, mistaken as a blend of Middle French *dormir* to sleep and *-mouse thought to be equivalent to *mouse* mouse; because this small rodent is inactive in winter.

dorsal *adj.* Probably before 1425 *dorsale* back, rear; borrowed through Middle French *dorsal* from Late Latin *dorsālis*, alteration of Latin *dorsuālis* of the back, from Latin *dorsum* back, of uncertain origin.

dory *n.* 1709, small boat, American English; of uncertain origin, compare Miskito (an Indian language of Honduras and Nicaragua) *dóri*.

dose *n.* Probably about 1425, borrowed from Middle French *dose*, learned borrowing from Late Latin *dos*, from Greek *dosis* a portion prescribed, literally, a giving, from *didónai* to give. —*v.* 1654, from the noun, or borrowed from French *doser*, from *dose*, *n.* —**dosage** *n.* 1867 *doseage*, *dosage*, formed from English *dose* + *-age*, possibly by influence of French *dosage* (1812); for suffix see *-AGE*.

dossier *n.* 1880, collection of documents or papers about a subject; borrowed from French *dossier* bundle of papers, from *dos* back (said to be because the bundle of papers had a label on the back), from Latin *dossus*, a variant of *dorsum* back.

dot *n.* Old English *dott* speck, head of a boil (about 1000); cognate with Old High German *tutta* nipple, Dutch *dot* knot, tuft, Norwegian *dott* wad, wisp, and Old Icelandic *dytta* to stop up. *Dot* is not found in Middle English and appears only after 1530 meaning a small lump or a clot. The meaning of a minute spot is first recorded in 1674. —*v.* mark with a dot. 1740, from the noun.

dote *v.* Probably about 1200 *doten* behave foolishly; earlier, be feeble-minded (probably before 1200 *dotien* behave foolishly); borrowed probably from Middle Low German *doten* be foolish, related to Middle Dutch *doten* be childish, of unknown origin. The sense as in *dote upon*, is first recorded in 1477. —**dotage** *n.* Probably about 1380, folly, foolish behavior; formed from Middle English *doten* to behave foolishly + *-age*. The sense of senility or a second childhood is first recorded about 1390.

double *adj.* Probably before 1200 *duble* twice, twofold, borrowed from Old French *duble*, *doble*, from Latin *duplus* twofold (*du-*, from *duo* TWO + *-plus* -FOLD). —*v.* Probably before 1300 *dublen* make double, borrowed from Old French *dobler*, *doubler*, from Latin *duplāre* to double, fold up, from *duplus* double. —*n.* Before 1325, from the adjective; the meaning of a fold or a sharp turn was taken from the verb. —**double cross** (1834); **double-cross**, *v.* (1903, in American English) —**double-take** *n.* (1938, in American English)

doublet *n.* 1326, close-fitting garment; borrowed from Old French *doublet*, literally, something folded or doubled, from *double*, *doble* DOUBLE + *-et*.

doubloon *n.* 1622 *doblon* Spanish gold coin; borrowed from Spanish *doblón*; 1719 *doubloon*, borrowed from French *doublon*

(1594), also from Spanish *doblón*, an augmentative form of *doble* double, from Latin *duplus* double; for suffix see *-OON*. The *doubloon* was so called because its worth was double the value of a *pistole*, another Spanish gold coin.

doubt *v.* Probably before 1200 *duten*, later *douten* be afraid of, dread (probably about 1280); borrowed from Old French *douter* doubt, fear, from Latin *dubitāre* hesitate, waver in opinion, related to *dubius* doubtful, DUBIOUS. The *b* in imitation of the Latin is recorded as early as 1393. —*n.* Probably before 1200 *dute*, later *doute* (about 1300); borrowed from Old French *doute*, from *douter* to doubt. —**doubtful** *adj.* About 1395 *douteiful*, formed from *doute* + *-ful*. —**doubtless** *adj.* About 1380 *douteles*, formed from English *doute* + *-les* -less.

douche *n.* 1766, jet of water; borrowed from French *douche*, from Italian *doccia* shower, conduit, from *dociare* to spray, probably from *doccione* conduit, from Latin *ductiōnem* (nominative *ductiō*) a leading, from *duc-*, stem of *ducere* to lead. —*v.* 1838, probably borrowed from French *doucher*, from *douche*, *n.*, or from the English noun.

dough *n.* About 1150 *doh* dough for bread or pastry; later *dogh* (1303); developed from Old English (about 1000) *dæg*; cognate with Middle Low German *dēch* dough, Middle Dutch *deech* (modern Dutch *deeg*), Old High German *teic* (modern German *Teig*), Old Icelandic *deig* (Swedish *deg*, Danish *dej*), and Gothic *daigs* dough, from Proto-Germanic **daizaz*. —**doughnut** *n.* (1809, American English)

doughty *adj.* Probably before 1200 *duhti* brave, strong, later *douhti* (probably before 1300); developed from Old English (1030) *dohtig*, and *dyhtig* able, strong, valiant (about 725, in *Beowulf*). The later *dohtig* is probably an alteration (influenced by *dohte*, past tense of *dugan* be worthy) of earlier *dyhtig*, cognate with Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *duchtich* doughty (modern Dutch *duchtig*), Middle High German *tuhtec* able, useful (modern German *tüchtig* capable), from Proto-Germanic **duhtizās*, adjective to the noun **duhtiz* (Old High German *tuht* ability, strength), and with Old High German *tugan* be worthy.

dour *adj.* Before 1350 (in northern dialect) severe; later, 1375 (Scottish) stern, fierce; possibly borrowed from Latin *dūrus* hard; related to ENDURE. *Dour* meaning stubborn, gloomy, sullen, is first recorded in English about 1470.

douse *v.* 1600, to plunge in water; 1606, to throw water over; perhaps from *douse* to strike, punch (1559); probably related to Middle Dutch *dossen* or early modern Dutch *doessen* beat with force and noise.

dove *n.* 1150 in the place name *Duvebrigge*; probably developed from Old English *dūfe*, in *dūfe-doppa* dabchick, a water bird; cognate with Old Saxon *dūba* dove, Middle Dutch *dūve* (modern Dutch *duif*), Old High German *tūba* (modern German *Taube* dove, pigeon), Old Icelandic *dūfa* (Swedish *duva*, Danish *due*), and Gothic *-dūbō* (in *hraiwa-dūbō* turtledove), from Proto-Germanic **dūbōn*. —*v.* 1657, to fit together.

dowager *n.* 1530 *douagier*, later *dowager* (1542); borrowed from Middle French *douagere*, *douagiere*, from *douage* dowry, from

douer endow, from Latin *dōtāre*, from *dōs* (genitive *dōtis*) DOWRY; for suffix see -ER¹.

dowdy *n.* 1581, probably a diminutive form of earlier *doue* poorly dressed woman (about 1338); of uncertain origin. —**adj.** 1676, from the noun.

dowel *n.* 1296–97 *dule* rim or a section of a wheel, later *doule* (1313–14); of uncertain origin, but perhaps connected with Middle Low German *dovel* plug, tap (of a cask), related to Old High German *tubili* plug (modern German *Döbel*, *Dübel* peg, plug, dowel). The meaning of a headless peg, pin, or bolt is first recorded in English in 1794.

down¹ *adv.* to a lower place. Before 1275 *doun*, developed from an Old English word element *-dūne-* (before 830), as in *of dūne*, *adv.*, downwards, *ic dūnestīgu* I go down; from *dūne*, dative form of *dūn* hill, DOWN³. —**prep.** Before 1382, from the adverb. —**v.** 1562, from the adverb. —**adj.** About 1565, from the adverb. The meaning of depressing is first recorded about 1967. —**n.** 1611, used with an indeterminate meaning as a word to fill out a ballad refrain; later, a descent (1710); from an earlier such use as an adverb. —**downcast** *adj.* (about 1303) —**downfall** *n.* (about 1325) —**downhill** *adv.* (before 1398); *adj.* (1727) —**downpour** *n.* (1811, earlier *dounshedyn*, probably before 1425) —**downright** *adv.* (probably before 1200); *adj.* (1530) —**downward** *adv.* (probably before 1200, developed from Old English *adunweard*); *adj.* (before 1325).

down² *n.* 1345–49 *doune* soft feathers; from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *dunn* down).

down³ *n.* rolling, grassy land. About 1300 *doune* hill, (earlier 1254, in surname); developed from Old English *dūn* hill (661); cognate with Old Irish *dūn* citadel, fortress, Old Welsh *din* fortress, hill fort. English *town* (Old English *tūn* fort, enclosure, town, with *t* for Celtic *d*) and related words are based on very early borrowing from this Celtic group. In other Germanic languages Old English *dūn* is cognate with words meaning dune or sandbank, including Old Frisian *dūne*, Old Saxon *dūna*, Middle Dutch *dūnen* (modern Dutch *duin*), and Middle Low German *dūne*; see DUNE.

dowry *n.* Before 1338 *dowarye* widow's share of her husband's property, later, *dowarie* property a bride brings to her marriage (before 1387); borrowed from Anglo-French *dowarie*, Old French *douaire*, from Medieval Latin *dotarium*, from Latin *dōs* (genitive *dōtis*) dowry, related to *dōnum* a giving, gift; for suffix see -RY.

dowse *v.* 1691 *deusing* rod; later *dowse* (1838), of uncertain origin; perhaps a dialect term, from south England.

doxology *n.* 1649, borrowed through French *doxologie*, or directly from Medieval Latin *doxologia*, from Greek *doxologiā*, from *doxolōgos* praising, glorifying, from *dōxa* glory, praise, from *dokēin* to seem good, seem, think; for suffix see -LOGY.

doyen *n.* 1422, leader of ten; borrowed from Middle French *doyen*, from Old French *deien*; see DEAN. The meaning of the senior member of a group is first recorded in 1670 and may have been a reborrowing from French. —**doyenne** *n.* 1905,

female *doyen*, borrowed from French *doyenne*, *doyen*, from Middle French, from Old French *deien*.

doze *v.* 1647, make drowsy, stupefy, bewilder; probably borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *dūsa* be quiet, doze, also Middle High German *dōsen* be quiet, slumber, *doesen* to scatter); see DIZZY. —**n.** 1731, from the verb.

dozen *n.* Probably before 1300 *doseyn* group of twelve borrowed from Old French *dozeine*, *dozaine* a dozen, twelve (*douze*, *doze* twelve + *-ain*, from Latin *-ānus*). Old French *douze* is from Latin *duodecim*, altered from earlier **duodicem* by influence of *decem*, (*duo* TWO + *decem* TEN).

drab *adj.* 1775, dull brown; earlier *drapp-colour* (1686), the color of *drap* or *drab* cloth (1541); borrowed from Middle French *drap*, from Old French; see DRAPE. The figurative sense of colorlessness is first recorded in English in 1880.

draft *n.* 1552, possibly 1543, a privy; later, extract of distillation (1576), and plan, sketch (1579); spelling variant of earlier *draught* from *drahte* (probably before 1200); developed probably from Old English **draht*, **draht* (compare Old English *dragan*, *v.*, to DRAW, and the cognates, Old High German *traht* a carrying, Old Icelandic *dráttir* a pulling, a drawing, and Middle Dutch *dracht*, from Proto-Germanic **drahtiz-*). The meaning of the action of pulling is first recorded probably before 1200 in reference to drawing in of nets for fishing or catching birds. The sense of the act of drinking in one swallow is also first recorded probably before 1200. Later meanings include a rough copy of a writing (before 1382) and the flow of a current of air (1768–74). —**v.** 1714, select for some special purpose; from the noun. The sense of writing a rough copy of a letter, etc., is first recorded in 1828. —**draft** *n.* 1866, American English, formed from English *draft* + *-ee*.

The form *draft* is a spelling reflecting the shift in pronunciation of *gh* (like the *ch* in Scottish *loch*) to the modern English sound represented by *f* in *fat*. See the note under LAUGH, *v.*

drag *v.* 1440 *dragen* draw or pull; borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *draga*) or perhaps a dialectal variant of *drawen* (Old English *dragan*) to DRAW. —**n.** 1300 a dragnet; borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Swedish *dragg* grapnel, Icelandic *drag-net* dragnet), or perhaps developed from Old English (about 1000) *dræge* dragnet; related to *dragan* DRAW. The slang sense of an annoying, boring person or thing, is first recorded in 1813, probably an extension of the earlier meaning of something heavy as an impediment (1708).

draggle *v.* 1513, make or become wet or dirty, as by dragging through mud or water; apparently a frequentative form of DRAG; for suffix see -LE³.

dragon *n.* Before 1250 *dragun* huge serpent; about 1250, mythical fire-breathing monster, and as a surname *Dragun* (1165–66); borrowed from Old French *dragon*, learned borrowing from Latin *dracōnem* (nominative *dracō*) serpent, dragon, from Greek *drákon* (genitive *drákontos*) serpent, seafish; literally, the one with the (deadly) glance. —**dragonfly** *n.* (1626)

dragoon *n.* 1622, borrowed from French *dragon* carbine or musket, dragoon; literally, dragon, from Old French; see DRAGON; for suffix see -OON. The soldier was so called because the carbine or musket he carried "breathed fire" like a dragon. —*v.* 1689, from the noun.

drain *v.* Before 1398 *dreyen*, strain or filter (a liquid); later *dreyen* to draw off a liquid (1440); developed from Old English (about 1000) *drēahnian*, apparently from the Proto-Germanic root **drauz-* related to *drýge* DRY. The word disappeared shortly after the Old English period, reappearing later in the 1500's. The figurative sense of to exhaust is recorded about 1660. —*n.* 1372, from the verb; earlier as a surname *Drene* (1327). —**drainage** *n.* 1652, formed from English *drain* + *-age*.

drake *n.* About 1300, male duck, corresponding to Low German *drake* male duck, German dialect *drache*, and the second element in Old High German *anutrehho* (from **anut-trahho*), Middle High German *antrech* (modern German *Enten-ich*), apparently from West Germanic **drako*. The first element *anut-*, *ant-*, *-ent* derives from Old High German *anut*, *enit* duck (modern German *Ente*), which is cognate with Middle Dutch *aent* (modern Dutch *eend*), and Old English *ænid*, *ened* duck, from Proto-Germanic **anidis*.

dram *n.* About 1373 *dram* and before 1398 *dragme* small weight of apothecary's measure; borrowed through Anglo-Latin *dragma*, *drama*, and from Middle French *drame*, *dragme*, both Anglo-Latin and Middle French from Late Latin *dragma*, from Latin *drachma* drachma, from Greek *drachmē*, literally, handful (of six obols).

drama *n.* 1515 *drame*; later *drama*, (1616); borrowed from Late Latin *drāma* play, drama, and from Greek *drāma* (genitive *drāmātos*) play, action, deed, from *drān* to do, act, perform. —**dramatic** *adj.* 1589 *drammatick*, borrowed through Middle French *dramatique*, or directly from Late Latin *drāmaticus*, from Greek *drāmatikós* of or pertaining to plays, from *drāma*; for suffix see -IC. —**dramatist** *n.* 1678, formed in English from Greek *drāma* + English *-ist*. —**dramatize** *v.* 1780–83, formed in English from Greek *drāma* + English *-ize*.

drape *v.* Probably before 1400 *draperen* to decorate with cloth hangings; 1436 *drapen* to weave into cloth; borrowed from Old French *draper*, from *drap* cloth. —*n.* 1665, cloth or hangings; in some instances borrowed from French *drap* cloth, from Old French *drap*, from Late Latin *drappus* cloth, and in other instances, from the English *drape*, *v.* —**drapery** *n.* Probably before 1325 *draperie* cloth, fabric; borrowed from Old French *draperie*, from *drap* cloth; for suffix see -ERY.

drastic *adj.* Before 1691, (of medicines) acting with force, borrowed from Greek *drastikós* effective, from *drástēon* (thing) to be done, from *drān* to do, act; for suffix see -IC. The meaning of extreme, severe, is first recorded in English in 1808, possibly suggested by the noun meaning of a severe purgative (1783), or borrowed from the French meaning of *drastique* (1741).

draw *v.* Probably before 1200 *drawen*, and *drahen*; developed

from Old English *dragan* (before 900); cognate with Old Saxon *dragan*, Old Frisian *draga*, *drega*, Old High German *tragen* (modern German *tragen*) to carry, bear, with Old Icelandic *draga* to pull, draw, Gothic *gadragan* to pull or carry together, from Proto-Germanic **drazanan*. Though there are many constructions and uses that reflect Latin *trahere* to pull or draw, there is no etymological connection between Latin and Old English.

The meaning of make (a line or figure) drawing with a pencil or pen is first recorded in English probably about 1200.

The spelling change from *g* to *w* occurred with alteration of the sound of the vowel into the diphthong. —*n.* Probably before 1300, in the compound *drawebriige*; 1255, as a surname *Draespere*; from the verb. —**drawer** *n.* About 1385, person who draws (a sword); earlier, as a surname *Drahere* (1327); formed from *drawen* to draw + *-er*¹. The sense of a box that can be drawn out of a cabinet, desk, etc., is first recorded in 1580. —**drawing** *n.* Probably before 1300, the pulling of a sword or bowstring, the meaning of the act of making pictures, sketches, etc., is first recorded in 1467, and of the picture itself, in 1688–89.

drawl *v.* 1597, crawl or draw along; 1598, speak slowly, draw out words, borrowed probably from Middle Dutch *dralen* to linger, delay (also in Low German and East Frisian), apparently an intensive form derived from the root of DRAW, *v.* —*n.* 1760, from the verb.

dray *n.* 1370 *dreye* wheelless sled for logs; later *drey* a little cart (1565–73); a derivative form of Old English *dragan* to DRAW; related to Old Icelandic *draga* (pl. *dragur*) timber trailed along the ground. —**drayman** *n.* 1581, formed from English *dray* + *man*.

dread *v.* Probably before 1200 *dreden* fear greatly, shortened form of *adreden*; developed from Old English (about 1000) *adrēdan*, a contraction of earlier *ondrēdan* counsel or advise against, fear (900); cognate with Old Saxon *antdrādan* and Old High German *intrātan* fear, dread. —*n.* Probably before 1200 *dred*, from *dreden*, *v.*

dream *n.* About 1250 *drem*, probably developed from Old English *drēam* joy, music (influenced in meaning by Old Icelandic *draumr* dream); cognate with Old Saxon *drōm* meriment, noise, Old Frisian *drām* dream, Old High German *troum* (modern German *Traum*), from Proto-Germanic **draumaz*, earlier **drauzmas*.

Though *dream* is not recorded in Old English with the meaning of a vision, the number of Germanic cognates of the same meaning strongly suggests that the meaning existed in Old English. The meaning of a vision was *swefn*. —*v.* Probably before 1200 *dremen*, probably developed from Old English *drēmen*, *drīman* rejoice, play music (influenced in meaning by Old Icelandic *dreyma* to dream); cognate with Old High German *troumen* (modern German *träumen*) to dream.

dreary *adj.* Probably about 1150 *dreri* sad, doleful; developed from Old English *drēorig* sorrowful, gory, bloody (about 725, in *Beowulf*), from *drēor* gore, falling blood, from Proto-Germanic **dreuzás*; for suffix see -Y¹. The Old English is

cognate with Middle High German *trürec* sorrowful, sad (modern German *traurig*), Old High German *trüren* be sad (modern German *trauern* mourn), Middle High German *trör* dripping fluid, Old Icelandic *dreyri* blood, gore. Dismal, gloomy, is first recorded in 1667, in Milton's *Paradise Lost*.

dredge *n.* 1471 (Scottish) *dreg-*, found in *dreg-boat* boat for dredging, apparently a derivative form from the root of DRAG, *v.* —*v.* 1508 (Scottish) *dreg*, from the noun.

dregs *n. pl.* About 1378 *dregges* sediment of liquors, (earlier in the surname *Dryngedregges*, 1309); borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *dregg* sediment, from Proto-Germanic **drag-*). Middle English *dregges* replaced Old English *dræst*, *dærst* dregs, and is cognate with Old High German *trestir*, *pl.*, skins, husks, grounds.

drench *v.* Probably before 1200 *drenchen* submerge in water, drown, and about 1200, to soak, saturate; earlier, to poison with a drink (probably about 1175); developed from Old-English (about 1000) *drencan*, causative form of *drincan* to DRINK.

Old English *drencan* is cognate with Old High German *trenken* cause to drink (modern German *tränken*), Old Icelandic *drekka* drench, drown, and Gothic *drankjan* cause to drink, from Proto-Germanic **drankjanan*.

dress *v.* Probably before 1300 *dressen* to direct, guide, control, also, to arrange, adjust, and to stand up, sit up; borrowed from Old French *dresser*, earlier *drecier* arrange, prepare, from Vulgar Latin **directiare*, from Latin *directus* straight, DIRECT. The general meaning of decorate, adorn is recorded in Middle English in 1381 and the specific sense of put on clothing, about 1395. —*n.* 1606, clothing, especially clothing appropriate to rank or a specific ceremony; from the verb. The meaning of a woman's garment is first recorded in English in 1638. —**dresser**¹ *n.* person who prepares or finishes something. 1300, in a surname *Dresceour* (probably Anglo-French); from *dressen*, *v.* + *-er*¹. —**dresser**² *n.* table, sideboard. Probably 1393 *dressor*, borrowed from Old French *dresseur*, *dreceur* table to prepare food, from *dresser* to prepare, DRESS; for suffix see *-ER*¹. The meaning of a chest, dressing bureau with drawers appeared in 1895. —**dressing** *n.* About 1350, from English *dress*, *v.* + *-ing*¹. The meaning of a bandage is first recorded in 1713.

dribble *v.* About 1589, flow in drops, trickle, a frequentative form of obsolete English *drib*, variant of DRIP. The meaning to move (a ball) along with short bounces or kicks, first applied to soccer in 1863, was extended to basketball in the early 1900's, in American English. —*n.* About 1680, from the verb.

drift *n.* Probably before 1325, movement as of falling rain or snow, snowdrift. Though not recorded in Old English, the Middle English *drift* is cognate with Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *drift* drove, Middle High German *trift* (modern German *Trift*), and Old Icelandic *drift* snowdrift (Norwegian *driv* drift of snow or sand); from Proto-Germanic **driftiz*, related to **drībanan* to DRIVE. English *drift* is related to *drive* as *thrift* is to *thrive*, etc. —*v.* 1584, to delay; later, move as driven by a current (probably before 1600); from the noun. —**drifter** *n.* (1864) —**driftwood** *n.* (1633)

drill¹ *n.* instrument for boring holes. 1611, borrowed from Dutch *dril*, *drille* a hole, instrument for boring holes, from *drillen* to bore (a hole), turn around, whirl, from Middle Dutch *drillen* to bore, turn in a circle; cognate with Middle High German *drillen* to turn, round off, bore (modern German *drillen*), from Proto-Germanic **threljanan*.

Before 1637 *drill* also meant a military exercise (probably from the sense turn around as in maneuvers), and by 1815 its meaning was extended to any rigorous training or strict instruction; probably from the verb. —*v.* 1622, train by or as if with military precision; borrowed from Dutch *drillen*. The meaning of bore a hole is first recorded in English in 1649.

drill² *n.* twilled cotton or linen cloth. 1743, shortened form of *drilling* (1640), alteration of German *Drillich* a heavy, coarse cotton or linen fabric, from Middle High German *drilich* threefold, in reference to the three-threaded method of weaving this fabric, from Old High German *drilūh*, which is itself an alteration of Latin *trilix* (genitive *trilicis*) woven with three sets of threads.

drill³ *n.* baboon of western Africa. 1644, from the baboon's West African name; see MANDRILL.

drink *v.* Probably about 1150 *drinken*, developed from Old English *drincan* (about 725); cognate with Old Frisian *drinka* to drink, Old Saxon *drinkan*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *drinken*, Old High German *trinkan* (modern German *trinken*), Old Icelandic *drekka* (with *kk* from *nk*), Swedish *dricka*, Danish *drikke*, and Gothic *drinkan*, from Proto-Germanic **drinkanān*. —*n.* Probably before 1200 *drinke*, developed from Old English (about 888) *drinc* beverage, from *drincan* to drink.

drip *v.* Probably about 1300 *dripen* drop down; later, fall in drops (1440), probably borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Danish *dryppe* to drip, Old Icelandic *dreyppa* let fall in drops). No clear evidence exists for an Old English source for Middle English *dripen*. However, Old English had other related verbs: *drypan* to let drop, *dropian* fall in drops, and *drēopan* to drop. —*n.* 1440 *dryppe*, from the verb.

drive *v.* Probably about 1175 *driven* to chase, drive; developed from Old English (about 725) *drīfan*; cognate with Old Frisian *drīva* to drive, Old Saxon *drīban*, Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *driven* (modern Dutch *drijven*), Old High German *trīban* (modern German *treiben*), Old Icelandic *drīfa* (Swedish *driva*, Danish *drive*), from Proto-Germanic **drībanan*. —*n.* 1697, from the verb. The meaning of an excursion in a vehicle is first recorded in 1785. —**driveway** *n.* (1875)

drivel *v.* Probably about 1350 *dravelen* dribble (saliva), speak nonsense; 1378 *dryvelen*; developed from Old English (about 1000) *dreftian* (earlier **dræftian*) to dribble or run at the nose, from Proto-Germanic **drablōjanan*.

drizzle *v.* 1543 *drysling* shedding a fine spray of drops; possibly an alteration of earlier *drysning* a falling of dew, etc. (probably before 1400), from *drysnen* to fall; developed from Old English *-drysian* (about 950), related to *drēosan* to fall; for the possible suffix see *-LE*³. —*n.* 1554, from the verb.

droll *adj.* 1623, borrowed from French *drôle* odd, comical, funny, originally (in Middle French) a noun meaning a merry fellow, possibly from Middle Dutch *drol* fat little fellow, goblin.

dromedary *n.* Probably about 1280, a fleet camel bred for riding; borrowed through Old French *dromadaire*, from Late Latin *dromedarius* kind of camel, for Latin *dromas* (genitive *dromados*), from Greek *dromās kāmēlos* running camel, from *dromos* a race course, for suffix see -ARY.

drone *n.* 1127 *drane* male honeybee; developed from Old English *dran* (about 1000), *dræn* (about 1050), from Proto-Germanic **dran-*; cognate with (possible Old Saxon *dran*, *dreno* drone, though perhaps a dictionary word) Middle Low German *drane*, *drone*, Old High German *treno* drone, Norwegian *drynja* to roar, Gothic *drunjus* sound. The form *drone* appeared in 1475 and later in 1508, *dron* bee. The sense of a deep continuous humming sound, apparently from the verb, is first recorded between 1500 and 1520. The figurative meaning of a lazy worker (because the male bee is a nonworker) is first recorded in English before 1529. —*v.* 1500–20, probably from the noun.

drool *v.* 1802 *drule*, *dreul*; later *drool* (1867–69); apparently a dialectal variant or contraction of *DRIVEL*. —*n.* 1867–69, from the verb.

droop *v.* Before 1300 *drupen* to sag or hang down, to be downcast, grieve; later, about 1333–52, *droupen*; borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *drūpa* hang the head; droop); related to Old English *dropian* to DROP. —*n.* 1647, from the verb.

drop *n.* About 1150 *drope* disease characterized by spots; later, smallest quantity of a liquid (before 1200); developed from Old English *dropa* (about 725), from Proto-Germanic **drupōn*. Old English *dropa* is cognate with Old Saxon *dropo* drop, Middle Dutch *droppe* (modern Dutch *drop*), Old High German *tröpfō* (modern German *Tropfen*), Old Icelandic *dropi* drop (Swedish *droppe*), *drjūpa* to drop, drip, Old High German *triofan* (modern German *triefen*). —*v.* About 1300 *droppen*, developed from Old English (about 1000) *dropian* fall in drops, related to *drēopan* to drop, drip, *dropa* a drop. —**droplet** *n.* 1607, formed from English *drop*, *n.* + *-let*. —**dropper** *n.* 1700, a distiller; later, small glass tube from which liquid may be made to fall in drops (1889); formed from *drop*, *v.* + *-er*¹.

dropsy *n.* About 1250 *dropesie* condition in which watery fluid collects in body tissues, shortened form of *idropesie*; borrowed from Old French *idropisie*, from Latin *hydrōpisis*; also, a shortened form of English *hydropsy*, borrowed from Latin *hydrōpisis*, from Greek *hýdrōps* (genitive *hýdrōpos*) dropsy.

dross *n.* About 1384 *drosse*, earlier *dros* (probably before 1200); developed from Old English (about 1050) *drōs* dirt, dregs, which is most closely related to Middle Low German *drōs*, and Middle Dutch *droes*; also to the longer form Old English *drōsna* (genitive plural dregs), which is cognate with Old High German *truosana* lees, dregs (modern German *Drusen*, pl.), Middle Dutch *droesen* lees, dregs. Old English *drōs* and its Middle Low

German and Middle Dutch cognates are from Proto-Germanic **drōhs-*.

drought *n.* About 1380 *droughte* dryness, long period of dryness; earlier *drught* (before 1325, Northern dialect); developed from Old English (before 1100) *drūgath*, *drūgoth*, from Proto-Germanic **drūgōthuz*, related to *drūgian* dry up, wither, from *drūg-*, the base of *drýge* DRY. The Old English *drūgath*, *drūgoth* also developed into *drouth*, *drowth* and the forms with *-th* and *-t* have varied as also found in *highth* and *height*.

drove *n.* About 1250 *drof*, earlier, in a place name *Bradedrave* (1220); developed from Old English (971) *drāf* act of driving, from *drīfan* to DRIVE. —**drover** *n.* 1393–94, person who drives livestock; earlier, as a surname *Drovere* (1287–93).

drown *v.* About 1325 *drounen*, *drunen* die by submersion in water, perhaps developed from Old English **drūnian* (compare Middle English *druncnen* to drown, probably before 1200; developed from Old English *druncnian*, about 950; cognate with Old Icelandic *drúkn* to drown, be swallowed up by water; from the base of Old English *drincan* to DRINK).

drowsy *adj.* Before 1529 *drowsie*; probably adapted from Old English *drūsan* (about 725, in *Beowulf*), *drūsan* sink, become low, slow, or inactive (related to *drōsan* to fall) + *-y*¹. —**drowse** *v.* 1596, to be drowsy; earlier, be inactive or sluggish (1573); probably a back formation of *drowsy*, as there is a gap of almost 600 years between the use of *drowse* in Old English and its appearance in early Modern English.

drub *v.* 1634, used in an Eastern context to describe a bastinado (a kind of beating with a stick), of uncertain origin; perhaps from Arabic *daraba* he beat up.

drudge *v.* About 1385 *druggen* do menial or monotonous work; earlier *drugunge*, gerund (before 1250); apparently related to Old English *drēogan* to work, suffer, endure; cognate with Old Icelandic *drýgja* do, carry out, accomplish, and Gothic *drīgan* serve as a soldier. The spelling *drudge*, first recorded in 1494, 1549 suggests **drygean* in Old English, but no such form is known. Such an assertion is based upon the fact that in early Middle English, or perhaps late Old English, the sounds represented by *-cg* in Old English *brycg*, *ecg*, *wecg*, and later *-gg* in Middle English *brigge*, *egge*, *wegge*, developed into the sound represented by *-dge* or *-ge* in *bridge*, *edge*, *wedge*. The spelling change took place for the most part from the 1400's to the 1600's. —*n.* 1494, from the verb. —**drudgery** *n.* 1550, from English *drudge* + *-ery*.

drug *n.* About 1387–95 *drogge* medicinal substance, borrowed from Old French *drogue*, of uncertain origin; perhaps from Middle Dutch *droge*, or Middle Low German *droge-* in *droge-fate* dry-barrels, with *droge-* taken as the name of the barrels' contents; see DRY. In the 1300's and 1400's, there was confusion between *drogge* drug and *dragge* spice mixture. The specific application to narcotics and opiates is first recorded in the 1880's, although the association of drugs with poisons goes back to the 1500's. —*v.* 1605, mix with a drug, especially a poisonous drug, from the noun. The meaning of give drugs to

a person, especially to stupefy or poison, is first recorded in English in 1730. —**druggist** n. (1611)

druid or **Druid** n. 1509 *Druidan*, translation of Latin *Druidae*, pl.; later *Druid* (1563), borrowed from Old French *druide*, learned borrowing of Latin *Druidae*, pl., from Gaulish *Druides* (compare Old Irish *drui* wizard).

drum n. 1427–30 *dromme*, probably borrowed from Middle Dutch *tromme* drum; compare Middle High German and Middle Low German *trumme*, *trummel* drum (modern German *Trommel*), Danish and Norwegian *tromme*, Swedish *trumma*, all probably of imitative origin. —v. 1578, from the noun. To drum up business, to solicit orders, canvass, originated in American English and is first recorded in 1839. —**drummer** n. 1573–78, formed probably from English *drum*, v. + *-er*¹. —**drumstick** n. (1589)

drunkard n. 1275, as a surname *Druncard*, formed from Middle English *dronken* participial adjective + *-ard*.

drupe n. 1753, borrowed from New Latin *drupa*, from Latin *druppa* very ripe olive, from Greek *drýppā*, shortened from *drypepēs* tree-ripened (used of black olives), from *dry-* (representing *dry's* TREE) + *pépōn* ripe; see COOK.

dry adj. About 1250 *drie*; earlier in a place name *Driebi* (1130), and dialectal *drue* (before 1200); developed from Old English *drýge* (before 900); cognate with Middle Dutch *druge*, *drōge* dry (modern Dutch *droog*), Old High German *truochan* (modern German *trocken*), and probably with Old Icelandic *draugr* dry wood. Related to DROUGHT and DRUG. —v. Before 1325 *drien*; earlier dialectal *druyen* (about 1300); developed from Old English *drýgan* (before 900), from *drýge* dry. —**dryer** n. a machine for drying (1874), and **drier** n. a person or thing that dries (1528); both forms from English *dry*, v. + *-er*¹.

dual adj. 1607, borrowed from Latin *duālis*, from *duo* TWO; for suffix see *-AL*¹. Latin *duālis* is supposed to have been a translation by Quintilian of Greek *dyikós* (in *arithmōs ho dyikós* the dual number). —**dualism** n. 1794, borrowed from French *dualisme*, from Latin *duālis* dual; for suffix see *-ISM*. —**duality** n. About 1385 *dualite*, borrowed from Old French *dualité*, from Late Latin *duālitātem* (nominative *duālitās*), from Latin *duālis* dual; for suffix see *-ITY*.

dub¹ v. give a title to, call, name. Probably before 1200 *dubben* confer knighthood on; developed from Old English *dubbian* (1085); perhaps borrowed from Old French *aduber*, *adouber* equip with arms, adorn, a word of uncertain origin. Before 1338 the sense was extended to invest with a new title, and this, in turn, extended by 1599 to provide with a name, style, nickname.

dub² v. add or alter sounds on film. 1929, alteration and shortening of DOUBLE, v.; so called because it involves re-recording or doubling of voices on the sound track.

dubious adj. 1548, borrowed from Latin *dubiōsus* doubtful, from *dubium* doubt, neuter of *dubius* doubtful from *duo* TWO (i.e. of two minds, undecided between two things).

ducal adj. 1494, borrowed from Middle French *ducal*, from Late Latin *ducālis*, from Latin *dux* (genitive *ducis*) leader, in Medieval Latin, governor; for suffix see *-AL*¹.

ducat n. About 1380, Venetian coin; borrowed from Old French *ducat*, from Italian *ducato*, from Medieval Latin *ducatus* duchy, coin, from *dux* (genitive *ducis*) duke, so called from the title or effigy of the duke who issued it stamped on the coin.

Traditionally, it is said that the Byzantine Emperor Constantine Ducas had his name stamped on coins. Later, a silver coin was issued by Roger II of Sicily, as Duke of Apulia, in 1140 with the inscription *R DX AP* (Rogerius Dux Apuliae).

duchess n. Probably before 1300; borrowed from Old French *duchesse*, from Late or Medieval Latin *ducissa*, feminine of *dux*; see DUKE.

duchy n. Before 1338 *duche*, borrowed from Old French *duché*, from Medieval Latin *ducatus*, from *dux* (genitive *ducis*) duke, from Latin *dux* leader; see DUKE.

duck¹ n. swimming bird. Probably before 1300 *doke*, earlier in a surname *Dukeswrd* (1216); developed from Old English (967) *dūce* (found only in the genitive *dūcan*) a duck; literally, a ducker, possibly from **dūcan* to duck, dive; see DUCK². The form *duck* is first recorded about 1420. —**duckling** n. Before 1425, (in the erroneous form *dukyng*) formed from Middle English *doke* + *-ling*.

duck² v. dip, plunge. Before 1325 *duken*, later *douken* (before 1400); developed possibly from Old English **dūcan* to duck, dive (found only in the derivative *dūce* a duck). Middle English *duken* is cognate with Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *dūken* to dip, dive, Old High German *tūhhan* to dip (modern German *tauchen* dive, plunge). The sense of bend or stoop quickly, is first recorded in English in 1530. —n. 1554, rapid lowering of head or body; later, quick plunge, dip (1843); from the verb.

duck³ n. cotton cloth. 1640, borrowed from Dutch *doek* linen cloth or light canvas, from Middle Dutch *doec*; cognate with Old Saxon and Old Frisian *dōk*, and Old High German *tuoh* (modern German *Tuch*), all meaning cloth, but of unknown origin.

duct n. 1650, course, direction, from Latin *ductus* (genitive *ductūs*) a leading, past participle of *dūcere* to lead. The meaning of a tube, pipe, or channel conveying fluids, is first recorded in 1667.

ductile adj. About 1340 *ductil* hammered or shaped with a hammer; borrowed through Old French *ductile*, or directly from Latin *ductilis* that may be drawn, extended or hammered out thin, from *ductus*, past participle of *dūcere* to lead + *-ilis* an adjective suffix meaning capacity, ability, quality.

dud n. 1307 *dudde* cloak or mantle, perhaps made of coarse cloth; later *duds* ragged clothing (1508); of uncertain origin. The meaning was extended in 1825 to a person in ragged clothing, and in 1908 to a useless, inefficient person or thing; in World War I it was applied to a shell which failed to explode; hence, failure.

dude *n.* 1883, a man who is very fastidious in dress, speech, and manner. The word came into vogue in New York and is of unknown origin. Later it was also applied to a city slicker, especially an Easterner vacationing in the West. The slang sense of any male, is first recorded about 1970. —**dude ranch** (1921)

dudgeon *n.* anger, resentment (usually in the phrase *in high dudgeon*). 1573 *duggin*, of unknown origin.

due *adj.* Probably about 1350 *dewe* customary, regular, suitable, owed as a duty; borrowed from Old French *deü*, past participle of *devoir* to owe, from Latin *dēbēre* to owe, see DEBT. —**adv.** 1597, duly; 1601, directly; from the adjective. —**n.** 1423–24, from the adjective.

duel *n.* About 1475 *duelle*; borrowed from Medieval Latin *duellum* combat between two persons (a sense developed from association with Latin *duo* TWO), from Latin *duellum* war (early form of *bellum*), a graphic revival from Old Latin *duellum* (i.e. *duellum*). —**v.** About 1645, from the noun. —**duelist** *n.* 1592, probably formed from English *duel*, *n.* + *-ist*, on the model of Italian *duellista* and French *duelliste*.

duet *n.* 1740, replacing *duetto* (1724); borrowed from Italian *duetto* short musical composition for two voices, diminutive of *duo* DUO. —**v.** 1822, from the noun.

duffel or **duffle** *n.* 1677, borrowed from Dutch *duffel*, from *Duffel*, town near Antwerp, where the cloth was originally sold. The term *duffel bag*, a cylindrical canvas bag, is first recorded in 1917.

dugout *n.* 1) 1722, American English, boat made by hollowing out a large log. 2) 1855, a rough shelter. Both formed from *dug*, *v.* + *out*. The sense of a shelter at the side of a baseball field is first recorded in 1914.

duke *n.* 1129 *duc* sovereign prince; borrowed from Old French *duc*, and from Latin *dux* (genitive *ducis*) leader, commander (in Late Latin, governor of a province), from *dūcere* to lead. The meaning of a nobleman of high or highest rank, is first recorded in English probably about 1350.

dulcet *adj.* About 1450 *dulcet* sweet or pleasant, to the ear; earlier *doucet* (probably about 1425); borrowed from Old French *doucet*, diminutive of *doux* (earlier *dulz*) sweet, from Latin *dulcis*, for suffix see -ET.

dulcimer *n.* Probably 1474 *dousemer*, borrowed from Middle French *doulce mer*, variant of *doulcemele* and probably *doulz de mer*, said to represent Latin *dulce* sweet + *melos* song, from Greek *mélōs* MELODY.

dull *adj.* Probably about 1200 *dul* not sharp of wit, stupid; later *dulle* blunt, not sharp (about 1230); apparently related to Old English (about 975) *dol* dull-witted, foolish (from Proto-Germanic **dulaz*) which is cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *dol* foolish, Old High German *tol* (modern German *toll* mad, wild), and Gothic *duvals* foolish. The sense of boring is first recorded in 1590. —**v.** Probably about 1200, to make stupid; from the adjective. —**dullard** *n.* About 1440, earlier as a surname (1225).

duly *adv.* About 1380 *duweliche* rightly, properly, later *duli* (before 1395); formed from *dewe* due + *-liche* -ly¹.

dumb *adj.* Old English *dumb* (about 1000); cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *dumb* mute, Middle Dutch *dom*, *domp* (modern Dutch *dom* stupid), Old High German *tumb*, *tump* mute, stupid, deaf (modern German *dumm* stupid), Old Icelandic *dumbr* mute (Swedish *dum* stupid), and Gothic *dumbs* mute, speechless. The sense of stupid, foolish, senseless, is first recorded probably before 1200. —**dumbbell** *n.* 1711, exercising device. The figurative meaning of a blockhead, is first recorded in 1920, in American English.

dumfound or **dumbfound** *v.* 1653, formed from English DUMB + (CON)FOUND.

dummy *n.* 1598, mute person, formed from English DUMB + *-y*³; by 1796, extended to blockhead and before 1845 to a figure representing a person.

dump *v.* About 1333–52 *dompen* to throw down or fall with force; perhaps borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Danish *dumpe*, Norwegian *dumpa*, Swedish *dimpa* to fall with a thud). The sense of throw down (rubbish, etc.), unload in a mass, is first recorded in 1784, in American English. —**n.** 1784 *dump(s)*, American English, place where refuse is dumped; from the verb. The sense of any shabby place, is first recorded in 1899, in American English. —**dumps** *n.pl.* 1529 *dumpes*, low spirits, plural of earlier *dumpe* a fit of musing, reverie, (1523); of uncertain origin. The form corresponds to Dutch *domp* haze, mist, from Middle Dutch *damp* vapor. —**dump truck** (1930, American English, replacing *dump wagon*, 1869). —**dummy** *adj.* short and fat (1750).

dumpling *n.* About 1600 *dumplin*, of uncertain origin; perhaps formed in English from Low German *dump* damp, moist, heavy + English *-ling*.

dun¹ *v.* Before 1626, persistently demand payment of a debt; of uncertain origin, perhaps as an extended sense of an earlier verb *dunnen* to sound, resound, make a din (probably before 1200); dialectal variant of DIN. —**n.** 1628, perhaps from the verb.

dun² *adj.* dull brown. Before 1325 *dune*, developed from Old English (953) *dunn*, perhaps from Celtic (compare Old Irish *donn* dark). —**n.** About 1390, name for a dun horse; earlier as a surname *Dun* (1180); from the adjective.

dunce *n.* 1577 *Duns* stupid person, from earlier *Duns man* a follower of John *Duns* Scotus (1527). Scotus was a Scottish theologian whose teachings were discredited by the humanists, and who ridiculed the Duns men as hairsplitting reasoners and sophists. Later the name meant any student who showed no capacity to learn, in short, a dull-witted person. The spelling *Dunce* is first recorded in 1530.

dune *n.* 1790, borrowed from French *dune*, from Old French *dune*, from Middle Dutch *dūnen* (modern Dutch *duin*) or Middle Low German *dūne*, perhaps from Gaulish **dūnom*; cognate with Old Irish *dūn* fort, Welsh *dinas* city, and Old English *tūn* TOWN, see DOWN³ grassy hill.

dung *n.* Old English *dung* manure (about 1000); cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *dung* manure, Old High German *tunga* manuring, *tung* underground room covered with manure (for protection against cold), modern German *Dung*, and (with vowel change) Icelandic *dyngja* heap of manure, dung, Swedish *dynga* dung, muck, and Danish *dyng* heap, mass, pile. —**dunghill** *n.* About 1330 *donghel*, later *dunghil* (about 1450).

dungaree *n.* 1696, coarse cotton cloth; earlier *dongerijns* (1613); borrowed from Hindi *dungrī*. —**dungarees** *n.pl.* trousers made of dungaree. 1891, from the singular noun.

dungeon *n.* Before 1325 *dunjon* great tower of a castle; borrowed from Old French *donjon*, from Gallo-Romance **dominionem*, from Late Latin *dominium*, from Latin *dominus* master (of the castle). The variant *donjon* took on the original meaning of this word; the form *dungeon* developed the specialized sense of strong close cell, which is first recorded before 1338.

dunk *v.* 1919, American English; borrowed from Pennsylvania German *dunke* to dip, from Middle High German *dunken*, *tunken*, from Old High German *dunkōn*, *thunkōn*. The meaning in basketball is first recorded in 1955.

duo *n.* 1590, song for two voices; borrowed possibly through French *duo*, from Italian *duo* duet, from Latin *duo* TWO.

duodecimal *n.* **duodecimals**, 1714; borrowed from Latin *duodecim* twelfth, from *duodecim* twelve; see DOZEN; for suffix see -AL¹. —**adj.** 1727, from the noun.

duodenum *n.* Before 1398, earlier *duodene* (1379); borrowed from Medieval Latin *duodenum digitorum* space of twelve digits, from Latin *duodēni* twelve each (from its length, about equal to the breadth of twelve fingers), from *duodecim* twelve. —**duodenal** *adj.* 1817, a formation in English from Latin *duodēni* twelve each + English -al¹ or borrowed perhaps through French *duodénal* from New Latin *duodenalis*.

dupe *n.* 1681, borrowed from French *dupe* deceived person, from Middle French *duppe*, probably from the phrase *de huppe* of the hoopoe (a reputedly stupid-looking bird). —**v.** 1704, from the noun in English, or borrowed from French *duper*, from *dupe*.

duple *adj.* 1542–43, borrowed from Latin *duplus* DOUBLE. Medieval Latin feminine *dupla* is used earlier as an adjective (two-fold) in a treatise on music (before 1450).

duplex *adj.* 1817, borrowed from Latin *duplex* (du-, from *duo* TWO + -plex; Greek *pláx*, genitive *plakós* flat surface). —**n.** 1922, American English, a house accommodating two families; apartment with rooms on two floors, from the adjective.

duplicate *adj.* Probably before 1425, double, consisting of two parts, borrowed from Latin *uplicātus*, past participle of *uplicāre* to double, (*uplicare* to fold); for suffix see -ATE¹. The meaning of exactly corresponding to something, is first recorded in 1812. —**n.** 1532, from the adjective. —**v.** 1472 *uplicaten* make a second reply; later, to double (1623); borrowed from Latin *uplicātus*, past participle of *uplicāre*; for

suffix see -ATE¹. The meaning of make an exact copy of, is first recorded in 1860. —**duplication** *n.* Before 1500 *uplicacioun*; borrowed through Middle French *uplicacion*, and directly from Latin *uplicatiōnem* (nominative *uplicatiō*), from *uplicāre*; for suffix see -TION. The meaning of a counterpart or copy is first recorded in 1872. An earlier form *uplicacioun* (probably about 1425) had limited use in English.

duplicity *n.* About 1433 *duplycyte* deceitfulness; borrowed from Middle French *uplicité*, from Late Latin *uplicitatem* (nominative *uplicitās*) doubleness (in Medieval Latin, ambiguity), from *duplex* (genitive *uplicis*) twofold, DUPLEX; for suffix see -ITY. —**uplicitous** *adj.* 1928, formed from English *uplicity* + -ous.

durable *adj.* About 1390, borrowed from Old French *durable*, from Latin *dūrābilis* lasting, permanent, from *dūrāre* to last, harden, ENDURE; for suffix see -ABLE. —**durability** *n.* About 1380 *durablete*, borrowed from Old French *durabilité*, from Late Latin *dūrābilitatem* (nominative *dūrābilitās*), from Latin *dūrābilis* durable; for suffix see -ITY.

duration *n.* About 1380 *duracioun*, borrowed from Old French *duration*, from Medieval Latin *durationem* (nominative *duratio*), from Latin *dūrāre* harden, ENDURE; for suffix see -ATION.

duress *n.* About 1330 *duresse* hardship, cruelty, harm, from Old French *duresse*, from Latin *dūritia* hardness, from *dūrus* hard. The sense of confinement, is first recorded in 1414, and that of coercion, before 1420.

during *prep.* Before 1387, developed from 1) *durand* (recorded probably before 1350), originally the present participle of *duren* to last, endure (about 1250); borrowed from Old French *durer*, from Latin *dūrāre* ENDURE; and 2) *duraunt* (recorded as a surname 1206), an adjective and preposition borrowed from Old French *durant*, participle and preposition, from *durer* to last, endure.

The prepositional use arose in imitation of the Latin ablative absolute construction; for example, Latin *dūrante bellō*, literally, while the war endures, (en)during the war. When the participle *during* started to appear before various nouns, it came to be treated as a preposition of time.

dusk *n.* 1622, noun use of earlier adjective *dosk* dark, dim, dusky (probably before 1200), an alteration (by transposition of the sounds *k* and *s* represented in *x*) of Old English *dox* dark-colored (before 1000), and cognate with Old Saxon *dosan* chestnut brown, Old High German *tusin* pale yellow.

Formation of *dusk* is also explained as the adoption of a Northumbrian form of Old English *dox*, **dosc*. —**dusky** *adj.* 1588, formed from English *dusk*, *adj.*, dark, dim + -y¹.

dust *n.* Old English *dūst* (probably about 725); cognate with Old High German *tunst*, *tunist* storm, breath (modern German *Dunst* mist, vapor), from Proto-Germanic **dunstu-z*. —**v.** Probably before 1200 *dusten* rise as dust, from the noun. —**dusty** *adj.* (probably before 1200)

Dutch *adj.* About 1333–52 *Duch* of Germany, German; later *Duch* of Holland and the Netherlands, Dutch (1568); bor-

rowed from Middle Dutch *duutsch*, *dütsch* (modern Dutch *Duits* German). The term corresponds to Old English *thēodisc* belonging to the people (in particular reference to the popular or national language), Old Saxon *thiudisc*, Old High German *diutisc* of the German people (modern German *deutsch*), and Gothic *thiudiskō* after the manner of the heathens or gentiles. The Old English *thēodisc* is from *thēod* people, race, nation (from Proto-Germanic **theudō*) + the suffix *-isc* *-ish*.

The original sense of Middle English *Duch* of Germany, German, survives by coincidence in the name *Pennsylvania Dutch* a people who came to America from Germany.

duty *n.* Probably 1383 *dewete* moral or legal obligation; borrowed from Anglo-French *dueté*, from *du*, *due*, variant of Old French *deū* DUE; for suffix see *-ty*². The sense of a tax, fee, or other charge owed to a government, church, guild, or municipality, is first recorded probably in 1377. —**dutiful** *adj.* 1552, formed from English *duty* + *-ful*.

dwarf *n.* Probably before 1300 *dwerew*, later *dwerif* (before 1325) and *dwergh* (probably before 1350); developed from Old English *dweorh* (Late West Saxon) and from *duerg* (early Mercurian, about 700); cognate with Old Frisian *dwerch* dwarf, Old Saxon *dwerig*, Old High German *tuerg* (modern German *Zwerg*), Old Icelandic *dvergr* (Swedish *dvärg*, Danish *dverg*), and *dýrgja* female dwarf, from Proto-Germanic **dweraz*. —**adj.** 1597, from the noun. —**v.** Before 1626, from the noun. —**dwarfish** *adj.* 1565–73, formed from English *dwarf*, *adj.* + *-ish*.

dwel *v.* Probably about 1200 *dwellen* remain, stay, later, reside or dwell (about 1250); developed from Old English (about 725) *dwellan* to mislead, deceive; originally, to make a fool of, lead astray. Old English *dwellen* is cognate with Old High German *twellen* hinder, delay, Old Icelandic *dvelja* tarry, delay (from Proto-Germanic **dwaljanan*), Middle Low German *dwel*, *dwal* senseless, foolish, and Gothic *dwal* foolish; see DULL. —**dweller** *n.* Before 1382, formed from English *dwel* + *-er*¹. —**dwelling** *n.* About 1378, place of residence; earlier, the act or fact of staying (in a place), waiting, (also) delay, lingering (probably before 1300); formed from English *dwel* + *-ing*¹.

dwindle *v.* 1596, apparently a diminutive and frequentative form of Middle English *duinen* waste away, fade, vanish (about 1150); developed from Old English (about 1000) *dwīnan*; cognate with Middle Dutch *dwīnen* to vanish, disappear, and Old Icelandic *dvīna* grow weaker, faint, from Proto-Germanic **dwīnanan*; see DIE; for suffix see *-LE*³.

dye *n.* Before 1300 *dehe*; earlier *deyg* (about 1280); developed from Old English *dēah*, *dēag* (about 1000), and related to *dēagol*, *dēagol* secret, hidden, dark, obscure (from Proto-Germanic **dauzilaz*); cognate with Old Saxon *dōgol* secret, and Old High German *tougal* dark, hidden, secret. —**v.** About 1325 *deyen*; earlier, implied in the agent noun *deyer* (1260); developed from Old English (about 1000) *dēagian*, from *dēag*, *n.*, *dyc*, from Proto-Germanic **dauzō*.

Chaucer used both *dyen* and *deyen*, but Trevisa is the first

writer of record to use *dyen* and *dyled*, the modern form. However, the distinction in spelling between the verbs *die* and *dye* is relatively recent. Johnson in his *Dictionary*, spelled them both *die*; while Addison, his near contemporary, spelled both *dye*. —**dyer** *n.* 1286, in a surname *Dyere*; earlier *Deghar* (1260); from the Middle English *deien*, *v.* + *-er*¹. —**dyeing** *n.* 1400, the act or process of dyeing; earlier, a dyed cloth (about 1395).

dynamic *adj.* 1817, borrowed from French *dynamique*, from New Latin *dynamicus* or German *dynamisch* (introduced by the German philosopher Leibniz in 1691); both from Greek *dynamikós* powerful, from *dýnamis* power, from *dýnasthai* be able, have power; for suffix see *-ic*.

dynamite *n.* 1867, coined as Swedish *dynamit* by the inventor Alfred Nobel, from Greek *dýnamis* power + Swedish *-it* *-ite*¹; see DYNAMIC.

dynamo *n.* 1882 short for earlier *dynamo-electric machine* (1875), invented and named in 1867 as German *Dynamo(elektrische)maschine*, from Greek *dýnamis* power; see DYNAMIC.

dynasty *n.* Before 1464, borrowed from Middle French *dynastie*, and perhaps directly through Late Latin *dynastia*, from Greek *dynastelā* power, lordship, from *dýnastēs* ruler, chief, from *dýnasthai* have power. Late Middle English *dynastie* replaced the earlier *dynastia* (recorded before 1387), which was probably borrowed directly from Greek *dynastelā*. —**dynast** *n.* 1631, hereditary ruler; one in power; borrowed from Late Latin *dynastēs*, and directly from Greek *dýnastēs* ruler. —**dynastic** *adj.* 1828, earlier as a noun (1623); formed from English *dynasty* + *-ic*, on the model of Greek *dýnastikós*, from *dýnastēs* ruler, chief.

dyne *n.* 1873, unit of force, formed in English from Greek *dýnamis* power; see DYNAMIC.

French *dyne* in this sense was borrowed in 1881 from English. In a different sense, *dyne* was proposed in France as the name of a unit as early as 1842, and this proposal may have influenced the English coinage.

dys- + a prefix meaning bad, abnormal, difficult, as in *dysfunction*, *dystopia*. Borrowed from Greek *dys-* bad, difficult.

dysentery *n.* About 1384 *dissenterie*, borrowed from Old French *dissenterie*, learned borrowing from Latin *dysenteria*, from Greek *dysenteria* (*dys-* + *éntera* intestines, bowels); for suffix see *-Y*³.

dyslexia *n.* 1886–88, borrowing through German *Dyslexie*; (from Greek *dys-* bad + *léx(is)* word, from *légein* speak in reference to reading aloud + *-ia*, of condition or quality). —**dyslexic** *adj.* 1961, formed from English *dyslex(ia)* + *-ic*. —**n.** person with dyslexia. 1961, from the adjective.

dyspepsia *n.* 1706, possibly a back formation of English *dyspeptic*, or borrowed from Latin *dyspepsia*, from Greek *dyspepsia* (*dys-* bad + *pépsis* digestion, from *peptein*, *pésein* to digest, + *-ia*, of condition or quality). —**dyspeptic** *adj.* 1694, borrowed from Greek *dýsseptos* hard to digest (*dys-* bad +

peptós digested, from *peptein* to digest; see COOK); for suffix see -IC.

dysprosium *n.* 1886, New Latin, from Greek *dysprósiton* (neuter of *dysprósitos* hard to approach, *dys-* bad, difficult +

prósitos approachable, from *pros* up to + *-itos*, verbal adjective of *iénai* to go) + New Latin *-ium*; so called from its rarity in nature.

E

e- a form of the prefix *ex-*¹, meaning out of, from, out, appearing in words of Latin origin before consonants other than *c, f, p, q, s*, and *t*, as in *educe*, *eject*, *elect*, *evade*. It also appears without restriction in scientific terms in the meaning of not, without, as in the biological term *ecarinate* without a keel (*e-* without + *carinate*, from Latin *carīna* keel).

each *adj.* Probably before 1200 *elch*, *æche*, also *euch* and *ech*; developed from Old English (before 830) *ǣlc*, originally a compound meaning “ever alike,” (*ǣ* ever + *gelic* alike); cognate with Old Frisian *ellik*, *elk* each, and Middle Dutch *ēlic*, *elc*, modern Dutch *elk*; see AY¹ and ALIKE. The spelling *each* began to appear in the late 1500’s.

eager *adj.* About 1275 *egre* impatient, eager; later, keen, sharp, fierce, impetuous (probably before 1300); borrowed from Old French *aigre*, from Vulgar Latin **ācris*, corresponding to Latin *ācer* (genitive *ācris*) keen, sharp; see ACRID. The spelling *eager* appeared at the end of the 1500’s.

eagle *n.* Before 1338 *egle*, borrowed from Old French *egle*, from Old Provençal *aigla*, from Latin *aquila*, originally black eagle, feminine of *aquilus* dark-colored. The spelling *eagle* developed in the 1600’s.

ear¹ *n.* organ of hearing. Probably before 1200 *ere*, *eir*, *eare*; developed from Old English (before 1000) *ĕare*; cognate with Old Frisian *āre* ear (modern Frisian *ear*), Old Saxon *ōre*, *ōra*, Middle Dutch *ōre* (modern Dutch *oor*), Old High German *ōra* (modern German *Ohr*), Old Icelandic *eyra* (Swedish *öra*, Danish and Norwegian *øre*), from Proto-Germanic **auzōn*. —**ear**² *n.* (1645) —**earmark** *n.* (before 1460); *v.* (1591) —**earring** *n.* Before 1382, developed from Old English *ĕar-hring* (about 1000).

ear² *n.* part of corn, wheat, etc. containing the grains. Probably before 1200 *ear*, developed from Old English (before 800) *ĕar* (West Saxon), *eher*, *æher* (Northumbrian); cognate with Old Frisian *ār* ear of grain, Old Saxon *ahar*, Middle Dutch *aer* (modern Dutch *aar*), Old High German *ahir* (modern German *ähre*), Old Icelandic *ax*, Gothic *ahs*, *ahana* chaff, from Proto-Germanic **aHaz*, genitive **aHizaz*.

earl *n.* About 1300 *erl*, developed from Old English (perhaps

before 616) *eorl* man, warrior, nobleman. The Old English *eorl* may be contrasted with a *ceorl* CHURL, or ordinary freeman and is cognate with Old Saxon and Old High German *erl* man, nobleman, Old Icelandic *jarl* chieftain, nobleman, and Runic Norse *erilar* designation of a magic-religious function.

early *adv.* Probably before 1200 *erliche*; later *erli* (before 1382); developed from Old English (about 950) *ǣrlīce* (*ǣr* soon, *ERE* + *-līce* -ly¹); possibly formed in imitation of Old Icelandic *ǣrliga* early. —**adj.** Probably before 1200 *earliche*, from the adverb. The spelling *early* appeared at the end of the 1500’s.

earn *v.* Probably before 1200 *ernen*; developed from Old English *earnian* get as a reward for labor (before 899), from Proto-Germanic **aznōjanan*; related to *esne* serf, laborer, man, and cognate with Old Frisian *esna* reward, pay, Old High German *asni* day laborer, *arnōn* to reap, *aren* harvest, crop (modern German *Ernte*), Old Icelandic *qnn* harvest, labor, Gothic *asans* harvest, summer.

The spelling *earn* is found in *earne* (1589), and *yearne* (1591).

earnest¹ *n.* seriousness. About 1250 *ernest*, developed from Old English (about 1000) *eornost*; cognate with Old Saxon *ernust* seriousness, firmness, struggle, Old High German *ernust* (modern German *Ernst* seriousness), Old Icelandic *ern* able, vigorous, Gothic *arniba* securely. —**adj.** Before 1325 *ernest*, developed from Old English (about 1000) *eornoste*, from *eor-nost*, *n.*

earnest² *n.* pledge, surety. Probably about 1200 *ernesse*, apparently an alteration (by association with derivatives in *-ness*) of Old French *erres*, plural of *erre* pledge, from Latin *arra*, *arha*, short forms of *arabō*, *arrhabō*, from Greek *arrhabōn* earnest money, pledge, surety.

The spelling with *t*, which appeared in Middle English before 1400, was influenced by *earnest*¹, with which this word was confused at an early period in the belief that an *earnest* was so called because a transaction or bargain was supposed to be made “in earnest.”

earth *n.* 1137 *erthe*, developed from Old English *eorthe* ground, soil, earth (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *erthe* earth, Old Saxon *ertha*, Middle Dutch *aerde* (modern

Dutch *aarde*), Old High German *erda* (modern German *Erde*), Old Icelandic *jörð* (Swedish, Danish, and Norwegian *jord*), and Gothic *airtha*, from Proto-Germanic **erthō*. —**v.** Probably before 1400, to bury, from the noun. The spelling *earth* appeared in the last half of the 1500's. —**earthen** adj. Before 1325 *erthen*; earlier *eorthene* (probably before 1200); formed probably in Middle English from *erthe*, *eorth* earth + *-en*, *-ene* *-en*². —**earthly** adj. Probably before 1200 *erthlike*, formed in Middle English from *erthe* + *-like* (*-lich*) *-ly*¹; and *eorthlic*, developed from Old English *eorthlic* earthly. —**earthquake** n. About 1280 *eorthequakyng*; later *erthe quaque* (about 1325).

earwig n. Probably before 1400 *herewyck*, from *erewyge* (about 1450); developed from Old English (about 1000) *ēarwiga* (*ēare* ear¹ + *wiga* beetle, worm; so called from the former belief that it crawled into people's ears).

ease n. Probably before 1200 *eise* comfort, opportunity; later *ese* (before 1375); borrowed from Old French *aise* comfort, pleasure, of unknown origin.

Old French *aise* suggests derivation from a word ending in a vowel, but the connection is not supported by historical phonetics as Vulgar Latin **adjacēs*, **adjacēns* would give Old French **aises* (compare Latin *infāns* the source of Old French *enfes*). Moreover, there is a semantic gap between French *aise* comfort, pleasure, and Latin *adjacēns* lying near, neighboring, adjacent. —**v.** About 1300 *aisen* to help, assist, borrowed from Old French *aaisier* set at ease. —**easement** n. About 1390 *esement* compensation, redress, borrowed probably through Anglo-French *aisement*, from Old French *aaisement* (*aaisier* to put at ease + *-ment* *-ment*). The meaning in law of limited right to use something belonging to another is first recorded in English in 1405.

easel n. 1596 *eazill*, borrowed from Dutch *ezel* *easel*, ass, from Middle Dutch *esel*, an irregular borrowing (compare Gothic *asilus*) from Latin *asinus* ASS or possibly from its diminutive form *asellus*.

east adv. Probably before 1200 *esten*, developed from Old English *ēasten*, from the east (about 725), and *ēast* in or toward the east (before 900); cognate with Old Frisian *āst* east, *āster* eastward, from the east, Old Saxon *ōst* east, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *oost*, Old High German *ōstan* east (modern German *Osten*), *ōstar* eastward, and Old Icelandic *aust* from the east, from Proto-Germanic **austa-*, *austra-*. —**adj.** Probably before 1200, found in Old English compounds such as *ēast-dæl* eastern part (the first element regarded as a separate word). —**n.** About 1225 *est*, developed from Old English *ēast* (before 900). —**easterly** adj. 1548, formed from earlier *easter* (before 1387 *ester*) variant of *eastern* + *-ly*², on the pattern of *westerly*. —**eastern** adj. Before 1387 *esterne*; developed from Old English (about 875) *ēasterne* (*ēast* east + *-erne*, suffix denoting direction); cognate with Old Saxon *ōstrōni* eastern, Old High German *ōstrōni*, and Old Icelandic *austrōnn*. —**eastward** adv. Before 1200, developed from Old English (959) *ēastwærde* (*ēast* + *-wærd* *-ward*).

Easter n. 1103 *Eastran* festival commemorating the resurrection of Christ, and corresponding to the Jewish Passover, to which the name *Easter* (Middle English *Esterne*, *Ester*) was also

applied, as recorded before 1387. *Easter* developed from Old English *Eastre* (before 899). Originally *Eastre* was the name of a Germanic goddess whose feast was celebrated at the spring equinox, and is cognate with Old High German *ōstarūn*, pl., *Easter* (modern German *Ostern*). Old English *Eastre* ultimately derives from *ēast* east, indicating that it originally referred to the goddess of dawn, corresponding to the Roman goddess *Aurōra* and the Greek goddess *Eōs*. —**Easter egg** (1825, replacing earlier *pace egg*, *paste-egg*, 1611)

easy adj. Probably before 1200 *aisie* able, having opportunity; later *esi* (about 1378); borrowed from Old French *aisié* (modern French *aisé*), past participle of *aaisier*, to put at ease, from *aise* EASE. The sense of not difficult, is first recorded about 1280, perhaps influenced by *ease*, n. —**adv.** Before 1400, from the adjective. —**easily** adv. About 1290 *aisieliche* with little effort, formed from *aisie* + *-liche* *-ly*¹. —**easiness** n. Probably before 1425 *esynnez*, formed from *esy*, *esi* (later spellings of *aisie*) + *-nez*, *-nes* *-ness*.

eat v. Probably 1140 *eten*, developed from Old English (about 725) *etan*, past tense *æt* ate, past participle *eten* eaten; cognate with Old Frisian *īta*, *eta* to eat (modern Frisian *ite*), Old Saxon *etan*, Middle Dutch *ēten* (modern Dutch *eten*), Old High German *ezzan* (modern German *essen*), Old Icelandic *eta* (Swedish *äta*), and Gothic *itan*, from Proto-Germanic **etanan*. —**eatable** adj. About 1384 *etable*, formed from *eten* + *-able*.

eaves n. pl. Probably before 1200 *eovese*, in Southwest Midland dialect; later *evese*, singular (before 1325, in Southeast Midland); developed from Old English *efes* edge of a roof (before 1000); earlier, edge of a woods (894). Old English *efes*, *yfes* is cognate with Old Frisian *ose* eaves, Old High German *obasa* eaves, porch, Old Icelandic *ups* eaves, and Gothic *ubizwai* (dative singular) porch, from Proto-Germanic **ubaswa-*, *ubiswa-*. —**eavesdrop** v. 1606, probably a back formation from *eavesdropper* one who listens secretly to conversation (probably about 1450), developed from earlier *eavesdrop* space on the ground on which rainwater drops from the eaves (1449). Middle English *eavesdrop* is apparently an alteration (influenced by *drop*) of Old English *yfesdripe* the dripping of rainwater from the eaves (*efes*, *yfes* eaves + *dryppan* to DRIP).

ebb n. About 1190 *ebbe*, developed from Old English (before 1000) *ebba*; cognate with Old Frisian *ebba* ebb, Old Saxon *ebbiunga*, Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *ebbe* (modern Dutch *eb*), Old Icelandic *efja* countercurrent in a stream, from Proto-Germanic **abjōn*. The figurative sense of a decline, decay, is first recorded before 1398. —**v.** Probably before 1200 *ebben*; developed from Old English *ebbian* (before 1000), from *ebba* ebb. —**ebb tide** (1837).

ebony n. 1597, apparently alteration of earlier *hebenyf* (about 1384); borrowed perhaps as *hebenivus* a misreading of Late Latin *hebenivus* of ebony, from Greek *ebēninos*, from *ēbenos* ebony. —**adj.** 1598, from the noun.

ebullient adj. 1599, boiling, agitated; borrowed from Latin *ēbullientem*, present participle of *ēbullire* to spout out, burst out (*ē-* out, + *bullire* to bubble, BOIL¹). The figurative sense of enthusiastic, is first recorded in 1664. —**ebullience** n. 1749,

formed from *ebullient* + *-ence*, on the analogy of *affluent*, *affluence*, etc.

ec- a prefix, form of *ex*-, meaning from, out of, appearing in words of Greek origin before consonants, as in *eclectic*, *eclipse*, *ecstasy*.

eccentric *adj.* 1551, (of a circle) not having the same center, possibly from the earlier noun, but more likely borrowed from Medieval Latin *eccentricus*, from Greek *ékcentros* out of the center (*ek-*, *ex-* out + *kéntron* CENTER); for suffix see *-ic*. The figurative sense of odd, whimsical, is first recorded about 1630. —**n.** Probably before 1430, a circle or orbit not having the earth precisely in its center; borrowed from Middle French *excentrique* and Medieval Latin *eccentricus*, both adjectives used as nouns. The meaning of one who behaves in an unusual manner, is first recorded in 1832. —**eccentricity** *n.* 1545, formed from *eccentric* + *-ity*. The figurative sense of oddity, is first recorded in 1657.

ecclesiastic *adj.* 1483, possibly a shortening of earlier *ecclesiastical* (probably before 1425), or borrowed through Middle French *ecclésiastique*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Late Latin *ecclēsiasticus*, from Greek *ekklēsiastikós* of the ancient Athenian assembly, (later) of the church, from *ekklēsiastēs* speaker in an assembly or church, preacher; for suffix see *-ic*.

echelon *n.* 1796, steplike arrangement of troops, borrowing of French *échelon* level, echelon, literally, round or rung of a ladder, from Old French *eschelon*, from *eschiele* ladder, from Late Latin *scāla* stair, slope, from Latin *scālae*, pl., ladder, steps.

The sense of a level or subdivision was established in English in World War I, and by World War II the usage was extended to administrative levels or grades in the civil service and other professions.

A related form *eschele* a troop of soldiers, appears probably before 1300, but not recorded after 1500.

echinoderm *n.* 1835, borrowed from New Latin *Echinodermata*, the phylum name, from Greek *echínos* sea urchin, originally porcupine, hedgehog and *dérma* (genitive *dérmatos*) skin. The name refers to the spiny shell of this sea animal.

echo *n.* 1340 *ecko*, later *echo* (probably before 1430); borrowed from Old French *echo*, and from Latin *ēchō*, from Greek *ēchō*. —**v.** Before 1559, from the noun. —**echoic** *adj.* 1880, formed from English *echo* + *-ic*.

echovirus *n.* 1955, acronym formed from *e*(nteric) *c*(ytopathogenic) *h*(uman) *o*(rphan) *v*irus; originally called "orphan virus" because it was not at first known to cause any of the diseases with which it is associated.

éclair *n.* 1861, borrowing of French *éclair*, literally, lightning, from Old French *esclair*, from *esclairer* to light up, make shine, from Gallo-Romance **exclāriare*, re-formed from Latin *exclārare* light up, illumine (*ex-* out + *clārus* CLEAR).

éclat *n.* Before 1674, notoriety; borrowing of French *éclat* splinter, fragment, (also) flash, brilliance, from *éclater* burst out, splinter, from Old French *esclater*, of uncertain origin. The extended meaning of brilliant success, fame, is first recorded in English in 1741.

eclectic *adj.* 1683, designating a group of ancient Greek philosophers who selected doctrines from every system of thought; borrowed, perhaps through French *éclectique* (1651), from Greek *eklektikós* literally, picking out, selective, from *eklektós* selected, from *eklégein* pick out, select (*ek-*, *ex-* out + *légein* gather, choose); for suffix see *-ic*. The generalized sense of selecting from various sources, broad in acceptance, is first recorded in 1814. —**n.** 1817, an adherent of the eclectic method of philosophy, probably from the English adjective.

eclipse *n.* About 1280, darkening of the sun, moon, etc., by another body; borrowed from Old French *eclipse*, learned borrowing from Latin *eclipsis*, from Greek *ékēipsis* a leaving out, forsaking, an eclipse, from *eklepein* to forsake its usual place, fail to appear, be eclipsed (*ek-* out of, out, from *ex-* + *lepein* to leave). The figurative sense of loss of brilliance, obscuration, is first recorded about 1385. —**v.** About 1280 *eclipsen* cause the eclipse of; from the noun. The figurative sense of obscure, overshadow, is first recorded probably before 1387. —**ecliptic** *n.* 1391, great circle which is the apparent path of the sun, abstracted from *ecliptik lyne*, borrowed from Latin *līnea ecliptica* ecliptic line, from feminine of *eclipticus* of an eclipse, from Greek *ekleiptikós*, from *ékēipsis* eclipse; so called because eclipses occur on or near this circle.

eclogue *n.* Probably before 1439, short pastoral poem often written as a dialogue between shepherds, borrowed from Latin *ecloga*, from Greek *eklogē* selection, from *eklégein* to select; see *ECLECTIC*.

eco- a combining form, corresponding to Latin *oeco-* and Greek *oiko-*, of Greek *oikos* house, in words borrowed from Greek, especially *economy* (Greek *oikonomía* household management); and in *ecology*, a modern coinage, broadened to mean the environment and relation to it; further extended in recent English coinages to mean of the ecology or the environment, as in *ecosystem*, *ecocide*.

ecology *n.* 1858, also with the spelling *oecology* (1873); borrowed from German *Ökologie*, and, by influence of the German word, also formed in English from Greek *oikos* house, habitation + English *-logy* study of.

economy *n.* Probably 1440 *yconomye* management of a household, influenced in its formation by earlier *iconomique*, *n.* (before 1393); but ultimately borrowed through Middle French *économie*, and directly from Latin *oeconomia*, from Greek *oikonomía*, from *oikónomos* manager, steward (*oikos* house + *-nómos* managing, from *némein* manage); for suffix see *-y*. The sense of management of the resources of a country, etc., is first recorded in 1651. —**economic** *adj.* 1592, of household management, a shortening of *economical*, and borrowed through Middle French *économique* and directly from Latin *oeconomicus*, from Greek *oikonomikós*, from *oikonomía* economy; for suffix see *-ic*. The sense of having to do with economics is first recorded in English in 1835. —**economical** *adj.* 1577, probably formed from English *economy* + *-ical*. The sense of pertaining to the economy of a country, etc., is first recorded in 1781. —**economics** *n.* 1586, art of managing a household, perhaps formed from earlier Middle English

iconomique, n. + -s, as in *physics*; but generally considered to be formed in English from Middle French *économique* + English -s. The sense of the science of managing the resources of a country, etc., is first recorded in 1792. —**economist** n. 1586, person who manages a household; later, a student of economics (1804); probably borrowed from Middle French *économiste*, and formed from English *economy* + -ist, by influence of the Middle French. —**economize** v. 1648, to manage a household, formed from English *economy* + -ize. The sense of to spend sparingly, is first recorded in 1790.

ecru or **écru** adj., n. 1869, borrowing of French *écru* raw, unbleached, from Old French *escru* (es- thoroughly, from Latin *ex-* + *crūdus* raw, CRUDE).

ecstasy n. About 1384, overwhelming delight, elation, borrowed from Old French *extasie*, from Late Latin *extasis*, from Greek *ékstasis* trance, distraction, from *existánai* put out of place (*ex-* out + *histánai* to place, cause to STAND). —**ecstatic** adj. 1590, borrowed perhaps through French *extatique*, and directly from Greek *ekstatikós*, from *ékstasis* trance.

ecto- a combining form meaning outside, outer, in scientific and technical coinages, such as *ectoderm*, *ectoplasm* (outer portion of the cytoplasm of a cell). Borrowed from Greek *ekto-*, combining form of *ektós* outside, from *ek-*, *ex-* out, EX-2.

ectoderm n. 1861, formed from English *ecto-* outer + Greek *dérma* skin; see DERMA.

-ectomy a combining form designating the surgical removal of a part of the body, as in *appendectomy*. Borrowed from Greek *ektomé* a cutting out, excision (*ek-*, *ex-* out, EX-2 + *-tomía* a cutting; see -TOMY).

ecumenical adj. 1563–87 *œcumenical* representing the entire Christian world, formed in English as if from Latin **œcumenicālis*, from Latin *œcumenicus* general, universal, from Greek *oikoumenikós*, from *oikouménē* gē the inhabited world, from *oikómenos*, present passive participle of *oikeîn* inhabit, from *oikos* house, habitation; for suffix see -AL¹.

eczema n. 1753, New Latin, from Greek *ékzema*, from *ekzeîn* to boil out (*ek-*, *ex-* out + *zéma* boiling, from *zeîn* to boil; see YEAST).

-ed¹ an inflectional suffix forming the past tense of many verbs in English, as in *wanted*, *played*, *tried*; *dropped*. The suffix was reduced in Middle English to -d from earlier -ed and -ede, both forms being a development from Old English -de. The development is evident in such Middle English forms as *herd*, *hered*, *herede*, Old English *herede*, *hierde* (modern English *heard*), and *demed*, earlier *demde*, Old English *dēmdē* (modern English *deemed*). Old English -de is cognate with Old High German -ta, Old Icelandic -tha, and Gothic -da, from the same Germanic base as -ED².

In modern English the suffix appears as -ed in spite of the pronunciation: 1 after *t* and *d*, -ed represents the pronunciation /id/, as expected in *wanted*, *faded*, and also in some words, such as *blessed*, *beloved*. 2 after voiceless consonants, except *t*, -ed represents the pronunciation /t/, as in *dressed*, *washed* (many written with *t* from the 1500's to the 1700's, and surviving

where a long vowel is shortened in the verb stem, as in *crept*, *slept*, *swept*). 3 after vowels and voiced consonants, except *d*, -ed represents the pronunciation /d/, as in *vowed*, *lagged*.

In other forms the suffix appears without the preceding vowel, either as -d in *sold* (Old English *seald* from *sellan* to sell) or as -t in *bought* (Old English *boht* from *byegan* to buy). This process of contraction that started in Old English was completed in Middle English and Early Modern English where endings in -ded, -ted became *d*, as in *bleded*, *bled* and *t*, as in *seted*, *set*, and even with -ded contracting to *t* in *gilded*, *gilt*.

-ed² a derivational suffix forming the past participle of many verbs in English, as in (*has*) *rented*, (*have*) *echoed*, and used as if from a verb to form adjectives from nouns with various meanings, especially: a) having, provided with, characterized by, as in *toothed*, *moneyed*, *cultured*, *diseased*, *long-legged*; b) having the characteristics of, as in *bigoted*, *crabbed*, *dogged*.

The suffix appeared in Old English as -d, -ed, -ad, or -od, with the vowel marking the inflectional class of the verb, so the actual past participial suffix is -d, cognate with Old High German -t, Old Icelandic -th(r), Gothic -th(s), representing the Proto-Germanic base *-daz.

The formation of adjectives from nouns by adding -ed, is an ancient practice and Old English is noted for such examples as *hringed* (modern English *ringed*), *hōced* (modern English *hooked*), and *ān-ēaged* (modern English *one-eyed*).

eddy n. Before 1455 *ydy* Scottish form; later *eddy* (1553); possibly borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *idha* eddy).

edema n. Probably before 1425 *ydema*, borrowed from Greek *oidēma* (genitive *oidēmato*) a swelling tumor, from *oidēn* to swell, from *oidos* tumor, swelling.

edge n. Probably before 1200 *egge*, developed from Old English *ecg* corner, edge, sword (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *egg* edge, Old Saxon *eggia* point, edge, Middle Dutch *egghe* (modern Dutch *eg*), Old High German *ecka* (modern German *Ecke*), Old Icelandic *egg* corner, angle, edge, from Proto-Germanic **azjō*. —v. About 1300, give an edge; implied in the adjective *egged*; from the noun. The sense of advance imperceptibly, is first recorded in 1624.

The spelling *cg* in Old English *ecg* developed into *gg* in Middle English and *dge* in modern English representing a series of sound changes in which the sound represented by *g* developed into that represented by *j*, as in *judge*, because widespread use of Old English *brygge*, *egge*, etc. (i.e. in genitive, dative, and accusative case of the noun) led to a new nominative form *brigge*, *egge*, etc. in Middle English, hence *bridge*, *edge*, etc. in modern English.

edible adj. 1594, borrowed from Late Latin *edibilis*, from Latin *edere* EAT; for suffix see -IBLE.

edict n. 1483, borrowed from Latin *ēdictum*, originally neuter past participle of *ēdicere* publish, proclaim (*ē-* out + *dicere* say). The form *edict* replaced earlier *edit* (recorded about 1300), borrowed from Old French *edit*, from Latin *ēdictum*.

edifice n. About 1380, borrowed from Old French *edifice*

building, learned borrowing from Latin *aedificium* building, from *aedificāre* to build, from a lost adjective **aedificus* house-building (*aedis*, variant of *aedēs* temple, in the plural meaning dwelling or building, originally, hearth + the root of *facere* to make).

edify *v.* Before 1338 *edefien* to found or establish; about 1340 *edifien* to build; borrowed from Old French *edifier*, from Latin *aedificāre* to build, construct, and in Late Latin, improve spiritually, instruct; see EDIFICE. The sense of improve or instruct, is first recorded in 1340. —**edification** *n.* Probably about 1350 *edificacioun*; borrowed perhaps through Old French *edification*, and directly from Latin *aedificātiōnem* (nominative *aedificātiō*) construction, and in Late Latin spiritual improvement, from *aedificāre*; for suffix see -ATION.

edit *v.* 1791, to publish; borrowed possibly through French *éditer*, and directly from Latin *ēditus*, past participle of *ēdere* bring forth, produce (*ē-* out, *e-* + *-dere*, combining form of *dare* to give). In the sense of prepare for publication, *edit* is first recorded in 1793, probably as a back formation from *editor*. —**edition** *n.* Probably before 1425 *edicion* version or translation; borrowed from Latin *ēditionem* (nominative *ēditiō*) a bringing forth, producing, from *ēdit-*, stem of *ēdere*; for suffix see -TION. —**editor** *n.* 1649, publisher; borrowed from Latin *ēditor* one who puts forth, from *ēdit-*, stem of *ēdere*; for suffix see -OR². The sense of a person who prepares written matter for publication is first recorded in English in 1712. —**editorial** *adj.* 1744, formed from English *editor* + *-ial* (variant of *-al*¹). —**n.** newspaper article by an editor. 1830, in American English; from the adjective.

educate *v.* 1447 *educaten* bring up (children), train; borrowed from Latin *educātus*, past participle of *educāre* bring up, rear, educate, related to *ēducere* bring out, (*ē-* out + *ducere* to lead) for suffix see -ATE¹. The specific sense of provide schooling is first recorded in 1588. —**education** *n.* 1531, child rearing; borrowed probably through Middle French *éducation*; learned borrowing from Latin *educātiōnem* (nominative *educātiō*), from *educāre*; for suffix see -ATION. The sense of schooling given to the young, appeared in English in 1616. —**educational** *adj.* 1652, formed from English *education* + *-al*¹. —**educator** *n.* 1566, borrowed from Latin *educātor*, from *educāre*; for suffix see -OR².

-ee a suffix meaning one who is _____ed, as in *appointee*, *drafter*, added to verb stems to form nouns corresponding to agent nouns in *-er* or *-or* (as *trainer*, *lessor*, whence *trainee*, and *lessee*); but also added to intransitive verbs to mean one who _____s, as in *escapee*, *standee*. Originally used in technical terms of law, *-ee* was an adaptation of *-é* in certain Anglo-French past participles used as nouns, from Old French *-é*, from Latin *-ātus* -ATE¹. In the 1700's *-ee* appeared as a pseudo-legal and humorous suffix, such as in *laughee*, *educatee*, *sendee*.

eel *n.* Probably about 1200 *ele*; later *eele* (before 1398); developed from Old English *æel* (about 1000); cognate with Old Frisian *-ēl* eel, Middle Dutch *ael* (modern Dutch *aal*), Old Saxon and Old High German *āl* (modern German *Aal*), and Old Icelandic *áll*, from Proto-Germanic **ælaz*.

-eer a suffix added to nouns to form nouns and verbs meaning: 1 one who directs or operates, as in *auctioneer*. 2 one who produces, as in *pamphleteer*. 3 to be concerned or deal with, as in *mountaineer*, *electioneer*. This suffix is an Anglicized form of French *-ier*, agent noun suffix which normally represents Latin *-iarius* but in many words replaces French *-aire* (as in *secrétaire*, *dictionnaire*), from Latin *-ārius* -ARY. See also -IER.

eerie *adj.* Before 1325 *eri* fearful, timid, dialectal variant of earlier *ergh* probably about 1175; developed from Old English (about 885) *earg* cowardly, fearful; for suffix see -Y¹; cognate with Old Frisian *erg* evil, bad, Middle Dutch *arch*, *erch* bad (modern Dutch *erg*), Old High German *arg* cowardly, worthless (modern German *arg* bad), Old Icelandic *argr* unmanly (from Proto-Germanic **argaz*). The sense of causing fear because of strangeness, appeared in 1792.

ef- a form of the prefix *ex-*¹, meaning out of, from, out, in words of Latin origin before *f*, as in *effect*, *effluent*.

efface *v.* 1490 *effacen*, borrowed from Middle French *effacer*, from Old French *esfacier* (*es-* out, from Latin *ex-* + *face* appearance, FACE).

effect *n.* About 1385, earlier, conclusion or realization (probably about 1350); borrowed from Old French *effect*, from Latin *effectus* (genitive *effectūs*), from *effec-*, stem of *efficere* work out, accomplish (*ef-* out + *-ficere*, combining form of *facere* to DO¹). —*v.* bring about, accomplish, 1589, from the noun (earlier forms, 1494 and following are a confusion with *affect*). —**effective** *adj.* Before 1398 *effectif* producing results, efficient; borrowed from Old French *effectif*, *effective*, from Latin *effectivus*, from *effec-*, stem of *efficere*; for suffix see -IVE. —**effectual** *adj.* About 1395 *effectuel*, borrowed from Old French *effectuel*, from Late Latin *effectualis*, from Latin *effectus* effect.

effeminate *adj.* Before 1393 *effeminat*, borrowed from Latin *effeminātus*, past participle of *effemināre* make a woman of (*ef-* out + *femina* woman); for suffix see -ATE¹.

effere *adj.* 1856 (but probably earlier, perhaps 1839–47); borrowed from Latin *effere* (nominative *effere*), present participle of *efferre* bring out (*ef-* out, + *ferre* bring); for suffix see -ENT.

effervescence *n.* 1651, a boiling up; borrowed probably through French *effervescence* (1641), from Latin *effervescere* (*ef-* out, + *fervere* begin to boil, from *fervere* be hot, boil); for suffix see -ENCE. The sense of bubbling, is first recorded in 1684–85, and that of liveliness, in 1748. —**effervesce** *v.* 1702, to boil up; borrowed from Latin *effervescere*. The sense of to bubble, is first recorded in 1784, and that of be lively, in 1850. —**effervescent** *adj.* 1684, boiling up; borrowed from Latin *effervescens* (nominative *effervescens*), present participle of *effervescere*; for suffix see -ENT. The figurative sense of exuberant, appeared in 1833.

effete *adj.* 1621, unproductive, barren; borrowed from Latin *effētus* unproductive, worn out (chiefly feminine *effēta*) worn out with bearing offspring, past participle of a lost verb **effēri* become worn out by bearing offspring (*ef-* out + the root of FEMININE and FETUS). The sense of exhausted, is first

recorded in 1662, and that of intellectually or morally exhausted in 1790.

efficacy *n.* 1527, borrowed from Latin *efficācia*, from *efficāx* (genitive *efficācis*) effective, from *efficere* work out, accomplish, EFFECT; for suffix see -ACY. *Efficacy* replaced earlier: 1) *efficace* (recorded probably before 1200); borrowed from Old French *efficace*, from Latin *efficācia*, and 2) *efficacite* (recorded probably before 1425); borrowed from Old French *efficacitē*, from Latin *efficacitatem* (nominative *efficacitās*) effectiveness, from *efficāx*. —**efficacious** *adj.* 1528, formed in English from Latin *efficāx* (genitive *efficācis*) + English -ious.

efficient *adj.* About 1380, producing immediate effect; borrowed through Old French *efficient*, and directly from Latin *efficientem* (nominative *efficiēs*), present participle of *efficere* work out, accomplish; for suffix see -ENT. —**efficiency** *n.* 1593, borrowed from Latin *efficientia*, from *efficientem*; for suffix see -ENCY.

effigy *n.* 1539, borrowed from Middle French *effigie* image of a person, learned borrowing from Latin *effigies* copy or imitation of an object, likeness; related to *effingere* to mold, fashion (cf. out, + *fingere* to form, shape).

The phrase *in effigy* appeared in 1617. The expression to burn (hang, etc.) *in effigy*, appeared in 1678.

effluence *n.* Before 1398, borrowed from Late Latin *effluentia*, from Latin *effluentem* (nominative *effluēs*), present participle of *effluere* flow out (cf. out, + *fluere* to flow); for suffix see -ENCE. —**effluent** *adj.* Probably 1440, a back formation of earlier *effluence*; and borrowed from Latin *effluentem*; for suffix see -ENT. —**n.** 1859, from the adjective.

effluvium *n.* 1646, stream of imperceptible particles, borrowed from Latin *effluvium* a flowing out, from *effluere*; see EFFLUENCE.

effort *n.* About 1489, borrowed from Middle French *effort*, from Old French *esfort*, from *esforier* force out, exert, from Vulgar Latin **exfortiāre* (Latin *ex-* out + *fortis* strong).

effrontery *n.* 1715, borrowed from French *effronterie*, from *effronté* shameless, from Old French *esfronté*, possibly from Late Latin *effrontem* (nominative *effrōns*) barefaced (cf. out, + Latin *frontem*, *frōns* brow, FRONT); for suffix see -ERY.

effulgence *n.* 1667, borrowed from Late Latin *effulgentia*, from Latin *effulgentem* (nominative *effulgēs*), present participle of *effulgere* shine forth (cf. out, + *fulgere* to shine); for suffix see -ENCE. —**effulgent** *adj.* shining brightly, radiant. 1738, a back formation from *effulgence*; and borrowed from Latin *effulgentem* (nominative *effulgēs*), present participle of *effulgere*; for suffix see -ENT.

effusion *n.* 1402, borrowed through Middle French *effusion*, and directly from Latin *effusio* (nominative *effusio*), from *effūd-*, stem of *effundere* pour forth (cf. out, + *fundere* pour); for suffix see -SION. —**effuse** *v.* 1495 *effusen*; a back formation from *effusion*; and borrowed from Middle French *effuser*, from Latin *effusus*, past participle of *effundere*.

eft *n.* Probably about 1175 *evete*, developed from Old English *efete* (about 1000); of unknown origin. The unexplained Middle English variant form *ewte*, appearing before 1398, led to formation of NEWT (before 1425).

egalitarian *adj.* 1885, formed in English from French *égalitaire* (from Old French *égalité*, from Latin *aequalitatem* EQUALITY) + English -ian.

egg¹ *n.* bird's egg. About 1340 *eg*, later *egge* (1366), originally Northern English; borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *egg*). The forms *eg*, *egge* replaced earlier Middle English *eai* (recorded probably before 1200), and *aei*, *ei*; all developed from Old English (805–31) *āeg*, which is cognate with Old Icelandic *egg*, Old Saxon, Middle Dutch, modern Dutch, and Old High German *ei* (modern German *Ei*) and Crimean Gothic *ada*, from Proto-Germanic **ajjaz*. —**egg**² *n.* About 1775, American English, formed from *egg*¹ + *nog* (1693) strong ale, of unknown origin. —**eggshell** *n.* (1425, *egg-shel*)

egg² *v.* urge, incite. Probably before 1200 *eggen*, borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *eggja* to goad, from *egg* edge).

ego *n.* 1789, but probably earlier as suggested by such formations as *egotism* (1714); borrowed from Latin *ego* I; see I. The sense of conceit, egotism is first recorded in English in 1891. The psychoanalytic sense of the conscious part of the mind (contrasted with *id*), appeared in 1910. —**egoism** *n.* 1785, borrowed from French *égoïsme* (1755), probably from New Latin *egoismus*, from Latin *ego* I; for suffix see -ISM. The sense of self-interest, is first recorded in English in 1800. —**egoist** *n.* 1785, borrowed from French *égoïste* (1755), probably from New Latin *egoista*, from Latin *ego* I; for suffix see -IST. —**egotism** *n.* 1714, formed in English from Latin *ego* I + English -ism, a form of -ism found in *dogmatism* (1603), etc. The sense of selfishness is first recorded in English in 1800. —**egotist** *n.* 1714, formed in English from Latin *ego* I + English -tist, a form of -ist found in *dogmatist* (1541). —**egotistical** *adj.* 1825, formed from English *egotist* + -ical. —**egotistic** *adj.* About 1860, probably a back formation from English *egotistical*.

egregious *adj.* About 1534, distinguished, eminent; borrowed from Latin *ēgregius*, from *ē grege* standing out from the flock (*ē* out of, + *grege*, ablative of *grex* herd, flock); for suffix see -OUS. The ironical use of very great (i.e. outrageous) is first recorded in English in 1573.

egress *n.* 1538, a going out; either 1) borrowed from Latin *ēgressus* (genitive *ēgressūs*), from *ēgredi* go out (*ē-* out, + *-gredi*, combining form of *gradī* to step, go, related to *gradus*, genitive *gradūs* step, GRADE); or 2) a back formation from earlier *egression* (recorded before 1425); borrowed from Latin *ēgressionem* (nominative *ēgressiō*), from *ēgredi*; for suffix see -SION. The meaning of exit, outlet, is first recorded in 1677.

egret *n.* About 1353, borrowed from Old French *aigrette*, from Old Provençal *aigreta*, from *aigron* heron, corresponding to Old French *hairon* HERON.

eider *n.* 1743, probably borrowed through German *Eider* or Dutch *eider*, from Icelandic *ædhar*, genitive of *ædhr* *eider*, from Old Icelandic. The compound *eiderdown* (1774), was probably a part translation of German *Eiderdaunen* or Dutch *eiderdons*.

eight *adj.* Probably about 1200 *ehte*, later *eyhte* (before 1300), and *eighte* (about 1378); developed from Old English *eahta* (about 725, in *Beowulf*), *æhta*; cognate with Old Frisian *achta* eight, Old Saxon and Old High German *ahto* (modern German *acht*), Old Icelandic *átta*, and Gothic *ahtau*; from Proto-Germanic **ahtō(u)*. For the modern spelling with *gh* see **FIGHT**. —**n.** Probably about 1200. —**eighteen** *adj.* Probably before 1200 *ahtene*, later *ehtene* (about 1300), and *eightene* (before 1398); developed from Old English (about 1000) *eahtatene* (*eahta* EIGHT + *-tēne* -teen, from *tēn* TEN). —**eighth** *adj.* Before 1250 *eihtuthe*, later *eihtthe* (about 1385); developed from Old English *eahtotha*; cognate with Old Frisian *achtund eighth*, Old Saxon and Old High German *ahtodo*, etc. —**n.** Probably before 1200, used as an absolute construction. —**eighty** *adj.* About 1300 *eighteti*, shortened from Old English (before 830) *hundehtatig* group of eighty (*hund-* ten; see HUNDRED + *eahta* EIGHT + *-tig* group of ten, -TY¹).

einsteinium *n.* 1955, New Latin; formed from the name of Albert Einstein, German-born physicist, + *-ium*.

either *pron., adj., adv.* Probably about 1175 *either*, *aither* both (of two things or persons), every; developed from Old English *æghther* (before 900), contraction of *æghwæther* each of two, both (*ā-* always, + *ge-* collective prefix + *hwæther* which of two, **WHETHER**). English *either* is cognate with German *jeder* each (originally of two). About 1290 *either* assumed the sense of one or the other of two, which has prevailed in modern English. —**conj.** *either. . . or* About 1250, developed from Old English *æghther*, contraction of *æghwæther*.

ejaculate *v.* 1578, borrowed, perhaps by influence of Middle French *éjaculer* *ejaculate*, from Latin *ējaculāri*, past participle of *ējaculārī* (*ē-* out, + *jaculārī* to throw, dart, from *jaculum* javelin, from *jacere* to throw); for suffix see -ATE¹. The sense of exclaim is first recorded in 1666. —**ejaculation** *n.* 1603, borrowed from French *éjaculation*, from *éjaculer* *ejaculate*, from Latin *ējaculārī*; for suffix see -ATION.

eject *v.* Probably before 1425 *ejecten* expel, drive out, borrowed from Latin *ēiectus*, past participle of *ēicere* throw out (*ē-* out + *-icere*, combining form of *jacere* to throw). The senses of this word are partly derived from Latin *ēiectāre* cast out, throw up, a frequentative form of *ēicere*. —**ejection** *n.* Probably before 1425 *ejection*, borrowed probably from Middle French *éjection*, and directly from Latin *ēiectionem* (nominative *ēiectiō*), from *ēiec-*, stem of *ēicere* for suffix see -TION.

eke *v.* **eke out** Probably about 1200 *eken* to increase, lengthen, Northern and East Midland variant of earlier *echen* (probably before 1200); developed from Old English (about 1000) *ēcan*, *ēacan*, *ēacian*, probably from *ēaca* an increase (894). The Old English is cognate with Old Frisian *āka* to increase, Old Saxon *ōkian*, Old High German *ouhōn*, Old Icelandic *auka*, and Gothic *aukan*.

elaboration *n.* Probably before 1425, borrowed from Latin *ēlabōrātiōnem* (nominative *ēlabōrātiō*), from *ēlabōrāre* work out, produce by labor (*ē-* out, + *labōrāre* to LABOR); for suffix see -ATION. —**elaborate** *adj.* 1592, accomplished by labor; earlier, as a past participle meaning worked out in detail, firmly crafted (1581); borrowed from Latin *ēlabōrātus*, past participle of *ēlabōrāre* for suffix see -ATE¹. —**v.** 1607, to build up (a chemical substance) from simple elements; borrowed from Latin *ēlabōrātus*, past participle of *ēlabōrāre*, probably by influence of French *élaborer* (1534); for suffix see -ATE¹. The sense of work out in detail, appeared in English in 1611.

élan *n.* 1877, a borrowing of French *élan*, from *élancer* to rush, dart, from Old French *elancer* (*ē-* out, + Old French *lancer* to throw a lance, from Late Latin *lanceāre*, from Latin *lancea* LANCE).

elapse *v.* 1644, borrowed from Middle French *elapser*, from Latin *ēlāpsus*, past participle of *ēlābī* slip or glide away (*ē-* out, away, + *lābī* to slip; glide). —**n.** Before 1677, from the verb, possibly influenced by *lapse*.

elastic *adj.* 1653, causing expansion; borrowed from New Latin *elasticus*, from Greek *elastós* ductile, flexible; related to *elaúnein* to strike, beat out; of uncertain origin; for suffix see -IC. —**n.** 1847, in American English, from the adjective. —**elasticity** *n.* 1664, formed from English *elastic* + *-ity*.

elate *v.* 1578, raise, elevate; developed from earlier *elat*, *adj.* haughty (about 1375); probably borrowed from Latin *ēlātus* elevated, a form used to make the past participle of *ēfferre* bring or carry out (*ē-* out, + *ferre* carry). Latin *ēlātus* derives from *lātus* (compare *tulī* I have borne). *Elate*, in its renewed use in the late 1500's, may be a back formation from earlier *elation*. The sense of raise the spirits of, exalt, stimulate, excite, is first recorded before 1619. —**elation** *n.* Probably about 1350, elevation of mind, pride; borrowed from Old French *elacion*, from Latin *ēlātiōnem* (nominative *ēlātiō*), from *ēlātus* elevated; for suffix see -TION. The sense of elevation of spirits, buoyancy, is first recorded in 1750.

elbow *n.* Before 1200 *elbowe*, developed from Old English (about 1000) *elnboga* (*eln* ELL¹ length of the forearm + *boga* BOW² arch); cognate with Middle Dutch *ellenböghe* elbow (modern Dutch *elleboog*), Old High German *elinbogo* elbow (modern German *Ellenbogen*, *Ellbogen*), and Old Icelandic *glnbogi*. —**v.** 1605, thrust with the elbow; jostle, from the noun.

elder¹ *adj.* older. Probably about 1175, developed from Old English *eldra* (Mercian dialect, about 725, in *Beowulf*), comparative of *eald*, *ald* OLD; for suffix see -ER². —**n.** Probably before 1200 *eldre*, developed from Old English (971) *eldra* older person, parent, ancestor; from the adjective. —**elderly** *adv.* 1611, related to *eldernliche* of old time, literally, forefatherly, (*eldern*, *eldren* forefathers + *-liche* -ly¹). —**eldest** *adj.* Old English *eldest* (Mercian dialect, before 900), superlative of *eald*, *ald* OLD; for suffix see -EST.

elder² or **elderberry** *n.* About 1150 *ellen*; later *eldre* (before

1400); developed from Old English *ellæn*, *ellærn* elderberry tree (before 800).

elect *adj.* Probably before 1425, voluntary; later, selected or chosen (1477); borrowed from Latin *ēlectus*, past participle of *ēligere* pick out, select (ē- out + -ligere, combining form of *legere* to choose, read). —**v.** Probably before 1425 *electen* choose, possibly from *elect*, *adj.*, or borrowed from Latin *ēlectus*, past participle of *ēligere*. Also, *elect*, *v.* may be a back formation from earlier *election*. —**n.** Probably before 1425, from the adjective. —**election** *n.* About 1300 *elecioun*; later *election* a choosing, election (probably before 1405); borrowed through Anglo-French *elecioun*, Old French *election*, from Latin *ēlectionem* (nominative *ēlectiō*), from *ēlē-*, stem of *ēligere* select; for suffix see -TION. —**election day** (1467) —**elective** *adj.* Probably before 1425, borrowed from Medieval Latin *electivus* selective, from Latin *ēlē-*, stem of *ēligere* for suffix see -IVE. —**n.** 1701, from the adjective. The meaning of a course taken in school, but not required, is first recorded in 1850 in American English. —**elector** *n.* Before 1464, borrowed from Late Latin *ēlector* chooser, selector, from Latin *ēlē-*, stem of *ēligere*; for suffix see -OR². —**electoral** *adj.* 1675, formed from English *elector* + -al¹. —**electorate** *n.* 1675, in reference to a German Prince Elector, formed from English *elector* + -ate¹. The meaning of the persons having the right to vote is first recorded in 1879.

electr- a combining form, a form of *electro-* before a vowel, as in *electron*, *electrode*.

electric *adj.* 1646, borrowed from New Latin *electricus* generated from amber, as by friction; from Latin *ēlectrum* amber, from Greek *ēlektron*; for suffix see -IC. It is quite possible that popular adoption of *electric* was largely a shortening of *electrical*. —**electrical** *adj.* 1635, formed in English from New Latin *electricus* + English -al¹. —**electrician** *n.* 1751, American English, formed from *electric* + -ian, after *physician*, *magician*, etc. —**electricity** *n.* 1646, formed from English *electric* + -ity. In early use, the word referred to the properties of such things as amber and glass, which could attract lightweight objects when excited by friction. —**electrification** *n.* 1748; formed from English *electrify*, on the model of *magnify*, *magnification*. —**electrify** *v.* 1747, in American English, formed from *electric* + -fy.

electro- a combining form corresponding to Greek *ēlektron*, combining form of *ēlektron* amber; its use and meaning in English came from the New Latin form *electrum* and the adjective *electricus* in reference to the power of amber to attract lightweight bodies when rubbed. In its compounds *electro-* has meanings that range from electric, electrically, electricity (*electromagnet*, *electropositive*, *electromotive*) to electrolysis (*electroplate*), electronics (*electromusic*), and the electron (*electrovalence*).

electrocute *v.* 1889, American English, formed from *electro-* + (*exe*)cute. —**electrocution** *n.* 1890, formed from English *electrocute* + -ion, on the pattern of *execute*, *execution*.

electrode *n.* 1834, formed from English *electro-* + -ode, as in *cathode*; coined on the pattern of *anode* and *cathode*.

electrolysis *n.* 1834, formed from English *electro-* + Greek *lysis* a loosening, from *lyein* loosen, set free.

electrolyte *n.* 1834, formed from *electro-* + -lyte, from Greek *lytós* loosened, from *lyein* loosen, set free.

electron *n.* 1891, formed from English *electric* + -on (as in *ion*, *anion*, etc.), possibly influenced by the earlier English form *electron* amber (1856) and by Greek *ēlektron* amber (which, when rubbed, produces a negative charge of static electricity). —**electronic** *adj.* 1902, formed from English *electron* + -ic. —**electronics** *n.* 1910, formed from English *electron* + -ics, as in *physics*, *mechanics*, etc.

eleemosynary *adj.* Before 1616, borrowed from Medieval Latin *eleemosynarius* pertaining to alms, from Late Latin *eleēmosyna* alms, from Greek *eleēmosynē* alms, pity; for suffix see -ARY.

elegant *adj.* About 1485, tastefully ornate in dress; borrowed from Middle French *élégant*, learned borrowing from Latin *ēlegantem* (nominative *ēlegāns*) choice, fine, tasteful, usually regarded as the present participle of **ēlegāre*, a parallel form of *ēligere* select with care, choose; for suffix see -ANT. In Classical Latin the word expressed the notion of refined grace, which is reproduced in modern English usage. —**elegance** *n.* About 1510, borrowed from Middle French *élégance*, from Latin *ēlegantia*, from *ēlegantem* elegant; for suffix see -ANCE. *Elegance* replaced the earlier form *elegancy* refinement (recorded probably before 1425).

elegy *n.* 1514, mournful poem; borrowed from Middle French *élegie*, learned borrowing from Latin *elegia*, from Greek *elegiā*, ultimately from *ēlegos* mournful poem. —**elegiac** *adj.* 1581, borrowed through Middle French *élegiaque*, from Late Latin *elegiacus*, from Greek *elegeiakós*, from *elegiā*.

element *n.* About 1300, one of the four simple substances (earth, water, air, fire); borrowed from Old French *element*, from Latin *elementum* rudiment, first principle. The modern chemical sense (in which the simple substances are carbon, oxygen, hydrogen, etc.) is first recorded in 1813. The sense of the forces of the atmosphere, is first recorded in the singular probably about 1300, in the plural, probably before 1425. —**elemental** *adj.* About 1477, of the four elements, borrowed, possibly through Old French *elementel*, from Medieval Latin *elementalis*, from Latin *elementum*; for suffix see -AL¹. The sense of simple but powerful, is first recorded in English in 1820. —**elementary** *adj.* About 1396 *elementare* material, physical, having the nature of one of the four elements (earth, water, air, fire); borrowed through Middle French *elementaire*, and directly from Latin *elementārius*, from *elementum* element; for suffix see -ARY. The sense of simple, rudimentary, introductory, is first recorded in 1542. —**elementary school** (1841)

elephant *n.* Probably before 1300 *olyfaunt*, later *elifans*, borrowed from Old French *olifant*, and *elefant*, learned borrowing from Latin *elephantus*, from Greek *elēphās* (genitive *elēphantos*) elephant, ivory.

The modern spelling was introduced in imitation of Latin

elephantus sometime after 1550. —**elephantiasis** *n.* 1581, borrowed through Middle French *éléphantiasis*, and directly from Latin *elephantiasis*, from Greek *elephantiasis* (*eléphas*, genitive *eléphantos* ELEPHANT + *-lasis*, diseased condition). —**elephantine** *adj.* 1610, formed from English *elephant* + *-ine*¹; or borrowed, through French *éléphantin*, and directly from Latin *elephantinus*, from Greek *elephantinos*, from *eléphantos* of an elephant or ivory.

elevate *v.* Before 1410 *elevaten* elate or inflate with pride; later, raise or lift up (probably before 1425); developed from *elevat* high, elevated, past participle and adjective (1391); borrowed from Latin *elevātus*, past participle of *elevāre* lift up, raise (*-ē-* out + *levāre* lighten, raise, from *levis* light); for suffix see *-ATE*¹. —**elevation** *n.* Before 1398 *elevation* a rising, elevating, height, borrowed from Old French *elevation*, and directly from Latin *elevātiōnem* (nominative *elevātiō*) a lifting up, from *elevāre*; for suffix see *-ATION*. —**elevator** *n.* 1646, a muscle which raises a limb or organ; borrowed from Late Latin *ēlevātor* anything that raises or lifts, from Latin *ēlevāre*; for suffix see *-OR*². The meaning of a machine that lifts, is first recorded in 1787.

eleven *adj.* Probably before 1200 *elleovene*, *enleven*, developed from Old English *endleofan*, literally, one left (over ten), before 900, cognate with Old Frisian *andlova*, *elleva* eleven, Old Saxon *ēlleban*, Old High German *einlif* (modern German *elf*), Old Icelandic *ellifu*, and Gothic *ainlif*. —**eleventh** *adj.*, *n.* About 1380 *eleventhe*, formed from English *eleven* + *-th*²; replacing *ellefte* (about 1300) and *enlefte* (before 1225); developed from Old English *endlyfta*, *endleofa* (*endleofan* eleven + *-ta* *-th*²). —**eleventh hour** 1829, in allusion to Matthew 20:1–16.

elf *n.* About 1390 *elf*, plural *elves*, earlier *alve* (probably before 1200); developed from Old English *elf* (variant of **ielf*), coexisting with *ælf* (about 725, in *Beowulf*). Middle English *alve* is cognate with Old Saxon and Middle Low German *alp* evil spirit, goblin, Middle High German *alp* (modern German *Alp*, *Alb*), Old Icelandic *álfr*, of unknown origin. —**elfin** *adj.* 1596, possibly fashioned from the earlier phrase *elvene lond* land of elves (about 1300), or from the name *Elphin*, in the Arthurian legends, but also possibly formed from Middle English *elven*, from Old English *-elfen*, *-ælfen* (as in *wuduelfen* wood nymph). —**elfish** *adj.* Probably before 1200 *alvisc*, later *elvyssh*; formed from Middle English *alve* elf + *-isc* *-ish*.

elicit *v.* 1641, developed from earlier *elicit*, *adj.* (1624); borrowed from Latin *ēlicitus*, past participle of *ēlicere* draw forth (*-ē-* out + *-licere*, combining form of *lacere* to entice; see *LACE*). —**elicitation** *n.* 1656, formed in English from Latin *ēlicitus* (past participle of *ēlicere*) + English *-ation*; or formed from English *elicit* + *-ation*.

elide *v.* 1593, destroy, borrowed, perhaps through Middle French *élider*, from Latin *ēlidere* strike out (*-ē-* out, + *-lidere*, combining form of *laedere* to strike). The grammatical sense of omit (a vowel or syllable) in pronunciation is first recorded in English in 1796. Compare *ELISION*.

eligible *adj.* Probably before 1425, borrowed from Middle

French *éligible* fit to be chosen, learned borrowing from Late Latin *ēligibilis* that may be chosen, from Latin *ēligere* choose, *ELECT*; for suffix see *-IBLE*. —**eligibility** *n.* 1650, formed from *eligible* + *-ity*.

eliminate *v.* 1568, cast out, expel; borrowed, perhaps through influence of Middle French *éliminer*, from Latin *ēliminātus*, past participle of *ēlimināre* thrust out of doors, expel, from *ē* *limine*, off the threshold (*ē* off out and *limine*, ablative case of *līmen* threshold); for suffix see *-ATE*¹. The sense of to exclude, remove, get rid of, is first recorded in 1714. —**elimination** *n.* 1601, a casting out, formed from English *eliminate* + *-ion*, after such pairs as *elevate*, *elevation*, *attenuate*, *attenuation*, etc. The sense of expulsion or getting rid of, is first recorded in 1627.

elision *n.* 1581, borrowed through Middle French *élision* from Latin *ēlisionem* (nominative *ēlisiō*), from the stem of *ēlidere* ELIDE; for suffix see *-SION*.

elite *n.* 1823, borrowing of French *élite*, from the Old French feminine past participle of *elire*, *eslire* pick out, choose, from Vulgar Latin **exlegere*, re-formed (with Latin *ex-* out, + *legere* choose) from Latin *ēligere* choose, *ELECT*. *Elite*, *élite* is a re-borrowing of French in modern English. Middle English *elit*, *elite* person elected to office, was borrowed before 1398 from Old French *elit*, *eslite*, past participle of *elire*, *eslire* and was in use in English in 1450, but is unrecorded thereafter. —**elitism** *n.* 1951, formed from English *elite* + *-ism*. —**elitist** *n.* 1950, formed from English *elite* + *-ist*.

elixir *n.* Before 1393, the philosopher's stone believed by alchemists to change metals into gold, cure diseases, and prolong life; borrowed through Old French *elixir*, or directly from Medieval Latin *elixir*, from Arabic *al-iksīr* the elixir (*al-* the + *iksīr* elixir, philosopher's stone, probably from Greek *xērion* powder for drying wounds, from *xēros* dry). The figurative sense of quintessence of a thing, chief principle, is first recorded in English before 1500.

elk *n.* Probably before 1437; earlier, as a surname *Elk* (1297); developed from an alteration probably by sound substitution of *k* in Anglo-French for *h* in Old English *elh*, *eolh*; cognate with Old High German *elaho* elk (modern German *Elch*) from Proto-Germanic **elh-*, and Old Icelandic *elgr* (from Proto-Germanic **algis*). Latin *alcēs*, pl., and Greek *álkē* appear only as the name of an animal living in northern Europe (apparently the elk) and were probably adopted from Germanic, with sound substitution of *g*, *k*, for the Germanic fricative sound represented by German *Elch*.

ell¹ *n.* old measure of length (about 45 inches in England). About 1250 *elne*, later *elle* (about 1330); developed from Old English (about 1000) *eln*, (originally) length of the forearm or of the arm. Old English *eln* is cognate with Old Frisian *elne* ell, Old Saxon and Old High German *elina*, Middle High German *elle* (modern German *Elle*), Old Icelandic *qln* (stem *aln-*), and Gothic *aleina*.

ell² *n.* extension of a building at right angles to it. 1773, American English; so called from the resemblance of the structure and that of the capital letter.

ellipse *n.* a 1753 borrowing of French *ellipse*, from Latin *ellipsis* a falling short, defect, ellipse, from Greek *élleipsis* ELLIPSIS; so called because in the case of a conic section the cutting plane makes a smaller angle with the base than does the side of the cone; thus the idea of falling short of the side of the cone. The earlier term was *ellipsis* (see below).

ellipsis *n.* 1570, closed plane curve, ellipse; borrowed from Latin *ellipsis*, from Greek *élleipsis* a falling short, defect, ellipse, *ellipsin*, from *ellepein* fall short, leave out (*el-*, assimilated form of *en-* in + *lepein* to leave). The meaning in grammar is first recorded in English in 1612.

elliptical *adj.* 1656, of an ellipse; 1778 (of a sentence) defective; formed in English from Greek *elleptikós* (from *élleipsis*) + English *-al*.

elm *n.* Old English (about 1000) *elm*; cognate with Old High German *elme*, *elm* elm, Old Icelandic *almr*, Latin *ulmus*, and Middle Irish *lem*. The modern German *Ulm* and Dutch *olm* were borrowed from or influenced by Latin *ulmus*.

elocution *n.* Probably before 1439 *ellocucioun* oratorical or literary style, borrowed from Late Latin *elocutiōnem* (nominative *elocutiō*) voice production, manner of expression, in Classical Latin, oratorical expression, from *elocū-*, stem of *eloqui* speak out; for suffix see *-TION*. The sense of art of reading or speaking clearly in public is first recorded in 1613.

elongate *v.* About 1540, set at a distance, probably developed from earlier *elongat*, past participle (possibly before 1425); borrowed from Late Latin *elongātus*, past participle of *elongāre* remove to a distance (Latin *ē-* out, + *longus* LONG¹, *adj.*); for suffix see *-ATE*¹. Also, *elongate*, *v.* may be a back formation from *elongation*. The sense of lengthen, prolong, is first recorded about 1450.

In the 1500's *elongate*, *v.* replaced *elongen* (recorded probably 1440), borrowed from Middle French *élonger* extend, prolong, from Latin *elongāre*. —**adj.** 1828; re-formed in modern English from the verb, or as a shortened form of *elongated* (1751). —**elongation** *n.* About 1391, angular distance of a heavenly body from a fixed point, borrowed from Late Latin *elongātiōnem* (nominative *elongātiō*), from *elongāre*; for suffix see *-ATION*.

elope *v.* 1596, run away, escape, found in Anglo-French (1338) *aloper* run away from a husband with one's lover, perhaps formed from *a-* away, from Old French *es-*, + Middle Dutch (out)lopen run away. The sense, usually applied to lovers who run away from their homes to marry secretly, is first recorded in the 1800's. —**elopement** *n.* 1598, formed from English *elope* + *-ment*; found in Anglo-French *alopement* (1338).

The span of 250 years between the modern English use and the use in Anglo-French, or the 200 years between the *Nottingham Borough Record* and the Anglo-French, or the even greater spans for derived forms, such as *elopement* and *eloping*, suggests that *elope* is a direct reborrowing from Dutch.

eloquent *adj.* Before 1393, graceful and forceful in speech; borrowed from Old French *eloquent*, from Latin *eloquentem*

(nominative *eloquēns*), present participle of *eloqui* speak out (*ē-* out, + *loqui* speak); for suffix see *-ENT*. —**eloquence** *n.* 1369, borrowed from Old French *eloquence*, from Latin *eloquentia*, from *eloquentem*, present participle; for suffix see *-ENCE*. By the late 1600's *eloquence* replaced the earlier *eloquency* (Middle English *eloquencie*, about 1350).

else *adj.*, *adv.* Before 1175 *elles*, later *ells* (1325); found in Old English (971) *elles* other, otherwise, different; also in the compound *elsewhere* (about 725). Old English *elles* is cognate with Old Frisian *elles* else, besides, Old High German *elles* other, Old Icelandic *elliga*, *elligar* otherwise, and Gothic *aljis* other. —**elsewhere** *adv.* Probably before 1200 *elles huwer*, later *elsewher* (probably about 1400; found in Old English *elles huwer*, about 725, in *Beowulf*). Middle English *elles*, *ells* developed into *els* during the 1400's and into *else* in the late 1500's and early 1600's.

elucidate *v.* Before 1568, borrowed, perhaps through Middle French *élucider*, from Late Latin *elucidātus*, past participle of *elucidāre* make clear (Latin *ē-* out + *lucidus* clear, LUCID); for suffix see *-ATE*¹. —**elucidation** *n.* 1570, formed from English *elucidate* + *-ion*, possibly by influence of Middle French *élucidation*, from *élucider* make clear; or formed in English from Late Latin *elucidāre* + English *-ation*.

elude *v.* 1538, to fool, delude; borrowed from Latin *eludere* escape from, make a fool of, win from at play (*ē-* out, away, + *ludere* to play). The sense of slip away from, evade, is first recorded in English in 1612. —**elusive** *adj.* 1719, formed in English from Latin *elūsus* (past participle of *eludere*) + English *-ive*.

Elysian *adj.* 1579, in the phrase *Elysian fields*, formed in English from Latin *Elysium* + English *-an*. —**Elysium** *n.* 1590, place or condition of perfect happiness; borrowed through Latin *Elysium* from Greek *Elýsion pedíon* Elysian field (place where heroes and the virtuous live after death).

em-¹ a form of the prefix *en-*¹ before *b*, *p*, and sometimes *m*, as in *embody*, *empower*, and *emmesh*.

em-² a form of the prefix *en-*² before *b*, *m*, *p*, and *ph*, as in *emblem*, *emphasis*.

emaciate *v.* Before 1626 (implied in *emaciating*); borrowed, probably through influence of French *émacié* emaciated, from Latin *emaciātus*, past participle of *emaciāre* make lean, waste away (*ē-* out, + *maciēs* leanness, from *macer* lean); for suffix see *-ATE*¹. —**emaciation** *n.* 1662, formed in English from Latin *emaciāre* emaciate + English *-ation*.

emanate *v.* 1756, borrowed, through influence of French *émaner*, from Latin *emānātum*, past participle of *emānāre* flow out, arise, proceed (*ē-* out, + *mānāre* to flow); for suffix see *-ATE*¹. Also a back formation from *emanation*. —**emanation** *n.* 1570, borrowed from Late Latin *emānātiōnem* (nominative *emānātiō*), from Latin *emānāre* emanate; for suffix see *-ATION*.

emancipate *v.* 1613, borrowed, possibly through influence of French *émanciper*, from Latin *emancipātus*, past participle of *emancipāre* declare free, give up (*ē-* out, away, + *mancipāre*

deliver, transfer or sell); for suffix see -ATE¹. —**emancipation** *n.* Before 1631, either formed from English *emancipate* + -ion, or borrowed from French *émancipation*, from Latin *ēmancipātiōnem* (nominative *ēmancipātiō*), from *ēmancipāre*; for the suffix of this latter borrowing see -ATION. —**emancipator** *n.* 1782, probably formed from English *emancipate* + -or², probably on the model of Late Latin *ēmancipātor*, from Latin *ēmancipāre*; for suffix see -OR².

emasculate *v.* 1607, borrowed, probably through French *ēmasculer*, from Latin *ēmasculātus*, past participle of *ēmasculāre* castrate (ē- out, away, + *masculus* MALE, MASCULINE); for suffix see -ATE¹. The figurative sense of destroy the force of or weaken has prevailed from the earliest use of this word. —**emasculation** *n.* 1623, formed from English *emasculate* + -ion, as if from Latin **ēmasculātiōnem*, from *ēmasculāre*.

embalm *v.* About 1386 *enbaumen* to treat (a corpse) with spices to prevent decay; later *enbalmen* (1447); borrowed from Old French *embaumer* (*em*- + *baume* balm + -er verbal suffix). The spelling with *l* became fixed in the 1500's in imitation of Latin *balsamum* balm and parallel to English *balm*. —**embalmer** *n.* 1587, formed from English *embalm* + -er¹.

embankment *n.* 1786, formed from English *embank* to enclose with a bank (possibly from French *embanquer*) + -ment.

embargo *n.* Possibly about 1593; borrowed from Spanish *embargo*, from *embargar* restrain, embargo, probably from Vulgar Latin **imbarriāre* restrain, impede (*im*-, from Latin *in*- into, upon, + Vulgar Latin **barra* BAR). —**v.** 1650, seize, confiscate, from the noun.

embark *v.* 1550, borrowed from Middle French *embarquer* (*em*- + *barque* BARK³ ship). —**embarkation** *n.* About 1645, in part formed from English *embark* + -ation, and in part borrowed from earlier French *embarcation* act of embarking, from Spanish *embarcación*, from *embarcar* embark (*em*- + *barca* BARK³, from Latin).

embarrass *v.* 1672, throw into doubt or unease, shame, perplex; later, to hamper or hinder (1683); borrowed from French *embarrasser*, literally, to block, from *embarras* obstacle, from Italian *imbarazzo*, from *imbarare* to bar (*im*- into, upon, + Vulgar Latin **barra* BAR). —**embarrassment** *n.* 1676, hindrance; later, feeling of unease (1774); borrowed from obsolete French *embarrassement*, from *embarrasser* embarrass; for suffix see -MENT.

embassy *n.* 1579, the position of ambassador; later, residence of an ambassador (1764); borrowed from Middle French *embassée* mission, charge, office of an ambassador, from Italian *ambasciata*, from Old Provençal *ambaisada* office of ambassador, and Medieval Latin *ambactia* service, duty, from Gaulish **ambactos* dependent, servant.

The form *embassy* replaced earlier *embassade* (1480) and *ambassade* (1417) meaning the position of an ambassador, a diplomatic mission; borrowed from Old French *ambassade*, from Old Spanish *ambaxada*, from Vulgar Latin **ambactiāta*, a derivation of **ambactiāre* to go on a mission.

embattled *adj.* 1475, past participle of *embattle*, Middle Eng-

lish *embataillen* (before 1338); borrowed from Old French *embataillier* to prepare for battle (*em*- + *bataille* BATTLE).

embed *v.* 1778, imbed; formed from English *em*-¹, *im*-² + *bed*, *n.*

embellish *v.* About 1380 *embelisen*, borrowed from Old French *embelliss-*, stem of *embelir*, *embellir* make beautiful, ornament (*em*- + *bel* beautiful); for suffix see -ISH². —**embellishment** *n.* 1591, formed from English *embellish* + -ment.

ember *n.* Before 1398 *emer*, later *eymbre* (1440); developed from Old English (about 1000) *æmerge* and Old Icelandic *eimyrja* ember; cognate with Middle Low German *ēmere* ember and Old High German *eimuria*, suggesting an earlier Germanic compound **aimuzjō*.

embezzle *v.* Probably about 1425 *imbesellen*, 1433 *embesilen* carry off secretly; borrowed from Anglo-French *embesiler* to steal, dispose of fraudulently (apparently *em*-, variant of Old French *en*- + *beseler*, *besiler*, in Old French *besillier* destroy, gouge). —**embezzlement** *n.* 1548, probably formed from English *embezzle* + -ment, re-formed after Anglo-French *embesilement*. —**embezzler** *n.* 1667, formed from English *embezzle* + -er¹.

emblem *n.* 1589; borrowed from French *emblème* symbol, learned borrowing from Latin *emblēma* inlaid ornamental work, from Greek *ēblēmā* (genitive *ēblēmatos*) embossed ornament, literally, insertion, from *emballein* throw in, insert (*em*- in + *ballein* to throw). —**emblematic** *adj.* 1645, borrowed from French *emblématique*, from Greek *ēblēmātikós*, from *ēblēmā*; for suffix see -IC.

embolism *n.* Before 1387, insertion of days in a calendar to correct errors, borrowed through Old French *embolisme* from Late Latin *embolismus* intercalary, altered from Greek *embólimos*, from *embolē* insertion, or *ēmbolos* a plug, wedge, from *emballein* to insert; for suffix see -ISM. The medical sense is first recorded in English in 1855.

emboss *v.* About 1386 *embosen*, borrowed from Old French *embocer* (*em*- *en*-¹ + *boce* BOSS² knoblike mass).

embrace *v.* About 1350 *enbracen* encircle, surround; later *embracen* (about 1380); borrowed from Old French *embracer* clasp in the arms, enclose (*em*- in, + *brace* the arms). The sense of fold in the arms, hug, is first recorded in English about 1385. —**n.** 1592, from the verb.

embrasure *n.* 1702, borrowed from French *embrasure*, probably from Old French *embraser* to cut at a slant, make a groove or furrow in a door or window (*em*- + *braser* to cut at a slant); for suffix see -URE.

embroider *v.* Before 1393 *embroudren*, developed from *embrouden* (about 1380) + -er¹, and also influenced by Old French *embroder*, from *broder*, *broder*, from Frankish **brozdōn*, from Proto-Germanic **bruzdōjanan*. The earlier Middle English *embrouden* developed, with *em*-¹, and some influence of *brouden* embroidered (1373), from Old English *brogden*, past participle of *bregdan* to weave (from Proto-Germanic **brezđanan*), and

further shows influence of blending with Old French *embroïé* embroidered, from *broder*.

The spelling with *-oi-* became established in the 1600's, and probably developed partly by influence of English *broid* braid, Middle English *broud*, but is found occasionally in *broiderer*, variant of *brouderer* embroiderer, in *broiderie*, variant of *brouderie* embroidery, and *broiden*, variant of *brouden* to pull or twist, attested as early as 1300 (perhaps 1230). —**embroidery** *n.* Before 1393 *embrouderie* art of embroidering, developed from *embrouden* and *embrouden* embroider (*em*-¹ + *brouden*, *brouden*, from Old French *broder*, *broder*); for suffix see *-ERY*. The form *brouderie* (*browdrye*) existed before 1382.

embroil *v.* 1603, throw into disorder, confuse; borrowed from French *embrouiller* (*em*- + *brouiller* confuse, from Old French *brōoillier*; see *BROIL*² to fight). The sense of quarrel, appeared in 1610.

embryo *n.* Before 1398 *embrio*, borrowed from Medieval Latin *embryo*, from Greek *ēmbryon* young animal, embryo, (*em*-² + *brýein* to swell, be full). —**embryology** *n.* 1859, borrowed from French *embryologie*; or formed from English *embryo* + *-logy*. —**embryonic** *adj.* 1849, formed in English from Medieval Latin *embryo* + English *-ic*; or formed from English *embryon* (1592) + *-ic*.

emend *v.* Probably before 1425 *emenden*, borrowed from Latin *ēmendāre* (*ē*- out + *mendum*, *menda* fault, blemish). —**emendation** *n.* Before 1460, borrowed from Latin *ēmendātiōnem* (nominative *ēmendātiō*), from *ēmendāre* emend; for suffix see *-ATION*.

emerald *n.* Probably before 1300 *emeraude*, later *emeralde* (1413); borrowed from Old French *emeraude*, *esmeralde*, and directly from Medieval Latin *esmaraldus*, *esmeraldus*, *esmeralda*, from Latin *smaragdus*, from Greek *smáragdos*.

emerge *v.* 1563—87, borrowed from Middle French *émerger*, from Latin *ēmergere* rise out or up (*ē*- out + *mergere* to dip, sink, MERGE). —**emergence** *n.* 1649, unforeseen occurrence, emergency; borrowed from French *émergence*, from *émerger*; for suffix see *-ENCE*. The sense of act of emerging, is first recorded in 1704. —**emergency** *n.* Before 1631, formed from English *emerge* + *-ency*. —**emergent** *adj.* Before 1460; earlier, probably before 1425, designating the year of the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt; borrowed from Latin *ēmergentem* (nominative *ēmergēns*), present participle of *ēmergere* emerge; for suffix see *-ENT*.

emeritus *adj.* 1602, borrowing of Latin *ēmeritus*, past participle of *ēmerēre* serve out, complete one's service (*ē*- out + *merēre* to serve, earn). The application of this term to retired professors is first recorded in 1794, in American English.

emery *n.* 1481, borrowed from Middle French *émeri*, from Old French *emmeri*, (earlier *emeril*, *esmeril*), from Italian *smereglio*, from Vulgar Latin **smyrilium*, from Greek *smýris* abrasive powder.

emetic *n.* 1657, borrowed from French *émétique*, and as a learned borrowing from Greek *emetikós* causing vomiting,

from *émesis* vomiting, from *emeîn* to VOMIT. —**adj.** 1670, learned borrowing from Greek *emetikós*.

-emia a combining form meaning condition of the blood, as in *toxemia* poisoned condition of the blood, *uremia*, *leukemia*, etc. New Latin *-emia*, *-aemia*, as in *anemia*, *anaemia* ANEMIA, from Greek *anaimiā* lack of blood (*an-* without + *haima* blood); see *HEMO*-.

emigration *n.* 1650, migration or departure from a place; borrowed from Late Latin *ēmigrātiōnem* (nominative *ēmigrātiō*) removal from a place, from Latin *ēmigrāre* move away, depart from a place (*ē*- out + *migrāre* to move); for suffix see *-ATION*.

emigrant *n.* 1754, borrowed from Latin *ēmigrāntem* (nominative *ēmigrāns*), present participle of *ēmigrāre* emigrate.

emigrate *v.* 1778, either borrowed from Latin *ēmigrātum*, past participle of *ēmigrāre*; or a back formation from English *emigration*; for suffix see *-ATE*¹.

émigré or **emigré** *n.* 1792, borrowing of French *émigré*, from past participle of *émigrer* emigrate, learned borrowing from Latin *ēmigrāre* EMIGRATE. Originally the word was applied to the royalist refugees during the French Revolution. In the 1920's it was particularly applied to refugees of the Russian Revolution and then gradually to any political refugee or exile.

eminent *adj.* About 1425, borrowed through Middle French *éminent*, or directly from Latin *ēminentem* (nominative *ēminēns*), present participle of *ēminēre* stand out, project (*ē*- out + *-minēre*, related to *mōns* MOUNT² hill); for suffix see *-ENT*.

eminence *n.* Before 1400, projection or protuberance, later, a high or exalted position (before 1425); borrowed through Old French *eminence*, or directly from Latin *ēminentia*, from *ēminentem* (nominative *ēminēns*), present participle of *ēminēre*; for suffix see *-ENCE*. —**eminently** *adv.* (about 1425)

emir *n.* 1595, borrowed from French *émir*, from colloquial pronunciation of Arabic *āmīr* commander, from *āmara* he commanded; see *ADMIRAL*. The earlier *emeer* may have been a variant spelling of *ameer* AMIR.

emissary *n.* 1625, borrowed, probably through French *émis-saire*, from Latin *ēmissārius*, literally, that is sent out, from *ēmissus*, past participle of *ēmittere* send forth, EMIT; for suffix see *-ARY*.

emission *n.* Probably before 1425, something sent forth, produce or fruit, borrowed from Middle French *émission*, and directly from Latin *ēmissiōnem* (nominative *ēmissiō*) a sending out, from *ēmiss-*, stem of *ēmittere* send out; for suffix see *-ION*. The sense of a giving off or emitting, is first recorded in English before 1619. —**emit** *v.* 1623, borrowed from Latin *ēmittere* (*ē*- out + *mittere* let go, send).

emollient *adj.* 1643, borrowed from French *émollient*, from Latin *ēmollientem* (nominative *ēmolliēns*), present participle of *ēmolīre* soften (*ē*- thoroughly + *mollīre* soften, from *mollis* soft); for suffix see *-ENT*. —**n.** 1656, from the adjective.

emolument *n.* 1435, borrowed through Middle French *émolument*, and directly from Latin *ēmolumentum* profit, gain, (orig-

inally) payment to a miller for grinding corn, from *ēmolere* grind out (*ē-* out + *molere* to grind); for suffix see -MENT.

emotion *n.* 1579, agitation or tumult; borrowed from Middle French *émotion* (perhaps patterned on *motion*, *commotion*), from Old French *emouvoir* stir up, from Latin *ēmovere*, *exmovēre* move out, remove, agitate (*ē-* out + *movēre* to MOVE); for suffix see -TION. The sense of strong feeling, agitation, appeared in English in 1660. —**emote** *v.* 1917, American English, back formation from *emotion* or *emotive*. —**emotional** *adj.* 1834, formed from English *emotion* + *-al*¹. —**emotive** *adj.* 1735, causing emotion; formed in English from *emotion* + *-ive*.

empathy *n.* 1904, borrowed from Greek *empathēia* passion (*em-* in + *pathos* feeling, PATHOS). *Empathy* was a translation of German *Einfühlung* (*ein* in + *Fühlung* feeling), a word for the theory that art appreciation depends on the viewer's ability to project his personality into the object. —**empathize** *v.* 1924, formed from English *empathy* + *-ize*, on the analogy of *sympathy*, *sympathize*.

emperor *n.* Probably before 1200 *empereur*, later *emperour* (about 1300); borrowed from Old French (accusative) *emper-eor*, from Latin *imperatorē* (nominative *imperator*) commander, emperor, from the stem of *imperāre* to command; for suffix see -OR².

emphasis *n.* 1573, borrowed from Latin *emphasis*, from Greek *ēmpasis* significance, indirect meaning, from *empha-*, root of *emphainein* to present, show, indicate (*em-*² + *phainein* to show). —**emphasize** *v.* 1828, formed from English *emphasis* + *-ize*. —**emphatic** *adj.* 1708, shortened form of *emphatical* (before 1555, from Greek *emphatikós* forcible, vivid + English *-al*¹).

emphysema *n.* 1661, New Latin, from Greek *emphysēma* swelling, from *emphysān* inflate (*em-*² + *physān* to blow, from *phýsa* breath, blast).

empire *n.* Before 1338 *enpyre*; 1340 *empire*, borrowed from Old French *empire* imperial rule, learned borrowing from Latin *imperium* rule, command, from *imperāre* to command (*im-* in + *-perāre*, combining form of *parāre* to order, prepare).

empiric *n.* 1541, member of a school of ancient physicians who based their practice on experience rather than theory; borrowed from Latin *empīricus*, from Greek *empeirikós* experienced, from *empeirā* experience, from *ēmpeiros* skilled (*em-*² + *peira* trial, experiment). The sense of a person who relies on observation and experiment, is first recorded in English in 1578. —**adj.** = empirical. 1605 *emperique*, borrowed from French *empirique*, from Latin *empīricus*. —**empirical** *adj.* 1569, formed from English *empiric*, *n.* + *-al*¹.

emplacement *n.* 1802, borrowing of French *emplacement*, from Old French *emplacier* to place; for suffix see -MENT.

employ *v.* Probably before 1425 *emplier* devote to, apply; 1429 *emploien* make use of; borrowed from Middle French *employer*, *emploier*, from Old French *empleier*, from Latin *implicāre* enfold, involve, be connected with (*in-* in-² + *plicāre* to fold). The sense of hire, engage, is first recorded in English in 1584. —**n.**

1666, borrowed from French *emploi*, from Middle French, from *employer* to employ. —**employee** *n.* 1850, formed from English *employ* + *-ee*. —**employer** *n.* 1599, formed from English *employ*, *v.* + *-er*¹. —**employment** *n.* 1437 *employment*, formed from Middle English *emploien*, *v.* + *-ment*.

emporium *n.* 1586, borrowing of Latin *emporium*, from Greek *ēmpōrion*, from *ēmporos* merchant, traveler (*em-*² + *pōros* passage, voyage, ultimately from *pelein* to pass through).

empress *n.* 1140 *emperice*; later *empres* (before 1475); borrowed from Old French *emperesse*, feminine of *empereor* EMPEROR; for suffix see -ESS.

empty *adj.* Probably before 1200 *empti*, (showing a euphonic *p* between *m* and *t*); developed from Old English *æmettig* at leisure, not occupied (before 899), from *æmetta* leisure (*æ-* not + *-metta*, from *mōtan* have to); for suffix see -Y¹. The sense of containing nothing, vacant, is first recorded in Old English in 971. —**v.** 1526, make empty; from the adjective. The modern English verb took the place of obsolete Middle English *empen* (1380), *geæmtegian* (probably about 1200) to empty or drain, vacate; developed from Old English (about 1000) *æmetian*, *æmetian* be vacant, be at leisure, from *æmetta* leisure.

emulate *v.* 1582, and a back formation of earlier *emulation*, borrowed from Latin *aemulātus*, past participle of *aemulārī* to rival, strive to excel, from *aemulus* striving, rivaling, related to *imitārī* imitate and *imāgō* image; for suffix see -ATE¹. —**emulation** *n.* 1552, borrowed through Middle French *émulation*, and directly from Latin *aemulātiōnem* (nominative *aemulatiō*), from *aemulārī*; for suffix see -ATION.

emulsion *n.* 1612, borrowed from French *émulsion*, and probably directly from New Latin *emulsionem* (nominative *emulsio*), from Latin *ēmulsus*, past participle of *ēmulgēre* to milk out (*ē-* out + *mulgēre* to milk); for suffix see -SION. —**emulsify** *v.* 1859, formed from English *emulsion* + *-fy*.

en-¹ a prefix meaning: 1 cause to be, make, as in *enable* = cause to be able; *enfeeble* = make feeble. 2 put in, put on, as in *encircle* = put in a circle; *enthroned* = put on a throne. 3 other meanings, as in *enact*, *encourage*. Borrowed from Old French *en-* (with variants *in-*, *im-*, *an-*, *am-*), from Latin *in-* into, in, prefixal use of the preposition *in* IN. Also *em-* before *b*, *p*, *ph*, and *m*.

In Old French the prevailing use of *en-* was to form verbs from nouns and adjectives. These verb forms from Old French, and their nouns were borrowed in Middle English in their form in Old French, as for example *enchaunten* enchant, *enchauntement* enchantment, etc., and with the variant *an-*, from Anglo-French, evident in words such as *anointen* anoint.

The prefix also has an intensive force parallel to Latin *in-*, and the spelling *en-* and *in-* are found in numerous variants, such as *encrust*, *incrusted*; *enclose*. Parallel forms exist in Old French in *as-* and *es-* in which little distinction was made in Middle English, leading to *assurance*, *ensurance*, *insurance*, or *assemble*, *ensemble*.

en-² a prefix meaning in, on, within, chiefly in combinations already formed in Greek, as *endemic*, *energy*, *enthusiasm*. Bor-

rowed from Greek *en-*, prefixal use of the preposition *en* IN. Also *em-* before *b*, *m*, *p*, and *ph*.

-en¹ a suffix forming verbs from adjectives and nouns, and meaning: 1 to cause to be, make, as in *blacken* = to make black. 2 to cause to have, as in *strengthen* = to cause to have strength. 3 to become, as in *flatten* = to become flat. 4 to come to have, gain, as in *lengthen* = to gain length. Chiefly formed in late Middle English or early modern English as *-enen*, *-nen*, *-en*, on the analogy of certain old verbs (*fasten*, *brighten*) which developed from Old English *-nian*, or were borrowed from Old Icelandic *-na*.

-en² a suffix forming adjectives from nouns, and meaning made of, having the look of, as in *wooden*, *ashen*, *flaxen*; see **-INE¹**.

In Old English and Middle English this suffix was extensively used, but modern English tends toward an attributive use of nouns, as in *gold watch*, *oak tree*, rather than *golden watch*, *oaken tree*, though in some cases (*earthen*, *wheaten*, *wooden*, etc.) these adjectives are still in common use.

-en³ a suffix forming the past participle of certain strong verbs, as in *broken*, *fallen*, *stolen*, *written*. In some of these verbs the suffix takes the form *-n*, as in *blown*, *torn*. Found in Middle English and Old English *-en*, the regular ending of most classes of strong verbs.

-en⁴ a suffix surviving as the plural ending of a few nouns, as in *brethren*, *children*, *oxen*. Middle English *-en*, developed from Old English *-an* (as in *oxan*, plural of *ox*; *tungan*, plural of *tunge* tongue). In words like *children*, the *-en* was added to a *-re* plural, as in *childre* (Old English *cildru*).

enable *v.* 1415, to make fit; later, to make able to (1443); formed from Middle English *en-¹* + *able*.

enact *v.* 1414, to enter in the public records, formed from Middle English *en-¹* + *acte* act, probably after Anglo-Latin *inacticare*, *inactitare*. — **enactment** *n.* 1817, formed from English *enact* + *-ment*.

enamel *v.* 1392 *enamelen*, borrowed from Anglo-French *enamelier*, *enamailler* (*en-* in + *amailler* to enamel, variant of Old French *esmaillier*, from *esmail* enamel, from Frankish **smalt*; compare Middle Dutch *smelten* to melt). — **n.** 1421 *anamell*, literally, a means of enameling, from *enamelen* to enamel.

enamor *v.* Before 1338 *enamouren* fill with love; earlier *an-amouren* (probably about 1300); borrowed from Old French *enamouren* (*en-* cause to + *amour* love). — **enamored** *adj.* Before 1631, from the verb.

-ence a suffix forming nouns meaning: 1 action or fact of (when added to verbs), as in *convergence* = act or fact of converging. 2 state or quality of (when added to adjectives ending in *-ent*), as in *absence* = state of being absent. *-ence* was formed in English partially by alteration of Old French *-ance* *-ANCE*, partially as a borrowing from Old French *-ence* directly from Latin *-entia* (*-ent-*, participial stem, as in *emergentem* emerging + *-ia*, suffix corresponding to English *-y²*). Compare *-ANCE*.

The varying forms in Latin *-entia* and *-antia* were generally

leveled in Old French to *-ance*, especially for nouns showing action or process. Later words were borrowed from Latin usually retaining the vowel found in the Latin word (*absence*, *diligence*; *elegance*, *temperance*), especially for nouns showing state or quality. Both nouns of action or state were borrowed into Middle English, mostly with their French spellings, though some words in *-ance* have later (after 1500) been respelled with *-ence* in imitation of the original Latin spelling. This has produced irregular spelling patterns, such as *assistance*, *existence*; *attendance*, *superintendence*; *appearance*, *independence*; and even a divergence between the participial form *apparent*, *defendant* and the noun *appearance*, (British) *defence*.

encephalon *n.* 1741, New Latin, from Greek *enkephalos* (*en-* within + *kephalē* head). — **encephalitis** *n.* 1843; formed, probably by influence of French *encéphalite*, from *encephal(on)* + *-itis*.

enchant *v.* About 1378 *enchauten* hold spellbound, borrowed from Old French *enchanter* bewitch, charm, from Latin *incantāre*, literally, chant a magic formula or incantation upon (*in-* upon, into + *cantāre* to sing). Also, *enchant* may be a back formation from *enchantment*. — **enchantment** *n.* About 1300 *enchautment*, borrowed from Old French *enchantement*, from *enchanter* enchant; for suffix see *-MENT*.

enchilada *n.* 1887, American English; borrowed from Mexican Spanish *enchilada*, from feminine past participle of *enchilar* season with chili (*en-* in, from Latin *in-* + *chile* CHILI).

enclave *n.* 1868, borrowed from French *enclave*, from Middle French, from Old French *enclaver* enclose, from Vulgar Latin **inclāvare* shut in, lock up (Latin *in-* in + *clāvis* key). Middle English had a related verbal use *enclaved* surrounded, as by land owned by someone else (1435), past participle form apparently developed from a borrowing of Middle French *enclaver*.

enclose *v.* Before 1338, formed in part from English *en-¹* + *close*,¹ after *enclos* enclosure (about 1280); borrowed from Old French *enclos*, past participle of *enclore* to surround with a barrier. — **enclosure** *n.* About 1464, the action of fencing in or enclosing land, probably borrowed from Middle French *enclosure*, from Old French *en-* in + *closure* that which encloses; it is also possible *enclosure* is a formation in English from *en-¹* + *closure* (about 1390).

encomium *n.* 1589, borrowed from Late Latin *encōmīum*, from Greek *enkōmion* laudatory ode, eulogy (*en-* + *kōmos* ode, procession, merrymaking).

encore *interj.* 1712, borrowed from French *encore* still, yet, again, probably from Vulgar Latin **hinc ad hōram* from then to this hour (Latin *hinc* from here, hence and *ad* to and *hōram*, accusative of *hōra* HOUR). — **n.** 1763, from the interjection. — **v.** 1748, from the interjection.

encounter *v.* About 1300 *encountren* meet as an adversary; borrowed from Old French *encontrer* confront, from *encontre*, prep., adv., against, counter to, from Late Latin *incontrā* in front of (Latin *in-* in + *contrā* against). The sense of meet, fall in with is first recorded in English in 1520. — **n.** About 1300 *encontre*

confrontation; borrowed from Old French, originally preposition and adverb, against, counter to.

encourage *v.* 1429 *encoragen* inspire with courage borrowed from Middle French *encoragier*, from Old French (*en*- + *corage* COURAGE). —**encouragement** *n.* 1568, borrowed from Middle French *encouragement*, from *encoragier*; for suffix see -MENT.

encroach *v.* Probably about 1380 *encrochen* acquire, get; borrowed from Old French *encrochier* seize, fasten on, perch (*en*- + *croc* hook; see CROCHET). The sense of intrude, trespass, is first recorded about 1534. —**encroachment** *n.* Probably 1469 *encrochments*, pl.; borrowed from Anglo-French *encroachment*, from *encrocher* encroach + -ment.

encumber *v.* Before 1338 *encombrer* burden, vex, borrowed from Old French *encombrer* obstruct (*en*- put in + *combre* barrier). The sense of hinder or hamper is first recorded in English about 1386. —**encumbrance** *n.* Probably before 1300 *encombraunce*, borrowed from Old French *encombrance*, from *encombrer*; for suffix see -ANCE.

-ency a variant form of the suffix -ence, meaning: 1 the act or fact of (when added to verbs), as in *dependency* = the act or fact of depending. 2 the quality or condition of (when added to adjectives ending in -ent), as in *frequency* = condition of being frequent. 3 other meanings, as in *agency*, *currency*. Borrowed from Latin -entia; see -ENCE.

encyclical *adj.* 1647, intended for wide circulation; earlier, general (perhaps 1616); formed in English from Late Latin *encyclicus*, from Greek *enkyklios* circular, general (*en*- in + *kýklos* circle) + English -al¹. —**n.** 1837, from the adjective.

encyclopedia *n.* 1531, general course of instruction, borrowed from New Latin *encyclopaedia* (1508), from Greek **enkyklopaideia*, thought to be a false reading for Greek *enkyklios paidēia* general education (*enkyklios* general + *paidēia* education, child rearing, from *pais*, genitive *paidós* child). The modern sense of a reference work containing information on all branches of knowledge appeared in English in 1632 or 1630. —**encyclopediaic** *adj.* 1824, formed from English *encyclopedia* + -ic, after French *encyclopédique*.

end *n.* Old English (about 725) *ende*; cognate with Old Frisian *ende* end, Old Saxon *endi*, Middle Dutch *ende* (modern Dutch *einde*), Old High German *enti* (modern German *Ende*), Old Icelandic *endir*, *endi* (Danish and Norwegian *ende*, Swedish *ände*), and Gothic *andei*. —**v.** Probably before 1200 *enden*, developed from Old English (about 950) *endian* to finish; complete; cognate with Old Frisian *endia* to end, Old Saxon *endōn*, Old High German *entōn* (modern German *enden*), and Old Icelandic *enda*. —**ending** *n.* Before 1225 *endinge* completion; developed from Old English *ending*, *ge-ending* (before 1000), formed from Old English *endian*, *ge-endian*, *v.* + -*ung* -ing. —**endless** *adj.* Probably before 1200 *endelese*, developed from Old English *endelēas* (before 900), formed from Old English *ende*, *n.* + -*lēas* -less.

endear *v.* 1580, to enhance the value of, win the affection of; later, to make dear (1647); formed from English *en*-¹ make +

dear. —**endearment** *n.* 1612; formed from English *endear* + -ment.

endeavor *n.* 1417 *endeavour*, formed from Middle English *en*-¹ + *dever* duty, from *put* (oneself) in *dever* make it one's duty; hence, endeavor. —**v.** Before 1450 *endoweren*, before 1500 *indeveren*, from the noun.

endemic *adj.* 1759, perhaps from the earlier noun (1662, a disease common to a particular locality); also a shortening of *endemical* (1657), or a borrowing from Greek *éndēmos* native (*en*- in + *dēmos* people, district), possibly through French *endémique*; for suffix see -IC.

endive *n.* 1373 *endive*, borrowed from Old French *endive*, from Late Latin *endivia*, feminine singular, from Medieval Greek *entýbia* (= *endivia*), plural of *entýbion*, diminutive form of Greek *éntybon*.

endo- a combining form meaning inside, within, internal, inner, used in scientific and technical coinages, such as *endocrine*, *endoderm* (inner layer of cells in embryos), *endoskeleton* (internal skeleton). Borrowed from Greek *endo-*, combining form of *éndon* within.

endocrine *adj.* 1914, secreting internally (of glands which secrete hormones), borrowed from French *endocrine* or Italian *endocrina*, from Greek *endo-* within + *krínein* to separate, distinguish.

endogenous *adj.* 1830, borrowed from French *endogène*, from Greek *endogēnēs* born in the house (*endo-* within + *gēnos* birth); for suffix see -OUS.

endorphin *n.* 1975, formed from English *endo-* internal + (*mo*)*rphin(e)*.

endorse *v.* 1547 *indorse*, 1581 *endorse*, alteration (influenced by Medieval Latin *indorsare* endorse) of earlier *endossen* (before 1400); borrowed from Old French *endosser* (*en*- put on + *dos* back, from Latin *dossum*, variant of *dorsum*). The sense of confirm, approve, is first recorded in English in 1847. —**endorsement** *n.* 1547, formed from English *endorse* + -ment; replacing *endosement* (probably 1424); borrowed from Anglo-French, Old French *endossement*, from *endosser*; for suffix see -MENT.

endow *v.* 1375 *indowen*, 1390 *endouwen* provide an income for; borrowed from Anglo-French *endouer* (from *en*- + Old French *douer* endow, from Latin *dōtare* bestow). The sense of provide or enrich with a quality, talent, etc., is first recorded in 1402. —**endowment** *n.* 1447 *indowment*, 1450 *endowment*; borrowed from Anglo-French *endouement*, from *endouer*, or formed from English *indowen*, *endouwen* + -ment.

endure *v.* About 1380 *enduren*; borrowed from Old French *endurer*, from Latin *indurare* make hard, in Late Latin, harden (the heart) against (*in*- in + *durare* to harden, from *durus* hard). —**endurance** *n.* 1494, borrowed from Middle French *endurance*, from Old French *endurer*; for suffix see -ANCE. —**enduring** *adj.* 1470, formed from *endure*, *v.* + -ing, proba-

bly by influence of earlier *enduring*, n. duration, continued existence (about 1380).

enema *n.* Probably before 1425, borrowed perhaps through Medieval Latin from Greek *énema* (genitive *enématos*) injection, from *eniénai* to send in, inject (*en-* in + *hiénai* send).

enemy *n.* Probably about 1225 *enemi*, borrowed from Old French *enemi*; earlier *inimi*, from Latin *inimicus* (*in-* not + *amicus* friend).

energy *n.* 1599, force of expression; borrowed from Middle French *énergie*, learned borrowing from Late Latin *energía*, from Greek *enérgeia* activity, operation, from *energós* active, working (*en-* in + *érgon* WORK).

The general meaning of power, is first recorded in English in 1665, and its application in the scientific sense of the power to do work, as in mechanical energy, is first recorded in 1807. —**energetic** *adj.* 1651, powerful in activity or effect; a shortening of *energetical* (1603), formed in English from Greek *energētikós* active, energetic (from *energeîn* to operate, effect, from *energós* active) + *-al*; for suffix see *-ICAL*. The sense pertaining to people as vigorous, is first recorded in 1796. —**energize** *v.* 1752, formed from English *energy* + *-ize*.

enervate *v.* 1610, probably developed from earlier *enervate*, *adj.* lacking strength in character, spiritless (1603); borrowed from Latin *ēnervātus*, past participle of *ēnervāre* weaken, cut the sinews of (*ē-* out + *nervus* sinew); for suffix see *-ATE*¹. —**enervation** *n.* 1429, borrowed probably through Middle French *énervation*, from Late Latin *ēnervātiōnem* (nominative *ēnervātiō*), from Latin *ēnervāre*; for suffix see *-ATION*.

enfilade *n.* 1706, borrowing of French *enfilade*, from Old French *enfiler* to thread on a string, pierce from end to end (*en-* put on + *fil* thread + *-ade*). —**v.** 1706, from the noun.

enforce *v.* Probably about 1343, to make an effort; 1350, to force or compel; borrowed from Old French *enforcier* to exert force, and *enforcir* to strengthen, from Vulgar Latin **infortiāre*, **infortire* (Latin *in-* make + *fortis* strong).

enfranchise *v.* 1419, borrowed from Middle French *enfranchiss-*, extended stem of *enfranchir* to set or make free (*en-* make + *franchir* set free, from Old French *franche*, feminine of *franc* free, from Frankish *Frank* a Frank).

engage *v.* 1430 *engagen* to pledge; borrowed from Middle French *engagier*, from Old French *en gage* under pledge (*en-* make and *gage* pledge). The sense of promise to marry, is first recorded in 1727. The senses of involve (before 1586), attract the attention (1642), or employ (1648), developed from the notion of binding as by a pledge. —**engaged** *adj.* (1615, betrothed) —**engagement** *n.* 1601, formed from English *engage* + *-ment*. —**engaging** *adj.* (1651) inferred in *engagingly*.

engender *v.* About 1330, beget or procreate; borrowed from Old French *engendrér*, from Latin *ingenerāre* (*in-* in + *generāre* beget, create). The sense of cause, produce, is first recorded about 1350.

engine *n.* Probably before 1300 *engyne* mechanical device,

machine used in warfare, also probably about 1300 *engyn*, *enginne* skill, cleverness, craft; borrowed from Old French *engin* skill, cleverness, from Latin *ingenium* inborn qualities, talent (*in-* in + *gen-*, root of *gignere* to beget, produce).

The early sense of machine survives *fire engine* and *engine of destruction*; the specific application to converting energy into mechanical power, is first recorded chiefly in compounds, such as *steam engine* (1751). —**engineer** *n.* Before 1338 *engynour* builder of military engines; borrowed from Old French *engigneor*, from *engignier*, *enginier* to contrive, build, from *engin*; for suffix see *-EER* and *-OR*². —**v.** 1681, implied in *engineering*; from the noun.

English *adj.* Probably before 1200 *Englische*; also about 1200 *English*, developed from Old English (about 880) *Englisc*, from *Engle*, pl., the Angles (see *ANGLO-*); for suffix see *-ISH*¹. When the word first occurred in Old English, it had the meaning “of or belonging to the group of Germanic peoples comprising the Angles, Saxons, and Jutes.” By the time of the Norman Conquest (1066) it was applied to the population of England as distinguished from the French or Normans. But within a generation or two that distinction had practically disappeared, except in state documents. —**n.** the English language. About 1150 *Englis*; later *English* (probably about 1200); developed from Old English (about 890) *Englisc*, noun use of the adjective. Originally applied to the dialects spoken in Britain by the Angles and Saxons, but early in Old English developing the meaning of the aggregate of dialects descended from the language of the Germanic settlers; now called Anglo-Saxon or Old English. —**Englishman** *n.* Probably about 1200, developed from Old English *Engliscman* (about 950). —**Englishwoman** *n.* (about 1400)

engrave *v.* Before 1475, implied in *ingraved* formed from English *en-*¹ make + *grave*³ carve; probably patterned on obsolete French *engraver* (*en-* *en-*¹ + *graver* engrave).

engross *v.* Before 1400 *engrosen* buy up the whole stock of, borrowed from Old French *en gros* in a large quantity, at wholesale. The word was used in 1598, with the meaning of concentrate in one's possession, monopolize, from which evolved the figurative sense of absorb or engage the whole attention of (1709).

enhance *v.* About 1280 *anhaunsen* to raise, make higher; later *enhauncen* raise in station, wealth, fame (about 1300); borrowed from Anglo-French *enhauncer*, Old French *enhaucier*, *enhalcier* make greater, from Vulgar Latin **inaltiāre*, alteration of Late Latin *inaltāre* raise, exalt. It has been suggested that the *h* in Old French *enhaucier*, *enhalcier* was possibly the result of the influence of Frankish **hōh* high. —**enhancement** *n.* 1577, formed from English *enhance* + *-ment*.

enigma *n.* 1588, earlier, in an Anglicized form *enigmat* (before 1449); borrowed from Latin *aenigma* riddle, from Greek *ainigma* (genitive *ainigmatos*), from *ainissesthai* speak obscurely, speak in riddles, from *ainos* fable, riddle. The spelling with initial *e* and the borrowing of *enigma* were influenced by Middle French *énigme*. —**enigmatic** *adj.* 1628–77 *aenigmatic*; in part a shortening of *enigmaticall* (1576), and in part borrowed

from Late Latin *aenigmaticus*, from Latin *aenigma*; for suffix see -IC.

enjoin *v.* Probably before 1200 *engoinen* prescribe, impose, borrowed from Old French *enjoign-*, stem of *enjoindre*, from Latin *injungere* to attach, impose (*in-* on + *jungere* join).

enjoy *v.* About 1384 *enjoyen* rejoice, be glad, borrowed from Old French *enjoir* to give joy, enjoy (*en-* make + *joir* enjoy, from Latin *gaudēre* rejoice). The sense of have the use or benefit of, is first recorded about 1430. —**enjoyment** *n.* 1553, formed from English *enjoy* + *-ment*.

enkephalin *n.* 1975, protein substance in the brain that suppresses pain; formed in English from Greek *enkephalos* brain + English *-in²*,

enlarge *v.* About 1350 *enlargen* grow fat, increase (pleasure, kindness, etc.); borrowed from Old French *enlargier*, *enlargir* make large (*en-* make + *large* large). —**enlargement** *n.* 1540, formed from English *enlarge* + *-ment*. The meaning of a photograph increased in size, is first recorded in 1866.

enlighten *v.* About 1384 *inligten* to bring knowledge, stimulate the mind; formed after *inligten* to illuminate, from Old English *inlihtan* (*in-* make, + *lihtan* to shine), and *lighten* to clarify. —**enlightenment** *n.* 1669; formed from English *en-*¹ + *lighten* + *-ment*, except the historical sense referring to the French philosophers of the 1700's where the *Enlightenment* is a loan translation of German *Aufklärung* clarification.

enlist *v.* 1599, to enroll on the list or roster of a military unit; formed from *en-*¹ + *list*¹, *n.* or *v.*, possibly suggested by Dutch *inlijsten* to write on a list. —**enlisted man** (1724) —**enlistment** *n.* 1765, formed from English *enlist* + *-ment*.

enmity *n.* Before 1382 *enmyte* danger; about 1384 *enmytee* hostility; borrowed from Old French *enemistie*, from Vulgar Latin **inimicitatem*, from Latin *inimicus* ENEMY; for suffix see -ITY.

Loss of *s* in the Middle English forms indicates it was no longer pronounced in French at the time of borrowing.

ennoble *v.* About 1475, implied in *ennobled*; borrowed from Middle French *ennobler* (*en-* make + *noble* noble).

ennui *n.* 1667, developed from Old French *enui* annoyance, from *enuier* ANNOY.

enormous *adj.* 1531, borrowed from Latin *ēnormis* irregular, extraordinary, very large (*ē-* out of + *norma* rule, NORM), with substitution of English *-ous* for Latin *-is*, and replacing earlier *enormyous* very great, monstrous; either formed from English *enorme* monstrous act (*adj.* used as a noun before 1464 + *-ous*); or borrowed from Middle French *énorme* from Latin *ēnormis* irregular, extraordinary; for suffix see -OUS. —**enormity** *n.* 1475, transgression, crime; either borrowed from Middle French *énormité*, learned borrowing from Latin *ēnormitatem* (nominative *ēnormitās*) irregularity, vastness, from *ēnormis*; or formed from English *enorme* + *-ity*. The sense of extreme wickedness, is first recorded in 1563; that of hugeness, vastness, in 1792.

enough *adj., adv.* Probably before 1200 *inoh*, later *ynough* (about 1303); developed from Old English *genōg* (before 899); cognate with Old Frisian *enōch* enough, Old Saxon *ginōg*, Old High German *ginuog*, Old Icelandic *gnōgr*, and Gothic *ganōhs* enough. All of these Germanic words represent compounds made up of the root of Old English *ge-* with, together (a perfective prefix also found in Old High German *ga-*, *gi-*, modern German *ge-*, Old Icelandic *g-*, and Gothic *gu-*), and the root *-nah* (as in Old High German *ginah*, *ganah* suffixes). For spelling change see COUGH.

enrage *v.* 1398, to make violent; implied in *enraged*; borrowed from Old French *enrager* (*en-* put in + *rage* rage, rabies).

enrapture *v.* 1740, formed from English *en-*¹ put in + *rapture*, influenced by earlier *enrapt* enraptured (1606).

enroll *v.* Before 1400 *enrollen* to write in an official list, register; borrowed from Old French *enroller*, *enrouler*, from Medieval Latin *inrotulare* write in a roll (from Latin *in* in + *rotulus* little wheel). —**enrollment** *n.* 1440 *enrollement*, borrowed through Anglo-French *enrollement*, from Middle French *enrollement*, from *enroller*; for suffix see -MENT.

ensconce *v.* 1590, to fortify, formed from English *en-*¹ make, put in + *sconce* small fortification, shelter, probably from Dutch *schanse* earthwork, brushwood (used as a protective screen), from Middle High German *schanze* bundle of sticks, of uncertain origin. The sense of to shelter is first recorded in 1598, though use of settle comfortably is not recorded before 1820.

ensemble *n.* Probably before 1500, a gathering of people; borrowed from Middle French *ensemble*; 1703 all the parts of a thing considered together; borrowing of French *ensemble* together, from Late Latin *insimul* at the same time (*in-* intensive + *simul* at the same time). The sense of a group of musicians playing or singing together, is first recorded in English in 1844.

ensign *n.* 1375 (Scottish), a signal, sign, borrowed from Old French *enseigne*, from Latin *insignia*, pl.; see INSIGNIA. The sense of a banner or flag, is first recorded probably before 1400. A soldier who carried the banner was later (1513–75) called an *ensign*.

ensue *v.* Before 1400 *insuyen* pursue; later *ensewen* follow, result (1426); borrowed from Old French *ensivre*, *ensuivre* follow close upon, from Vulgar Latin **insequere*, from Latin *insequi* (*in-* upon + *sequi* follow).

ensure *v.* Before 1376 *enseuren* to exact a pledge; also *ensuren* to give assurance, promise on oath (about 1380); borrowed from Anglo-French *enseurer* (*en-* make + Old French *seür* SURE, probably influenced by Old French *aseürer* ASSURE). The sense of make sure or certain, guarantee, is first recorded in 1440.

-ent a suffix forming adjectives and nouns from verbs, such as *absorbent* (from *absorb*), *correspondent* (from *correspond*). Borrowed through French *-ent*, and directly from Latin *-entem*, present participle ending of verbs in *-ēre*, *-ere*, and *-īre*; often an alteration of Old French *-ant* -ANT.

Latin present participles *-antem* and *-entem* were leveled in Old French to *-ant*, but later many Latin forms with *-ent* that had assumed an adjective sense were borrowed into French as

adjectives with the spelling *-ent*. English kept the French spelling in *-ent* and *-ant* as it borrowed words from French, but after 1500 some English spellings were changed in imitation of what was considered the appropriate Latin ending. This led to a confusion of arbitrary spellings: attendant, superintendent; secant, tangent; convergent, errant.

entablature *n.* 1611, part of a building resting on the top of columns; borrowed from obsolete French *entablature*, from Italian *intavolatura*, from *intavolare* put on a board or tablet (*in-* on + *tavola* board from Latin *tabula* board, TABLE); for suffix see *-URE*.

entail *v.* Probably before 1400 *entailen* settle an estate on a line of persons in succession, (*en-* make + *taile* limitation of inheritance to a line of heirs; borrowed from Anglo-French *taile*, Old French *taillié*, past participle of *taillier* allot, cut to shape, from Late Latin *tālīare*). A transferred sense of bestow or confer is first recorded about 1422, from which evolved the sense of bring on as a consequence, involve, necessitate (1829). —*n.* Probably before 1400, from the verb, probably by influence of Old French *en taile* under a specific condition.

entangle *v.* About 1425 *entanglen* to involve, especially in difficulty, embarrass; formed from Middle English *en-* intensive + *tanglen* to involve in complex affairs, often ones that embarrass.

entente *n.* 1854, agreement between two or more governments; earlier in *entente cordiale* (1844); borrowed from French *entente* understanding, from Old French *entente* intent, from feminine past participle of *entendre* INTEND.

enter *v.* About 1275 *entren* go in; borrowed from Old French *entrer*, from Latin *intrāre*, from *intrā* within, related to *inter* between; see *INTRA-* and *INTER-*.

enterprise *n.* About 1440, an adventure, expedition; an undertaking, task; borrowed from Middle French *entreprise*, *entreprinse*, noun use of feminine past participle of *entreprendre* undertake, take in hand (*entre-* between + *prendre* to take).

entertain *v.* About 1475 *entertien* maintain, borrowed from Middle French *entretenir*, from Old French *entretenir* hold together, support (*entre-* among, from Latin *inter-* INTER- + Old French *tenir* to hold, from Latin *tenēre*). The sense of have as a guest, is first recorded in 1490, and that of amuse, in 1626. —**entertainment** *n.* 1531, social manners, formed from English *entertain* + *-ment*; a re-formation of Middle English *entretenelement* support (1440); borrowed from Old French *entretenement*, from *entretenir* + *-ment*. The sense of amusement, is first recorded in 1612.

enthusiasm *n.* 1603 *enthousiasme* divine inspiration, prophetic or poetic frenzy, and earlier cited in the Greek (1579); borrowed from Middle French *enthousiasme* from Greek, also borrowed directly from Late Latin *enthūsiasmus*, and from Greek *enthousiasmós*, from *enthousiázein* be inspired, from *én-theos* inspired, god-possessed (*en-* in + *theós* god). The sense of fervor, zeal, is first recorded in English in 1716. —**enthusiast** *n.* 1570, one who believes himself divinely inspired; borrowed from French *enthousiaste* from Greek *enthousiastēs*, from *enthousiázein*. The sense of one full of zeal for a cause, etc., is first recorded in English in 1764. —**enthusiastic** *adj.* 1603, characterized by divine inspiration, borrowed from Greek *en-*

thousiastikós, from *enthousiázein* for suffix see *-IC*. The sense of eager, ardent, is first recorded in 1786. —**enthuse** *v.* show or fill with enthusiasm. 1827, American English, back formation from *enthusiasm*.

entice *v.* About 1280 *entycen* incite; borrowed from Old French *enticier*, perhaps from Vulgar Latin **intitiāre* set on fire, (Latin *in-* in + *titiō*, genitive *titiōnis*, firebrand, of uncertain origin). The sense of to allure or attract is first recorded about 1300.

entire *adj.* About 1390 *entere* whole or complete, sincere or pure; later *entire* (1449); borrowed from Old French *entier* whole, complete, from Latin *integer* whole, complete (*in-* not + **tag-*, root of *tangere* to touch). —**entirety** *n.* About 1350 *enterete*, borrowed through Anglo-French *entiertie*, Old French *entiereté*, from Latin *integritatem* (nominative *integritās*), from *integer* (genitive *integrī*) for suffix see *-TY²*.

entity *n.* 1596, being or existence; borrowed through Middle French *entité*, and directly from Medieval Latin *entitatem* (nominative *entitas*), from Latin *ēns* (genitive *entis*), proposed by Caesar as present participle of *esse* be; see *IS*; for suffix see *-TY²*.

entomology *n.* 1766, borrowed from French *entomologie*, from New Latin *entomologia*, from Greek *éntomon* insect + *-logia* study of. Greek *éntomon* derives from the neuter of *éntomos* having a notch or cut at the waist, referring to the segmented division of an insect's body.

entourage *n.* 1832–34, surroundings, environment, borrowed from French *entourage*, from Middle French, from *entourer* surround, from Old French *entour* that which surrounds (*en* in + *tour* a circuit, TOUR); for suffix see *-AGE*.

The sense of attendants, originally conveying the notion of an assemblage of persons is first recorded in English in 1860.

entrails *n. pl.* Probably before 1300 *entraile* inner parts of the body, innards (collective singular); *entrailles* (plural 1325); borrowed from Old French *entrailles*, from Late Latin *intrālia* inward parts, intestines (alteration of Latin *interānea*, noun plural of *interāneus* internal, from *inter* between + *-āneus*, as in *extrāneus* external).

entrance¹ *n.* 1526, act of entering; borrowed from Middle French *entrance*, from *entrer* ENTER; for suffix see *-ANCE*. The sense of door, gate, or similar passage, is first recorded in English in 1535. —**entrant** *n.* 1635, borrowed from French *entrant*, present participle of *entrer* to enter.

entrance² *v.* to charm. 1593, to carry away as if in a trance; formed from English *en-* put in + *trance*. The sense of delight, is recorded before 1599.

entrap *v.* 1590–96, (earlier *intrap*, 1534); borrowed from Old French *entrap* (*en-* make, put in + *trappe* trap).

entreat *v.* About 1400 *entreten* deal with; later, to plead with (about 1425); borrowed through Anglo-French *entretier*, Middle French *entraitier*, from Old French *entraiter*, *entraitier* (*en-* make, + *traiter* TREAT). —**entreaty** *n.* 1448, treatment, nego-

tion, formed from English *entreat* + *-y*³. The sense of an earnest request, is first recorded in 1573.

entree or **entrée** *n.* 1724, a reborrowing of the Old French *entree* ENTRY with the meaning of the main course of a meal, which developed in English from the sense of a dish served between the main courses (1759). In its original borrowing in Middle English the word was spelled *entre* meaning act of entering, admittance, access (about 1300).

entrepreneur *n.* 1828, manager or promoter of a theatrical institution; borrowing of French *entrepreneur*, from Old French, one who undertakes, manager, from *entreprendre* undertake + *-eur* -or²; see ENTERPRISE. The sense of a business manager or promoter appeared in English in 1852. The word originally appeared as *entreprennoure* in 1475 and *enterprenour* in 1485, after which it disappeared in recorded English for almost 350 years.

entropy *n.* Physics. the part of energy that cannot be converted into work. 1868, borrowed from German *Entropie*, from Greek *entropiā*, *entropē* a turning towards (*en-* in + *trōpē* a turning); for suffix see *-y*³.

entry *n.* Probably before 1300 *entre* act of entering; borrowed from Old French *entree*, originally, feminine past participle of *entrer* ENTER.

enumeration *n.* 1550, the act of listing or counting; borrowed from Middle French *enumeration*, and directly from Latin *enumerātiōnem* (nominative *enumerātiō*), from *enumerāre* to count out (*-ē* out + *numerāre* to count); for suffix see *-ATION*. —**enumerate** *v.* 1616, formed in English on the model of Latin *enumerātus*, past participle of *enumerāre*; and borrowed (possibly by influence of French *énumérer* to count, number) from Latin *enumerātus*; for suffix see *-ATE*¹. Also *enumerate* may be a back formation from *enumeration*.

enunciation *n.* 1551, declaration; borrowed (possibly by influence of Middle French *énonciation*) from Latin *enūntiātiōnem* (nominative *enūntiātiō*), from *enūntiāre* enunciate; for suffix see *-ATION*. The sense of pronunciation or articulation, is first recorded in English in 1750. —**enunciate** *v.* 1623, declare or express; borrowed from Latin *enūntiātus*, past participle of *enūntiāre* (*-ē* out + *nūntiāre* ANNOUNCE); for suffix see *-ATE*¹. The sense of articulate or pronounce, is first recorded in English in 1759. Also *enunciate* may be a back formation from *enunciation*.

envelop *v.* 1590, alteration (influenced by Middle French *envelopper*) of earlier *envolupen* be involved in (1390); borrowed from Old French *envoluper*, *envoloper* (*en-* in + *voloper* wrap up; of uncertain origin). —**envelopment** *n.* 1763, formed from English *envelop* + *-ment*.

envelope *n.* 1705, borrowed from French *enveloppe*, from Middle French, from *envelopper* to ENVELOP.

environ *n.* **environs**, pl. surrounding area; suburbs. 1665, borrowed from French *environs*, plural of Old French *environ* compass, circuit, from *environ*, adv., around (*en-* in + *viron* circle, circuit, from *vīrer* to turn). —**environment** *n.* 1603,

the act or fact of surrounding; later, the surrounding things and conditions affecting an animal or plant (1827); formed from English *environ*, *v.* surround, enclose + *-ment*. —**environmentalism** *n.* 1923, emphasis on environment in the development of an individual or group; formed from English *environmental* + *-ism*. The sense of concern with the environment of living things appeared in 1972.

envisage *v.* 1820, look in the face of; borrowed from French *envisager* (*en-* cause to + *visage* face). The sense of visualize, is first recorded in English in 1837.

envoy *n.* 1666, alteration of earlier *envoyée* (1660) and *envoyé* (1664); borrowed from French *envoyé* one sent, noun use of past participle of *envoyer* send, from Old French, from Vulgar Latin **inviāre* send on one's way (Latin *in* on + *via* road).

envy *n.* About 1280 *envie* feeling of ill will at another's good fortune; borrowed from Old French *envie*, from Latin *invidia*, from *invidus* envious, from *invidere* look with ill will upon, envy (*in-* upon + *videre* to see); for suffix see *-y*³. —**v. Before 1382 *envyen* feel envy; borrowed from Old French *envier*, from Latin *invidere*. —**enviable** *adj.* 1602, possibly borrowed from French *enviable* (*envier* to envy + *-able*); or formed in English from *envy*, *v.* + *-able*. —**envious** *adj.* About 1303 *envyus*, borrowed through Anglo-French *envius*, Old French *envius*, *envius*, from Latin *invidiosus*, from *invidia* envy; for suffix see *-OUS*.**

enzyme *n.* 1881, borrowed from German *Enzym*, from Medieval Greek *énzymos* leavened (Greek *en-* in + *zýmē* leaven). Appearance of the form in English predates the use in biology by thirty years, as attested in: 1850, the leavened bread of the Greek Orthodox eucharist.

Eocene *adj.* 1831, of the second epoch of the Tertiary period; formed in English from Greek *ēōs* dawn + *kainós* new.

oolithic *adj.* 1890, designating early human culture using stone instruments; borrowed from French *oolithique* (from Greek *ēōs* dawn, + French *-lithique*, as in *néolithique*, from Greek *lithos* stone).

eon *n.* See AEON.

ep- a form of the prefix *epi-* before vowels, as in *epaxial* (situated on the axis of the body), *eponym*, and before *h*, as in *ephemeral*.

epaulet or **epaulette** *n.* 1783, borrowing of French *épaulette*, diminutive form of *épaule* shoulder, from Old French *espaule*, *espalie*, from Latin *spatula*, flat piece of wood, splint, diminutive form of *spatha* shoulder blade, from Greek *spáthē* shoulder blade; for suffix see *-ET*, *-ETTE*.

ephemeral *adj.* 1576, formed in English from Greek *ephēmeros* subject to what the day may bring + English *-al*¹. Greek *ephēmeros* comes from *ep'* *hēmērāi* (*epi* subject to and *hēmērāi*, dative of *hēmērā* day).

Earliest uses referred to the course of a disease or life span. Before 1639, in the extended sense of transitory, short-lived appeared.

An earlier borrowing appeared as Middle English *effimera*, *effimere* a fever lasting a short time (before 1398); borrowed from Medieval Latin *ephemera*, feminine of *ephemerus* lasting only a day, from Greek *ephēmeros* short-lived.

epi- a prefix meaning: 1 on, upon, above, as in *epicenter*, *epigraph*. 2 in addition, as in *epilogue*, *episode*. 3 toward, among, as in *epidemic*. Either abstracted from compounds already formed in Greek, or borrowed from Greek *epi-*, related to *epi* on, towards, after, besides.

epic *adj.* 1589, borrowed possibly through Middle French *épique*, learned borrowing of Latin or directly from Latin *epicus*, from Greek *epikós*, from *épos* word, story, poem; for suffix see -IC. The extended sense of grand in style, heroic, is first recorded in English in 1731. —**n.** 1706, from the adjective. The sense of any story or account worthy of being an epic, is first recorded in 1831.

epicene *adj.* About 1450 *epycen* having a common gender; borrowed from Latin *epicoenus* common, from Greek *epikoinos* (*epi-* on + *koinós* common). The extended sense of characteristic of both sexes, is first recorded in English in 1601, and that of effeminate followed in 1633.

epicure *n.* About 1384 *Epicure* disciple of Epicurus; borrowing of the Latin form *Epicūrus*, from Greek *Epikouros*, Greek philosopher who taught that pleasure identified with virtue, is the highest good. The sense of gourmet (1586) coexisted with the pejorative sense of one who gives himself up to sensual pleasure, until the later 1700's when the sense of a glutton gradually receded, existing now chiefly in *epicurean*. —**epicurean** *n.* About 1380 *Epicurien* follower of Epicurus; possibly borrowed from Old French *Epicurien*, from *Epicure* Epicure + *-en* -an; or formed in English from *Epicure* + *-an*. The sense of one who gives himself up to sensual pleasure, appeared in English before 1572. —*adj.* 1586, from the noun.

epidemic *adj.* 1603, borrowed from French *épidémique*, from *épidémie* an epidemic disease, learned borrowing from Medieval Latin *epidemia*, from Greek *epidēmíā* prevalence of an epidemic disease, especially the plague (*epi-* among, upon + *dēmos* people, district); for suffix see -IC. The concept was known in the English-speaking world 130 years before, as evidenced by the term *epideme* epidemic disease, recorded in 1472. —**n.** 1757, anything like an epidemic disease; from the adjective.

epidermis *n.* 1626, borrowed from Late Latin *epidermis*, from Greek *epidermís* (*epi-* on + *dérma* skin).

epiglottis *n.* 1525, borrowing of Late Latin *epiglōttis*, from Greek *epiglōttis* (*epi-* on + *glōttis*, from *glōtta*, variant of *glōssa* tongue). *Epiglottis* replaced Middle English *epiglote* (recorded before 1400); borrowed from Old French *epiglote*, learned borrowing from Late Latin *epiglōttis*.

epigram *n.* Probably before 1439, borrowed from Middle French *épigramme*, from Latin *epigramma*, from Greek *epigramma* an inscription, epitaph, epigram, from *epigraphēin* to write on, inscribe (*epi-* on + *gráphēin* write). —**epigrammatic** *adj.* Before 1704, shortened form of earlier *epigrammatic*

cal, *adj.* (1605, formed in English from Latin *epigrammat-*, stem of *epigrammaticus*, from Late Greek *epigrammatikós*, from *epigramma* + English suffix -ical).

epigraph *n.* 1624, inscription on a building; borrowed from Greek *epigraphē* an inscription, from *epigraphēin* to write on, inscribe. The meaning of a motto or short pithy sentence of dedication, is first recorded in English in 1844.

epilepsy *n.* 1578, borrowed from Middle French *épilepsie*, from Late Latin *epilēpsia*, from Greek *epilēpsīā* seizure (*epi-* upon + *lēpsis* a seizure); for suffix see -Y³.

Modern English *epilepsy* replaced *epilencie*, in use before 1398 and borrowed from Old French *epilencie*, learned borrowing from Medieval Latin *epilempsia* and *epilentia*, alteration of Late Latin *epilēpsia*. —**epileptic** *adj.* 1605, borrowed from French *épileptique*, from Late Latin *epilēpticus*, from Greek *epilēptikós*, from *epilēpsīā*; for suffix see -IC. —**n.** 1651, from the adjective.

Modern English *epileptic* replaced *epilentic*, in use in Middle English before 1398 and borrowed from Old French *epilentique*, from Late Latin *epilenticus*.

epilogue or **epilog** *n.* Probably about 1425 *epilog*; borrowed from Middle French *épilogue*, learned borrowing from Latin *epilogus*, from Greek *epilogos* conclusion of a speech (*epi-* upon, in addition + *lógos* a speaking).

epinephrine *n.* 1899, adrenaline; formed in English from *epi-* on + Greek *nephros* kidney (because the adrenal glands are located on the kidneys) + English -ine².

Epiphany *n.* Before 1310, *Epyphany*; borrowed from Old French *épiphanie*, from Late Latin *epiphania*, neuter plural, from Greek *epipháneia* manifestation, striking appearance (in the New Testament, the advent or manifestation of Christ), from *epiphanēs* manifest, conspicuous, from *epiphalnein* to manifest, display (*epi-* on, to + *phalnein* to show).

The general literary sense of any manifestation or revelation appeared in English in 1840.

episcopal *adj.* About 1460, borrowed from Middle French *épiscopal*, from Late Latin *episcopālis*, from Latin *episcopus* BISHOP; for suffix see -AL¹. The specific application to a church governed by bishops, appeared in 1752. —**Episcopalian** *adj.* belonging to the Episcopal Church. 1768, formed from English *episcopal* + *-ian*. —**n.** member of the Episcopal Church. 1738, formed from English *episcopal* + *-ian*.

episode *n.* 1678 *episod* commentary in a Greek tragedy between two choric songs; 1679 *episode*, an incidental narrative or digression in a story, poem, etc.; borrowed through French *épisode* from Greek *episōdion* addition, (originally) neuter of *episōdios* coming in besides (*epi-* in addition + *elsodos* a coming in, entrance). The sense of an incident or experience that stands out from others, is first recorded in English in 1773. —**episodic** *adj.* 1711 either a shortened form of earlier *episodical* (1667, from *episode* + *-ical*); or formed from English *episode* + *-ic*.

epistemology *n.* 1856, formed in English from Greek *epistēmē* knowledge (Ionic Greek *epístasthai* understand, know

how to do, from *epi-* over, near + *hístasthai* to STAND) + English *-logy*.

epistle *n.* Probably before 1200 *epistel* one of the apostolic letters of the New Testament, later, any letter (before 1382); borrowed from Old French *epistle*, learned borrowing from Latin *epistola* letter, from Greek *epistolē* message, letter, from *epistellein* send to (*epi-* to + *stéllein* send). The Old English *pistole*, *epistol* was borrowed directly from Late Latin *epistola*, and contributed to the formation *epistel* in Middle English. —**epistolary** *adj.* 1656, of letters or letter-writing, borrowed from French *épistolaire*, from Latin *epistolāris*, from *epistola* letter. The earlier Middle English *pistolarie*, *epistolarie*, *n.* a book of the epistles read at the Eucharist (1432) was a borrowing from Medieval Latin *epistolarium*, from Latin *epistolāris*, from *epistola*.

epitaph *n.* Before 1338 *epitaf*, borrowed from Old French *építaphe*, learned borrowing from Medieval Latin *epitaphium*, from Latin, funeral oration, eulogy, from Greek *epitáphion*, from neuter of *epitáphios* of a funeral (*epi-* at + *táphos* tomb, funeral rites).

epithelium *n.* 1748, New Latin, formed from *epi-* on + Greek *thelē* nipple, teat, so called because originally applied to tissue with a nipplelike surface. —**epithelial** *adj.* 1845, formed from English *epithelium* + *-al*¹.

epithet *n.* 1579, borrowed through Middle French *épithète*, or as a learned borrowing directly from Latin *epitheton*, from Greek *epítheton*, adjective often used as a noun, from neuter of *epíthetos* attributed, added, from *epitithénai* to add on, (*epi-* in addition + *tithénai* to put).

epitome *n.* 1529, summary or condensation; borrowed through Middle French *épitomé*, learned borrowing from Latin *epitomē*, from Greek *epitomē* abridgement, from *epitémnein* cut short, abridge (*epi-* into + *témnein* to cut). The sense of person or thing typical of something, is first recorded in 1607. —**epitomize** *v.* 1596, abridge or condense; formed from English *epitome* + *-ize*. The sense of embody, typify, is first recorded in 1628.

epoch *n.* 1658 *epoch*; earlier *epocha* (1614); borrowed from Medieval Latin *epocha*, from Greek *epochē* stoppage, fixed point of time, from *epéchein* to stop, take up a fixed position (*epi-* on + *échein* to hold). —**epochal** *adj.* 1685, formed from English *epoch* + *-al*¹.

eponymous *adj.* 1846, borrowed from Greek *epónymos* given as a name, giving one's name to something (*epi-* upon + *ónyma*, dialectal variant of *ónoma* NAME); for suffix see *-OUS*. —**eponym** *n.* 1846, borrowed from Greek *epónymos*.

equable *adj.* 1677, either a back formation from earlier *equability* (1531, borrowed from Latin *aequābilitās*, from *aequābilis*); or borrowed from Latin *aequābilis* equal, consistent, uniform, from *aequāre* make uniform; for suffix see *-ABLE*.

equal *adj.* About 1390, borrowed from Latin *aequālis* uniform, identical, equal, from *aequus* level, even, just; for suffix see *-AL*¹.

A parallel form *egal* equal, equivalent (obsolete in English since the 1650's) was widely used in Middle English, first recorded in 1380, and borrowed from Old French *egal*, *igal*, from Latin *aequālis*. —**n.** 1573, one who is equal to another; from the adjective. —**v.** 1586, compare, liken; from the noun. The sense of match, rival, appeared in 1590. —**equality** *n.* 1398 *equalite*, borrowed from Old French *égalité* (modern French *égalité*), from Latin *aequālitatem*, from *aequālis* equal; for suffix see *-ITY*. —**equalize** *v.* 1590, formed from English *equal* + *-ize*, perhaps modeled on French *égaliser* (1539) or *equaliser* (1400's).

equanimity *n.* 1607, fairness, impartiality; borrowed from French *équanimité*, learned borrowing from Latin *aequanimitatem* (nominative *aequanimitās*), from *aequus* even + *animus* mind, spirit; for suffix see *-ITY*. The sense of evenness of mind or temper, is first recorded in English in 1616.

equate *v.* Probably before 1425 *equaten* make equal or uniform; earlier, to place a celestial body in its proper astrological position; borrowed from Latin *aequātus*, past participle of *aequāre* make even or uniform, make equal, from *aequus* level, even, EQUAL; for suffix see *-ATE*¹. *Equate*, *v.* was also formed from earlier *equat*, *equate* (before 1420), past participle; borrowed from Latin *aequātus*. —**equation** *n.* Probably before 1425 *equacioun* a making even or equal; earlier, dividing the sphere into astrological houses of equal extent; borrowed from Latin *aequātionem* (nominative *aequātiō*) equal distribution, from *aequāre* make even or equal; for suffix see *-ATION*. The mathematical sense of statement of equality of two quantities, appeared in 1570.

equator *n.* 1391, great circle of the celestial sphere, borrowed from Medieval Latin *aequator diei et noctis* equalizer of day and night (because when the sun is in the celestial equator, day and night are of equal length), from Latin *aequāre* make equal, EQUATE; for suffix see *-OR*². The geographical sense of great circle of the earth midway between the North and South Poles, is first recorded in English in 1612. —**equatorial** *adj.* 1664; formed from English *equator* + *-ial*.

equerry *n.* 1591 *equirrie*, short for *groom of the equirrie* groom of the stables, alteration of earlier *esquirie*, *esquiry* stables (1552); borrowed from Middle French *escuerie*, *escuyrie*; for suffix see *-Y*³. The English spelling was influenced by Latin *equus* horse.

equestrian *adj.* 1656–81, formed in English from Latin *equester* (genitive *equestris*) of a horseman + English *-IAN*. Latin *equester* is derived from *equus* horseman, knight, from *equus* horse. —**n.** 1791, from the adjective.

equi- a combining form meaning equal, as in *equidistance*, or equally, as in *equidistant*. Borrowed from Latin *aequi-*, combining form of *aequus* even, EQUAL.

equilibrium *n.* 1608, borrowed from Latin *aequilibrium* (*aequus* equal + *libra* a balance, scale, plummet, of uncertain origin).

equine *adj.* 1788, borrowed from Latin *equinus*, from *equus* horse; for suffix see *-INE*¹.

equinox *n.* 1391, borrowed through Old French *equinoxe*, or directly from Medieval Latin *equinoxium* equality between day and night, from Latin *aequinoctium* (*aequus* equal + *nox*, genitive *noctis*, NIGHT).

equip *v.* 1523, furnish what is needed; borrowed from Middle French *équiper* to fit out, from Old French *esquiper* fit out a ship, probably from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *skipa* put in order, man a ship, from *skip* SHIP). —**equipment** *n.* 1717, formed from *equip* + *-ment*, or borrowed from French *équipement*, from *équiper* to equip; for suffix see *-MENT*. *Equipment* has replaced earlier *equipage* (1579), except in the sense of a horse-drawn carriage or all of its appurtenances (probably 1721).

equity *n.* Before 1333, fairness, justice; borrowed from Old French *équité*, learned borrowing from Latin *aequitatem* (nominative *aequitās*), from *aequus* even, just, EQUAL; for suffix see *-ITY*. —**equitable** *adj.* 1646, borrowed from French *équitable*, from *équité* equity; for suffix see *-ABLE*.

equivalent *adj.* About 1425, borrowed through Middle French *équivalent*, and directly from Late Latin *aequivalentem* (nominative *aequivalēns*) equivalent, present participle of *aequivalēre* be equivalent (Latin *aequus* EQUAL + *valēre* be well, be worth); for suffix see *-ENT*. —**n.** 1502, from the adjective. —**equivalence** *n.* Before 1541, perhaps back formation from earlier *equivalency* (1535); formed by influence of Middle French *équivalence*, from Medieval Latin *aequivalentia*, from Late Latin *aequivalentem*; for suffix see *-ENCE*, *-ENCY*.

equivocal *adj.* 1601–02, formed in English from Late Latin *aequivocus* of identical sound + English *-al*¹. Late Latin *aequivocus* is formed from Latin *aequus* EQUAL + the root *voc-* of *vocāre* to call. —**equivocate** *v.* be equivocal. Probably before 1425 *equivocaten*, developed from *equivocat*, *adj.*, borrowed from Medieval Latin *equivocatus*, past participle of *equivocare*, from Late Latin *aequivocus* for suffix see *-ATE*¹. —**equivocation** *n.* Before 1397 *equivocacōn* ambiguity; borrowed from Old French *equivocation*, from Late Latin *aequivocātiōnem* (nominative *aequivocātiō*), from *aequivocus*; for suffix see *-TION*. The sense of the use of equivocal language to deceive is first recorded in 1605.

-er¹ a suffix meaning person or thing that does something (*player*), is something (*foreigner*), lives somewhere (*villager*), makes or works with something (*hatter*), has something (*rancher*), or is connected with or involved in something (*first-grader*); *-er* is used to form nouns either from verbs, as *burner*, *climber*, or from other nouns, as *rancher*, *New Yorker*.

In the sense of a person or thing that is or has something, as in *rancher*, the meaning of *-er* absorbs some of the sense of *-er*⁵.

The suffix *-er*¹ is in part a native development, through Middle English *-ere*, from Old English *-ere*, as in *sangere* singer, and *bæcere* baker. It is a common Germanic formative suffixed to verbs to form agent nouns, but may have been originally added mostly to nouns to identify people by their occupation. The traditional Germanic form given is **-ārijaz* developed as Old High German *-āri* (modern German *-er*), Old Saxon *-eri*, Old Icelandic *-ari*, and Gothic *-areis*. A vestige of the original

Germanic form is evident in *-ar*, as in *beggar*, *liar*, and its equivalence to Latin *-or* is found in *instructor*, *advisor*, etc.

The influence of French is evident in many terms with the formation of Middle English *-ere*, but these terms were often borrowed through Anglo-French *-er* either from Old French *-ier*, *-iere*, and *-er* after a palatal consonant (from Latin *-ārius*, *-āria*, or *-ārium*; see *-ARY*), or from Old French *-eor*, *-eur* (see *-OR*¹, also *-OUR*). Most such terms are not associated with a verb (*commissioner*, *officer*, *prisoner*, and *carpenter*, *danger*, *border*). Later, by analogy, the suffix became a formative of so-called agent nouns, and in modern English it may be formed on verbs, except those ending in *-or*, and others fulfilled by *-ent*, as in *correspond*/*correspondent*, *-ant*, as in *defend*/*defendant*.

The English suffix *-er* also has the form *-yer* after nouns ending in *w*, such as *lawyer* and *sawyer*, and appears in English as *-ier* by analogy with *-yer* and by assimilation of borrowings from French of words ending in *-ier*, such as *clothier*, *collier*, *glazier*.

-er² a suffix forming the comparative of adjectives, as in *softer*, *smoother*, and of adverbs, as in *slower*. Middle English *-er*, *-ere* developed from Old English *-ra* (masculine), and *-re* (feminine and neuter for adjectives), and *-or* (for adverbs). Old English *-ra*, *-re* is cognate with Old Saxon and Old High German *-iro* adjective comparative suffix, German *-er*, Old Icelandic *-ri*, *-ari*, Gothic *-iza*, *-ōza*.

In the comparative of adjectives few words of Old English retained the vowel changes of the ancient Germanic forms and in modern English they have completely disappeared except for *better* and *elder*.

For most comparatives of one or two syllables, use of *-er* seems to be fading as the oral element in our society relies on *more* before adjectives to express the comparative; thus *prettier* is *more pretty*, *cooler* is *more cool*.

The Old English comparative suffix for adverbs, *-or*, as in *heardor* more fiercely (English *harder*), comparative of *heardre* (English *hard*), is cognate with Old Saxon and Old High German *-ōr*, Old Icelandic *-r*, *-ar*, and Gothic *-is*, *-ōs*. Compare *-EST*.

In the comparative degree of adverbs the vowel change of Old English in monosyllables died out in Middle English, and was replaced by adjective formations, as *to work harder* (with the exception of *sooner*). Now, as in the case with adjectives, the use of *more* is replacing the adverbial use of *-er*, as in *friendlier* replaced by *more friendly*, *oftener* by *more often*.

-er³ a suffix of nouns that were once French infinitive verb forms (Old French and Anglo-French *-er*, from Latin *-āre*), surviving in certain legal terms from Anglo-French, such as *misnomer* and *waiver*, and in a few nouns of verbal origin in Old French, such as *dinner*, *supper*, *surrender*, *ouster*.

-er⁴ a suffix meaning frequently, again and again, in verbs such as *clatter*, *flutter*, *jabber*, *putter*. Middle English *-eren*, developed from Old English *-rian*.

-er⁵ a suffix used especially in British slang to form new words by shortening a noun and adding *-er* (sometimes *-ers*) to the stem, as in *Rugger* for *Rugby*, *rudders* for *rudiments*, *soccer* for *association* (football). The usage is first recorded in the late

1800's from Rugby School and thence in Oxford University slang, thereafter coming into general currency in words like *bedder* for *bedroom*, especially during the 1920's.

era *n.* 1615 *Æra*; later *era* (1716); borrowed, possibly by influence of French *ère* epoch (1539), from Late Latin *aera*, *ēra* an era or epoch from which time is reckoned; probably the same word as Latin *aera* counters used for calculation, plural of *aes* (genitive *aeris*) brass, money; see ORE.

The use of this word in chronology is said to have originated in Spain in the A.D. 400's, and this method of reckoning, referred to as *aera Hispanica* Spanish era, probably suggested to Renaissance scholars *aera Christiana* Christian era.

eradicate *v.* Probably before 1425 *eradicaten* pull up by the roots, destroy; borrowed from Latin *eradicātus*, past participle of *eradicāre* root out (*ē-* out + *rādix*, genitive *rādis* ROOT¹); for suffix see -ATE¹. — **eradication** *n.* Probably before 1425 *eradicacioun*; borrowed from Latin *eradicātiōnem* (nominative *eradicātiō*), from *eradicāre*; for suffix see -ATION.

erase *v.* 1605, borrowed from Latin *erāsus*, past participle of *erādere* scrape out (*ē-* out, + *rādere* to scrape). — **eraser** *n.* 1790, American English; formed from *erase* + -er¹. — **erasure** *n.* 1734, formed from *erase* + -ure.

erbium *n.* 1843, New Latin, formed from (*Ytt*)erby, town in Sweden where the mineral containing erbium was found + -ium.

ere *conj.*, *prep.* before. Probably before 1200 *er*, developed from Old English *ær*, adv. and conj. (about 725, in *Beowulf*) and Old English *ær*, prep. (before 830); cognate with Old Frisian, Old Saxon, and Old High German *ēr* earlier, and Gothic *airis* earlier, from Proto-Germanic **airiz*, comparative of **air*, represented by Old Icelandic *ār* early, Gothic *air* early. As an adverb the word is found in modern English *erstwhile*, where the form *erst* developed from the Old English superlative adverb *ærest*.

erect *adj.* About 1390, borrowed from Latin *erectus*, past participle of *erigere* raise or set up (*ē-* up, + *regere* to direct, keep straight, guide). — **v.** Probably about 1408 *erecten* to direct upward; later, to set up, build (1417); formed from the adjective in English, and borrowed from Latin *erectus*, past participle of *erigere*. — **erection** *n.* 1450, probably formed in English from *erect* + -ion after Late Latin *erectiōnem* (nominative *erectiō*), from Latin *erect-*, participle stem of *erigere*; for suffix see -ION.

erg *n.* 1873, borrowed from Greek *érōn* WORK. This is a made word from formal borrowing first imposed by the British Association (for the Advancement of Science).

ergo *adv.*, *conj.* Before 1376, a word in Latin *ergō* therefore, possibly from Latin **ē rogō* or **ē regō* from the direction (*ē* out of, and the root of *regere* to guide).

ergot *n.* 1683, borrowing of French *ergot*, from Old French *argot* cock's spur, so called from the shape of the diseased grain; of unknown origin.

ermine *n.* Probably about 1175, borrowing of Old French

ermine, *hermine*; cognate with Old Provençal *ermina*, *ermini*, Spanish *armiño*, and Portuguese *arminho*, representing Latin *Armenius* Armenian, the ermine having been abundant in Asia Minor; or possibly of Germanic origin comparing them to Old High German *harma* weasel (*harmīn*, adj.), Old Saxon *harma*, and Old English *hearna* shrew, possibly also meaning weasel. Ultimately it is likely that there was early confusion of the Germanic words and the Romance words because of the similarities in form and meaning.

In Middle English, probably before 1300, *ermine* also referred to the animal's valuable fur.

erode *v.* 1612, back formation from *erosion*, influenced by French *éroder* but modeled on the Latin pattern *erōsiōnem*, *erōdere* gnaw away (*ē-* away, + *rōdere* gnaw); also possibly in some instances a direct borrowing from French *éroder*. — **erosion** *n.* 1541, borrowed through Middle French *erosion*, from Latin *erōsiōnem* (nominative *erōsiō*) from *erōdere*; for suffix see -SION.

erogenous *adj.* 1889, formed in English from Greek *ērōs* love + English -genous producing (-gen + -ous).

erotic *adj.* 1651, borrowed from French *érotique*, from Greek *erōtikós*, from *ērōs* (genitive *érōtos*) love; related to *erāsthai* to love, desire; for suffix see -IC.

err *v.* Before 1300 *erren*; borrowed from Old French *errer*, learned borrowing from Latin *errāre* wander. The underlying sense is that error and anger are erratic or irregular and a wandering from the norm. Latin *errāre* is related to Old English *ierre* angry, straying, Old Frisian *īre* angry, Old Saxon *irri*, Old High German *irri* angry, *irrōn* astray (modern German *irren* err), and Gothic *airzeis* misled, led astray.

errand *n.* Probably before 1200 *ernde*; later *ernde* (about 1250) and *errand* (before 1325); developed from Old English (about 725) *ærende* message, mission, and related to *ār* messenger. Old English *ærende* is cognate with Old Frisian *ernde* message or mission, Old Saxon *ārundi*, Old High German *ārunti*, Old Icelandic *erendi*, *ørendi*. The original sense of an important mission (an *errand of mercy*, a *secret errand*) still appears occasionally.

errant *adj.* About 1369 *erraunt* traveling, roving, earlier in the compound proper name *Bailfesmanerraunt* (1335); borrowed through Anglo-French *erraunt*, Old French *errant*, present participle of *errer* to travel or wander, from Late Latin *iterāre*, from Latin *iter* journey or way, from the root of *īre* to go.

The sense of traveling or wandering, fused in the 1300's with the sense of erring or straying, from Old French *errant*, present participle of *errer* to ERR. Development of this sense is found in English *arrant* which is recorded in *thief erraunt*; see ARRANT.

erratic *adj.* About 1385 *erratik* wandering, moving, borrowed through Old French *erratique*, and directly from Latin *errāticus*, from *errātum*, past participle of *errāre* to wander, ERR; for suffix see -IC. The sense of irregular or eccentric in conduct, is first recorded in 1841, but the noun sense of an eccentric person, may have appeared in 1816.

erratum *n.*, pl. **errata**. 1589, borrowing of Latin *errātum*, past participle of *errāre* ERR.

erroneous *adj.* About 1385, borrowed through Old French *erroneus*, and directly from Latin *errōneus* vagrant, wandering, from *errōnem* (nominative *errō*) vagabond, from *errāre* to wander, ERR; for suffix see -OUS.

error *n.* Probably before 1300 *error* condition of erring, borrowed from Old French *error*, *errouir*, *errur*, from Latin *errōrem* (nominative *error*) a wandering, straying, mistake, from *errāre* to wander, ERR.

ersatz *adj.* 1875, as an attributive use of a German word describing units of the German army reserve; German *Ersatz* compensation, replacement, substitute, from *ersetzen* to replace. —*n.* 1892, German *Ersatz*.

erstwhile *adv.* 1569, formed from obsolete English *erst* before + modern English *while*, *adv.* Obsolete English *erst*, *adj.* and *adv.*, developed (probably before 1200) from Middle English *erest* earliest, earlier, former, from Old English *ærest* earliest, superlative of *ær* ERE (about 725, in *Beowulf*). —*adj.* 1903, from the adverb.

erudite *adj.* Probably before 1425, borrowed from Latin *eruditus*, past participle of *erūdire* instruct (*ē-* out + *rudis* unskilled, RUDE). —**erudition** *n.* Probably about 1400 *erudicioun* instruction, education; borrowed from Latin *eruditōnem* (nominative *eruditio*) an instructing, from *erūdire*; for suffix see -TION. The sense of learning, scholarship, is first recorded in English in 1530.

erupt *v.* 1657, back formation of *eruption*, and borrowed from Latin *eruptus*, past participle of *erumpere* break out, burst forth (*ē-* out + *rumpere* to break, RUPTURE). —**eruption** *n.* Probably before 1425 *erupcioun* outbreaking (of pustules); borrowed through Middle French *éruption*, and directly from Latin *eruptiōnem* (nominative *eruptio*) a breaking out, from *erup-*, stem of *erumpere*; for suffix see -TION. —**eruptive** *adj.* 1646, formed from English *erupt* + *-ive*, after French *éruptif*, *éruptive*, from Latin *erupt-*, stem of *erumpere*; for suffix see -IVE.

-ery a suffix forming nouns meaning: 1 a place for or a place for carrying on the business of: **a** (added to verbs), as in *bakery* = a place for baking. **b** (added to nouns), as in *hennery* = a place for hens or chickens. 2 the art or occupation of, as in *cooking* = the art or occupation of a cook. 3 the condition of, as in *slavery* = the condition of a slave. 4 the qualities or actions of, as in *buffoonery* = the qualities or actions of a buffoon. 5 a group of, as in *machinery* = a group of machines. Though *-ery*, as an independent suffix, is the traditional analysis of many such formations, some are indistinguishable from *-er*¹ + *-y*³, and it is uncertain whether such words as *bakery*, *brewery*, *fishery* and *pottery* were actually formed from the agent noun *baker*, *brewer*, etc. + *-y*³ or from the verb *bake*, *brew*, etc. + *-ery*. Some meanings parallel *-ary*, as *hennery* with *statuary* = a collection of statues.

In Middle English many forms in *-ery* were borrowed from Old and Middle French along with the agent noun ending in *-er*, as *archer*, *archier* and *archerie*. The suffix was borrowed as *-erie*, partly formed from *-ier* (Latin *-ārius*, English *-er*¹) + *-ie*,

and more particularly from *-ère*, *-eor* (Latin *-ātor*, *ātōrem*, English *-er*¹, *-or*²) + *-ie* (Late Latin *-ia*, English *-y*³).

-es¹ a suffix forming the plural of nouns ending in *s*, *z*, *sh*, *ch* (as in *lasses*, *whizzes*, *bushes*, *witches*), in the plural *-ies* of nouns in *-y* after a consonant (as in *dandies*, *duties*), and in most nouns in *-o*, such as *potatoes*, *mosquitoes*; corresponding to *-s*¹. Middle English *-es*, developed from Old English *-as* (masculine nouns).

-es² a suffix forming the third person singular of the present indicative active of verbs in *s*, *z*, *sh*, *ch* (as in *dresses*, *buzzes*, *washes*, *touches*), in *-ies* for the form *-y* (as in *hurries*, *magnifies*), and in forms such as *does*, *goes*; corresponding to *-s*². Middle English *-es*, dialectal variant replacing Old English *-eth*.

escalator *n.* 1900, American English; formed from English *escal-* (from *escalade*, *n.*, 1598, borrowed from Middle French *escalade* an assault with ladders on a fortification, from Spanish *escalada*, Italian *scalata*, from Medieval Latin *scalare* to scale, from Latin *scāla* ladder) + *-ator*, in *elevator*. The attributive use of *escalator*, designating an increase or decrease (in wages, etc.), is first recorded in 1930. —**escalate** *v.* 1922, back formation from *escalator*, and replacing earlier English *escalade*, *v.* (1801, probably from *escalade*, *n.*). By 1959 *escalate* had assumed the figurative sense of increase or expand by degrees. —**escalation** *n.* 1938, American English, formed from *escalate* + *-ion*.

escallop *n.* 1472, borrowed from Middle French *escalope* shell; see SCALLOP.

escapade *n.* 1653, an escape, a French word with the meaning of a prank or trick (originally, an escape), from either Spanish *escapada* a prank, flight, an escape, from *escapar* to escape; or from Italian *scappata* a prank, an escape, from *scappare* to escape; from Vulgar Latin **excappāre* ESCAPE. The figurative sense of a breaking loose from restraint or rules, flighty action or conduct, is first recorded in 1814.

escape *v.* About 1300 *ascapien*, before 1338 *escapen* get away, get free; borrowed from Old North French *escaper*, *ascaper*, Old French *eschaper*, from Vulgar Latin **excappāre*, literally, get out of one's cape, leave a pursuer with just one's cape (from Latin *ex-* out of + Late Latin *cappa* mantle). —*n.* 1402 *escap* from Middle English *escapen*, *v.* An earlier form *eschap* (1375) was borrowed from Old French *eschap*, from *eschaper*, *v.* —**escapee** *n.* 1865, American English, *escape*, *v.* + *-ee*. —**escapement** *n.* 1779, earlier *scapement* (1755); *escape* + *-ment*. —**escapism** *n.* 1933, American English; *escape*, *n.* + *-ism*.

escarpment *n.* 1802, gradually replacing earlier *escarpe* (1688); borrowed from French *escarpement*, from *escarper* make into a steep slope, from *escarpe* slope, from Italian *scarpa* SCARP; for suffix see -MENT.

-escence a suffix meaning process or state of beginning, becoming, tending to be, as in *adolescence*, *convalescence*, *obsolescence*; or act of displaying color or light, as in *phosphorescence*, *iridescence*, *fluorescence*. Borrowed from Latin *-ēscēntia*, from *-ēscēntem* -ESCENT + *-ia* -y³.

-escent a suffix meaning beginning, becoming, tending to be,

as in *convalescent*, *effervescent*, *obsolescent*; or displaying color or light, as in *phosphorescent*, *iridescent*, *fluorescent*. Borrowed from Latin *-ēscētem* (nominative *-ēscēns*), the ending of present participles of verbs in *-ēscere*. In older borrowings the underlying verb was commonly borrowed as an English verb in *-esce*; but in the later group *-escent* is added to a noun stem and where a verb in *-esce* exists it is probably a back formation (*fluoresce*, *phosphoresce*).

escheat *n.* Before 1338 *eschete*, borrowed through Anglo-Latin *escheta*; and borrowed from Old French *eschete*, *escheite* inheritance, literally, that which falls to one, from Gallo-Romance **excadēcta*, feminine past participle formed to Vulgar Latin **excadēere* from Latin *excidere* to fall out (Latin *ex-* out + *cadere* to fall). Gallo-Romance **excadēcta* was formed under influence of Latin *collēcta* gathered. —**v.** Before 1382 *escheten*, from the noun.

eschew *v.* About 1350 *echuen*; later *eschewen* (probably 1375); borrowed from Old French *eschiver*, *eschever*, from Frankish (compare Old High German *sciuhen* make fearful, Middle High German *schuhen*, *schuwen*, modern German *scheuen* to dread, avoid, shun).

An adjective form *eschif* easily frightened, appears in earlier Middle English (probably before 1200); later, disinclined or averse (about 1390); borrowed from Old French *eschieu* (nominative *eschif*) shy, unwilling, probably from Frankish (compare Old High German **sciuh*, Middle High German *schiech*, modern German *scheu* shy).

escort *n.* 1579, borrowed from Middle French *escorte*, from Italian *scorta*, literally, a guiding, from *scorgere* to guide, from Vulgar Latin **excorrigere* (*ex-* out + *corrigere* set right). —**v.** 1708, from the noun; or by influence of French *escorter*, from *escorte*, *n.*

escrow *n.* 1598, borrowed through Anglo-French *escrowe*, Old French *escroe*, *escroue* scrap, roll of parchment, SCROLL, from Germanic (compare Old High German *scrōt* scrap, shred).

escutcheon *n.* 1480, borrowed from Old North French *escuchon*, variant of semi-learned Old French *escusson*, from Gallo-Romance **scūtīōnem* (nominative **scūtīō*), from Latin *scūtum* shield; for suffix see *-ION*, *-eon* being a spelling variant.

-ese a suffix forming adjectives with the meaning of, belonging to, or originating in (a city or country), as in *Milanese architect*, *Vietnamese people*, with corresponding nouns meaning native or inhabitant of (*a Viennese*, *the Japanese*), language of (*Chinese*, *Portuguese*), or, by extension, typical style or vocabulary of, as in *journalese*, *New Yorkese*. Borrowed from Old French *-eis* or Italian *-ese*, from Latin *-ēnsis*, of, belonging to, or from (a place).

Eskimo *n.* 1584 *Esquimaue*, borrowed from Danish *Eskimo* or Middle French *Esquimaux*, pl., probably from an Algonquian source such as the Indians of Labrador who applied this name to the Eskimos of that region (compare Abnaki *esquimantsec*, Ojibwa *ashkimeq*, literally, eaters of raw meat), as opposed to

Innu, meaning men, the Eskimo people's own name for themselves.

esophagus *n.* 1392 *ysophagus*; borrowed, perhaps by influence of Old French *ysophage*, from Greek *oisophágos*, a learned formation perhaps with the meaning of what carries and eats (*oiso-*, from *oiein* future infinitive of *pherein* to carry + *-phágos*, from *phagein* eat).

esoteric *adj.* 1655–60, borrowed from Greek *esōterikós* belonging to an inner circle, from *esōtērō*, comparative adverb of *ēsō* within; for suffix see *-IC*.

espalier *n.* 1662, a fruit tree trimmed to grow on a trellis, borrowing of French *espalier*, from Italian *spalliera* a support for the shoulders, *espalier*, from *spalla* shoulder, from Latin *spatula* a broad piece, blade.

especial *adj.* About 1385, borrowed from Old French *especial*, from Latin *specialis* belonging to a particular kind or species, from *speciēs* kind. Latin words with initial *sp*, *st*, *sc* borrowed into French before the 1400's usually add an initial *e*. —**especially** *adv.* Probably before 1400; formed from English *especial* + *-ly*¹.

Distinction in use between *especial* and *special*, has little to do with etymology, *especial* being confined to the sense of preeminent, *special* to that of particular.

Esperanto *n.* 1892, in allusion to the pen name "Doctor Esperanto" (in Esperanto "one who hopes"), used in a book published in 1887 about this language by L.L. Zamenhof who invented the language.

espionage *n.* 1793, borrowed from French *espionnage*, from Middle French *espionner* to spy, from Old French *espion* spy, probably from Italian *spione*, from a Germanic source (compare Old High German *spēhōn* to spy); for suffix see *-AGE*.

esplanade *n.* 1591, borrowed from French *esplanade*, from Middle French, probably from Spanish *esplanada* (influenced by Italian *spianata*), from *esplanar* make level, from Latin *explanāre* to level, EXPLAIN; for suffix see *-ADE*.

espouse *v.* Probably 1435 *espousen* take as spouse, marry; borrowed from Middle French *espouser* marry, betroth, from Latin *spōnsāre* become engaged to marry, from *spōnsa* SPOUSE. The extended sense of adopt, embrace is first recorded in 1622. —**espousal** *n.* Before 1393 *esposaille*, *espousaille*, borrowed from Old French *espousailles* (plural) act of betrothal, from Latin *spōnsālia*, neuter plural of *spōnsālis* of a betrothal, from *spōnsus* SPOUSE; for suffix see *-AL*².

espresso *n.* 1945, borrowing of Italian *caffè espresso*, from *espresso* pressed out, from past participle of *esprimere*, from Latin *exprimere* press out, EXPRESS.

esprit *n.* 1591; a French word from Middle French *esprit* spirit, mind, from Old French *espirit*, learned borrowing from Latin *spiritus* spirit.

-esque a suffix forming adjectives and meaning "resembling or suggesting the style, characteristics, etc., of," as in *arabesque*, *Romanesque*, *statuesque*. Borrowed from French *-esque*, from

Italian *-esco*, from Vulgar Latin **-iscus*, from Proto-Germanic **-iskaz* (compare Old High German *-isc* -ISH¹).

esquire *n.* 1374 *esquier* Englishman ranking next below a knight; borrowed from Middle French *esquier*, *escuier* squire, literally, shield bearer, from Old French, from Latin *scūtarius* shield bearer, from *scūtum* shield. This word was originally applied to a member of the English gentry, but in the 1500's was extended as a general title of courtesy or respect, and in the U.S. has become fashionable among lawyers.

-ess a suffix forming nouns and meaning a female —, as in *lioness*, *heiress*, *hostess*, *sculptress*. Middle English *-esse*, borrowed from Old French *-esse*, from Late Latin *-issa*, from Greek *-issa*, feminine noun suffix, and replacing Old English *-ige*.

When *-ess* is added to a noun ending in *-tor*, *-ter*, the vowel before *r* is generally elided, as in *actress* (*actor* + *-ess*), such a derivative with the ending *-tress* (often equivalent to French *-trice*) is usually considered a reduced form of Latin *-trix*, *-tricem*.

In Middle English many words in *-esse* were adopted from French, such as *countess*, *duchess*, *mistress*, *princess*, or formed on nouns in *-er*, such as *enchantress* and *sorceress*. Many have acquired derogatory connotations, such as *Jewess* and *Negress*; others are thought to suggest male condescension, such as *authoress*, *sculptress*, the terms *author* and *sculptor* associated chiefly with males, but in reality applicable to both male and female. Except for *spinster* a rare vestige of Old English feminine agent nouns in *-ster*, and a few others (*goddess*, *abbess*), the feminine agent nouns are disappearing under social pressure.

essay *n.* 1597, borrowed from Middle French *essai* trial, attempt, essay, from Late Latin *exagium* a weighing, weight, from Vulgar Latin **exagere*, a recompounding of Latin *exigere* test (*ex-* out + *agere*, perhaps in a lost meaning of to weigh). —*v.* 1483 *essayen* to test, assay, borrowed from Middle French *essaier*, from *essai*, *n.* —**essayist** *n.* 1609, formed from English *essay*, *n.* + *-ist*.

essence *n.* Before 1398 *essencia* substance of the Trinity, borrowed from Latin *essentia* being, essence, formed in imitation of Greek *ousia* being or essence, from *ōn* (genitive *ontos*), present participle of *ēinai* to be. A later spelling *essence* (1481) is a re-spelling in English borrowed from Middle French, from Old French *essence* (1130), from Latin *essentia*, from *esse* to be. The general sense of the most important or basic element of anything, is first recorded in English in 1656. —**essential** *adj.* Before 1398 *essencyal* of the essence, basic or fundamental; borrowed through Old French *essentiell*, and directly from Late Latin *essentiālis*, from Latin *essentia* essence; for suffix see *-AL*¹.

-est a suffix forming the superlative of adjectives and adverbs, as in *warmest*, *slowest*.

Middle English *-est* developed from a blend of: 1) Old English *-ost-*, *-ust-*, *-ast-*, found in Old Frisian and Old Icelandic *-ast-*, Old Saxon, Old High German, and Gothic *-ōsts*, from Proto-Germanic **-ōstaz*; and 2) Old English *-est-*, *-st-*, found in Old Frisian, Old High German, and Gothic *-ists*, from Proto-Germanic **-istaz*.

establish *v.* About 1380 *establishen* to fix, settle, set up; borrowed from Old French *establis-*, stem of *establi-*, from Latin *stabilire* make stable, from *stabilis* STABLE² steady; for suffix see *-ISH*². —**establishment** *n.* 1481, a settled arrangement; earlier, property, income (before 1470); formed from English *establish* + *-ment*. The sense of an institution or a business appeared in 1832. The phrase *the Establishment* meaning the established Church is first recorded in English in 1731; it was extended in the 1900's to refer to the ruling groups or institutions of a country.

estate *n.* Probably before 1200, special state or condition, status, borrowed from Anglo-French *astat* and Old French *estat*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin; *status* (genitive *statūs*) state or condition, from *sta-*, a root form of *stare* to stand.

The sense of property or possessions, fortune, first recorded in English about 1385, evolved from an early meaning of STATE "condition with respect to worldly prosperity or fortune" (1325). The meaning of landed property, is first recorded in 1623, in American English.

esteem *v.* Before 1410 *estymen* estimate the value of; later *estemen* (1449); borrowed from Middle French *estimer*, learned borrowing from Latin *aestimāre* to value, appraise. The sense of value, respect, is first recorded in 1530. —*n.* Before 1338 *steem* account, worth; later *extyme* (probably about 1450); borrowed from Old French *estime*, from *estimer*, *v.* The sense of high regard, is first recorded in 1611.

ester *n.* 1852, borrowing of German *Ester*, possibly a contraction of *Essigäther* (*Essig* vinegar, from Old High German *ezzih*, by way of Gothic from **atēcum*, metathesized by shift of *t* and *c* from Latin *acētum*; see ACETIC + German *äther*, from Latin *aethēr* ETHER).

estimation *n.* 1375 *estimacion* judgment, opinion; borrowed from Old French *estimacion*, from Latin *aestimātiōnem* (nominative *aestimātiō*) a valuation, from *aestimāre* to value; for suffix see *-ATION*. —**estimable** *adj.* Before 1475; borrowed from Old French *estimable*, and directly from Latin *aestimābilis* worthy of estimation, from *aestimāre*. —**estimate** *v.* About 1532, to esteem, consider; earlier *estimat* reputed (before 1500); borrowed from Latin *aestimātus*, past participle of *aestimāre* to value; see ESTEEM; for suffix see *-ATE*¹. In some instances *estimate* may be a back formation from *estimation*. The sense of calculate approximately, is first recorded in English in 1669. —*n.* 1563, valuation; earlier *estymate* power of the mind (1464); from the verb in English, or borrowed from Latin *aestimātus*, verbal noun, from *aestimāre*. The sense of approximate judgment, is first recorded in English in 1589, in respect to the qualities of a person or thing.

estrangle *v.* Probably before 1475 *estraungen*; borrowed from Middle French *estrangier* alienate, from Vulgar Latin **extrāneāre* treat as a stranger, from Latin *extrāneus* foreign, STRANGE.

estrogen *n.* 1927, formed from English ESTRUS + connective *-o-* + *-gen* producing; so called from the hormone's ability to promote estrus.

estrus *n.* 1890 *oestrus* rut of animals, heat; earlier, passion or frenzy, as if brought on by a stinging or goading (1850); earlier a gadfly (1697); borrowing of Latin *oestrus* frenzy, gadfly, from Greek *oistros* gadfly, breeze, sting, mad impulse. —**estrous** *adj.* 1900 *oestrous*; formed from English *oestrus* estrus + *-ous*.

estuary *n.* 1538, inlet of the sea; borrowed from Latin *aestuārium* a tidal marsh or opening, from *aestus* (genitive *aestūs*) boiling (of the sea), tide, heat; for suffix see *-ARY*.

-et a suffix forming nouns and meaning small, little, as in *islet*, *owlet*. Borrowed from Old French *-et*, *-ete* from Vulgar Latin **-ittum*, **-itta*, of unknown origin. The suffix *-et* occurs chiefly in French words borrowed into Middle English, such as *bullet*, *pullet*, *hatchet*, *sonnet*, and *tablet*.

et cetera About 1150 *& cetera*, borrowed from Latin *et cetera* and the rest (*et* and *cetera* the rest, neuter plural of *ceterus* remaining over, probably a result of the fusion of *ce* **eteros* there, the other).

The character *&*, used in Middle English *Ecetera* and in *Ec* (written in modern English *etc.*) represents the ligature of *et*.

etch *v.* 1634, borrowed from Dutch *etsen*, from German *ätzen* to etch, from Old High German *azzōn*, *azzen* cause to bite, feed, from Proto-Germanic **atjanan*, causative of **etan* to EAT (the connection with *eat* evolving from the process of etching which “eats away” the surface). —**etching** *n.* 1762, picture or design printed from an etched plate; earlier, art or process of engraving (1634).

eternal *adj.* About 1380, borrowed through Old French *eternal*, or directly from Late Latin *aeternālis*, from Latin *aeternus*, contraction of *aeviternus* of great age, from *aevum* AGE; for suffix see *-AL*. —**eternity** *n.* About 1380 *eternite*, later *eternity* (probably 1440); borrowed from Old French *eternité*, learned borrowing from Latin *aeternitatem* (nominative *aeternitās*), from *aeternus*; for suffix see *-ITY*.

-eth¹ a form of the suffix *-th* when the cardinal number to which it is attached ends in *-y*, such as *twentieth* (from *twenty*), *fiftieth* (from *fifty*).

-eth² a suffix forming the third person singular, present indicative active, of verbs, now archaic, as in *goeth*, *sendeth*, but occasionally used as a literary device. The form is sometimes *-th*, as in *doth*. Middle English *-eth*, developed from Old English *-eth*, *-ath*; cognate with Gothic *-ith*, *-ōth*, and Old High German *-it*, *-ōt*, *-ēt*.

ether *n.* Before 1398, upper regions of space; borrowed from Old French *ether*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *aether* the upper pure, bright air, from Greek *aithēr* upper air. In 1757 *ether*, a chemical compound, so named for its lightness and lack of color suggesting a resemblance to air. By 1842 its anesthetic properties were established. —**ethereal** *adj.* 1513, of the highest region of the atmosphere, replacing earlier *ethereum*, *etherum* in the sense of bright, shining (recorded before 1398); formed in English from Latin *aethereus*, *aetherius*, from Greek *aithērios*, from *aithēr* + English *-al*. The

sense of light, airy, is first recorded in 1598, and that of spiritlike, immaterial, in 1647.

ethics *n.* 1602, fashioned after Greek *tà ēthiká* the ethics, but formed from plural of Middle English *ethik* study of morals (about 1386); borrowed from Old French *ethique*, from Late Latin *ēthica*, from Greek *ēthiká*; and directly from Latin *ēthicē*, from Greek *ēthikē philosophiā* moral philosophy, feminine of *ēthikós* (*ēthikē*) ethical; for suffix see *-ICS*. —**ethical** *adj.* 1607, formed in English from Latin *ēthicus* (from Greek *ēthikós*, from *ēthos* moral character, related to *ēthos* custom) + English *-al*.

ethnic *n.* About 1375 (Scottish), a heathen or pagan; probably borrowed directly from a translation of New Testament Greek *tà éthnē* the heathen, from *éthnos* a people, nation, Gentiles, a translation of Hebrew *gōyīm*, plural of *gōy* nation, especially non-Israelites, Gentile nation. The sense of a member of a racial, cultural, or national minority group, is first recorded in 1945 in American English. —**adj.** About 1470, heathen or pagan; from the noun, and as a borrowing from Late Latin *ethnicus*, from Greek *ethnikós*, from *éthnos* nation, probably related to *éthos* custom; for suffix see *-IC*.

The sense of peculiar to a race or nation, is first recorded in 1851, and that of having to do with or belonging to different cultural groups, in 1935.

ethno- a combining form meaning people, race, nation, or culture, as in *ethnology* (the science or study of races or people or their culture). Borrowed from Greek *éthno-*, combining form of *éthnos* people, nation, class.

ethnocentric *adj.* 1900, formed from *ethno-* + *centric*.

ethnography *n.* 1834, borrowed possibly through German *Ethnographie* geographical distribution of man, from Greek *éthno-* + *-graphiā* writing.

ethnology *n.* 1842, formed from *ethno-* + *-logy*.

ethos *n.* 1851, New Latin, or more likely directly from Greek *ēthos* moral character, nature or disposition.

ethyl *n.* 1850, formed from English *ether* + *-yl*, modeled on German *äthyl*, from *äther* ether + *-yl*.

etiology *n.* Before 1555, science of causes or causation; borrowed from Latin *aetiologia*, from Greek *aitiologíā* statement of cause, from *aitíā* cause, from **aitōs* one's share, related to *ainysthai* take; for suffix see *-LOGY*.

etiquette *n.* 1750, used as a French word referring to prescribed behavior, from Old French *estiquette* label, TICKET. The transition from the sense of ticket, label to that of prescribed routine or behavior took place possibly from directions for behavior on a soldier's billet for lodgings.

-ette a suffix forming nouns and meaning: little, as in *kitchenette*, *dinette*; female, as in *bachelorette*, *usherette*; a substitute for, as in *leatherette*. Borrowed from French *-ette*, from Old French *-ete*, feminine of *-et* *-ET*.

étude *n.* Before 1837, borrowing of French *étude*, literally study, from Old French *estudie*, *estude*, *estuide*, from Latin

studium. The term was popularized in English by the études of Chopin.

etymology *n.* Before 1398 *ethimologie*, borrowed from Old French *ethimologie*, learned borrowing from Latin *etymologia*, from Greek *etymologíā*, from *étymon* true sense of a word based on its origin (neuter of *étymos* true, related to *eteós* true); for suffix see -LOGY.

eu- a prefix for modern technical and scientific terms, such as *eucalyptus*, *eucaryote*, *eugenic*, in English borrowed from Greek, and meaning: 1 good or well, as in *eugenic*, *eulogy*, *euphoria*. 2 true, as in *eucaryote*. Greek *eu-*, from *eú* well, from neuter of *eys* good.

eucalyptus *n.* 1809, New Latin, from Greek *eu-* well + *kalyptós* covered, from *kalýptein* to cover (so called from the covering on the bud).

eucaryote or **eukaryote** *n.* 1963, formed from quasi-English *eu-* true + *caryote* or *karyote* cell nucleus, from Greek *káryon* nut, kernel.

Eucharist *n.* Probably about 1350 *Eukaryste*; borrowed from Old French *eucariste*, from Late Latin *eucharistia*, from Greek *eucharistía* thankfulness, the Lord's Supper, from *eucháristos* grateful (*eu-* well + the stem of *charizesthai* show favor); for suffix see -IST.

eugenics *n.* 1883, formed in English on analogy with *economics*, *physics*, etc., from Greek *eugenḗs* well-born, of good stock (*eu-* good, + *génos* birth) + English -ics.

eulogy *n.* Before 1475 *ewloge*; later *eulogies*, pl. (1591); borrowed from Latin *eulogium*, adaptation of Greek *eulogía* praise (*eu-* well + *-logía* speaking, from *lógos* discourse, word, from *légein* speak, after *eú* *légein* speak well of); for suffix see -Y³. (1808) + *-ic*. —**eulogize** *v.* Before 1810, formed from English *eulogy* + *-ize*.

eunuch *n.* Probably before 1425 *enuch*, later *eunuk* (1439); borrowed possibly through Middle French *eunuque*, and directly from Latin *eunūchus*, from Greek *eunouchos* castrated man (originally, guard of the bedchamber), from *euno-*, combining form of *eunē* bed + *-ochos*, from the stem of *échein* to have, hold.

euphemism *n.* 1656–81, borrowed from Greek *euphēmismós* use of a favorable word in place of an inauspicious one, from *euphēmízein* speak with fair words (*eu-* good + *phēmē* speaking, from *phánai* speak); for suffix see -ISM. —**euphemistic** *adj.* 1856, derived from English *euphemism* + *-ist* + *-ic*.

euphony *n.* About 1450 *euphonie*; borrowed from Middle French *euphonie*, from Late Latin *euphōnia*, from Greek *euphōnía*, from *euphōnos* well-sounding (*eu-* good + *phōnē* sound, voice, related to *phánai* speak); for suffix see -Y³. —**euphonious** *adj.* 1774, formed from English *euphony* + *-ous*.

euphoria *n.* 1882, probably by extension of earlier, and now obsolete *euphoria* (1706) or *euphory* (1684) ease or relief coming from the administration of some medical procedure; New Latin, from Greek *euphoría* power of bearing easily, fertility,

from *eúphoros*, literally, bearing well (*eu-* well + *phérein* to carry). —**euphoric** *adj.* 1888, formed from English *euphoria* + *-ic*.

Eur- the form of *Euro-* before vowels, as in *Eurasian*.

eureka *interj.*, *n.* 1603, earlier, cited as a Greek form EYPHKA (1570); borrowed from Greek *heúrēka* I have found (it), 1st person singular perfect active indicative form of *heuriskein* to find, supposedly uttered by the Greek mathematician Archimedes when he discovered the means of determining the proportion of base metal in the golden crown of Hiero, king of Syracuse.

Euro- a combining form created by shortening of *Europe*, meaning Europe or European, as in *Eurobond*, *Eurocurrency*, or as in *Eurocrat* (*Euro-* + *bureaucrat*), *Euromarket*; also (hyphenated) European and, as in *Euro-Asian*, *Euro-American*.

europium *n.* 1901, New Latin, from Latin *Eurōpa* Europe, from Greek *Eurṓpē* + *-ium*.

Eustachian tube *n.* 1755 (earlier as *Eustachian*, *adj.*, in reference to a structure of the kidney, 1741), from *Eustachius*, Latinized form of *Eustachio*, Italian anatomist and physician who first described this structure.

euthanasia *n.* 1606, borrowed from Greek *euthanasía* an easy or happy death (*eu-* good + *thánatos* death). The sense of act or practice of painlessly putting to death, as the incurably and painfully diseased, is first recorded in 1869.

eutrophic *adj.* 1931, extension of earlier *eutrophic* promoting nutrition (probably 1884); formed from *eutrophy* good nutrition (1721) + *-ic*. *Eutrophy* was borrowed from Greek *eutrophía* good nurture, from *eútrofos* thriving, nourishing, (*eu-* good + *trophē* nurture, from *tréphēin* to nourish). —**eutrophication** *n.* 1947, formed from English *eutrophic* + *-ation*.

evacuate *v.* 1542, to empty or deplete (the body), from earlier *evacuate*, *adj.*, depleted or empty (before 1425); borrowed from Latin *ēvacuātus*, past participle of *ēvacuāre* empty, also in Late Latin, clear out (*ē-* out + *vacuus* empty); for suffix see -ATE¹.

Evacuate replaced the Middle English verb *evacuen* (recorded before 1400); borrowed from Old French *evacuer*, from Latin *ēvacuāre*. —**evacuation** *n.* Before 1400 *evacuacioun* discharge of humors from the body, borrowed through Old French *evacuatiōn*, and directly from Late Latin *ēvacuatiōnem* (nominative *ēvacuatiō*), from Latin *ēvacuāre*; for suffix see -ATION. —**evacuee** *n.* 1934, borrowed from French *évacué*, from *évacuer* cease to occupy, from Latin *ēvacuāre*.

evade *v.* 1513, to escape; borrowed from Middle French *évaider*, from Latin *ēvādere* to escape, get away (*ē-* away + *vādere* go, walk). The sense of escape by trickery, elude, is first recorded in 1535.

evaluation *n.* 1755, the action of appraising or valuing (goods, etc.); borrowed from French *évaluation*, from *évaluer* to find the value of (*é-* out + *value* VALUE + *-ation* -ation). —**evaluate** *v.* 1842, back formation from English *evaluation*.

evanescent *adj.* 1717, disappearing or vanishing; borrowed

from Latin *evānēscēntem* (nominative *evānēscēns*), present participle of *evānēscere* disappear or vanish (*ē-* out + *vānēscere* vanish, from *vānus* empty); for suffix see -ENT. —**evanesce** v. 1822, either a back formation of earlier *evanescence*; or borrowed from Latin *evānēscere*. —**evanescence** n. 1751, from *evanescent*, on analogy of *putrescent*, *putrescence*, etc.; for suffix see -ENCE.

evangelist n. Probably about 1200 *ewangeliste* one of the writers of the Four Gospels; borrowed from Old French *evangeliste*, *evaungeliste*, and directly from Late Latin *evangelista* (with shift from Greek *eu-* to Latin *ev-*) from Greek *euangelistēs* bringer of good news, preacher of the gospel, from *eu-angelizesthai* bring good news, preach the gospel, from *eu-angelion* good news, from *euángelos* bringing good news (*eu-* good + *angéllein* announce, from *ángelos* messenger, ANGEL). —**evangelic** adj. Probably before 1425 *ewangelich*, borrowed from Old French *evangelique*, and directly from Late Latin *evangelicus* (from Late Greek *euangelikós*, from Greek *euangelion* good news) —**evangelical** adj. 1531, formed in English from *evangelic* + *-al*.¹ —**evangelistic** adj. 1845, formed from English *evangelist* + *-ic*. —**evangelism** n. Before 1626, borrowed from Medieval Latin *evangelismus* a spreading of the Gospel (found in *Evangelismi festum* Feast of the Gospels, fifth Sunday after Easter), from Late Latin *evangelium* good news, gospel, from Greek *euangelion* good news. —**evangelize** v. Before 1382, borrowed from Old French *evangeliser* to spread or preach the gospel, and directly from Medieval or Late Latin *evangelizāre*, from Greek *euangelizesthai* bring good news, preach the gospel.

evaporation n. Before 1398 *evaporacioun*, borrowed from Old French *evaporation*, and as a learned borrowing directly from Latin *evaporātiōnem* (nominative *evaporātiō*), from *evaporāre* disperse in vapor or steam, evaporate (*ē-* + *vapor* steam, VAPOR); for suffix see -ATION. —**evaporate** v. Probably before 1425 *evaporaten*, in some instances a back formation of *evaporation*, and in others a borrowing from Latin *evaporātum*, past participle of *evaporāre*; for suffix see -ATE¹.

evasion n. Probably before 1425 *evasioun* means of evading; borrowed through Middle French *évasion*, and directly from Late Latin *evāsīōnem* (nominative *evāsīō*), from *evās-*, stem of Latin *evādere* to escape; for suffix see -SION. —**evasive** adj. 1725, formed from English *evas(ion)* + *-ive*, perhaps molded on French *évasif*, *évasive*, from *évasion*, from Late Latin *evāsīōnem*; or formed in English from Latin past participle stem *evās-* + English *-ive*.

eve n. Probably before 1200, variant of EVEN² (the terminal *n* regarded as inflectional; for a similar loss of final *n*, compare *morrow*, *game*, and *maid*).

The extended sense of the evening, or day, before a festival or holiday (as in *Christmas eve*), appeared about 1300 though the meaning existed in *even* (1121) and *æfen* (about 725).

even¹ adj. level, smooth, equal. Probably before 1200 *evene*; developed from Old English *efen*, *efn* level, even (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *even*, *evin* level, plain, smooth, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *effen*, Old Saxon *eban*, Old High German *eban* (modern German *eben*), Old

Icelandic *jafn* (Danish *jævn*, Norwegian *jevn*, Swedish *jämn*), and Gothic *ibns*, from Proto-Germanic **ebnaz*. —**adv.** indeed, fully; quite. Probably about 1200 *even*, developed from Old English (about 725) *efne*, later *efen*, from Old English *efen*, *efn*, adj. —**v.** Probably before 1200 *evenen* make level or equal; developed from Old English (about 975) *efnan* make level with, from Old English *efen*, *efn*, adj.

even² n. Archaic. evening. 1121, developed from Old English *æfen* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *ēvend* evening, Old Saxon *āband*, and Old High German *āband* (modern German *Abend*).

evening n. Probably before 1200 *evening*, developed from Old English (about 1000) *æfnung* (*æfnian* become evening, from *æfen* evening, EVEN²) + *-ung* -ing¹.

event n. 1570–76, outcome or result; borrowed from Middle French *event*, learned borrowing from Latin *eventus* (genitive *eventūs*) occurrence, issue, from *evenire* to come out, happen, result (*ē-* out + *venire* come; see COME). The sense of an incident, occurrence, is first recorded in 1588. —**eventful** adj. 1600, formed from English *event* + *-ful*. —**eventual** adj. 1612–15, borrowed from French *éventuel*, as if formed on the Latin model **eventuālis*, from *event-*, participle stem of *evenire*. —**eventuality** n. 1828, the power of observing in phrenology; later, a possible occurrence (1852); formed from English *eventual* + *-ity*, by influence of French *éventualité*.

ever adv. About 1250 *euere*, developed from Old English *æfre* (about 750), probably related to Old English *ā* always, ever; not found in other Germanic languages. Perhaps a contraction of *ā in feore*, literally, ever in life (*ā* always + *in* in + *feorh* life); *ā* always, originally **āw* (with change of *w* to *f*) + *-re* dative feminine adjective suffix, often formative of adverbs. Compare NEVER. —**everglade** n. (1823, American English) —**evergreen** n. (1644); adj. (1671) —**everlasting** adj. About 1225, eternal; later, perpetual, about 1303. —**evermore** adv. About 1290, developed from Old English *æfre mā*.

every adj. Probably about 1200 *eauer-euch*, literally, ever each; later *euerech* and *euerele* (about 1250) and *euery* (about 1303); developed from Old English *æfre ælc* ever each (*æfre* ever, and *ælc* each); see EACH, EVER. —**everybody** pron. (about 1390) —**everyday** adj. (about 1380) —**everyone** pron. (probably about 1200) —**everywhere** adv. (probably about 1200, developed from Old English *æfre gehwær*).

evict v. 1447 *evicten* recover (property) by judicial means, borrowed from Latin *evictus*, past participle of *evincere* recover property, evict, conquer (*ē-* out + *vincere* conquer). The sense of to expel by legal process is first recorded in English in 1536. —**eviction** n. 1461, probably borrowed from Middle French *éviction*, from Latin *evictionem* (nominative *evictiō*) recovery of one's property, from *ēvic-*, stem of *evincere*; for suffix see -TION.

evident adj. Before 1382, true or faithful, authentic, later, clear, plain, visible, obvious (1393); borrowed from Old French *evident*, from Latin *evidentem* (nominative *evidēns*) perceptible, clear, obvious (*ē-* fully, out of, + *videntem*, nominative *vidēns*, present participle of *videre* to see); for suffix see -ENT

—**evidence** *n.* Probably before 1378, a particular bit of evidence, principles given in support of a belief, borrowed from Old French *evidence*, from Late Latin *ēvidentia* proof; from *ēvidentem* perceptible, clear, obvious; for suffix see -ENCE. —**v.** About 1610, from the noun. —**evidently** *adv.* About 1380, formed from English *evident* + -ly¹.

evil *adj.* 1130 *iuēle*; later *ufel*, *euele* (probably before 1200), and *evel* (about 1300); developed from Old English *yfel* bad, wicked, vicious (plural *yfla*, about 725 in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *evel* evil, Old Saxon *ubil*, Middle Dutch *evel* (modern Dutch *euvel*), Old High German *ubil* (modern German *übel*), Gothic *ubils* evil, from Proto-Germanic **ubilaz*. —**n.** Probably about 1175 *evel*, developed from Old English *yfel* that which is evil, adjective used absolutely. —**evildoer** *n.* (before 1387)

evince *v.* 1608–11, to disprove, confute; borrowed from French *évincer*, from Latin *ēvincere* conquer, elicit by argument, prove (*ē-* out + *vincere* overcome). The sense of show clearly, reveal, is first recorded in English, in 1772–84.

eviscerate *v.* 1621, borrowed from Latin *ēviscerātus*, past participle of *ēviscerāre* (*ē-* out + *viscera* internal organs); for suffix see -ATE¹.

evoke *v.* 1623–26, probably borrowed through French *évoquer*, or directly from Latin *ēvocāre* call out, rouse, summon (*ē-* out + *vocāre* to call); or as a back formation of *evocation*. —**evocation** *n.* 1574; earlier, used in a specialized grammatical sense (about 1450); borrowed from Latin *ēvocātiōnem* (nominative *ēvocātiō*), from *ēvocāre* for suffix see -ATION. —**evocative** *adj.* 1657, formed in English from Latin *ēvocātus*, past participle of *ēvocāre* + English -ive.

evolve *v.* Before 1641, implied in *evolved* unfold or set forth in sequence; borrowed from Latin *ēvolvere* unroll (*ē-* out + *volvere* to roll). —**evolution** *n.* 1622, unfolding; borrowed from Latin *ēvolūtiōnem* (nominative *ēvolūtiō*) unrolling of a book, from *ēvolū-*, stem of *ēvolvere* unroll; for suffix see -TION. This word (as well as *evolve*, *v.*) was used in 1832, with reference to the theory that animals and plants developed from earlier forms; Darwin adopted the term in *The Origin of Species* (1859). —**evolutionary** *adj.* 1846, formed from English *evolution* + -ary.

ewe *n.* About 1300 *ouwe*; earlier, in the compound *ewe-lamb* (probably about 1200); developed from Old English *ēowu* (about 1000); cognate with Old Frisian *ei* ewe, Old Saxon *ewi*, Old High German *ouwi*, *ou*, Old Icelandic *ær*, from Proto-Germanic **awī*, genitive **awjōz*, and Gothic *awistr* sheepfold, *awēthi* flock of sheep.

ewer *n.* Probably about 1380; borrowed from Anglo-French *ewer*, *ewiere*, Old French *eviere*, *aiguier* water pitcher, from Vulgar Latin **aquāria*, as in **aquāria* olla water pot, from feminine of Latin *aquārius* of or for water, from *aqua* water.

ex¹ *prep.* out of, without, not including (chiefly in commercial use, as in *ex warehouse*, *ex dividend*). 1845, borrowed from Latin *ex* from, out of; see EX-¹.

ex² *n.* 1827, short for *ex-husband*, *ex-wife*, *ex-president*, etc.

ex-¹ a prefix meaning: 1 out of, from, out, as in *express* = *press out*. 2 thoroughly, utterly, as in *exterminate* = *terminate utterly*. 3 (usually in words borrowed from Latin) removing, lacking, as in *expatriate*. 4 (free compounding form, usually with a hyphen) former, as in *ex-president*, *ex-convict*, *ex-husband*. Borrowed from Latin *ex-*, related to the preposition *ex*, or *ē* out of or from.

Latin *ex-* appears before vowels and *h*, and before voiceless consonants such as *c*, *q*, *s*, and *t*; before voiced consonants it becomes *ē-*; and before *f* it becomes *ef-*.

In Old French and in Middle English, words with the prefix *es-* were sometimes respelled with *ex-*, in imitation of words from Latin; for example, *exchange* for *eschange*, *exchequer* for *eschequer*.

ex-² a prefix meaning out, from, out of, usually in words borrowed from Greek, as in *exodus*, *exorcise*. Borrowed from Greek *ex-*, *ex*, cognate with Latin *ex*; see the etymology of EX-¹. Greek *ex-* appears before vowels; the corresponding form before consonants is *ec-*.

ex-³ the form of *exo-*, meaning outside, outer, outside of, before vowels, as in *exocipital*.

exacerbate *v.* 1660, probably formed in English by back formation from earlier *exacerbation*, but also possibly a borrowing, perhaps influenced by French *exacerber*, from Latin *exacerbātus*, past participle of *exacerbāre* exasperate, irritate (*ex-* thoroughly + *acerbus* harsh, bitter); for suffix see -ATE¹. —**exacerbation** *n.* Before 1400 *exacerbacyoun*, borrowed from Late Latin *exacerbātiōnem* (nominative *exacerbātiō*), from Latin *exacerbāre* for suffix see -ATION.

exact *v.* 1440 *exacten*; borrowed from Latin *exāctus*, past participle of *exigere*, literally, drive or force out, also in the senses of demand, finish, measure (*ex-* out + *agere* drive, lead, act). —**adj.** 1533, borrowed from Latin *exāctus* precise, from the past participle of *exigere*, in the senses of weigh or calculate precisely. —**exacting** *adj.* (1583) —**exaction** *n.* About 1380, borrowed from Old French *exaction*, and directly from Latin *exāctiōnem* (nominative *exāctiō*), from *exigere*. —**exactitude** *n.* 1734, borrowed from French *exactitude*, from *exact*, from Latin *exāctus*. —**exactly** *adv.* Before 1533, though the elliptical use meaning “quite right” is not recorded before 1869.

exaggerate *v.* 1533, to pile up, borrowed from Latin *exaggerātus*, past participle of *exaggerāre* heighten, amplify, magnify (*ex-* thoroughly + *aggerāre* heap up, from *agger*, genitive *aggeris* heap, from *aggerere* bring together, carry toward; from *ag-* to, toward + *gerere* carry); for suffix see -ATE¹. The sense of magnify or overstate, is first recorded in English in 1564. —**exaggeration** *n.* 1565, borrowed from Latin *exaggerātiōnem* (nominative *exaggerātiō*), from *exaggerāre* exaggerate; for suffix see -ATION.

exalt *v.* Before 1410 *exalten*, borrowed through Middle French *exalter*, and directly from Latin *exaltāre* raise, elevate (*ex-* out, up + *altus* high). Also, *exalt* may be a back formation from

earlier *exaltation*. —**exaltation** *n.* 1389 *exaltation*, through Old French *exaltation*, and directly from Late Latin *exaltatiōnem* (nominative *exaltatiō*) elevation, pride, from Latin *exaltāre* raise, exalt; for suffix see -ATION.

examine *v.* About 1303 *examynen* to test or question; borrowed from Old French *examiner* to test or try, learned borrowing from Latin *exāmināre* to test or try, from *exāmen* a means of weighing or testing; probably developed through **exagesmen* a testing, examination, from **exag-*, stem of **exagere*, variant of *exigere* weigh accurately. —**exam** *n.* (1877, shortened form of *examination*) —**examination** *n.* About 1390 *examinacioun*, borrowed from Old French *examination*, and as a learned borrowing directly from Latin *exāminatiōnem* (nominative *exāminatiō*), from *exāmināre* examine; for suffix see -ATION. —**examiner** *n.* (1530)

example *n.* Before 1382 *exsauple*, borrowed from Old French *exemple*, *essample*, learned borrowing from Latin *exemplum*, originally, that which is taken out, a sample, from *eximere* take out, remove, EXEMPT. An earlier form *asauple* appeared in Middle English before 1250, borrowed from Old French *assample*, variant of *essample*.

exasperate *v.* 1534, borrowed, possibly by influence of Middle French *exaspérer*, from Latin *exasperātus*, past participle of *exasperāre* roughen, irritate (*ex-* thoroughly + *asper* rough); for suffix see -ATE¹. —**exasperation** *n.* 1547, borrowed from Latin *exasperatiōnem* (nominative *exasperatiō*), from *exasperāre* for suffix see -ATION.

excavate *v.* 1599, probably developed from earlier *excavate*, *adj.*, hollowed out (1571); borrowed from Latin *excavātus*, past participle of *excavāre* to hollow out (*ex-* out + *cavāre* to hollow, from *cavus* hollow); for suffix see -ATE¹. —**excavation** *n.* 1611, either formed from English *excavate*, *v.* + *-ion*; or borrowed through French *excavation*, or directly from Latin *excavatiōnem* (nominative *excavatiō*), from *excavāre*; for suffix see -ATION.

exceed *v.* About 1380 *exceden*, borrowed from Old French *exceder*, learned borrowing from Latin *excēdere* depart, go beyond (*ex-* out + *cēdere* go, yield). —**exceeding** *adj.* (1494); *adv.* (1535) —**exceedingly** *adv.* (1535)

excel *v.* Probably about 1408 *excellen*, probably borrowed from Middle French *exceller*, and directly from Latin *excellere* to rise, surpass, be eminent (*ex-* out from + *-cellere* rise high or tower; related to *celsus* high, lofty, great). Also, *excel* may have been formed as a back formation of *excellence*. —**excellence** *n.* Probably about 1350, borrowed from Old French *excellence*, from Latin *excellētia* superiority, excellence, from *excellētem* (nominative *excellēns*) excellent, present participle of *excellere*; for suffix see -ENCE. —**excellency** *n.* Probably about 1200 *excellencie* high rank; borrowed from Latin *excellētia* superiority, excellence. —**excellent** *adj.* Before 1349, surpassing, superior; borrowed from Old French *excellēnt*, learned borrowing from Latin *excellētem* (nominative *excellēns*), present participle of *excellere* excel; for suffix see -ENT.

excelsior *adj.* 1778, in American English, the motto of New

York State incorporating the Latin *excelsior* higher, comparative of *excelsus* high, past participle of *excellere* EXCEL. The word was popularized in the United States in the poem *Excelsior* (1841) by Longfellow. 1868, American English, originally a trade name; from the adjective.

except *prep.* About 1378 *excepte*, borrowed through Old French *excepté*, *prep.*, or directly from Latin *exceptus*, past participle of *excipere* take out (*ex-* out + *capere* take). In Middle English, *except* was used as a participle with the meaning of (being) excepted, and often preceded the noun. In this position it gradually took on the function of a preposition. —**conj.** Before 1387, borrowed directly from Latin *exceptus*, past participle of *excipere*. —**v.** Before 1393 *excepten* take or leave out, exclude, borrowed from Middle French *excepter*, from Latin *exceptus*, past participle of *excipere*. —**excepting** *prep.* (1549) —**exception** *n.* About 1386 *exceptioun*, borrowed through Anglo-French *exceptioun*, Old French *exception*, or directly from Latin *exceptiōnem* (nominative *exceptiō*), from *except-*, stem of *excipere* take out; for suffix see -TION. —**exceptionable** *adj.* 1664, implied in *exceptionableness*; formed from English *exception* + *-able*. —**exceptional** *adj.* 1846, forming an exception, unusual, special, formed from English *exception* + *-al*, possibly by influence of earlier French *exceptionnel* (1739).

excerpt *v.* About 1536, borrowed from Latin *excerptus*, past participle of *excerpere* pluck out, excerpt (*ex-* out + *carpere* pluck, gather). It is possible that *excerpt*, *v.*, was also in part developed from earlier *excerpte* taken or derived (from a book), a past participial use (probably before 1425). —**n.** Before 1638, borrowed from Latin *excerptum*, neuter past participle of *excerpere* to excerpt; or, in some instances possibly a noun use of the verb.

excess *n.* Before 1382 *exces* extravagant show of emotion, elation or ecstasy, also, more than enough (before 1387); borrowed through Old French *exces*, or directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *excessus* (genitive *excessūs*) departure, going beyond the bounds of reason or beyond the subject, from pre-Latin stem *excesd-* of *excēdere* to depart, go beyond, EXCEED. —**adj.** 1472–75, from the noun. —**excessive** *adj.* Before 1393 *excessif*, borrowed from Old French *excessif*, *excessive*, from Medieval Latin *excessivus* immoderate, from Latin *excessum*, past participle of *excēdere*; for suffix see -IVE.

exchange *n.* About 1378 *eschaunge*, borrowed through Anglo-French *eschaunge*, Old French *eschange*, from *eschangier* to exchange, from Vulgar Latin **excambiāre* (from Latin *ex-* out + *cambiāre* to CHANGE). —**v.** 1415 *eschaungen*, borrowed through Anglo-French *eschaungier*, Middle French *eschangier* to exchange, from *eschange*, *n.*

exchequer *n.* Before 1338 *escheker* a session of the English king's department of treasury, earlier, a chessboard (about 1250); borrowed through Anglo-French *escheker*, from Old French *eschequier* chessboard, from *eschec* a check. It is disputed whether the term applied to the treasury was first used in Normandy or in England, but the name refers to a cloth divided into squares and covering a table on which accounts of revenue were reckoned with counters.

The spelling *exchequer* developed when *es-* of the original Old French spelling was mistaken as the equivalent of Latin *ex-*. The shift from *-ker* to *-quer* developed after 1450, modeled on the re-adopted Old French *-quier*.

excise¹ *n.* tax. 1494, borrowed probably from Middle Dutch *excijs*, apparently an altered form of *acjis* tax, by influence of Latin *excisus* cut out or removed, past participle of *excidere*; see EXCISE². The Middle Dutch *acjis* is traditionally derived from Old French *accis* tax or assessment, from Vulgar Latin **accēsum*, ultimately from Latin *ad-* to + *census* tax, CENSUS.

excise² *v.* cut out. 1578, borrowed from Middle French *ex-ciser*, learned borrowing from Latin *excisus*, past participle of *excidere* cut out (*ex-* out + *caedere* to cut). —**excision** *n.* 1490, borrowed through Middle French *excision*, learned borrowing from Latin *excisiōnem* (nominative *excisiō*), from *excis-*, stem of *excidere* excise; for suffix see -SION.

excite *v.* About 1340 *exciten* urge on; later, to stir up the feelings of (before 1387); borrowed through Old French *exciter*, or directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *excitare* rouse, excite, frequentative form of *excitare* call forth, instigate (*ex-* out + *ciere* set in motion, call). —**excitation** *n.* 1384, probably borrowed from Old French *excitation*, from Latin *excitātiōnem* (nominative *excitātiō*), from *excitare*; for suffix see -ATION. —**excited** *adj.* 1660, magnetically or electrically stimulated; later, disturbed or agitated (1855); from *excite*, *v.* —**excitement** *n.* About 1425, encouragement; 1604, perhaps as a re-formation of English *excite* + *-ment*. —**exciting** *adj.* 1811, causing disease; later, causing excitement (1826); from *excite*, *v.*

exclaim *v.* 1570 *exclame*; probably, at least in part, a back formation from earlier *exclamation*; but traditionally considered a borrowing from Middle French *exclamer*, or a learned borrowing from Latin, *exclamāre* cry out loud (*ex-* intensive + *clāmāre* cry out, call). The English spelling was influenced by *claim*; so also *acclaim*, *acclamation* which follow the same pattern. —**exclamation** *n.* About 1384 *exclamacioun*, borrowed from Old French *exclamation*, learned borrowing from Latin *exclamātiōnem* (nominative *exclamātiō*), from *exclamātus* (past participle of *exclamāre*); for suffix see -ATION. —**exclamatory** *adj.* 1593, formed from English *exclamat(ion)* + *-ory*, possibly modeled on Latin *exclamāt-*, participle stem of *exclamāre* + English suffix *-ory*.

exclude *v.* Before 1349, implied in the gerund *excludyng* (before 1349); borrowed from Latin *excludere* keep out, shut out, hinder, from *ex-* out + *claudere* to close¹ shut. —**exclusion** *n.* Before 1402, borrowed from Middle French *exclusion*, or directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *exclūsiōnem* (nominative *exclūsiō*), from *excludere*; for suffix see -SION. —**exclusive** *adj.* About 1450, functioning as an adverb; borrowed, perhaps through Middle French *exclusif*, but more likely from Medieval Latin *exclusivus*, from *exclus-*, participle stem of Latin *excludere*; for suffix see -IVE.

excommunicate *v.* Probably before 1425, borrowed from Late Latin *excommunicātus*, past participle of *excommunicāre*, literally, put out of the community (*ex-* out + *communis* com-

mon; on the analogy of *communicāre* communicate); for suffix see -ATE¹. —**excommunication** *n.* 1459, borrowed possibly through Middle French *excommunication*, or directly from Late Latin *excommunicātiōnem* (nominative *excommunicātiō*), from *excommunicāre* excommunicate; for suffix see -ATION.

excoriate *v.* Probably before 1425 *excoriaten*, borrowed from Late Latin *excoriātus*, past participle of *excoriāre* strip off the hide, from Latin *ex-* off + *corium* hide, skin. The figurative sense of denounce or censure violently is first recorded in 1708. —**excoriation** *n.* Probably before 1425 *excoriacioun*; borrowed possibly through Middle French *excoriation*, but more likely directly from Medieval Latin *excoriationem* (nominative *excoriatio*), from Late Latin *excoriāre* for suffix see -ATION.

excrement *n.* 1533, borrowed from Latin *excrementum*, from the stem of *excrētus*, past participle of *excernere* to sift out, discharge (*ex-* out + *cernere* sift, separate; see CERTAIN); for suffix see -MENT.

excrecence *n.* Probably before 1425, borrowed through Middle French *excrecence*, or directly from Latin *excrēscētia*, pl., abnormal growths, from *excrēscētem* (nominative *excrēscēns*), present participle of *excrēscere* grow out (*ex-* out + *crēscere* grow); for suffix see -ENCE. —**excrecent** *adj.* Before 1500 *excrecent* resulting from addition; later, growing out of something, especially abnormally (1633); borrowed from Latin *excrēscētem* (nominative *excrēscēns*), present participle of *excrēscere* grow out; and a back formation from *excrecence*, on the model of Latin *excrēscētem*; for suffix see -ENT.

excrete *v.* 1620, borrowed from Latin *excrētus*, past participle of *excernere* to discharge; see EXCREMENT; and a back formation from *excretion*. —**excretion** *n.* 1603, borrowed probably from French *excrétion*, apparently from Latin *excrēt-*, stem of *excernere* to discharge; for suffix see -TION. —**excretory** *adj.* 1681, formed in English from Latin *excrēt-*, past participle stem of *excernere* + English suffix *-ory*.

excruciate *v.* 1570, borrowed, possibly by influence of Middle French *excrucier*, from Latin *excruciātus*, past participle of *excruciāre* to torture, torment (*ex-* out, thoroughly + *cruciāre* cause pain or anguish to, crucify, from *crux*, genitive *crucis* CROSS); for suffix see -ATE¹. The participial adjective *excruciating* is first recorded in 1599.

exculpate *v.* 1656–81, borrowed from Medieval Latin *exculpatus*, past participle of *exculpāre*, from Latin *ex culpā* (*ex* from and *culpā*, ablative case of *culpa* blame); for suffix see -ATE¹. —**exculpation** *n.* Before 1715, formed from English *exculpate* + *-ion*.

excursion *n.* 1574, digression; borrowed from Middle French *excursion*, or directly as a learned borrowing from Latin, *excursiōnem* (nominative *excursiō*) a running forth, excursion, from *excursus*, past participle of *excurrere* run out (*ex-* out + *currere* to run); for suffix see -SION. The sense of a trip or journey is first recorded in English in 1665.

excuse *v.* About 1225 *escusen*, later *excusen* (before 1338); borrowed from Old French *escuser*, later *excuser*, learned

borrowing from Latin *excūsāre* release from a charge, excuse (*ex-* out, away + *causa* accusation, CAUSE). —**n.** About 1375, borrowed from Old French *excuse*, from *excuser*. —**excusable** adj. About 1385, borrowed from Old French *excusable*, from Latin *excūsābilis*, from *excūsāre*; for suffix see -ABLE.

execrate *v.* 1561, borrowed from Latin *execrātus*, *exsecrātus*, past participles of *execrārī*, *exsecrārī* to hate, curse (*ex-* out + *sacrārē* to devote to holiness, but also to destruction, consecrate, from *sacer* SACRED); for suffix see -ATE¹. Also, *execrate* may also be a back formation from the earlier *execration*. —**execrable** adj. About 1384, involving a curse; borrowed through Old French *execrable*, and directly from Latin *execrābilis*, *exsecrābilis*, from *execrārī*, *exsecrārī* to curse; for suffix see -ABLE. The sense of abominable, detestable, is first recorded in 1490. —**execration** *n.* Before 1382 *execracioun* the act of cursing; borrowed through Old French *execration*, and directly from Latin *execrātiōnem* (nominative *execrātiō*), from *execrārī*, *exsecrārī* to curse; for suffix see -ATION.

execute *v.* About 1385 *executen* carry out, perform, accomplish, borrowed from Old French *executer*, back formation from *exécuteur* executor, from Latin *execūtōr*, *exsecūtōr* doer, performer, agent nouns from *execūt-*, *exsecūt-*, past participle stems of *exequī*, *exsequī* follow out (*ex-* out + *sequī* follow). The sense of put to death, is first recorded in English in 1483.

—**execution** *n.* About 1385 *execucioun* act of carrying out, performance, borrowed through Anglo-French *execucioun*, Old French *execution*, from Latin *execūtiōnem*, *exsecūtiōnem* (nominative *execūtiō*, *exsecūtiō*), from *execūt-*, *exsecūt-*, past participle stems of *exequī*, *exsequī*; for suffix see -TION. The sense of putting to death, is first recorded in English in *do execution*, *don execution of deth* (about 1390). —**executioner** *n.* 1561, formed from English *execution* + *-er*¹. —**executive** adj. Probably before 1425, intended to be carried out; borrowed from Middle French *exécutive*; *exécutive*, from Old French *executer* execute, as if from a Latin form **execūtīvus*; for suffix see -IVE. The branch of a government charged with carrying out the laws, is first recorded in 1649. —**n.** 1776, in American English, person or persons charged with putting laws into effect, from the adjective. The sense of businessman is first recorded in 1902, also in American English. —**executive committee** (1823) —**Executive Mansion** the White House (1838) —**executor** *n.* About 1290 *esecutor* one who executes a will, borrowed through Anglo-French *esecutour*, Old French *exécuteur*, from Latin *execūtōrem*, *exsecūtōrem* (nominative *execūtōr*, *exsecūtōr*) doer, performer; see EXECUTE.

exegesis *n.* 1619, borrowed from Greek *exēgēsis*, from *exēgeisthai* explain, interpret (*ex-* out + *hēgeisthai* to lead, guide; see SEEK).

exemplary adj. 1589 *exemplarie* of a kind to become an example; adjective use of earlier *exemplarie* example (about 1420); the adjective borrowed from, Middle French *exemplaire*, from Latin *exemplāris* that serves as an example, from *exemplum* example; for suffix see -ARY. —**exemplar** *n.* Before 1398 *exemplar* original model of the universe in the mind of God; later, a model of virtue (1447); borrowed from Old French

exemplaire, *exampaire*, and directly from Late Latin *exemplarium*, from *exemplum* EXAMPLE.

exemplify *v.* Probably about 1408 *exemplifier* demonstrate by example, borrowed from Middle French *exemplifier*, from Medieval Latin *exemplificare*, from Latin *exemplum* EXAMPLE; for suffix see -FY.

exempt adj. About 1380, borrowed from Old French *exempt*, and directly from Latin *exēptus*, past participle of *eximere* release, remove (*ex-* out + *emere* buy, originally take). —**v.** About 1443, grant immunity or freedom from (a law or rule); borrowed from Middle French *exempter*, from Old French, from *exempt*, adj. —**exemption** *n.* About 1400, borrowed from Old French *exemption*, or directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *exēptiōnem* (nominative *exēptiō*) a taking out, removing, from *exēm-*, stem of *eximere*; for suffix see -TION.

exercise *n.* About 1340, effort or application, as for virtue, etc.; borrowed from Old French *exercice*, learned borrowing from Latin *exercitium*, from *exercitāre*, frequentative form of *exercere* keep busy, drive on (*ex-* off + *arcere* keep away, prevent, enclose). The sense of physical exercise, is first recorded about 1390. —**v.** About 1380 *exercisen* put into active use; from the noun. The sense of engage in physical exercise, is first recorded in 1655.

exert *v.* 1660, thrust forth, push out; borrowed from Latin *exertus*, *exsertus*, past participles of *exerere*, *exserere* thrust out, put forth (*ex-* out + *serere* attach, join). The sense of put into use, exercise, bring to bear, is first recorded in 1681. —**exertion** *n.* 1668, act of exerting, formed from English *exert* + *-ion*. The meaning of vigorous action, effort, is first recorded in 1777.

exhale *v.* Before 1400 *exalen* emit vapor, perfume, etc.; borrowed from Middle French *exhaler*, learned borrowing from Latin *exhālāre* breathe out (*ex-* out + *hālāre* breathe). —**exhalation** *n.* Before 1393 *exalacion*, borrowed through Old French, or directly from Latin *exhālātiōnem* (nominative *exhālātiō*), from *exhālāre*; for suffix see -ATION.

exhaust *v.* 1533, use up, consume, probably developed from earlier *exhaust*, past participle; borrowed from Latin *exhaustus*, past participle of *exaurire* draw off, take away, use up, (*ex-* off + *aurire* to draw water, etc.). —**n.** 1848, from the verb. —**exhausted** adj. 1623 —**exhaustion** *n.* 1646, fatigue, loss of strength; formed from English *exhaust*, *v.* + *-ion*, on the model of Late Latin *exhaustiōnem* (nominative *exhaustiō*) a drawing off. —**exhaustive** adj. 1786–89, formed from *exhaust* + *-ive*.

exhibit *v.* 1447, possibly borrowed from Latin *exhibitus*, past participle of *exhibere* to hold out, show, display (*ex-* out + *habere* to hold). Also, *exhibit* is a back formation from earlier *exhibition*. —**n.** 1626, legal evidence; borrowed from Latin *exhibitum*, neuter past participle of *exhibere*. The sense of something displayed publicly, is first recorded in 1862. —**exhibitor**, **exhibiter** *n.* 1599, formed from English *exhibit* + *-or*², *-er*¹. —**exhibition** *n.* Before 1325 *exhibicion* a display, demonstration; borrowed through Old French *exhibicion*, and directly

from Latin *exhibitionem* (nominative *exhibitio*), from *exhibere*; for suffix see -TION.

exhilarate *v.* 1540, borrowed from Latin *exhilaratus*, past participle of *exhilarare* gladden, cheer (*ex-* thoroughly + *hilarare* make cheerful, from *hilaris*, later *hilaris* cheerful); for suffix see -ATE¹. —**exhilaration** *n.* 1623–26, borrowed from Late Latin *exhilarationem* (nominative *exhilaratio*), from Latin *exhilarare*; for suffix see -ATION.

exhort *v.* Probably about 1400 *exorten* encourage or admonish; borrowed through Middle French *exhorter*, and directly from Latin *exhortari* (*ex-* thoroughly + *hortari* encourage, urge). —**exhortation** *n.* About 1384, borrowed through Old French *exhortation*, and directly from Latin *exhortationem* (nominative *exhortatio*), from *exhortari* exhort; for suffix see -ATION.

exhume *v.* 1783, borrowed from French *exhumer*, from Medieval Latin *exhumare* (Latin *ex-* out of + *humare* bury, from *humus* earth). —**exhumation** *n.* 1797, borrowed from French *exhumation*, learned borrowing from Medieval Latin *exhumationem* (nominative *exhumatio*), from *exhumare*; for suffix see -ATION.

exigency *n.* 1581, that which is urged; replacing Middle English *exigence* (1447); borrowed from Middle French *exigence*, from Late Latin *exigentia*, from Latin *exigens* (nominative *exigens*), from *exigere* to demand; for suffix see -ENCY. —**exigencies** *n. pl.* 1659, an urgent need, demand for prompt action; from the noun singular. —**exigent** *adj.* 1670, a back formation from earlier *exigency*, on the model of Latin *exigentem* (nominative *exigens*), present participle of *exigere*; for suffix see -ENT. Also, *exigent* may be from Middle English *exigent*, *n.*, an emergency (before 1449).

exile *v.* Before 1325, borrowed from Old French *exilier*, learned borrowing from Late Latin *exiliare*, from Latin *exilium* banishment, from *exul* banished person (*ex-* away + the root *-ul-*, possibly *ambulare* to walk). —**n.** Probably before 1300, borrowed from Old French *exil*, learned borrowing from Latin *exilium*.

exist *v.* 1602, borrowed from French *exister*, from Middle French, learned borrowing from Latin *existere*, *existere* stand forth, appear, exist (*ex-* forth + *sistere* cause to stand). —**existence** *n.* About 1380, reality, borrowed from Old French *existence*, from Late Latin *existentia*, *existentia*, from Latin *existens*, *existens* (nominative *existens*, *existens*) existent, present participles of *existere*, *existere*; for suffix see -ENCE. The sense of fact or state of existing, is first recorded about 1430. —**existent** *adj.* 1561, probably a back formation from English *existence*, modeled on Latin *existentem*; see EXISTENCE. —**existential** *adj.* 1693, of or having to do with existence, borrowed from Late Latin *existentialis*, *existentialis*, from *existentia*, *existentia*; see EXISTENCE; for suffix see -AL¹. Modern use to refer to *existentialism* is first recorded in English before 1937. —**existentialism** *n.* 1941, borrowed from German *Existentialismus* (1919, replacing earlier *Existentialforhold*, 1849, from Kierkegaard's *Existens-Forhold*, 1846), from Late Latin *existentialis* existential + German *-ismus* -ism. —**exis-**

tentialist *n.* 1945, borrowed from French *existentialiste*, from *existentialisme* (about 1940), from German *Existenzialismus*; for suffix see -IST.

exit *n.* 1538, a direction for leaving the stage, a borrowing of Latin *exit* he or she goes out, 3d person singular present indicative of *exire* go out (*ex-* out + *ire* to go). The plural form *exeunt* appeared earlier, about 1485. —**v.** 1607, make one's exit, depart; from the noun.

exo- a combining form meaning outside, outer, outside of, used in new formation of scientific and technical vocabulary, such as *exobiology*, *exoskeleton*, *exosphere*. Borrowed from Greek *éxō* outside, related to *ex* out; see EX-². Also EX-³ before vowels.

exodus *n.* Old English (about 1000) *Exodus*, second book of the Old Testament (so named for its account of the departure of the Israelites from Egypt); borrowing of Latin *exodus*, from Greek *éxodos* a going out (*ex-* out + *hódos* way).

exogenous *adj.* 1830, borrowed probably from French *exogène*, and directly from New Latin *exogenus* (from Greek *éxō* outside, from *ex* out of + *-génēs* born or produced); for suffix see -OUS.

exonerate *v.* 1448, borrowed from Latin *exoneratus*, past participle of *exonerare* remove a burden, discharge (*ex-* off + *onus*, genitive *oneris* burden); for suffix see -ATE¹.

exorbitant *adj.* 1437, offensive, borrowed from Latin *exorbitantem* (nominative *exorbitans*), present participle of *exorbitare* deviate, go out of the track (*ex-* out of + *orbita* wheel track); for suffix see -ANT. The sense of excessive or immoderate, is first recorded in 1440. —**exorbitance** *n.* 1449, an offense; formed from *exorbitant* by replacement with *-ance*, possibly after Old French *exorbitance*. The sense of excessiveness, is first recorded in English in 1646.

exorcise or **exorcize** *v.* Probably before 1400 *exorcizen* to involve spirits; borrowed from Old French *exorciser*, from Late Latin *exorcizare*, from Greek *exorkízein* exorcise, bind by oath (*ex-* out of + *horkízein* cause to swear, from *horkos* oath). The sense of driving out evil spirits, is first recorded in English in 1546. —**exorcism** *n.* 1395, a calling up or driving out of spirits; borrowed from Late Latin *exorcismus*, from Greek *exorkismós*, from *exorkízein*. —**exorcist** *n.* About 1384, borrowed from Late Latin *exorcista*, from Greek *exorkistēs*, from *exorkízein*.

exotic *adj.* 1599, borrowed probably from Middle French *exotique* (1548), and directly from Latin *exōticus*, from Greek *exōtikós*, from *éxō* outside, from *ex* out of; for suffix see -IC. The sense of unusual or strange, is first recorded in English in 1629. —**n.** About 1645, an exotic plant; from the adjective.

expand *v.* 1422 *expaunden* spread out; borrowed through Anglo-French *espaundre*, Middle French *espandre*, and borrowed directly from Latin *expandere* to spread out (*ex-* out + *pandere* to spread). The sense of increase in size, enlarge, swell, is first recorded about 1645. —**expanse** *n.* 1667, that which is spread out, widely extended area; borrowed from Latin *expān-*

sum, from neuter of *expānsus*, past participle of *expandere*. Also, *expanse* may be a back formation from earlier *expansion*, and a noun use of earlier *expanse*, adj. (about 1395). —**expansion** n. 1611, anything that is spread out, *expanse*, firmament; borrowed from French *expansion*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Late Latin, *expānsionem* (nominative *expānsiō*) a spreading out, from Latin *expandere*; for suffix see -SION. The sense of the act of expanding, is first recorded in English in 1646. —**expansive** adj. 1651, tending to expand; formed in English from Latin *expānsus* (past participle of *expandere* expand) + English -ive.

expatiate v. 1538, walk about, roam freely; borrowed from Latin *expatiātus*, *expatiātus*, past participles of *expatiārī*, *expatiārī* wander, digress (*ex-* out + *spatiārī* to walk, spread out, from *spatium* SPACE); for suffix see -ATE¹. The sense of speak or write at some length, is first recorded in English in 1612.

expatriate v. 1768, apparently borrowed from French *expatriier* banish (*ex-* out of + *patrie* native land, learned borrowing from Latin *patria* one's native country, from *pater*, genitive *patris*, FATHER). —**n.** 1818, from the adjective. The modern sense of a person who takes up residence in a foreign country, is first recorded in 1902. —**expatriation** n. 1816, borrowed from French *expatriation* (*expatriier* expatriate + -ation -ation).

expect v. 1560, to wait, defer action; borrowed from Latin *expectāre*, *expectāre* await, hope (*ex-* thoroughly + *spectāre* to look, frequentative form of *specere* to look at). The sense of anticipate, is first recorded in English 1601. Use as a euphemism for be pregnant, is first recorded in 1817. —**expectancy** n. 1600, formed in English from Latin *expectantem* + English suffix -ancy. —**expectant** adj. Before 1393, borrowed, perhaps from Old French *expectant*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *expectantem*, *expectantem* (nominative *expectāns*, *expectāns*), present participle of *expectāre*, *expectāre*. —**expectation** n. 1538, borrowed from Middle French *expectation*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *expectātiōnem*, *expectātiōnem* (nominative *expectātiō*, *expectātiō*) anticipation, from *expectāre*, *expectāre*; for suffix see -ATION.

expectorate v. 1601, borrowed from Latin *expectorātus*, past participle of *expectorāre* expel from the mind (literally, the breast), scorn (*ex-* out of + *pectus*, genitive *pectoris* breast); for suffix see -ATE¹. —**expectoration** n. 1672, probably borrowed from French *expectoration* (from Latin *expectorāre* + French -tion -tion).

expedient adj. Before 1400, borrowed through Old French *expedient*, or directly from Latin *expedientem* (nominative *expediēns*) beneficial, present participle of *expedire* make fit or ready, prepare; see EXPEDITE; for suffix see -ENT. —**n.** 1653, contrivance, resource; from the adjective. —**expedience** n. Probably 1457, advantage, benefit; borrowed probably through Old French *expedience*, from Late Latin *expedientia*, from *expedientem* (nominative *expediēns*) beneficial, present participle of *expedire*. —**expediency** n. 1612, formed from English *expedience* + -y³, or from *expedient* + -cy; modeled on Late Latin *expedientia*; see EXPEDIENCE.

expedite v. 1602, developed from earlier *expedite*, adj., speedy

or prompt (1545), from *expedit*, past participle, accomplished or performed (1471); borrowed from Latin *expeditus*, past participle of *expedire* make fit or ready, prepare, literally, free the feet from fetters, and hence, free from difficulties, (*ex-* out + **pedis* fetter, related to *pēs*, genitive *pedis* FOOT). —**expedition** n. Probably before 1425 *expedition*, borrowed through Middle French *expédition*, and directly from Latin *expeditiōnem* (nominative *expeditiō*), from *expedire*; for suffix see -TION. —**expeditious** adj. About 1475 *expedycius* useful or fitting; later, prompt or speedy (1599); probably formed in English from Latin *expeditus* (past participle of *expedire*) + English connective -i- + -ous.

expel v. About 1385, borrowed from Latin *expellere* drive out (*ex-* out + *pellere* to drive).

expend v. About 1413, borrowed from Latin *expendere* pay out (*ex-* out + *pendere* to pay, weigh). —**expendable** adj. 1805, formed from English *expend* + -able. —**expenditure** n. 1769, formed in English from Medieval Latin *expeditus* (irregular past participle of Latin *expendere* expend) + English -ure. The irregular Medieval Latin past participle was formed on the analogy of Latin *vēditus*, past participle of *vēdere* to sell.

expense n. Before 1382, money provided for expenses borrowed through Anglo-French *expense*, Old French *espeuse*, learned borrowing from Late Latin *expēsa*, originally, feminine past participle of Latin *expendere* EXPEND. The sense of monetary charge or cost is first recorded in English before 1400. —**v.** 1909, from the noun. —**expensive** adj. 1628, given to profuse expenditure; formed from English *expense* + -ive. The sense of costly is first recorded in 1634.

experience n. About 1378, borrowed from Old French *experience*, learned borrowing from Latin *experientia* knowledge gained by repeated trials, experience, from *experientem* (nominative *experiens*), present participle of *experiri* to try, test (*ex-* out of + a lost verb **periri* to go through, with surviving past participle *peritus* experienced, tested); for suffix see -ENCE. —**v.** 1533, to test, try, from the noun. The sense of feel, suffer, undergo, is first recorded in 1588.

experiment n. Probably 1348, a proof of evidence; also probably before 1350, a test or trial; borrowed from Old French *experiment*, learned borrowing from Latin *experimentum* a trial, test, from *experiri* to try, test; see EXPERIENCE (ultimately from the same Latin verb). —**v.** 1484, ascertain by trial, from the noun.

expert adj. About 1384, very skillful, about 1385, experienced in, having experience of, borrowed from Old French *expert*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *expertus*, past participle of *experiri* to try, test; see EXPERIENCE. —**n.** Before 1420, person wise through experience, reappearing in the record of English in 1825, from the adjective. —**expertise** n. 1868, expert skill or knowledge, expertness, borrowed from French *expertise* expert appraisal, expert's report.

expiate v. 1600, make atonement, atone; borrowed, perhaps through influence of Middle French *expier*, and directly from Latin *expiātus*, past participle of *expiāre* make amends (*ex-*

completely + *piāre* propitiate, appease, from *pīus* faithful, loyal, devout); for suffix see -ATE. —**expiation** n. Probably before 1425 *expiation* act of expiating or making atonement, borrowed, perhaps through Middle French *expiation*, or directly from Latin *expiationem* (nominative *expiatio*), from *expiāre*; for suffix see -ATION.

expire v. 1419 *expiren* terminate, become void, lapse through time, also before 1420, breathe one's last, die, borrowed from Middle French *expirer*, *espirer*, from Latin *expirāre*, *expirāre* breathe out, breathe one's last, die (*ex-* out + *spirāre* breathe). The sense of breathe out, exhale, is first recorded in English in 1590. —**expiration** n. Probably before 1425, vapor or breath, borrowed from Middle French *expiration*, from Latin *expirātionem*, *expirātionem* (nominative *expiratio*, *expiratio*), from *expirāre*, *expirāre*; for suffix see -ATION. The sense of termination, end, close, is first recorded in 1562.

explain v. About 1425, make clear; borrowed from Latin *explānāre* to make plain or clear, explain, literally, make level, flatten (*ex-* out + *plānus* flat). —**explanation** n. Before 1382, borrowed from Latin *explānātiōnem* (nominative *explānatio*), from *explānāre*; for suffix see -ATION. —**explanatory** adj. 1618; formed from English *explanat(ion)* + -ory, after the model of Late Latin *explānātorius* having to do with an explanation, from Latin *explānātus*, past participle of *explānāre*.

expletive n. 1612, word or phrase serving to fill out a sentence or metrical line; perhaps developed from *conjunctioun expletif* correlative sentence adverb (1450); borrowed through Middle French *expletif*, *expletive*, and directly from Late Latin *expletivus* serving to fill out, from Latin *explere* fill out (*ex-* out + *plere* to fill); for suffix see -IVE. The sense of exclamation, often in the form of a profane oath or offensive word, is first recorded in 1815. —**adj.** 1656–81, serving to fill out, perhaps developed from a shortening of *conjunctioun expletif*; see noun.

explicate v. 1531, unfold in words, give a detailed account of, borrowed from Latin *explicātus*, past participle of *explicāre* unfold, unravel, explain; see EXPLICIT. —**explicable** adj. 1556, probably formed from English *explic(ate)* + -able, on the model of Latin *explicābilis* capable of being unraveled, from *explicāre*; for suffix see -ABLE. —**explication** n. 1528, detailed statement or account; borrowed from Middle French *explication*, learned borrowing from Latin *explicātiōnem* (nominative *explicatio*), from *explicāre*; for suffix see -ATION.

explicit adj. 1609 *explicite* made clear, expressed distinctly, borrowed from French *explicite*, from Latin *explicitus*, variant past participle of *explicāre* unfold, unravel, explain (*ex-* out + *plāre* to fold).

explode v. 1538, to reject or discard; borrowed from Latin *explōdere* drive out or off by clapping (originally a theatrical word applied to an actor, meaning to drive off the stage by making noise), drive out, reject (*ex-* out + *plaudere* to clap, applaud, of uncertain origin). The extended sense of drive out with violence and sudden noise, is first recorded in English in 1660, and the sense of go off with a loud noise, as a bomb does, appeared in American English in 1790.

exploit n. About 1300 *espleit* outcome of action, literally, something unfolded; borrowed through Anglo-French *espleit*, Old French *exploit* an action, deed, profit, achievement, from Latin *explicitum* a thing settled, ended, displayed, neuter of *explicitus*, past participle of *explicāre* unfold; see EXPLICIT. The spelling *exploit* appeared during the 1400's as an adoption of the French form. The sense of feat or achievement, is first recorded in English about 1400, probably from French. —**v.** Probably before 1400 *espleiten* achieve, fulfill, later *expleiten* accomplish (probably before 1439); borrowed from Anglo-French *espleiter*, from *espleit*, n., probably formed after Latin *expletum*, past participle of *explere* fulfill, complete. The form *exploiten* is recorded in 1422 (probably appearing as a parallel to the noun); borrowed from Middle French *exploiter*, *exploiter*, from Old French *exploit*, n. The sense of make unfair use of, is recorded in 1838, as an adoption from French *exploiter* to make the most of, take advantage of. —**exploitation** n. 1803, borrowed from French *exploitation* (*exploiter* to exploit + -ation -ation).

explore v. 1585, possibly a back formation from *exploration* (influenced by Middle French *explorer*) and a learned borrowing from Latin *explōrāre* investigate, search out, originally said to be a hunters' term meaning to set up a loud cry (*ex-* out + *plōrāre* to cry). —**exploration** n. 1543–44, investigation, examination; borrowed from Middle French *exploration*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *explōrātiōnem* (nominative *explōratio*), from *explōrāre* investigate; for suffix see -ATION. —**exploratory** adj. Before 1460, borrowed from Latin *explōrātorius* belonging to scouts, from *explōrātor* scout; from *explōrāre*; for suffix see -ORY. —**explorer** n. 1684–85, formed from English *explore* + -er¹, and replacing earlier *exploratour* (about 1450), borrowed from Latin *explōrātorem*.

explosion n. 1656–81, rejection, borrowed from French *explosion*, learned borrowing from Latin *explōsiōnem* (nominative *explōsiō*), from *explōdere* drive out by clapping; see EXPLODE; for suffix see -SION. The sense of a going off with violence and noise, is first recorded in 1667. The sense of a rapid increase or development (as in *population explosion*), is first recorded in 1953. —**explosive** adj. 1667, tending to explode, probably formed in English from Latin *explōsus* (past participle of *explōdere*) + English -ive. —**n.** 1874, an explosive substance; from the adjective.

exponent n. 1706, algebraic symbol or index; borrowed from Latin *exponentem* (nominative *exponēns*), present participle of *exponere* put forth, EXPOUND. The mathematical use may have been influenced by earlier French *exposant* (1680). The sense of one who expounds is first recorded in English in 1812. —**exponential** adj. 1704 (mathematical sense), probably formed from earlier, and then unrecorded English *exponent* + connective -i- + -al¹.

export v. About 1485 *exsporten* carry out or away; borrowed from Latin *exportāre* (*ex-* away + *portāre* carry). The sense of send out (commodities) from one country to another is first recorded in English in 1665. —**n.** 1690, an exported article; from the verb. —**exporter** n. 1691, formed from English *export*, v. + -er¹.

expose *v.* Before 1422 *exposen* lay open, set forth, make known; borrowed from Middle French *exposer*, replacement (by confusion with *poser* to place, lay down, POSE) of Latin *expōnere* set forth, EXPOUND. —**exposition** *n.* About 1390, act of expounding, explanation; borrowed from Old French *exposition*, learned borrowing from Latin *expositiōnem* (nominative *expositiō*) explanation, narration, from *exposi-*, stem of *expōnere* set forth; for suffix see -TION. The sense of a public exhibition or display, is recorded in 1851, referring to the Crystal Palace Exposition of London. —**expositor** *n.* About 1340, a commentator on the Gospel; borrowed through Old French *expositur*, from Latin *expositōrem*, from *expōnere*; for suffix see -OR². —**exposure** *n.* 1605, public exhibition, formed from English *expose* + *-ure*, on the analogy of *enclose*, *enclosure*, etc.

exposé or **expose** *n.* 1803, used as a French word in a diary; past participle of *exposer* lay open, set forth, from Old French; see EXPOSE.

expostulate *v.* About 1534, to demand or claim; borrowed from Latin *expostulātus*, past participle of *expostulāre* to demand urgently, remonstrate (*ex-* from + *postulāre* to demand); for suffix see -ATE¹. The sense of reason or remonstrate in a friendly manner, is first recorded in English in 1574. —**expostulation** *n.* 1586, action of expostulating, earnest and kindly protest; borrowed from Latin *expostulātiōnem* (nominative *expostulātiō*), from *expostulāre* expostulate; for suffix see -ATION.

expound *v.* About 1340 *expouden*, borrowed from Old French *expondre*, from Latin *expōnere* put forth, explain (*ex-* forth + *pōnere* to put, place). The usual form in Middle English was *expounen*, according to the practice of borrowing from the finite part of French verbs rather than the infinitive. In the 1500s *expounen* became obsolete, owing to the phonetic tendency exhibited in *sound* for the earlier *soun*, and the frequent occurrence of *expound* as past participle.

express *v.* About 1384 *expressen* to state, represent, depict, borrowed from Medieval Latin *expressare*, frequentative form of *exprimere* to press out, represent, describe, express (*ex-* out + *primere* to PRESS¹ push). —**adj.** About 1380 *expres* clear, plain, explicit, definite, borrowed through Old French *expres*, and directly from Latin *expressus* clearly presented, from past participle of *exprimere*. The sense of direct, distinct, special, is first recorded probably before 1400. —**adv.** Probably about 1380 *expresse* clearly, outright, directly; borrowed from Latin *expressē*, from *expressus* clearly presented. —**n.** 1619, special messenger; from the adjective. The sense of a business or system for sending parcels, money, etc., by special messenger, is first recorded in 1794. —**expression** *n.* Probably before 1425, the action of pressing out; later, a putting into words (1449); borrowed from Middle French *expression*, learned borrowing from Late Latin *expressiōnem* (nominative *expressiō*) expression, vividness, from Latin *expressiōnem* a pressing out, from the stem of *exprimere*; for suffix see -SION. —**expressionism** *n.* 1908, formed from English *expression* + *-ism*, perhaps after German *Expressionismus*. —**expressionist** *n.* 1914, from *expressionism*, on the analogy of *impressionism*, *impressionist*. But compare earlier *expressionist* (1850) an artist whose work aims chiefly at expressing character,

action, etc., formed from English *expression* + *-ist*. —**expressive** *adj.* Before 1400 *expressif* tending to press out or expel; later *expressive* serving as evidence (about 1450); borrowed from Middle French *expressif*, from *expres* clear, plain; for suffix see -IVE. The sense of expressing feeling, especially in an emphatic manner is first recorded in 1601. —**expressly** *adv.* Before 1393, directly, outright; 1395, specifically; formed parallel with *expresse*, *adv.*, from the verb *expressen*.

expropriate *v.* 1611, probably a back formation from earlier English *expropriation*, influenced by Medieval Latin *expropriatus*, past participle of *expropriare* to deprive of property (Latin *ex-* away from + *propriare* to appropriate); for suffix see -ATE¹. Also, *expropriate* may have developed in English from earlier *expropriat*, *adj.* (about 1449); borrowed from Medieval Latin *expropriatus*. —**expropriation** *n.* About 1443 *expropriacioun* renunciation of worldly goods; borrowed from Medieval Latin *expropriationem* (nominative *expropriatio*), from *expropriare*; for suffix see -ATION. The meaning of action of depriving a person of property, is first recorded in 1848.

expulsion *n.* Before 1400 *expulcioun*; borrowed through Old French *expulsion* from Latin *expulsiōnem* (nominative *expulsiō*), from *expul-*, stem of *expellere* drive out, EXPEL; for suffix see -SION.

expunge *v.* 1602, borrowed from Latin *expungere* mark (a name on a list) for deletion by placing dots above or below, literally, by pricking, prick out (*ex-* out + *pungere* to prick, stab).

expurgate *v.* 1621, to purge or clear out; partly a back formation from English *expurgation*, and partly borrowed, by influence of earlier English *expurge*, from Latin *expurgātus*, past participle of *expurgare* cleanse out, purify (*ex-* out + *purgare* to PURGE); for suffix see -ATE¹. The specific sense of remove objectionable passages from a literary work, is first recorded in English in 1678. *Expurgate* replaced *expurge* (1483), borrowed from Middle French *expurger*, learned borrowing from Latin *expurgare*. —**expurgation** *n.* Probably 1440, a purging or clearing out; borrowed from Latin *expurgātiōnem* (nominative *expurgātiō*), from *expurgare*; for suffix see -ATION. The sense of removal of objectionable passages from a literary work, is first recorded in 1614.

exquisite *adj.* Probably before 1425, careful, searching; borrowed from Latin *exquisitus* carefully sought out, choice, from past participle of *exquirere* search out (*ex-* out + *quaerere* seek, procure, gain). The sense of highest degree of excellence, is first recorded in 1530.

extant *adj.* 1545, standing out, projecting; borrowed from Latin *extantem*, *exstantem*, present participles of *extāre*, *exstāre* stand out, be visible, exist (*ex-* out, forth + *stāre* to STAND). The sense of in existence, existing, appeared in English in 1561.

extemporaneous *adj.* 1656–81, borrowed from French *extemporané*, or directly from Late Latin *extemporāneus*, from Latin *ex tempore* offhand, in accordance with (the needs of) the moment (*ex* out of, and *tempore*, ablative case of *tempus*, genitive *temporis* time); for suffix see -OUS. —**extempore** *adv.* Before 1553, borrowed from Latin *ex tempore*. —**adj.** Before 1637, probably from the adverb in English, by influence of

Latin *ex tempore*. —**extemporize** *v.* 1644 (implied in *extemporizing*), formed from English *extempore*, *adv.* + *-ize*.

extend *v.* Before 1338 *extenden* to value or assess, calculate the extent of for taxation; later, to stretch out, lengthen (1387); borrowed, by influence of Old French *estendre*, from Latin *extendere* stretch out (*ex-* out + *tendere* to stretch). —**extension** *n.* Before 1400 *extencioun* distention, swelling, borrowed through Old French *extension*, and directly from Latin *extēnsiōnem* (nominative *extēnsiō*), from *extendere*, for suffix see *-SION*. —**extensive** *adj.* Probably before 1425, characterized by swelling or distention; later, far-reaching, comprehensive (1605); both meanings are probably separate borrowings from Late Latin *extēnsivus*, from Latin *extendere*; for suffix see *-IVE*. —**extent** *n.* About 1303 *extente* tax on land; borrowed through Anglo-French *extente*, *estente* valuation of land, stretch of land, in Old French *extente* extension, from feminine past participle of *extendere*, *estendre* extend, from Latin *extendere* extend. The meaning of amount or degree to which a thing extends, is first recorded in 1594.

extenuate *v.* 1529, make light of, lessen, underrate, developed from past participle and adjective *extenuat* made thin, diminished, lessened (probably before 1425); borrowed from Latin *extenuātus*, past participle of *extenuāre* lessen (*ex-* out + *tenuāre* make thin); for suffix see *-ATE*¹. The phrase *extenuating circumstances*, is first recorded in 1840. —**extenuation** *n.* Probably about 1425 *extenuacioun* action of making thin or the process of emaciation; later, weakening or mitigation (1542–43); borrowed from Middle French *exténuation*, and directly from Latin *extenuātiōnem* (nominative *extenuātiō*), from *extenuāre*; for suffix see *-ATION*.

exterior *adj.* 1528 *exteriour*; borrowed through Middle French *extérieur*, and directly from Latin *exterior*, comparative form of *exter*, *exterus* outward, outside, from *ex* out of, see *EX-*; for suffix see *-OR*¹. —**n.** 1591, from the adjective.

exterminate *v.* 1541, drive away; borrowed from Latin *exterminātus*, past participle of *extermināre* drive out, expel, also in Late Latin, destroy, from the phrase *ex termine* beyond the boundary (*ex* out of, and *terminē*, ablative case of *terminē* boundary, end, limit); for suffix see *-ATE*¹. In some instances *exterminate* may be a back formation from earlier *exterminacioun*, *extermination*. The form *exterminate* replaced *exterminen* (recorded 1459); borrowed from Middle French *exterminer*, learned borrowing from Latin *extermināre*. The sense of destroy utterly, is first recorded in English in 1649. —**extermination** *n.* 1459 *exterminacioun* expulsion; later, utter destruction (1549); borrowed from Middle French *extermination*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Late Latin *exterminātiōnem* (nominative *exterminātiō*), from Latin *extermināre*; for suffix see *-ATION*. —**exterminator** *n.* Before 1400 *extermynatour*, borrowed through Old French *exterminateur*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Late Latin *exterminātor* destroyer, from Latin *extermināre*; for suffix see *-OR*².

external *adj.* Probably before 1425 *externalle* overt, later *external* outward, outer (1556); formed in English from Middle

French *externe*, and from Latin *externus* outside + English *-al*¹. Latin *externus* is from *exter*, *exterus* outward; see *EXTERIOR*. Middle English *externalle* was parallel in meaning with *external* (probably before 1425), which was borrowed from Old French *external*, from Latin *externus*, but *external* became obsolete in English after 1550. —**n.pl.** 1635, from the adjective.

extinct *adj.* Probably before 1425 *extincte* extinguished, quenched, borrowed from Latin *extinctus*, *extinctus*, past participles of *extinguere*, *extinguere* EXTINGUISH. The sense referring to a family line, species of animal, or title of nobility, is recorded in 1581. —**extinction** *n.* Probably before 1425 *extincion* an extinguishing or quenching; borrowed from Latin *extinctiōnem*, *extinctiōnem* (nominative *extinctiō*, *extinctiō*), from *extinguere*, *extinguere* extinguish; for suffix see *-TION*. The sense of coming to an end or fact of dying out, is first recorded before 1470.

extinguish *v.* Probably before 1503, borrowed from Latin *extinguere*, *extinguere* quench, wipe out, obliterate (*ex-* out + *stinguere* quench); for suffix see *-ISH*². —**extinguisher** *n.* 1560, formed from English *extinguish* + *-er*¹.

extirpate *v.* 1539, perhaps developed from earlier, but then unrecorded *extirpate*, past participle (1541); borrowed from Latin *extirpātus*, *extirpātus*, past participles of *extirpare*, *extirpare* root out (*ex-* out + *stirps*, genitive *stirpis* a root or stock of a tree); for suffix see *-ATE*¹. Also, *extirpate* may be a back formation from earlier *extirpation*. *Extirpate* replaced *extirpen* (recorded probably before 1425); borrowed, through Middle French *extirper*, from Latin *extirpare*, *extirpare*. —**extirpation** *n.* Probably before 1425 *extirpacioun* removal; later, a rooting out, eradication (1526); borrowed through Middle French *extirpation*, and directly from Latin *extirpātiōnem*, *extirpātiōnem* (nominative *extirpātiō*, *extirpātiō*) from *extirpare*, *extirpare*; for suffix see *-ATION*.

extol or **extoll** *v.* Before 1400 *extollen* lift up, elevate, exalt; borrowed from Latin *extollere* (*ex-* up + *tollere* to raise). The extended sense of praise highly, is first recorded probably before 1425.

extort *v.* 1529, developed, from earlier *extort*, *adj.*, acquired wrongfully or by force (before 1420); borrowed from Latin *extortus*, past participle of *extorquere* wrench out, wrest away, extort (*ex-* out + *torquere* to twist). In some instances *extort* is also a back formation from earlier *extortion*. —**extortion** *n.* Before 1325 *extorsium* act of extorting; later *extorcion* (about 1390); borrowed from Old French *extorsion*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Medieval Latin *extortionem*, *extorsionem* (nominative *extortio*, *extorsio*) an extortion, from Late Latin *extortiōnem* torture, from Latin *extorquere* wrench out; for suffix see *-TION*. —**extortionate** *adj.* 1789, formed from English *extortion* + *-ate*¹. —**extortionist** *n.* 1885, formed from English *extortion* + *-ist*; replacing earlier *extorter* (1591), *extortor* (1579), *extortioner* (about 1375).

extra *adj.* 1654, outside, without, external; borrowing of Latin *extrā*, *adv.* and *prep.*, beyond, outside of; later (1776) by shortening of *EXTRAORDINARY*, used in the 1600's as an adjective, adverb, and noun having the sense of beyond what

was ordinary or normal. —**adv.** 1823, beyond the ordinary degree, unusually; from the adjective. —**n.** 1777–78, person engaged for a minor part in a play, shortening of *extraordinary*, *n.* (1671), someone outside the regular or ordinary staff.

extra- a prefix meaning outside, beyond, as in *extraordinary*, *extraterrestrial*. Borrowed from Latin *extrā*, adv. and prep., beyond, outside of, old feminine ablative case of *exter*, *exterus* outward, outside, from *ex* out of; see EX-¹.

As a prefix *extra-* is recorded in classical Latin only in the word *extraordinarius* extraordinary; in Late Latin it is recorded in three or four words; but in Medieval Latin it is more common, though most words that occur in English with this prefix are modern formations.

extract *v.* Probably before 1425 *extracten* draw or pull out; borrowed from Latin *extractus*, past participle of *extrahere* draw out (*ex-* out + *trahere* to draw). —**n.** About 1443, summary, outline; borrowed from Latin *extractum*, neuter past participle (or from *extracta*, feminine past participle) of *extrahere* to extract. —**extraction** *n.* Probably before 1425 *extraccioun* the action of pulling out or process of withdrawal; later, origin, lineage, descent (about 1477); borrowed from Middle French *extraction*, learned borrowing from Late Latin *extractionem* (nominative *extractiō*), from the stem of Latin *extrahere*; for suffix see -TION.

extradition *n.* 1839, borrowed from French *extradition*, from Latin *ex-* out + *trāditiō* (genitive *trāditiōnis*) a delivering up, handing over, from *trādere* to hand over. —**extradite** *v.* 1864, back formation from English *extradition*.

extraneous *adj.* 1638, of external origin; borrowed from Latin *extrāneus*, from *extrā* outside of; for suffix see -OUS.

extraordinary *adj.* 1431 *extraordinaire* out of the ordinary, borrowed from Latin *extraordinarius*, from *extrā ordinem* out of order, especially the usual order (*extrā* out, and *ordō, ordinem* ORDER); for suffix see -ARY. The sense of outside of or additional to gave rise to such uses as *ambassador extraordinary* (the position of the adjective being influenced by French). *Extraordinary* served also as a noun and as an adverb in such examples as *extraordinaries that occur* (*n.*), and *extraordinary fine* (*adv.*), but in the 1800's these functions passed to *extra*. —**extraordinarily** *adv.* 1564, formed from English *extraordinary* + -ly¹.

extrapolation *n.* 1872, formed from English *extra* + (*inter*)*polation* insertion of intermediate terms in a mathematical series. —**extrapolate** *v.* 1874, formed from English *extra* + (*inter*)*polate*, or a back formation from *extrapolation*.

extravagant *adj.* Before 1387, referring to an added part of a papal decree, later, extraordinary or unusual (probably before 1425); borrowed through Anglo-French *extravagaunt*, from Middle French *extravagant*, and directly from Medieval Latin *extravagantem*, present participle of *extravagari* wander outside or beyond (Latin *extrā* outside of + *vagari* wander, roam); for suffix see -ANT. The extended meaning of excessive or extreme, is first recorded in 1599, and that of spending lavishly or carelessly, wasteful, in 1711. —**extravagance** *n.* 1643, a going

out of the usual path, digression, probably a back formation of earlier *extravagancy* (1601), influenced by French *extravagance*, from *extravagant*; for suffix see -ANCE. The sense of a going beyond the bounds of reason, is first recorded in 1650, and that of excessive wastefulness, in 1727. —**extravaganza** *n.* 1754, extravagance of behavior or language; borrowed from Italian *estravaganza* peculiar behavior (literally, extravagance), from *estravagante* extravagant, from Medieval Latin *extravagantem* EXTRAVAGANT. The sense of a fantastic literary, musical, or dramatic work, is first recorded in 1794.

extreme *adj.* Probably before 1425, very severe, utter, farthest, borrowed through Middle French *extreme*, learned borrowing from Latin *extrēmus* outermost, utmost, superlative form of *exter*, *exterus* outward, outside, from *ex* out of; see EX-¹. —**n.** 1546, the end, utmost point; from the adjective.

—**extremity** *n.* Before 1375 *extremities*, pl., things as far or as distant as possible from each other; borrowed from Old French *extremité*, learned borrowing from Latin *extrēmītatē* (nominative *extrēmītās*) extremity or end, from *extrēmus*; for suffix see -ITY. The plural form meaning the hands and feet, is first recorded before 1422.

extricate *v.* 1614, clear up or unravel; borrowed from Latin *extricātus*, past participle of *extricāre* disentangle (*ex-* out of + *trīcae*, pl., perplexities, hindrances); for suffix see -ATE¹. The sense of free from difficulties, or embarrassment, is first recorded in 1631. —**extrication** *n.* 1650, formed from English *extricate* + -ion, modeled on Late Latin *extricātiōnem* (nominative *extricātiō*) a disentangling, from Latin *extricāre*.

extrinsic *adj.* 1541, exterior; borrowed from French *extrin-sèque*, from Late Latin *extrīnsecus*, *adj.*, outer, from Latin *extrīnsecus*, *adv.*, without, on the outside, outwardly, (formed from Old Latin **extrim* from outside, an adverb to Latin *exterus* outside, + Latin *secus* alongside). The English ending -ic came from confusion between it and the French ending -que in -sèque, representing Latin -secus, *secus* beside. The sense of not essential is first recorded in 1622.

extrovert *n.* 1918, alteration of earlier *extravert* (1916); borrowed from German *Extravert*, from *extra-* outside + Latin *vertere* to turn. Compare INTROVERT.

The terms *extrovert* and *extravert* have been in the language of English science and technology since the latter part of the 1600's. The psychologist Carl Jung's coinage in German stimulated use of the term *extroversion*, which was already known among doctors in the field of pathology by 1836, *extravert* and *extraversion*, having been confined to the field of chemistry. —**extroversion** *n.* 1920, alteration of *extraversion* (1915); borrowed from German *Extraversion*, from *extra-* outside + -*version* a turning, from Medieval Latin *versionem*; see VERSION. The term also appeared in 1656–81 with reference to mysticism. —**extroverted** *adj.* 1923, alteration of *extraverted* (1916), formed after the earlier English verb, as a part translation of German *extravertiert*, from *extra-* outside + -*vertiert* turned, from Latin *vertere* to turn.

extrude *v.* 1566, borrowed from Latin *extrūdere* (*ex-* out + *trūdere* to thrust, push). —**extrusion** *n.* 1540, expulsion; bor-

rowed from Medieval Latin *extrusionem* (nominative *extrusio*), from Latin *extrudere*; for suffix see -SION. The sense of a pushing out, is first recorded in 1638.

exuberant *adj.* 1459, luxuriantly fertile, overabundant; later, abounding in health and spirits, overflowing with delight (1503); borrowed, from Middle French *exuberant*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *exuberantem* (nominative *exuberans*) overabundance, present participle of *exuberare* be abundant, grow luxuriantly (*ex-* thoroughly + *uberare* be fruitful); for suffix see -ANT. —**exuberance** *n.* 1638, overflowing amount; a shortened form of earlier *exuberancy* (1611), perhaps modeled on French *exubérance*, from Latin *exuberantia*, from *exuberantem* (nominative *exuberans*), present participle of *exuberare*; for suffix see -ANCE.

exude *v.* 1574, borrowed from Latin *exūdāre*, *exsūdāre* ooze out like sweat (*ex-* out + *sūdāre* to sweat).

exult *v.* 1570, leap for joy; borrowed from Middle French *exulter*, from Latin *exultāre*, *exsultāre*, frequentative forms of *exsilire* leap out or up (*ex-* forth + *salire* to leap). The sense of rejoice greatly is first recorded in English in 1594. —**exultation** *n.* Before 1400, in *exultation of the cross*; borrowed, through Middle French *exultation*, and directly as a learned

borrowing from Latin *exultationem*, *exsultationem* (nominative *exultatiō*, *exsultatiō*), from *exultāre*, *exsultāre* exult; for suffix see -ATION.

—**ey** a variant form of the suffix -y¹, forming adjectives meaning full of, containing, like, as in *clayey*, *goosey*.

eye *n.* About 1200 *eie*; earlier *ehe* (probably before 1200); developed from Old English *ēge* (Mercian dialect about 700), and from later *ēage* (West Saxon before 800). The forms in Old English are cognate with Old Frisian *āge* eye, Old Saxon *ōga*, Middle Dutch *ōghe* (modern Dutch *oog*), Old High German *ouga* (modern German *Auge*), Old Icelandic *auga*, and Gothic *augō*, from Proto-Germanic **auzōn*, earlier **auzuōn*. The *au* diphthong is not altogether accounted for but is partly due to influence from Proto-Germanic **auzōn-ear* (Gothic *ausō*). —**v.** Before 1425 *eyen* cause to see, make visible; later, look at or upon, behold, observe (1566); from the noun. —**eyeball** *n.* (1590) —**eyebrow** *n.* About 1410 (not to be confused with Old English *ēagbræw* eyelid). —**eyelash** *n.* (1752) —**eyelet** *n.* (1382) —**eyelid** *n.* (before 1325) —**eyesight** *n.* (probably before 1200)

eyrie *n.* See AERIE.

F

fa *n.* Before 1300; borrowing of Medieval Latin *fa*, from the initial syllable of Latin *famuli* servants, the word sung to this note in the Hymn for St. John the Baptist's day.

fable *n.* Probably before 1300, a falsehood, lie, pretense; later, a fictitious or imaginative story (before 1325); borrowing of Old French *fable*, from Latin *fābula* discourse, story, play, fable, from *fārī* speak, tell. Before 1400 *fablen* tell fables; borrowed from Old French *fabler*, from Latin *fābulārī* to talk, from *fābula*.

fabric *n.* 1483, something constructed; borrowed from Middle French *fabrique*, learned borrowing from Latin *fabrica* workshop. The sense of manufactured material, is first recorded in English in 1753, and that of a textile fabric, in 1791. —**fabricate** *v.* About 1450 *fabricaten* to fashion, make, build; borrowed from Latin *fabricātus*, past participle of *fabricāre* to fashion, build, from *fabrica*; for suffix see -ATE¹. The extended sense of make up (a story), is first recorded in 1779. —**fabrication** *n.* Before 1500, construction; borrowed, perhaps through Middle French *fabrication*, and directly from Latin

fabricationem (nominative *fabricatiō*), from *fabricāre*; for suffix see -ATION.

fabulous *adj.* Probably before 1425, mythical, legendary; borrowed, probably through Middle French *fabuleux*, learned borrowing from Latin, and directly as a *fābulōsus* celebrated in fable, from *fābula* fable; see FABLE; for suffix see -OUS. The sense of incredible, is first recorded in English in 1609.

façade or **facade** *n.* 1656–81, front part of a building; borrowing of French *façade*, from Italian *facciata*, from *faccia* face, from Vulgar Latin **facia*; see FACE.

face *n.* Probably before 1300 *fas*; borrowed from Old French *face*, from Vulgar Latin **facia*, corresponding to Latin *faciēs* form, figure, face, and related to *facere* make. —**v.** Probably before 1400 *facen* to disfigure; later, show a bold face, boast (1440); from the noun. The sense of confront is first recorded in 1465. —**facial** *adj.* 1609, face to face; borrowed from French *facial*, learned borrowing from Medieval Latin *facialis* of the face, from Latin *faciēs* face; for suffix see -AL¹. The sense "of the face" is first recorded in 1818. —**n.** treatment or massage

of the face. 1914, American English; from the adjective. —**facing** *n.* Probably before 1400, disfiguring; later, defiance (1523), and material used in a garment (1566) or as a coating on some structure (1586).

facet *n.* 1625, borrowed from French *facette*, from Old French, a diminutive form of *face* FACE. The figurative sense of any one of several sides or views, is first recorded in 1820.

facetious *adj.* 1592, polished, urbane; later, given to joking, humorous (1599); borrowed from French *facétieux*, from *facétie* a joke, from Latin *facētia*, from *facētus* witty, elegant; for suffix see -OUS.

facile *adj.* 1483, borrowed from Middle French *facile* easy, learned borrowing from Latin *facilis* easy, easy to do, (of persons) pliant, courteous, from *facere* to DO¹ —**facilitate** *v.* 1611, borrowed from French *faciliter* make easy, from Italian *facilitare*, from *facilità* facility, from Latin *facilitātem*; see FACILITY; for suffix see -ATE¹. —**facility** *n.* Probably before 1425 *facilitate* gentleness; later, opportunity (1519) and aptitude, ease (1532); borrowed from Middle French *facilité*, from Latin *facilitātem* (nominative *facilitās*), from *facilis* easy; for suffix see -ITY. The sense of a place for doing something (as an educational or health facility) appeared in 1872.

facsimile *n.* 1662 *fac simile*, borrowing of Latin *fac simile* make similar (*fac*, imperative of *facere* make and *simile*, neuter of *similis* like, SIMILAR).

fact *n.* 1539, action or deed, especially an evil deed; borrowed from Latin *factum* event, occurrence (literally, thing done), from neuter past participle of *facere* to DO¹. The general sense of thing known to be true or to have really happened, is first recorded in English in 1632. —**factual** *adj.* Before 1834, derived from *fact*, on the analogy of *actual*.

faction *n.* 1509, a party or group formed to promote its own interests; borrowed through Middle French *faction*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *factiōnem* (nominative *factiō*) political party, class of persons (literally, a making or doing), from *facere* to DO¹; for suffix see -TION. —**factional** *adj.* 1650, formed from English *faction* + *al*¹. —**factionalism** *n.* 1904, formed in American English from *factional* + -ism. —**factious** *adj.* 1532, inclined to form parties, seditious, borrowed through Middle French *factieux*, and directly from Latin *factiōsus*, from *factiōnem* (nominative *factiō*) faction; for suffix see -OUS.

factitious *adj.* 1646, borrowed from Latin *facticius* artificial, from *factus*, past participle of *facere* DO¹; for suffix see -OUS.

factor *n.* 1432 *factour* agent or representative; borrowed through Middle French *facteur*, from Latin *factor* doer or maker, from *facere* to DO¹; for suffix see -OR². The sense of fact or circumstances producing a result, is first recorded 1816. —**v.** 1611, act as an agent; from the noun. The sense of express a mathematical quantity as a product of two or more numbers, is first recorded in 1848.

factory *n.* 1560, estate manager's office or position; later,

trading post (1582); borrowed through Middle French *factorie*, from Late Latin *factōrium* oil press or mill, from Latin *factor* doer, maker; see FACTOR; for suffix see -Y³. The sense of a building for manufactured goods, is first recorded in 1618.

faculty *n.* 1 capability, power to do something. About 1380 *faculte* power, ability, resources; borrowed from Old French *faculté*, and directly from Latin *facultātem* (nominative *facultās*) power, ability, wealth, from earlier **facili-tāt-s*, from *facilis* FACILE; for suffix see -TY². 2 members of a profession; teaching staff. About 1450; earlier, branch of knowledge (about 1380); borrowed from Medieval Latin *facultatem* (nominative *facultas*) branch of learning a translation of Greek *dýnamis* power, (used by Aristotle).

fad *n.* 1834, hobby, pet project; later, fashion, craze (1881); origin unknown; perhaps abstracted from *fidfad* (1830), a shortening of *fiddle-faddle*.

fade *v.* Probably before 1325 *faden* to lose brightness, grow pale; borrowed from Old French *fader*, from *fade* pale, weak, insipid, of uncertain origin; probably from Vulgar Latin **fatidus* (a possible blend of Latin *fatuus* silly, tasteless, and *rapidus* flat, flavorless).

fagot *n.* 1279 implied in earlier *fagotter* one who makes fagots of firewood (1279); borrowed from Old French *fagot*, from Old Provençal *fagot*, of uncertain origin; perhaps from Vulgar Latin **facus*, back formation from Greek *phákelos* bundle, with suffix mistaken for the Latin diminutive -ellus.

Fahrenheit *adj.* 1753, in allusion to G.D. Fahrenheit, who proposed this scale in 1714. Compare CELSIUS.

fail *v.* Probably before 1200 *failen* cease to exist or function, be unsuccessful, end, borrowed from Old French *faillir* be lacking, miss, not succeed, from Vulgar Latin **fallire*, corresponding to Latin *fallere* deceive, be lacking or defective. —**n.** **without fail.** About 1275; borrowed from Old French *faillie*, *n.*, from the Old French verb. —**failure** *n.* 1660 *failure*, formed from English *fail* + -ure, replacing earlier *failer* (1643), an Anglicized French word, from Old French *faillir* fail.

fain *adj.* Probably before 1200 *fein* willing, glad; developed from Old English *fægen*, *fagen* glad, cheerful, happy (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Saxon *fagin*, *fagan* glad, Old Icelandic *feginn* glad, Old High German and Gothic *faginōn* rejoice. —**adv.** Probably before 1200 *fein*; from the adjective.

faint *adj.* Probably before 1300 *feinte* cowardly, feigned, spiritless borrowed from Old French *faint* or *feint* cowardly, feigned, sluggish, past participles of *faindre* or *feindre* avoid one's duty by pretending, FEIGN. The sense of weak or feeble, is first recorded probably about 1300. —**v.** Probably before 1300 *feyn-ten* grow weak; from the adjective. The meaning of fall into a swoon, is first recorded before 1400. —**faint-hearted** *adj.* (1440).

fair¹ *adj.* Probably before 1200 *feier*, *fair* pleasing to the eye, beautiful; developed from Old English *fæger* beautiful, pleasant (before 900); cognate with Old Saxon and Old High German

fagar beautiful, Old Icelandic *fagr* beautiful, and Gothic *fagrs* fitting, from Proto-Germanic **fazrās*. Related to FAIN and FAWN² to cringe.

The sense "of a light complexion" is recorded before 1175 and probably used in Old English. Another early meaning was that of free from moral stain, unblemished (about 1175), from which evolved the sense of free from bias (about 1340) and the phrase *fair play*, first recorded in 1595. —**adv.** Old English (before 1000) *fægre*, from *fæger*, adj.

fair² *n.* About 1250 *feire*; gathering to buy and sell and to exhibit animals, articles of produce, etc. borrowed from Old French *feire*, from Vulgar Latin **fēria* holiday, market fair, corresponding to Latin *fēriae* (religious festival, holiday; see FEAST).

fairy *n.* Probably before 1300 *fayrre* enchantment, an illusion; later, supernatural being (before 1393); borrowed from Old French *faerie* land of fairies, meeting of fairies, from *fae* FAY. The phrase *fairy tale* (1749), is a loan translation of French *Conte de fées* tale of fairies.

faith *n.* About 1250 *feith* loyalty, fealty, allegiance; borrowed from Old French *feit*, *feid* (while still pronounced *fāth*, *fāʔH*), from Latin *fidēs* trust, belief; related to *fidere* to trust.

The various senses of *faith* came into Middle English from Old French within a relatively short period of time: belief and trust were already present in Latin *fidēs* as well as in its Greek cognate, *pístis*, which was rendered in the Vulgate or New Testament as *fidēs*. —**faithful** adj. (before 1325)

fake adj. 1775, of unknown origin. —**n.** 1851, a dodge, trick, false report; possibly from the adjective. The sense of a pretender is first recorded in 1888. —**v.** 1851, to deceive, falsify; possibly from the adjective. —**faker** *n.* (1885) —**fakery** *n.* (1887)

As a noun and verb *fake* went unrecorded, until the 1850's, when it was first recorded among Londoners, in factories and small businesses in trade, though the adjective is recorded 75 years earlier. The verb, *fake* to rob, wound, tamper is recorded in 1812, but this seems to be a different word judging by its meaning.

fakir *n.* 1609, Muslim holy man who lives by begging; borrowed from Arabic *faqīr* a poor man, from *fakr*, *faqr* poverty. In the 1800's *fakir* was applied to Hindu ascetics who showed their transcendence of physical pain. Also in the 1800's, in the U.S., the word was confused with *faker* petty swindler.

falcon *n.* About 1250 *faucon*, borrowed from Old French *faucon*, *faucon*, *faucon*, from Late Latin *falcōnem* (nominative *falcō*), probably from Latin *falcx* (genitive *falcis*) sickle; so called from the resemblance of the falcon's hooked claws to a sickle. The conjecture that Late Latin *falcōnem* was a borrowing from a Germanic word is difficult to sustain culturally, especially since falconry, by all historical records, seems to have originated in the East and reached the Germanic tribes through Latin or Romance-speaking peoples. —**falconer** *n.* 1194, in the surname *Falkenar*; borrowed from Old French *fauconnier* and *fauconnier*, from *faucon*, *faucon*; for suffix see -ER¹. —**falconry** *n.* 1575, alteration (influenced by earlier *falcon*,

1400's) of Middle French *fauconnerie*, from Old French *faucon* falcon; for suffix see -ERY.

fall *v.* Probably before 1200 *fallen*, developed from Old English *feallan* (before 900); cognate with Old Frisian *falla* to fall, Old Saxon *fallan* (modern Dutch *vallen*), Old High German *fallan* (modern German *fallen*), and Old Icelandic *falla* (from Proto-Germanic **fallanan*). See FELL¹. —**n.** Probably before 1200, a falling; from the verb. The sense of autumn, is first recorded in 1664, as a shortening of *fall of the leaf* (1545). —**falling-out** *n.* (1568) —**fallout** *n.* 1950, radioactive particles.

fallacy *n.* 1481, deception, trickery; replacement, by influence of Latin *fallācia*, of earlier *fallace* (about 1303); borrowed from Old French *fallace*, learned borrowing from Latin *fallācia* deception, from *fallāx* (genitive *fallācis*) deceptive, from *fallere* deceive; for suffix see -ACY. —**fallacious** adj. 1509, borrowed by influence of Middle French *fallacieux*, from Latin *fallāciōsus* deceitful, deceptive, from *fallācia* deception; for suffix see -OUS.

fallible adj. About 1412, unreliable; later, liable to be deceived or mistaken (before 1420); borrowed from Medieval Latin *fallibilis* liable to err, deceitful, that can be deceived, from Latin *fallere* deceive.

Fallopian tubes 1706, from *Fallopian*, Latinized name of Gabriello Fallopio, Italian anatomist who first described them; for suffix see -AN.

fallow¹ *n.* plowed land. Probably before 1300 *falen*; later *falwe* (about 1300), and *falow* (1440); developed from Old English *fealg*, *fealh* arable land; The Old English forms are cognate with East Frisian *falge* fallow, *falgen* to plow, Middle High German *falgen* plow up (modern German *Felge* plowed-up fallow land), Proto-Germanic **falsō*. —**adj.** uncultivated. 1377 *falwe*; from the noun.

fallow² adj. pale yellowish-brown. Probably before 1200 *falwe* fallow, faded, yellowish-brown; developed from Old English *fealu* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Saxon *falū* pale, faded, fallow, Middle Dutch *vale* (modern Dutch *vaal*), Old High German *falo* (modern German *fahl*), and Old Icelandic *fplr*, from Proto-Germanic **falwaz*.

false adj. Probably before 1200 *false*, *fals*; developed in part from Old English (about 1000) *fals* counterfeit, not genuine, and reinforced by re-borrowing in Middle English from Old French *fals*, *faus*, from Latin *falsus*, past participle of *fallere* deceive, disappoint. Old English *fals* was apparently a rare form also borrowed from Latin *falsus*, from *fallere*. The continental Germanic languages borrowed the word in an altered form, as found in Middle High German *valsch* (modern German *falsch*), Old Frisian *falsch*, Middle Dutch *valse* (modern Dutch *vals*), Icelandic *falskur*, Danish, Norwegian, and Swedish *falsk*. —**falsehood** *n.* About 1300 *falshede*, formed from Middle English *fals* false + *-hede*, variant of *-hode* -hood. —**falsify** *v.* About 1449 *falsifien*; borrowed from Middle French *falsifier*, learned borrowing from Late Latin *falsificāre* falsify, from Latin *falsificus* making false, from *falsus* false; for suffix see -FY; *falsify* replaced earlier Middle English *falsen*, *v.*, recorded probably before 1200.

falter *v.* About 1390 *faltren* to stumble, stagger, tremble; borrowed perhaps from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *faltrask* be burdened, hesitate, be troubled); for suffix see -ER⁴. Alternatively, *falter* may have originated as a frequentative form of Middle English *falden* (fold up, give way, fail), formed irregularly by influence of verbs like *totter*, *welter*, etc.

fame *n.* Probably before 1200, character (usually good) attributed to a person; later, reputation, renown, fame; borrowed from Old French *fame*, from Latin *fāma* talk, rumor, report, reputation. —**famous** *adj.* About 1380; borrowed from Anglo-French *famous*, Old French *fameus*, learned borrowing from Latin *fāmōsus*, from *fāma* FAME; for suffix see -OUS.

family *n.* Probably before 1425 *famīlye* household; borrowed from Latin *familia*, household (including relatives and servants), from *famulus* servant; for suffixal form see -Y³. —**familiar** *adj.* About 1380 *famylīer*; borrowed from Old French *famīlier*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *familiāris* domestic, from *familia* family; for suffix see -AR. —**familial** *adj.* 1900, borrowed from French *familial*, from Latin *familia*; see FAMILY; for suffix see -AL¹. —**familiarity** *n.* Probably before 1200 *famīlīarīte*; borrowed probably from Old French *famīlīarīte*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *familiāritatem* (nominative *familiāritās*) intimacy, friendship, from *familiāris*, see FAMILIAR; for suffix see -ITY. —**familiarize** *v.* 1608, formed from English *familiar* + -ize.

famine *n.* Before 1376 *famyn* extreme and general scarcity of food; borrowed from Old French *famine* hunger, from Gallo-Romance **famina*, from Latin *famēs* hunger, of unknown origin.

famish *v.* Probably before 1400 *famyschen* to starve; alteration of earlier *famen* to starve (before 1338); borrowed as a shortened form of Old French *afamer*, and borrowed directly from Latin *famēs* hunger; for suffix see -ISH². The shift in form of Middle English *famen* to later *famish* was influenced by other verbs ending in -ish, such as *ravish*, *admonish*, *anguish*.

fan¹ *n.* device to make an air current. Before 1325 *fanne* device for winnowing grain; developed from Old English (West Saxon) *fann* a kind of basket or shovel for winnowing grain by throwing it in the air; earlier *fon* (before 800); borrowed from Latin *vannus*, from pre-Latin **vatnos*, related to Latin *ventus* WIND. The sense of a device for agitating the air is first recorded about 1390. —*v.* Before 1325 *fannen* to winnow (grain); developed from Old English (about 1000) *fannian* to winnow (grain); from the noun. The sense of stir up a current of air is first recorded before 1425.

fan² *n.* devotee. 1889, American English, generally considered to be a revival of obsolete *fan* (1682), itself a shortening of FANATIC. Alternatively, the word may derive from or be influenced by *the fancy* (1735), a collective noun meaning all who “fancy” a certain hobby or pastime, originally applied to pigeon fanciers and later (1807) to boxing fans.

fanatic *n.* About 1525, a mad person; borrowed from Latin *fānaticus* mad, frantic, enthusiastic, inspired by divinity (originally pertaining to a temple), from *fānum* temple, related to

fēstus festive; see FEAST. —**adj.** 1533, frantic, furious, mad; borrowed from Latin *fānaticus*. The current sense of extremely zealous, especially in religious matters, is first recorded in 1647. —**fanatical** *adj.* 1550, formed from English *fanatic* + -al¹. —**fanaticism** *n.* 1652, formed from English *fanatic* + -ism.

fancy *n.* 1462–65 *fantsy*, *fansey*; formed by contraction of FANTASY. *Fancy* and *fantasy* gradually differentiated in form and sense with *fancy* taking on the meaning of inclination, liking, desire, often whimsical, which became obsolete in *fantasy* in the 1600's. Both words, however, retained the sense of imagination, as in *poetic fancy* or *fantasy*, a mere fancy or fantasy. —*v.* About 1380 *fancyen* take a liking or fancy to; formed by contraction of *fantasien*, *v.*, to fantasy or FANTASIZE. The form was revived by 1545; from the noun. —**adj.** Before 1751, fine, ornamental; from the noun. —**fancy-free** *adj.* (1590) —**fanciful** *adj.* Before 1627, formed from English *fancy*, *n.* + -ful.

fanfare *n.* 1769, military flourish on trumpets, bugles, etc.; borrowed from French *fanfare*, from *fanfarer* blow a fanfare, apparently of the same origin as Spanish *fanfarrón* braggart, Italian *fānfano* babbler, from Arabic *farfār* chatterer, and the parallel term in English *fanfaron* (1622, a braggart), borrowed through French *fanfaron*.

fang *n.* Before 1325 *fang* prey or booty, found in Old English *fang* a seizing or taking; also, probably before 1200 *feng* booty, what is captured or caught, found in Old English *feng* a grasping, prey or booty; both Old English forms derived from *fon*, *v.*, seize, take, catch (later *fongen*, *fengen* in Middle English, probably about 1225). Cognates formed by similar development appear in Old Frisian *fang*, *feng* a catch (*fā*, *fān* to take, catch); Old High German, Middle High German *fang* (modern German *fangen*), Old High German *fāhan*, Middle High German *vāhen*, *van* (modern German *fāhen*, *fängen*), Dutch *vang*, Icelandic *fang* (*fā*), Gothic *fāhan*. *Fang* in the sense of tooth or tusk, is not found so far in Middle English, nor is it in Old English, except in the Old English compound *fæng-tōth* fang-tooth (literally catching or grasping tooth), but this Old English compound probably influenced the semantic development of the sense of *tooth* in modern English though the record is incomplete.

fantasize *v.* 1926, formed from English *fantasy* + -ize; see FANTASY and FANCY.

fantastic *adj.* About 1385 *fantastik* of or pertaining to the faculty of fantasy or imagination; also, before 1387, imaginary or unreal; borrowed from Old French *fantastique*, learned borrowing from Late Latin *phantasticus* imaginary, from Greek *phantastikós* able to imagine, from *phantázein* make visible (middle voice *phantázesthai* picture to oneself); see FANTASY.

fantasy *n.* About 1350 *fantasie* use of the imagination; later, apparition or phantom (probably before 1375); borrowed from Old French *fantasie*, learned borrowing from Latin *phantasia*, from Greek *phantasiā* appearance, image, perception, imagination, from *phantázesthai* picture to oneself, from *phantós* visible, from *phainesthai* appear (middle voice to *phainein* to show,

related to *pháos*, *phós* light). The meaning of whimsical or visionary notion, illusion, appeared before 1400, followed by the sense of imagination, especially extravagant or visionary imagination, in 1539. See also FANCY. —**v.** About 1430 *fantasien* to fancy, imagine; borrowed from the Old French *fantasier*, from *fantasie* fantasy.

far *adv.*, *adj.* Probably about 1200 *ferr*; later *farr* (before 1325); developed from Old English (about 725) *feorr* to a great distance; cognate with Old Frisian *fēr* far, Old Saxon *ferr*, Old High German *ferro* (modern German *fern*), Middle Dutch *verre* (modern Dutch *ver*), Old Icelandic *fjarri*, and Gothic *faírra* farther (originally a comparative formation, Proto-Germanic **ferō*, earlier **fer-s-ō*). See FARTHER, FARTHEST. —**faraway** *adj.* (before 1250) —**far-fetched** *adj.* Before 1562, replacing earlier *far-fet* forced or strained (about 1400), also with the sense of brought from afar (before 1349).

farce *n.* 1530; borrowed from Middle French *farce* comic interlude in a mystery play, literally, stuffing, from Old French *farcir* to stuff, interlard, from Latin *farciō* to stuff, related to *frequēns* crowded. —**farical** *adj.* 1716, formed from English *farce* + *-ical*.

fare¹ *n.* food provided. 1120 *fare* journey, developed in Middle English from a blend of Old English *fær* journey, road (strong neuter form of *faran*) and *faru* journey, expedition, companions, baggage (strong feminine form of *faran*). Both forms are recorded in Old English about 1000 and are derived from earlier *faran* to journey; see FARE². Old English *fær* and *faru* are cognate with Old Frisian *ferē* journey, Middle Low German *vare*, Middle High German *var*, and Old Icelandic *for* journey or travel and *far* trail or passage.

The meaning of food provided or eaten, is first recorded probably before 1200, and that of the cost of conveyance, in Scottish about 1425.

fare² *v.* to get along. 1100 *faren* to depart, journey, travel; developed from Old English (about 725) *faran* to journey, to make one's way; cognate with Old Saxon, Old High German, and Gothic *faran* to journey, Old Frisian and Old Icelandic *farā* (from Proto-Germanic **faranan*). The meaning of get along, is first recorded in Old English about 1000, and that of be provided with food, in Middle English about 1350.

farewell *v. phr.* Probably before 1200 *faren wel*. —**interj.** About 1378 *farewel*. —**n.** About 1425 *farewele*.

farina *n.* flour or meal. Before 1398; borrowed from Latin *farīna* ground corn, flour, meal, from *far* (genitive *farris*) grits, a kind of grain; see BARLEY.

farm *n.* About 1300 *ferme* fixed rent or charge; borrowed from Old French *ferme* lease, from Medieval Latin *firma* fixed payment, from Latin *firmāre* to fix, settle, confirm, strengthen, from *firmus* FIRM. The meaning of tract of leased land, is first recorded in (1334) and tract of cultivated land, regardless of how it is held, in 1523. —**v.** 1435 *fermen* to rent (land); borrowed through Anglo-French *fermer*, from Old French *ferme* lease. The sense of cultivate, till, practice farming, is first recorded 1719. The archaic sense of rent or lease land,

is retained in the phrase *farm out* (to lease, subcontract).

—**farmer** *n.* About 1384 *fermour* collector of rents or taxes; borrowed through Anglo-French *fermer*, from Old French *fermier*, from Medieval Latin *firmary* renter of land, tax collector, from *firma*; see FARM, *n.* The sense of one who works a farm, is now considered to be a formation of English *farm* + *-er*, but that is folk etymology, as this sense is recorded in Middle English as early as 1414. —**farmhand** *n.* (1843) —**farmhouse** *n.* (1598) —**farmland** *n.* (about 1350)

faro *n.* Before 1735 in *faro-table*, apparently an alteration of *Pharaoh*, patterned on French *pharaon* *faro*. Though the allusion is uncertain, it is probable that one of the cards in this game formerly bore a picture of the Pharaoh, a title given to rulers in ancient Egypt.

farrier *n.* 1562, borrowed from Middle French *ferrier* blacksmith, from Latin *ferriarius* of iron, (also) blacksmith, from *ferrum* iron. *Farrier* replaced Middle English *ferour* (recorded as a surname *Ferour*, 1297); borrowed from Old French *ferreor*, from Medieval Latin *ferrotor* blacksmith, from *ferre* to bind or shoe with iron, from Latin *ferrum* iron.

farrow *n.* About 1425 *fare* a young pig; developed from Old English (about 700) *faerh*, and corresponding to West Saxon *feorh*, from Proto-Germanic **farHaz*; cognate with Old High German *fanah*, *farhilin* young pig (modern German *Ferkel*), Middle Dutch *verken* (modern Dutch *varken*) pig. The sense of a litter of pigs, is first recorded in 1577. —**v.** produce a litter of pigs. Probably before 1200 *farven*, in *Ancene Riwele*; probably developed from Old English **feargian*, from *feorh* young pig.

farther *adv.*, *adj.* Probably before 1300 *ferther*; variant of FURTHER and replacing *ferrer*, *feror*, old English *fierr*, *fyrr*. The variant *ferther* probably developed by influence of the common vowel sound in Middle English *ferre*, *ferrer* (comparative of *fer* FAR) and the confusion with *fertheren*, *furtheren* to assist, support, promote, advance. The two forms have been used in all senses, but a notion has grown up that *farther* refers to physical distance and *further* to abstractions of degree or quality.

farthest *adj.*, *adv.* About 1378 *ferthest*; formed from *ferther* farther + *-est* superlative suffix (on analogy of *nerer* nearer, *nerest* nearest); see FARTHER.

farthing *n.* About 1280 *ferthing*; developed from Old English (about 950) *fēorthing*, a derivative form of *fēortha* fourth (from *fēower* FOUR), and corresponding to Old Frisian *fjārdeng* Middle Low German *vērdink* and Middle High German *viendinc*, and Old Icelandic *fjörðungur*.

farthingale *n.* 1552 *verdnyngale*; borrowed from Middle French *verdugale*, an alteration of Spanish *verdugado* farthingale, literally, hooped, from *verdugo* hoop, rod, young shoot of a tree, from *verde* green, from Latin *viridis* green. The petticoat was so called because it was originally held out by cane hoops or rods inserted underneath.

fascēs *n. pl.* 1598, bundle of rods containing an ax with the blade projecting; borrowed from Latin *fascēs*, plural of *fascis* bundle (of wood, etc.). The fascēs was carried before superior

Roman magistrates as a symbol of power over life and limb in which the sticks symbolized punishment by whipping, and the axhead execution.

fascicle *n.* Before 1500, bunch or bundle; borrowed from Latin *fasciculus*, diminutive of *fascis* bundle; see FASCES. The meaning of part of a work published in installments, is first recorded in 1647.

A variant form *fascicule*, borrowed from French *fascicule*, from Latin *fasciculus*, has produced several derivatives: *fasciculate*, *fasciculated*, *fasciculation*, etc., now used chiefly in botany, zoology, and geology.

fascinate *v.* 1598, put under a spell; borrowed, perhaps through influence of Middle French *fasciner*, from Latin *fascinātus*, past participle of *fascināre* bewitch, enchant, from *fascin* spell, witchcraft, of uncertain origin. Though Latin *fascin* may have been borrowed from Greek *báskanos* bewitcher or sorcerer, and its form altered by influence of Latin *fari* to speak, others feel that the resemblance is accidental. The sense of delight, attract, is first recorded in 1815. —**fascination** *n.* 1605, casting of a spell; borrowed from French *fascination*, learned borrowing from Latin *fascinātiōnem* (nominative *fascinātiō*), from *fascināre*; for suffix see -ATION.

fascist or **Fascist** *n.* 1921 Fascist member of a nationalistic Italian party (formed in 1919); borrowed from Italian *Fascista*, *n.* and *adj.*, from *fascista*, *adj.*, of the group, literally, of the bundle, in reference to the fasces which were the party's symbol, from *fascio* grouping or group, literally, bundle, from Latin *fascis* FASCES + Italian -ista -ist. —**fascism** or **Fascism** *n.* 1922 *Fascism*; borrowed from Italian *Fascismo*, formed on the analogy of such terms in Italian as *Comunismo*, *Comunista*, from *Fasc(ista)* + -ismo -ism.

fashion *n.* Probably about 1300 *fasoun* form, shape, appearance; borrowed from Old French *façon*, from Latin *factiōnem* (nominative *factiō*) a making or doing, from *facere* to make. The sense of style, fashion, manner (of dress, etc.), is first recorded probably before 1380. —**v.** 1413 *fascionen* to shape or form; from *fasoun*, or later *facioun*, *n.*, fashion, possibly by influence of Middle French *façonner*, from Old French *façon*, *v.* —**fashionable** *adj.* 1606; formed from English *fashion*, *n.* + -able.

fast¹ *adj.* quick; held fast. About 1150 *fast* tightly closed; later, secure (probably before 1200), and firmly fixed (about 1290); developed from Old English *fæst* firmly fixed, steadfast (before 900); cognate with Old Frisian *fest* firm or firmly fixed, Old Saxon *fast*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *vast*, Old High German *festi* (modern German *fest*), and Old Icelandic *fasti*; probably originally from a Proto-Germanic form **fastuz*. The sense of quick or swift, is first recorded about 1395; from the earlier adjective sense of vigorous (before 1325) and from the adverb. —**adv.** Before 1175 *feste* securely; later *faste* speedily (probably before 1200); developed from Old English *fæste* tightly, securely (before 900). The sense of quickly or swiftly, is first recorded about 975, and developed from the sense of firmly, strongly, vigorously (as in *nun fast* run with vigor). A similar semantic development occurred in the adjective, based on that in the adverb.

fast² *v.* go without food. Before 1175 *festen*; also *fasten* (probably before 1200); developed from Old English (971) *fæstan* (originally) to fast as a religious duty; cognate with Old Frisian *festia*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *vasten*, Old High German *fastēn* (modern German *fasten*), Old Icelandic *fasta* (Swedish *fasta*, Danish and Norwegian *faste*), and Gothic *fastan* keep, guard, observe (a fast); all originally meaning "hold firmly"; see FAST¹. —**n.** About 1200 *fasten*, developed from Old English *fæstan* (about 1000), earlier *festen* (before 830); borrowed probably from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *fasta* a fasting).

fasten *v.* About 1125 *festnen* attach or tie to; developed from Old English (before 900) *fæstnian* make fast, firm; cognate with Old Frisian *festnia* to make firm, bind fast, Old Saxon *fastnōn*, Old High German *fastinōn*, and Old Icelandic *fastna* to pledge, betroth, from Proto-Germanic **fastinōjanan*; for suffix see -EN¹.

fastidious *adj.* Probably before 1425, disdainful or haughty; borrowed from Latin *fastīdiōsus* disdainful, squeamish, exacting, from *fastīdium* loathing, almost certainly formed by contraction from pre-Latin **fastu-taidiom*, a compound of *fastus* contempt or arrogance, and *taedium* aversion or disgust. Also, the word may have been borrowed into English from Middle French *fastidieux*, learned borrowing from Latin *fastīdiōsus*. The sense of easily disgusted, hard to please, is first recorded in English in 1612–15.

fat *adj.* Probably about 1200 *fatt*, developed from Old English *fætt* (originally) past participle of *fætan* to cram, stuff (before 900); cognate with Old Frisian *fatt* fat, Old Saxon *feit*, Middle Low German *vet* (modern German *fett*), Old High German *feiz* (modern German *feist*), and Old Icelandic *feitr* (Norwegian *feit*, Swedish *fet*, Danish *fed*). —**n.** About 1350; from the adjective. —**fatten** *v.* 1552, formed from English *fat*, *adj.* + -en¹, replacing earlier *fat*, *v.* (coincidentally in Middle English *fatten*), developed from Old English *fættian* (about 1000), from which is retained *fatted calf*.

fatal *adj.* About 1380, destined, fated; borrowed through Old French *fatal*, or directly from Latin *fātālis*, from *fātum* FATE; for suffix see -AL¹. The sense of causing death, is first recorded before 1420. —**fatalism** *n.* 1678, formed from English *fatal* + -ism. The meaning of acceptance of everything that happens, is first recorded before 1734. —**fatalist** *n.* 1650, formed from English *fatal* + -ist, perhaps after Middle French *fataliste*. —**fatalistic** *adj.* 1832; formed from English *fatalist* + -ic. —**fatality** *n.* 1490, borrowed from Middle French *fatalité*, learned borrowing from Late Latin *fātālītātē* (nominative *fātālītās*), from Latin *fātālis* fatal; for suffix see -ITY.

fate *n.* About 1385, lot or destiny of a person; borrowed through Old French *fat* fate, destiny, or directly from Latin *fātum* thing spoken (by the gods), one's destiny, from neuter past participle of *fāri* speak. The sense of power supposed to control what happens, is first recorded in 1410.

father *n.* Probably about 1175 *fader*; later *father* (before 1464, in the compound *fatherhood*); developed from Old English (about 825) *fæder*; cognates with Old Frisian *feder* father, Old Saxon

fadar, Middle Dutch *vader* (modern Dutch *vader*), Old High German *fater* (modern German *Vater*), Old Icelandic *fadhir* (Swedish, Danish, Norwegian *fader*, *far*), and Gothic *fadar*, from Proto-Germanic **fader*. —**v.** Before 1425 *faderen*, *fadren* be or become the father of, beget; from the noun.

The modern spelling *-ther* (—*ƿHær*) for Middle and Old English *-der* became widespread in the 1500's as a result of a phonetic development common to most English dialects, seen also in such words as *gather*, *together*, *weather*. But even when the spelling was still with *d*, the pronunciation with (ƿH) may have been used, especially by the 1400's. —**fatherhood** n. (before 1325 *faderhade*; later *fatherhod*, before 1464). —**fatherland** n. (1101 *fæder land*). —**fatherless** adj. (1198, in the surname *Faderles*, Old English *fæderlēas*). —**fatherly** adj. Before 1420 *faderly*, Old English (before 1000) *fæderlic*; adv. before 1400.

fathom n. Before 1175 *fethme*; later *fathom* (1381–82); developed from Old English (before 800) *fæthm* length of the outstretched arms, grasp, and earlier in a figurative sense of grasp or power (about 725, in *Beowulf*); with Old Frisian *fethem* thread, Old Saxon *fathmos* outstretched arms, Middle Dutch *vādem* fathom (modern Dutch *vadem*), Old High German *fadam*, *fadum* thread (modern German *Faden* thread, fathom), and Old Icelandic *fadhm* embrace, measure of length, thread (Danish, Norwegian *favn* fathom, embrace, Swedish *famn* fathom, arms), from Proto-Germanic **fathmaz*. —**v.** About 1300 *fadmen*; later *fathmen* to embrace (probably about 1380); developed from Old English *fæthmian* encircle with outstretched arms, embrace (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old High German *fademōn* to embrace, and Old Icelandic *fadhma* (Danish *favne*, Swedish *famna*), from the Proto-Germanic **fathmōjanan*, from **fathmaz*.

The figurative sense of get to the bottom of or understand fully, is first recorded in 1625, from the literal sense of to take soundings (1607).

fatigue n. 1669, borrowed from French *fatigue* weariness, from *fatiguer* to tire, learned borrowing from Latin *fatigare*, (originally) to cause to break down, (later) to tire out, formed from a pre-Latin adjective **fati-agos* driving to the point of breakdown, from Old Latin **fatis* (in Plautus, *ad fatim* to bursting) and the root of *agere* drive; related to *fatiscā* crack, split, of unknown origin. From the sense of a soldier's non-military duties (1776), the term *fatigues* (clothes for nonmilitary work) appeared in 1836. —**v.** 1693, borrowed from French *fatiguer*. —**fatigued** adj. 1791, a reappearance formed from English *fatigue*, v., but first recorded as a past participle *fatigate* (probably before 1425); borrowed from Latin *fatigātus*, past participle of *fatigare* to tire out.

fatuous adj. 1608, tasteless or insipid; later, stupid but self-satisfied, foolish (1633); borrowed, possibly through Italian *fatuo*, and directly from Latin *fatuus* foolish, insipid, of uncertain origin; for suffix see *-OUS*.

faucet n. Probably before 1400, spigot; borrowed from Old French *fausset* stopper, from *fausser* to damage, break into, earlier *falser* to break, from Late Latin *falsāre* to corrupt, falsify, from Latin *falsus* FALSE.

fault n. About 1280 *faute* deficiency, lack, scarcity; borrowed from Old French *faute*, *faulte*, from Vulgar Latin **fallita* a shortcoming, falling, noun use of feminine past participle, replacing Latin *falsus*, past participle of *fallere* deceive, disappoint; see FALSE. The meaning of a defect or imperfection, is first recorded probably before 1350.

The Middle English spelling *faute* gradually changed to *faulte* in the 1400's, probably in an effort to restore the Latin form. By the 1600's *fault* was the standard spelling though the *l* was still not pronounced. —**v.** About 1375 (Scottish) *faul* be deficient; from the noun. The sense of to blame, find fault with, is first recorded about 1450. —**faulty** adj. Probably about 1380 *fauly*.

faun n. About 1385 *fawn*, borrowed from Latin *Faunus*, one of various gods of the countryside.

fauna n. 1771, New Latin *fauna*, from Late Latin *Fauna*, name of a Roman fertility goddess who was the wife, sister, or daughter of *Faunus* FAUN. The word was popularized in the natural sciences after Linnaeus used it in the title of his work *Fauna Suecica* Swedish Fauna (1746).

faux pas 1674, borrowing of French *faux pas*, literally, false step. In contemporary French, *gaffe* is used in this sense.

favor n. Probably before 1300 *favour* attractiveness, charm; later, act of kindness (about 1380); borrowed from Old French *favor*, from Latin *favōrem* (nominative *favor*) good will or support, from *favēre* show kindness to. —**v.** About 1350 *favuren* approve, support, favor; borrowed from Old French *favorer*, from Old French *favor*, n. —**favorable** adj. Before 1376 *favorable*; borrowed from Old French *favorable*, from Latin *favōrābilis*, from Latin *favor*, n.; for suffix see *-ABLE*. —**favorite** n. 1583, borrowed from Middle French *favorit*, favorite, from Italian *favorito* a favorite, also past participle of *favorire* to favor, support, from *favore* favor, from Latin *favōrem* (nominative *favor*). —**favoritism** n. 1763, formed from English *favorite* + *-ism*.

fawn¹ n. young deer. Before 1338 *fowen*; later *fawne* (before 1425); borrowed from Old French *faon* young animal, from Vulgar Latin **fētōnem*, accusative of **fētō*, from Latin *fētus* FETUS.

fawn² v. act slavishly. About 1225 *fahenen* to court favor, grovel; developed from Old English *fagnian* rejoice, from *fagen*, variant of *fægen* glad, FAIN; used in Middle English to refer to expressions of delight, such as a dog's wagging its tail.

faze v. 1830, in American English, a dialectal variant of *freeze*; found in Middle English *fesen* frighten, drive away, discomfit (probably before 1325), Old English (about 890) *fēsian*, *fysian* send forth, drive away, corresponding to Swedish *fösa* drive away, and Norwegian *föysa*, from Proto-Germanic **faujanan*.

fealty n. Probably before 1300 *feute*; later *fealtye* (probably before 1425); borrowed from Old French *feaulté*, *fealté*, from Latin *fidēlitatem* (nominative *fidēlitās*) fidelity, from *fidēlis* loyal, faithful; for suffix see *-TY²*.

fear n. Probably about 1280 *fere*; later *feere* (about 1375);

developed from late Old English *fær* uneasiness caused by possible danger; earlier, danger or peril (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Saxon *fār* ambush, danger, Middle Dutch *vaer* (modern Dutch *gevaar* danger), Old High German *fāra*, Middle High German *gevāre* danger (modern German *Gefahr*), Old Icelandic *fār* misfortune, plague, from Proto-Germanic **fāra-*. —*v.* About 1225 *fearen* (occurring once), but generally found in the spelling *feren* to frighten or terrify; developed from Old English *fēran* terrify, frighten (about 1000), from *fær* danger. The sense of feel fear, is first recorded probably about 1390. —**fearful** *adj.* About 1350 *ferfull* causing terror, terrible, formed from Middle English *fer* fear + *-full* *-ful*.

feasible *adj.* 1443 *faisible* capable of being done; later *feseable* (before 1475); borrowed through Anglo-French *faisible*, Middle French *faisible*, *faisable*, from *fais-*, stem of *faire* do, make, from Latin *facere* DO¹ perform; for suffix see *-IBLE*. —**feasibility** *n.* 1624; formed from English *feasible* + *-ity*.

feast *n.* Probably before 1200 *feste*, *feaste* feast, banquet, rejoicing; borrowed from Old French *feste* festival, feast, from Vulgar Latin **festa* (feminine singular), from Latin *fēsta* holidays, feasts, from neuter plural of *fēstus* festive, joyous, related to *fēriae* holiday, and *fānum* temple. —*v.* Probably before 1300 *fester*; borrowed from Old French *fester*, from *feste* feast.

The spelling with *ea* developed particularly in the late Middle English period as a device to represent the sound of so-called long *e*.

feat *n.* Before 1376 *fet*, *fait* action or deed; borrowed through Anglo-French *fet*, Old French *fet*, *fait*, from Latin *factum* thing done. For spelling in *ea* see *FEAST*. The sense of an exceptional or noble deed, is first recorded probably before 1400, originally often in the phrase *feat of arms*, after Old French *fait d'armes*.

feather *n.* 1280, in compound *fethermongere*, also with old spelling *feder* (about 1150); found in Old English *fether* wing, feather (about 725); cognate with Old Saxon *fethera* feather, Middle Dutch *vēdere* (modern Dutch *veder*, *veer*), Old High German *fedara* (modern German *Feder*), and Old Icelandic *fjodhr* (Swedish *fjäder*, Danish *fjeder*), from Proto-Germanic **fethrō*. For spelling with *ea* see *FEAST*. —*v.* Probably before 1300 *fetheren* grow feathers, (also found about 1250); developed from Old English *gefetherian* furnish with feathers, from *fether*, *n.* —**feather bed** 1369 *fether-bed*, also with old spelling *fether* (about 1300), developed from Old English *fetherbed* (about 1000).

feature *n.* About 1375 *feture* something created in a particular shape or form; also features of the face (1378); borrowed through Anglo-French *feture*, Old French *feture*, *faiture*, from Latin *factūra* a formation, from *facere* make, DO¹ perform; for suffix see *-URE*. The meaning of characteristic or distinctive part, is first recorded 1692. For spelling in *ea* see *FEAST*. —*v.* 1755, to resemble; from the noun. The meaning of make a special display or attraction of, is first recorded in 1888.

febrile *adj.* 1651; borrowed through French *fébrile*, or directly from Medieval Latin *febrilis*, from Latin *febris* a FEVER.

February *n.* 1373 *februare*; borrowed from Latin *februārius* in *februārius mēnsis* month of purification, in reference to the Roman feast of purification, held in February (the last month of the ancient Roman calendar, and after 450 B.C. becoming the second month, for which the Old English name was *solmōnath*, literally, mud month).

English *February* was a replacement of earlier *feoverel* (about 1225) and *feoverer* (about 1200); borrowed from Old French *fevriel*, *fevrier*, from Latin *februārius*. The alternation of *r* and *l* occurred regularly in Old French, an influence probably carried over into Middle English in the forms *laurel* and *laurer*, and reinforced by analogy of *averel* April.

feces *n. pl.* Before 1400 *fecis*, *pl.*, excrement; later *feces*, *pl.* (probably before 1425); borrowed from Latin *faeces* sediment or dregs, plural of *faex* (genitive *faecis*), of unknown origin.

feckless *adj.* 1599, formed in English from earlier *feck*, *fek* effect, value, vigor (a meaning occurring about 1500, in the Scottish shortened form of *EFFECT*) + the suffix *-less*.

fecund *adj.* About 1425 *fecounde*, 1450 *fecunde*; borrowed from Old French *fecund*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *fēcundus*; fruitful.

federal *adj.* 1645 *foederal* pertaining to or based on a treaty, especially a covenant between God and an individual; formed in English from Latin *foedus* covenant, league (genitive *foederis*; related to *fidēs* FAITH) + English *-al*¹. The Anglicized spelling *federal* is first recorded in 1737 (earlier than French *fédéral*, 1789).

The sense of relating to a government comprising independent states is first recorded in 1707 from the context of phrases such as *federal union*, in which *federal* refers to the earliest sense of a treaty; therefore, a union based on a treaty. —**federalism** *n.* 1789 *Federalism* formed in American English from *federal* + *-ism*. —**Federalist** *n.* 1787, formed in American English from *federal* + *-ist*.

federate *v.* 1837, from English *federate*, *adj.*, allied or united (1710); borrowed from Latin *foederātus* having a treaty, bound by treaty, from *foedus* (genitive *foederis*) covenant; see *FEDERAL*; for suffix see *-ATE*¹. In some instances *federate*, *v.*, may also be a back formation from earlier *federation*. —**federation** *n.* 1721, union by agreement, league; borrowed from Late Latin *foederatiōnem* (nominative *foederatiō*), from Latin *foederare* league together; for suffix see *-ATION*.

fedora *n.* 1895, American English, in allusion to *Fédora*, a play that became popular in the U.S. after 1883. The part of the heroine, a Russian princess named *Fédora* Romanoff, was originally performed by Sarah Bernhardt.

fee *n.* Probably before 1300 *fe* estate held in tenure to a feudal lord; borrowed through Anglo-French *fee*, Old French *fié*, both variants of Old French *fieu*, *fief*, from Gallo-Romance *feudum* (also found in Medieval Latin *feudum*, *feodum*), from Frankish **fēhu-ōd* payment-estate. For the first element (**fēhu-*) of the compound compare the native, and now obsolete, *fee* livestock, movable property, money, with Old English *feoh* money, property, cattle, cognate with Old Saxon *fēhu*, Old

Frisian *fīa*, Old High German *fihu* (modern German *Vieh* cattle), Old Icelandic *fē* (Danish *fæ*, Swedish *få*), and Gothic *falthu*, from Proto-Germanic **feHu*. For the second element (-ōd) of the compound, compare Old English *ēad* wealth, cognate with Old Saxon *ōd*, Old Icelandic *audhr*, and Gothic *auda*.

The meaning of a payment for professional services, is first recorded in 1387–95.

feeble *adj.* Probably before 1200 *feble* lacking strength, weak; borrowed from Old French *feible*, *foible* weak, *fleible* (with loss of *l* in later forms by dissimilation), from Latin *flebilis* lamentable, that is to be wept over, from *flere* weep — **feeble-minded** *adj.* 1534, replacing earlier *feeble-witted* (about 1385).

feed *v.* About 1125 *fedan*, developed from Old English *fēdan* nourish, feed (about 725); cognate with Old Frisian *fēda* to feed, Old Saxon *fōdian*, Dutch *voeden*, Old High German *fuoten*, Old Icelandic *foedha* (Swedish *fōda*, Danish and Norwegian *føde*), and Gothic *fōdjan*, from Proto-Germanic **fōdjanan*. The spelling *feed* is first recorded about 1385. — **n.** 1573, right to graze; from the verb. The sense of food for animals is first recorded in 1588.

feel *v.* Probably before 1200 *felen*, developed from Old English *fēlan* to feel (before 900); cognate with Old Frisian *fēla* to feel, Old Saxon *fōlian*, Middle and modern Dutch *voelen*, Old High German *fuolen* (modern German *fühlen*), from Proto-Germanic **fōlijanan*. — **n.** About 1225 *fele* sensation, understanding; from the verb. — **feeler** *n.* 1435, formed from *felen*, *v.* + *-er*¹; *n.pl.* 1665, special part of an animal's body for touching. — **feeling** *n.* Probably before 1200 *felunge* act of touching or sense of touch; formed from *felen* to feel + *-unge* -ing¹. The meaning of an emotion of joy, sorrow, etc., is first recorded in 1369. — **feelings** *n.pl.* 1771, tender or sensitive side of one's nature; from the noun singular.

feign *v.* About 1300 *feinen*; borrowed from Old French *feign-*, stem of *feindre*, from Latin *fingere* devise, fabricate, shape, form.

feint *n.* 1679, borrowed from French *feinte* a feint, sham, pretense, from Old French *feint*, (originally) feminine past participle of *feindre* FEIGN. The noun appeared earlier, in the phrase *with feint* falsely, hypocritically (before 1325) as a formation in Middle English from *feint*, *adj.*, in which it was partially confused in spelling with *faint*, *adj.* The adjective *feint* deceitful, hypocritical (about 1290, borrowed from Old French *feint*, *faint*, past participle of *feindre*) is now rare or obsolete in English. — **v.** 1833, to make a sham attack, from the noun in English; but the obsolete sense of deceive, is recorded probably about 1300, either from the adjective or borrowed from Old French *feint*, past participle of *feindre*.

feisty *adj.* 1896, dialectal American English, from *feist* small dog + *-y*¹. The form *feist* is from earlier dialectal American English *fice*, *fist* small dog (1805), a shortened form of *fysting* *curre* stinking cur (1529), from Middle English *fysten*, *fisten* break wind (1440), and related to Old English *fisting* stink.

feldspar *n.* 1785, alteration of earlier *feldspath* (1757); borrowed from German *Feldspath* (now *Feldspat*), a compound of

Feld field and *Spath* spar. The shift in spelling was influenced by English *spar*³ mineral.

felicitate *v.* 1628, make happy; probably developed from earlier *felicitate* (1605); borrowed from Late Latin *fēlicitātus*, past participle of *fēlicitāre* to make happy, from Latin *fēlix* (genitive *fēlicis*) happy, fortunate; for suffix see -ATE¹. The sense of congratulate, is first recorded in English in 1634. — **felicity** *n.* About 1375 *felicitee*; borrowed from Old French *fēlicité*, learned borrowing from Latin *fēlicitātem* (nominative *fēlicitās*) happiness, from *fēlix* happy, fortunate; for suffix see -ITY.

feline *adj.* 1681, borrowed from Late Latin *fēlinus* of or belonging to a cat, from Latin *fēlēs* (genitive *fēlis*) cat, wild cat, marten, of uncertain origin; for suffix see -INE¹.

fell¹ *v.* knock down. Probably before 1200 *fellen*, *feollen*, *fallen*; developed from Old English *fællan*, *fellan* make fall, demolish, kill (before 800, in Mercian dialect, corresponding to West Saxon *fyllan*); cognate with Old Frisian *falla*, *fella* to fell, Old Saxon *fellian*, Old High German *fellen* (modern German *fällen*), and Old Icelandic *fella*, from Proto-Germanic **fallijanan*.

fell² *adj.* cruel, fierce, terrible. About 1300; borrowed from Old French *fel* cruel, fierce, from Medieval Latin *fello* villain, FELON.

fell³ *n.* skin or hide of an animal. About 1150 *felle*, developed from Old English *fel*, *fell* skin, hide (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *fel* skin, hide, Old Saxon *fel*, Middle and modern Dutch *vel*, Old High German *fell* skin (modern German *Fell*), Old Icelandic *fell*, Gothic *-fill* in *thrūtsfill* leprosy.

felloe or **felly** *n.* 1411 *felowes*, *pl.*, variant of earlier *felie* (probably about 1200); developed from Old English *felga*, plural of *felg* rim of a wheel (before 899); cognate with Old Saxon and Old High German *felga* felloe, harrow (modern German *Felge*), from Proto-Germanic **felz-*.

fellow *n.* About 1250 *felawe*; earlier *feolawe* companion (probably before 1200); developed from Old English *feolaga* partner (1016); borrowed from a Scandinavian source; compare Old Icelandic *fēlagi* comrade, partner, shareholder. — **fellowship** *n.* Probably before 1200 *feolashcipe* companionship; formed from *feolaw* fellow + *-schipe* -ship.

felon *n.* About 1300 *feloun*, *feloun*; from *feloun*, *felun*, *adj.*, savage, cruel, wicked; borrowed from Old French *felon*, *n.*, a wicked person, traitor, rebel, and *felon*, *adj.*, wicked, malignant, from Medieval Latin *fellonem*, from Frankish **fillo*, **filljo* person who whips or beats, scourger (compare Old High German *fillen* to flail or scourge, Old Frisian *filla*). — **felonious** *adj.* 1575, either formed from English *felony* + *-ous*, or a back formation from *feloniously*, *adv.* (1447–48, probably formed in English from Middle French *felonieux* + *-ly*). By about 1600 *felonious* had replaced *felonous* (recorded before 1338). — **felony** *n.* About 1290 *felonie* treachery, villainy, crime; borrowed from Old French *felonie*, from *felon*, *n.*

felt *n.* Old English *felt* (about 1000); cognate with Old Saxon

felt felt and Old High German *filz* (modern German *Filz*), from Proto-Germanic **peltaz*, **peltiz*.

female *n.* Before 1333 *femele*; borrowed from Old French *femelle*, from Medieval Latin *femella* a female, from Latin *fēmella* young female, girl, a diminutive form of *fēmīna* woman; see FEMININE. The spelling *female* is first recorded in 1373, formed by popular etymology on the analogy of *male*. —**adj.** 1382; borrowed from Old French *femelle*, from Medieval Latin *femella* of a female, from *femella*, *n.*

feminine *adj.* Probably about 1350 *femynyn*, referring to grammatical gender; later, female (about 1380); borrowed from Old French *feminin*, *feminine*, learned borrowing from Latin *fēmininus* feminine (in the grammatical sense), from *fēmīna* woman, female (Latin base *fē-* to suck, suckle, also found in Latin *fēlāre* to suck, *filius* son, *filia* daughter, originally suckling, and with *fētus* offspring or fetus). —**femininity** *n.* About 1390 *femynynnytee*; formed from *femynyne* feminine + *-ity*. —**feminism** *n.* 1851, state of being feminine; later, advocacy of women's rights (1895); borrowed from French *fēminisme* (1837), formed from Latin *fēmīna* woman + French *-isme* *-ism*. —**feminist** *n.* 1894, borrowed from French *fēministe* (1872), from *fēminisme* + *-iste* *-ist*.

femto- a combining form meaning one quadrillionth (10⁻¹⁵), as in *femtometer* (one quadrillionth of a meter). 1961, borrowed from Danish or Norwegian *femten* fifteen (with connective *-o*).

femur *n.* 1563, as a term in architecture; later, thighbone (1799); borrowing of Latin *femur* thigh, of uncertain origin. —**femoral** *adj.* 1782, formed in English from Latin *femoris* (genitive of *femur* thigh) + English *-al*¹.

fen *n.* Before 1121, developed from Old English *fen*, *fenn* marsh, dirt, mud (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *fene*, *fenne* marsh, swamp, Old Saxon *fēni*, Middle Dutch *venne* (modern Dutch *veen*), Old High German *fenna* (modern German *Fenn*), Old Icelandic *fen* quagmire, and Gothic *fani* clay, mud, from Proto-Germanic **fanja-*.

fence *n.* Before 1338 *fens* action of defending, a shortened form of *defens* DEFENSE. The meaning of enclosure or barrier, is first recorded in 1461. —**v.** 1435, surround with or as with a fence; from the noun. —**fencing** *n.* 1462, the act of protecting; later, an enclosure (1585) and the materials for an enclosure (1856). The spelling varied from *c* to *s* in Middle English and became fixed in the later 1500's.

fend *v.* Probably before 1300, shortened form of DEFEND. The phrase *fend off* ward or keep off, is first recorded about 1380, and the expression *fend for oneself*, in 1629. It is probable that *fend* appeared before 1279, in the derivative *fender* defender.

fender *n.* About 1350 *fendour* defender; earlier as a surname *Fendur* (1279); probably formed from Middle English *fend* + *-our*, *-or*², now analyzed as *-er*¹. The general sense of something that protects by keeping other things off, is first recorded in English in 1615, but the specific meaning of a boat fender protecting the hull is first recorded in 1294–95. Application to automobiles is found first in 1919.

fennel *n.* Probably before 1300 *fenel*, developed from Old English *fenol* (about 1000), a form possibly influenced by Old French *fenoil*, and from Old English *finuġl* (about 700); both Old English and Old French were borrowed from Vulgar Latin *fenuculum*, corresponding to Latin *feniculum*, from *fēnum* hay (appearing in the overcorrected form *faenum*); apparently so called from its haylike appearance and sweet odor.

feral *adj.* 1604, probably borrowed from Middle French *feral* wild, from Latin *fera*, in *fera bēstia* wild beast, from *ferus* wild; see FIERCE for suffix see *-al*¹.

ferment *v.* Before 1398; borrowed through Old French *fermenter*, and directly from Latin *fermentāre* to leaven, ferment, from *fermentum* leaven, related to *servēre* to boil, seethe. The sense of agitate, stir up, excite, is first recorded in 1660. —**n.** Probably before 1425, leaven or yeast; probably from the verb, and as a borrowing through Middle French *ferment*, from Latin *fermentum* leaven or yeast, drink made of fermented barley; also figuratively, anger or passion, a sense first recorded 1672. —**fermentation** *n.* About 1395 *fermentacioun*; borrowed from Late Latin *fermentātiōnem* (nominative *fermentātiō*) a leavening, from Latin *fermentāre* to ferment; for suffix see *-ATION*.

fermion *n.* 1947, formed in allusion to Enrico Fermi + *-on*; see FERMIUM so called because Fermi studied statistics that govern the behavior of these particles.

fermium *n.* 1955, New Latin, formed in allusion to the Italian atomic physicist Enrico Fermi + *-ium*.

fern *n.* Probably before 1300 *ferne*, developed from Old English (about 700) *fearn*; cognate with Old Saxon *farn* fern, Middle Dutch *værn* (modern Dutch *varen*), and Old High German *farn* (modern German *Farn*), from Proto-Germanic **farnan*.

ferocious *adj.* 1646, fierce, savage; formed in English from Latin *ferōcis* (oblique case of *ferōx* fierce, wild-looking) + English *-ious*, variant of *-ous*; perhaps modeled on Middle French *ferocieux*, and prompted in its formation by English *ferocity*. Latin *ferōx* is a derivative of *ferus* wild (see FIERCE) + *-ōx*, *-ōcem*, a suffix meaning looking, appearing. —**ferocity** *n.* 1606, borrowed through French *ferocité*, from Latin *ferocitatem* (nominative *ferocitās*) fierceness, from *ferōcis*; for suffix see *-ITY*.

-ferous suffix added to nouns to form adjectives and meaning producing, containing, conveying, as in *metalliferous*, *odoriferous*. Formed in English from Latin *-fer* (from *ferre* to BEAR²) + English *-ous*.

ferret *n.* About 1350 *furet*; later *ferrett* (1378); borrowed from Old French *furet*, *fuiret*, diminutive of *fuiron* weasel, ferret, thief, from Late Latin *fūrionem* (compare *fūrōnem* cat, thief), probably from Latin *fūr* (genitive *fūris*) thief; for suffix see *-ET*. —**v.** Probably before 1430, to hunt with ferrets; from the noun, probably modeled on Middle French *fureter* to hunt with ferrets. The sense of search out, discover, in allusion to the use of a ferret to hunt rodents, is first recorded in 1577–87.

ferric or **ferrous** *adj.* 1799 *ferric*; about 1865 *ferrous*; both words formed in English from Latin *ferrum* iron + English suffixes *-ic* and *-ous*.

Ferris wheel 1893, American English, in allusion to George W.G. Ferris, American engineer who designed it for the World's Columbian Exposition held in Chicago in 1893.

ferro- a combining form meaning iron, especially in the naming of alloys, as in *ferrochrome*; in chemistry it means ferrous (containing iron, especially with a valence of two) as distinguished from ferric (containing iron, especially with a valence of three), as in *ferroconcrete*. Adapted from Latin *ferrum* iron.

ferrule or **ferule**¹ *n.* metal cap or band at the end of a stick, etc. 1611 *ferrel*, alteration of earlier *verrel* (1483) and *verol* (1410–11); borrowed from Old French *vielle*, *virol*, *virole*, from Latin *viriola* little bracelet, diminutive of *viriae* bracelets, from Gaulish (compare Old Irish *fiar* bent, crooked, and Welsh *gwyn*). The later form *ferrel* developed by influence of Latin *ferrum* iron, in reference to the metal cap.

ferry *v.* 1123 *ferien*, developed from Old English *ferian* to carry, transport (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *feria* carry, transport, Old Saxon *ferian*, Middle High German *ferien*, Old Icelandic *ferja* to pass over, ferry, and Gothic *farjan* travel by boat, from Proto-Germanic **farjanan*. —*n.* 1286 *ferye* place or passage where boats ferry passengers and goods; probably borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *ferja*, *n.*, from *ferja* to ferry).

The means for transporting across a ferry is first recorded in the form *feribot* (about 1374–75).

fertile *adj.* 1436 *fertyle*, borrowed through Middle French *fertil* fruitful, from Old French *fertile*, or directly from Latin *fertilis* bearing in abundance, fruitful, productive, from *ferre* to BEAR² carry. —**fertility** *n.* Probably before 1425 *fertilite*, borrowed from Middle French *fertilité*, from Latin *fertilitatem* (nominative *fertilitas*) fruitfulness, from *fertilis* fertile. —**fertilize** *v.* 1648, make fertile; formed from English *fertile* + *-ize*, probably on the model of French *fertiliser*. The biological sense of unite with an egg cell, impregnate, is first recorded in 1859.

ferule² *n.* stick used for punishing children. 1599, earlier in *ferall rodde* (1528), from *ferula* the fennel plant (before 1398); borrowed from Latin *ferula* fennel plant or rod (pre-Latin **feselā*), probably related to *festūca* stalk, straw, rod.

fervent *adj.* 1340, ardent, earnest; borrowed from Old French *fervent*, learned borrowing from Latin *ferventem* (nominative *fervēns*), present participle of *fervere* to boil, glow.

fervid *adj.* 1599, burning, glowing; borrowed from Latin *fervidus* glowing, burning, vehement, from *fervere* to boil, glow. The figurative sense of impassioned, is first recorded in 1656–81.

fervor *n.* About 1384 *fervour*, borrowed from Old French *fervor*, learned borrowing from Latin *fervor* a boiling, violent heat, vehemence, passion, from *fervere* to boil.

fescue *n.* 1589, piece of straw, twig, alteration of earlier *festu* (about 1378); borrowed from Old French *festue*, *festu* a kind of straw, from Latin *festūca* straw, stalk, rod, probably related to *ferula*; see **FERULE**. The meaning of a pasture and lawn grass is first recorded in 1762.

fester *n.* Before 1325, a rankling sore; borrowed from Old French *festre* (with replacement of *r* for *l*), from Latin *fistula* pipe, ulcer; see **FISTULA**. —*v.* Before 1398 *festren*; from the noun, or possibly borrowed from Old French *festrir*, from *festre*, *n.* The sense of cause pain, aggravate, is first recorded about 1475.

festivity *n.* Before 1387 *festivite*; borrowed from Old French *festivité*, learned borrowing from Latin *fēstivitatē* (nominative *fēstivitas*), from *fēstivus* festive, from *fēstum* festival or holiday, neuter of *fēstus* of a FEAST; for suffix see **-ITY**. —**festival** *n.* 1589, a time of festive celebration, holiday, from earlier *festival*, *adj.*, of a feast or holiday (probably before 1380); borrowed from Old French *festival*, *festivel*, and directly from Medieval Latin *festivialis* of a church holiday, from Latin *fēstivus* festive; for suffix see **-AL**. —**festive** *adj.* 1651, probably borrowed from Latin *fēstivus* of a feast or holiday, joyous, merry, from *fēstum* festival, neuter of *fēstus*; see **FESTIVITY** and **FEAST**; for suffix see **-IVE**; in later use (1735), possibly re-formed back formation from English *festivity*, perhaps modeled on French *festif*, *festive*. After the single recorded use in 1651, *festive* disappears in the record until 1735. —**festal** *adj.* 1479, borrowed from Middle French *festal*, *festel*, from Late Latin *fēstālis*, from Latin *fēstum* festival; for suffix see **-AL**¹. *Festal* replaced earlier *festial*, *adj.* (recorded before 1422); formed in English from Latin *fēstum* + English suffix *-ial*, variant of *-al*. —**fest** *n.* 1889, American English, (usually in compounds, such as *talk fest*, *songfest*, *filmfest*); borrowing of German *Fest* festival, as abstracted from compounds such as *Volksfest* folk festival, from Middle High German *vēst*, from Latin *fēstum* festival.

festoon *n.* 1630, borrowing of French *feston*, from Italian *festone*, from *festa* celebration, feast, from Vulgar Latin **festa* FEAST; for ending see **-OON**. —*v.* 1789 from the noun.

fetch *v.* Probably before 1200 *fecchen* go and get; developed from Old English *feccan* (about 1000), apparently a variant of *fetian*, *fatian* to fetch, bring to, marry; cognate with Old Frisian *fatia* to grasp, seize, contain, Middle Low German *vāten*, Middle Dutch *vatten*, Old High German *fazzōn* to climb, mount, take in (modern German *fassen* grasp, contain), from Proto-Germanic **fatōjanan*. —**fetching** *adj.* 1880, alluring, fascinating; earlier, crafty or scheming (1581); formed from *fetch*, *v.* + *-ing*².

fête or **fete** *n.* 1754, borrowing of French *fête* festival, feast, from Old French *feste*; see **FEAST**. —*v.* 1819, entertain; borrowed from French *fêter*, *v.*, from *fête* feast.

fetid *adj.* Probably before 1425, borrowed from Latin *foetidus* stinking, from *foetere* have a bad smell, stink.

fetish *n.* 1613 *fatisso*, *fetisso*, borrowed from Portuguese *fetiço* charm, sorcery; probably introduced by Portuguese sailors and traders as applied to charms and talismans worshiped by inhabitants of the west coast of Africa; and later *fateish* (1693), *fetiche* (1705), borrowed from French *fétiche*, from Portuguese. The earlier Portuguese term *fetiço* was originally *feitico* made artfully, artificial, from Latin *facticius* made by art, artificial, from *facere* make.

The figurative sense of something irrationally revered, is

first recorded in American English in 1837. The use in psychology is first recorded in 1901. —**fetishism** *n.* 1801, worship of fetishes; formed from English *fetish* + *-ism*; modeled on French *fétichisme*.

fetlock *n.* About 1330 *fitlok*, *fetlak*, corresponding to Dutch *vetlock* fetlock, Middle High German *vizzeloch* (compare modern German *Fessel* fetlock); related to Old High German *fuoaz* FOOT.

The Middle English suffix *-ok* (as in *hillock*, modern English *hillock*) developed from Old English *-oc*, a diminutive suffix, but in the Middle English period *fitlok* was popularly interpreted as a derivative of *feet* and *lock* (of hair).

fetter *n.* Old English (about 700) *feter* chain or shackle for the feet; cognate with Old Saxon *feteras*, pl., fetters, Middle Dutch *vetter* fetter (also in modern Dutch, lace or string), Old High German *fezzera*, Old Icelandic *fioturr* fetter, from Proto-Germanic **feterō*, *feteraz*. The transferred sense of anything that confines, shackle, restraint, is first recorded in Old English, about 1000. —*v.* About 1300 *feteren* to chain or shackle; earlier *fetheren* (probably before 1200); developed from Old English *gefetrian* to fetter, from *feter*, *n.*

fettle *n.* About 1750, dress, case, condition, in English dialect of Lancashire, from earlier Middle English *fettlen*, *fettelen* to make ready, arrange (probably about 1380); of uncertain origin (compare Old English *fetel* belt, girdle, before 899); perhaps used in the sense of to gird up, and ultimately from the Germanic base **fat-* to hold, so as to be cognate with Old High German *fezzil* chain, band, fetter (modern German *Fessel*).

fetus *n.* Before 1398, borrowed from Latin *fētus* (genitive *fētūs*) a bearing, hatching, offspring, young, from the base *fē-* to generate, bear, also to suck, suckle, found in Latin *fēmina* female; see FEMININE. —**fetal** *adj.* 1811, formed from English *fetus* + *-al*.

feud *n.* Before 1325 *fede* enmity, hatred, hostility, (considered to be a word generally restricted to northern dialectal use); borrowed from Old French *fede*, *feide* (as in *fede mortel* deadly feud), from Old High German *fēhida* (modern German *Fehde* feud); cognate with Old Frisian *feithe* enmity, and related to, though not a derivative of, Old English *fēhth* enmity (found about 725, in *Beowulf*), (from Proto-Germanic **faiHithō*) and *fāh* hostile; see FOE. In the 1500's, the word was adopted in England as *foode*, *fewd*, possibly an alteration because of a semantic connection with *feud* feudal estate, from Medieval Latin *feudum*. —*v.* to quarrel. 1673, from the noun.

feudal *adj.* 1614, possibly borrowed through French *féodal*, from Medieval Latin *feudalis*, *feodalis*, from *feudum*, *feodum* feudal estate; see FEE; for suffix see *-AL*¹. —**feudalism** *n.* 1839, formed from English *feudal* + *-ism*.

fever *n.* Probably before 1200 *feure*, later *fever* (probably before 1300); developed from Old English (about 1000) *fēfer*, *fēfor*, borrowed from Latin *febris* fever, and related to *fovēre* to warm, heat. The word also appears in Middle English as *fièvre* (1393), borrowed from Old French *fièvre*, from Latin *febris*. —**fever-**

ish *adj.* Before 1398 *feverish* causing fever; formed from *fever* + *-isch* *-ish*. Later the word was re-formed in English with the meaning of excited, restless; first recorded in 1634, formed from *fever* + *-ish*.

few *adj.* Probably about 1150 *fewe*, developed from Old English *feawe*, contracted form *fēa* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *fē* little, Old Saxon *fā*, Old High German *fao*, Old Icelandic *fār*, and Gothic *fawai*, pl., few. —*n.* Probably about 1175 *fewe*; formed from the adjective.

fez *n.* 1802, borrowed from French *fez*, from Turkish *fes*, probably in allusion to *Fez*, Morocco (city where this type of cap was principally made).

fiancée or **fiancee** *n.* 1853, borrowing of French *fiancée*, feminine form of *fiancé*, past participle of *fiancer* betroth, from Old French *fiancer*, from *fiance* a promise, trust, from *fier* to trust, from Vulgar Latin **fidāre*; see AFFIANCE.

fiasco *n.* 1855, a theatrical or musical failure; later, a dismal failure (1862); borrowed through French, especially in the phrase *faire fiasco* turn out a failure, from Italian *far fiasco*, literally, make a bottle, from *fiasco* bottle, from Late Latin *flascō*, *flascōnem*; see FLASK. The sense development is unknown.

fiat *n.* Before 1631 (in reference to the phrase *Fiat lux* let there be light, in the Book of Genesis); earlier, as a partial Latinism in a document (about 1384); borrowed through Medieval Latin from Latin *fiat* let it be done, 3rd person singular present subjunctive of *fieri*.

fib *n.* 1611, a trivial lie, of uncertain origin; perhaps from earlier *fibble-fable* nonsense (1581), reduplication of FABLE. —*v.* 1690, from the noun. —**fibber** *n.* 1723, formed from *fib*, *v.* + *-er*¹.

fiber *n.* 1540 *fibre*, borrowing of French *fibre*, from Old French *fibra*, learned borrowing from Latin *fibra* a fiber, filament, of uncertain origin (possibly related to Latin *filum* thread, through the Latin base *fi-*). The figurative sense of character or nature, is first recorded in 1855. —**fiberboard** *n.* (1897) —**fiberglass** *n.* (1937) —**fiber optics** (1956) —**fibrous** *adj.* 1626, probably borrowed by influence of French *fibreuse*, as a formation from New Latin *fibrosus*, from Latin *fibra*; for suffix see *-OUS*

fibrin *n.* 1800, formed from English *fiber*, *fibra* + *-in*².

fibula *n.* bone in the lower leg. 1615, New Latin, from Latin *fibula* clasp, brooch, earlier **fivibula*, from Old Latin *fivere*, replaced by the analogical Classical form *figere* to fix, fasten; see DIKE. Traditionally, the bone was so called because it resembles a kind of clasp, similar to a modern safety pin, used by the ancient Romans, though by about 1540, Latin *fibula* was, in fact, a loan translation of Greek *perōnē* bone in the lower leg, also, clasp or brooch.

-fic a suffix forming adjectives and meaning making, doing, causing, as in *pacific* (making peace), *honorific* (doing honor), *terrific* (causing terror). Borrowed (through French *-fique*) from Latin *-ficus*, from the root of *facere* make, DO¹ perform.

-fication a suffix forming nouns and meaning a making, doing, causing, usually corresponding to verbs in *-fy*, as in *pacification*, *glorification*, *purification*; sometimes added directly to a noun or adjective, especially in technical and scientific terms, as in *ossification*, *reification*. Borrowed (through Old French *-fication*) from Latin *-ficiōnem*, from *-ficiātus*, past participle ending of verbs in *-ficāre* *-FY*.

fiche *n.* 1949, borrowed from French *fiche* slip of paper or form, from Old French *fiche* point, from *ficher* to fix, fasten, from Vulgar Latin **ficicāre*, from Latin *figere* to fix fasten. The meaning of card, strip of film, etc., is first recorded in 1959, as a shortening of *microfiche* (1950).

fickle *adj.* Probably before 1200 *fikel* false, deceitful, treacherous; developed from Old English (before 1000) *ficol* deceitful, related to *befician* deceive, and *fācen* deceit, treachery; for suffix see *-LE*². The Old English *fācen* is cognate with Old Saxon *fekan* deceit, Old High German *feihhan*, and Old Icelandic *feiken* deterioration, corruption. The meaning of changeable, not constant, is first recorded in about 1303.

fiction *n.* About 1412 *ficioun* something made up; invention of the mind; borrowed from Old French *fiction* and from Latin *fictiōnem* (nominative *fictiō*) a fashioning or feigning, from *figere* to shape, form, devise, feign. —**fictitious** *adj.* 1615, not real or genuine; formed in English, perhaps on the model of earlier French *ficticieux* hypocritical, from Medieval Latin *fictitiū*, a misspelling of Latin *ficticiū* (with substitution of the English spelling *-ous*) artificial, counterfeit, from *fictus*, past participle of *figere*.

-fid a combining form meaning split or divided into parts, as in *bifid*. Borrowed from Latin *-fidus*, related to *findere* to split; see *BITE*.

fiddle *n.* Probably before 1200 *fithle*, later *fede* (before 1398) and *fydell* (about 1450); developed from Old English *fithle*, corresponding to Old High German *fidula*, Middle Low German *vedel* (modern German *Fiedel*), Middle Dutch *vedel*, *vedele* (modern Dutch *vedel*, *veel*), and Old Icelandic *fidhla*.

These words are probably derived from Medieval Latin *vitula*, *vidula* (for the shift from Latin *v* to *f* compare Old English *fann* from Latin *vannus*) and may have come from Vulgar Latin **vitula*, perhaps related to Latin *vītulārī* be joyful, of uncertain origin. It is also possible that Vulgar Latin **vitula*, represented in Old French *viole*, and Italian and Spanish *viol*, was itself a borrowing from the same Germanic source as Old English *fithle*. —**v.** About 1378 *fithelen* play the fiddle; later *fydelen* (1440); from the noun. The meaning of play nervously, fidget, is first recorded in 1530. —**fiddler** *n.* Before 1280, developed from Old English *fithelere*; formed from *fithle* + *-ere* *-er*¹.

fidelity *n.* Probably before 1425 *fidelite*, borrowed from Middle French *fidélité*, learned borrowing from Latin *fidēlitas* (nominative *fidēlitas*) faithfulness, adherence, from *fidēlis* faithful, from *fidēs* FAITH; for suffix see *-ITY*.

fidget *n.* 1674, *the fidget* uneasiness; later, *the fidgets* (1753); apparently formed from *fidge*, *v.*, move restlessly (1575), per-

haps a variant of *fiken* move quickly or restlessly (before 1250); ultimately borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Swedish *fikja* move briskly). The meaning of a restless person, first recorded in 1837, is from *fidget*, *v.* —**v.** move restlessly. 1809, American English, from the noun. —**fidgety** *adj.* 1730–36, formed from English *fidget*, *v.* + *-y*¹.

fiduciary *adj.* Before 1640, held in trust; borrowed, possibly through French *fiduciaire*, from Latin *fiduciarius* (holding) in trust, from *fiducia* a trust, from *fidere* to trust; see FAITH; for suffix see *-ARY*. —**n.** 1631, a trustee; borrowed from Medieval Latin *fiduciarius* trustee, from Latin *adj.*

fi *interj.* About 1300 *fi*, possibly borrowed from Old French *fi*, *fy*, and perhaps even reinforced by some Scandinavian form (compare Old Icelandic, *fi*, Danish *fi*), probably an imitation of the sound of disgust made in response to a disagreeable smell. Latin has the words *fue* and *fi*, which are semantically related; however, every language developed its own terms for such basic expressions, probably independently of others.

fief *n.* 1611, borrowed from French *fief*, from Old French, variant of *fieu* fee; see *FEE*.

field *n.* 1155 *feld*; later *feild* (before 1325), and *field* (before 1393); developed from Old English (about 725) *feld* field, and probably related to Old English *folde* earth, land, cognate with Old Saxon *folda* earth, and Old Icelandic *fold*. Also cognates are found in Old Frisian and Old Saxon *feld* field, Middle Dutch *velt* (modern Dutch *veld*), and Old High German *feld* (modern German *Feld*), from Proto-Germanic **felthuz*.

The spelling with *ie* was probably introduced by Anglo-French scribes, who represented the long *e* sound with the spelling *ie* in such French words as *brief* and *piece*, from which the practice spread to native words (*field*, *fiend*, etc.). —**v.** 1529, to fight; from the noun (in the sense of battlefield). —**field day** (1747) —**fielder** *n.* 1310, one who works in fields; in baseball, 1868. —**field glasses** (1836)

fiend *n.* Probably about 1200 *fend*; later *feend* (about 1395); developed from Old English *feond* enemy, foe (about 725, in *Beowulf*); originally present participle of *feogan* to hate. The formation of *fiend* is parallel to *friend* and in Old English is cognate with Old Frisian *fiand* enemy, Old Saxon *fiond*, Middle Dutch *viānt* (modern Dutch *vijand*), Old High German *fiant* (modern German *Feind* enemy), *fiēn* to hate, Old Icelandic *fiāndi* enemy, *fā* to hate, Gothic *fiyands* enemy, *fijan* to hate (from Proto-Germanic **fijējanan*). For the spelling with *ie* see *FIELD*. —**fiendish** *adj.* 1529, formed from English *fiend* + *-ish*¹.

fierce *adj.* 1240, proud, noble, bold; later *ferse* ferocious, wild, savage (about 1378) and *fierce* (before 1393); borrowed from Old French *fers*, *fiers*, nominative form of *fer*, *fier* wild, ferocious, from Latin *ferus* wild, untamed.

fiery *adj.* About 1300 *fuyri*; later *firy* (about 1385), and *fiery* (about 1443); formed from Middle English *fier* fire (about 1250; also *fuyr*, *fir*; see *FIRE*) + *-y*¹.

The spelling with *ie* arose by confusion with Old English *fyr* fire, in which *y*, representing a long *i* sound, was transcribed

as *i*, *γ*, and *ie* in Middle English. The *e* was an orthographic indication of the long *i* sound. Discrepancies with *γ* still exist in English: *sirup*, *syrup*; *siren*, *syren*.

fife *n.* 1555, probably borrowed from German *Pfeife* fife or pipe, from Old High German *pfīsa*, Middle High German *pfīse*; or *fife* may be an alteration of Middle French *fifre* fife, borrowed from Swiss German *pfifer* piper, a derivative of Old High German *pfīsa* fife, PIPE.

fifteen *adj.* Old English *fiftēne*, *fiftȳne* (about 725, in *Beowulf*), from *fif* five + *-tēne*, *-tȳne* -teen, from *tēn* TEN. Old English *fiftēne* is cognate with Old Frisian *fiftine*, Old Saxon *fifteen*, Dutch *vijftien*, Old High German *finfzehan* (modern German *funfzehn*), Old Icelandic *fimtān*, and Gothic *fimftaihun*.

fifth *adj.* Before 1325 *fyfthe*; earlier *fifte* (probably about 1200); developed from Old English *fifta* (827), from *fif* FIVE + *-ta*; for suffix see -TH². Old English *fifta* is cognate with Old Frisian *fifta*, Old Saxon *fifto*, Dutch *viijfde*, Old High German *fimfto* (modern German *funfte*), Old Icelandic *fimmti*, and Gothic *fimfta*. *Fifth*, with the spelling *-th*, was a re-formation in Middle English of earlier *fifte*, on analogy with *fourth*, *seventh*, *ninth*, etc.

fifty *adj.* Probably before 1200 *fifti*; developed from Old English *fiftig* (about 725, in *Beowulf*), from *fif* five + *-tig* group of ten, -TY¹. Old English *fiftig* is cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *fiftich*, Dutch *viijftig*, Old Icelandic *fimmti*, and Old High German *finfzig* (modern German *funfzig*).

fig *n.* Probably before 1200 *fige*, borrowed from Old French *fige*, *figue*, from Old Provençal *figa*, from Vulgar Latin **fica*, from Latin *figus* fig tree, fig. In Middle English the form *fike* fig, coexisted with *fige* until about 1500, and developed from Old English *fic*, borrowed from Latin *figus* fig.

fight *v.* 1122 *fihten*, developed from Old English (about 900) *fehtan* to fight; cognate with Old Frisian *fiuchta* to fight, Middle Dutch and Middle Low German *vechten*, and Old High German *fehntan* to fight (modern German *fechten* to fence, fight), from Proto-Germanic **feuhtanan*. —**n.** Probably before 1200 *fihte*, developed from Old English *feoht* a fight (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *fiucht* a fight, Old Saxon *fehnta*, Dutch *gevecht*, and Old High German *gifeht* (modern German *Gefecht*); all derived from the same Germanic source. —**fighter** *n.* Before 1325 *fighter*, developed from Old English *feohtere*.

The spelling with *gh* developed in Middle English before 1325 when scribes about 1100 began to substitute *gh* for *γ* and for earlier *ȝ*, especially before *t*.

figment *n.* Probably before 1425, literary myth; borrowed from Latin *figmentum* something formed or fashioned, figure, creation; for suffix see -MENT.

figure *n.* Probably before 1200, numeral; borrowed from Old French *figure*, learned borrowing from Latin *figūra* a shape, form, figure; for suffix see -URE. The meanings of a form or shape and of a statue or likeness are first recorded in English before 1300. —**v.** 1389 *figuren* to represent; probably from the noun, by influence of Old French *figurer*, from Latin *figūrāre* to

shape or form, from *figūra*. —**figurative** *adj.* Before 1397 *figuratif* allegorical, typical; borrowed through Old French *figuratif*, *figurative*, or directly from Late Latin *figūrātīvus* figurative (of speech), from Latin *figūrāre*; for suffix see -IVE.

—**figurehead** *n.* 1765, ornament on the bow of a ship; later, person who is the head of a group, organization, etc., without real authority (1883). —**figurine** *n.* 1854, borrowed from French *figurine*, from Italian *figurina*, diminutive of *figura*, from Latin *figūra* figure.

filament *n.* 1594, borrowed, possibly by influence of Middle French *filament*, from New Latin *filamentum*, from Late Latin *filāre* to spin, draw out in a long line, from Latin *filum* thread.

filbert *n.* About 1390, borrowed from Anglo-French *philber*, in allusion to Saint *Philibert*, a Frankish abbot; so called because the nuts ripen near his feast day.

filch *v.* About 1300 *filchen* to snatch, take as booty, of unknown origin.

file¹ *v.* to place (papers, etc.) in order. 1473, put (documents) on record; borrowed from Middle French *filer* string documents on a wire for preservation or reference, from *fil* thread or string, from Latin *filum* thread. —**n.** 1525, string or wire on which documents are strung for preservation or reference; borrowed from Middle French *fil* string. The meaning of a catalog or a collection, as of papers, is first recorded in 1566.

file² *n.* line or row. 1598, line of people; borrowed from Middle French *file* row, from *filer* spin (thread), march in file, from Late Latin *filāre* to spin, draw out in a long line, from Latin *filum* thread; see FILE¹. —**v.** 1598, arrange (people) in a line, from Middle French *filer*.

file³ *n.* metal instrument for rubbing, smoothing, etc. Probably before 1200 *file*, *vile*, developed from Old English *feol* (before 800 *fil*, in Mercian dialect), cognate with Old Saxon *fila* file, Middle Dutch *vile* (modern Dutch *vijsl*), Old High German *filala* (modern German *Feile*), and Old Icelandic *fel*, *thēl*; from Proto-Germanic **finhlō*. —**v.** Probably before 1200 *filen*, *vilen*, developed from Old English *filian*; possibly from the noun in Old English.

filet *n.* Before 1399, thin slice of meat or bacon; passing into an Anglicized spelling *fillet* after 1475, and appearing as a reborrowing from modern French in 1841; see FILLET.

filial *adj.* Before 1425, borrowed probably from Middle French *filial*, and directly from Late Latin *filialis* of a son or daughter, from Latin *filius* son, *filia* daughter; for suffix see -AL¹.

filibuster *n.* About 1851, in American English *Fillibustier*, *Filibustier*; later *filibuster* (1855) any American who engaged in uprisings in Latin America; borrowed from Spanish *filibustero* a freebooter, and from French *flibustier*. The word is recorded earlier in English *flibutor* pirate or adventurer (before 1587); borrowed from Dutch *vrijbutter* freebooter. Perhaps French *flibustier* came from English *flibutor*, and earlier directly from the Dutch in the form of *fribustier*. The distinction of nomenclature among the adventurers in the Caribbean area during

the 1500's and 1600's is confused by the activities they engaged in. The French buccaneers turned to plundering so that term overlapped with the freebooter or *filibuster*.

Though the meaning of an act or instance of obstructing legislation by prolonging debate, is first recorded in 1890 in the Congressional Record, it is implied earlier in the sense of legislator who prolongs debate (1853), a sense replaced in the form *filibusterer* (1855). —**v.** to engage in a legislative filibuster. 1853, in American English; from the noun.

filigree *n.* 1693, alteration of *filigreen* (1682) and earlier *filigrane* (1668); borrowed from French *filigrane* filigree, from Italian *filigrana* (from Latin *filum* thread + *grānum* grain).

fill *v.* Probably about 1200 *fillen*, developed from Old English (before 1000) *fyllan*; cognate with Old Frisian *fullia*, *fella* to fill, Old Saxon *fullian*, Dutch *vullen*, Old High German *fullen* (modern German *füllen*), Old Icelandic *fylla*, and Gothic *fulljan* from Proto-Germanic **fullijanan*. —**n.** 1250 *fill*, developed from Old English *fyll*, *fyllu*, *fyllu* full supply (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old High German *fulli* (modern German *Fülle*), Old Icelandic *fyllr*, and Gothic *usarfullei* great abundance, *fullō* fullness.

fillet *n.* Before 1325 *filet* headband; later, slice of meat or bacon (before 1399); borrowed from Old French *filet*, diminutive of *fil* thread; see **FILET**; for suffix see **-ET**. —**v.** 1604, bind with a narrow band; from the noun. The meaning of cut (fish or meat) into fillets, is first recorded in English in 1846.

flip *v.* About 1450 *philippen* to flip (something) with the fingers or snap the fingers; possibly imitative of the sound. —**n.** 1530, a toss with the fingers or a snap of the fingers, from the verb. The meaning of thing that rouses or excites, appeared before 1700.

filly *n.* 1404 *fyly*; possibly borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *fylija* filly, *fyl* filly or foal); related to **foal**.

film *n.* Before 1400 *vilm*; later *fylme* (1440); developed from Old English (about 1000) *filmen* membrane, skin; cognate with Old Frisian *filmene* skin from Proto-Germanic **filminjan*. The meaning of a thin coat of something is first recorded in English in 1577, and was extended to a coating of chemicals spread on photographic paper, by 1845; then to include the coating and the paper or celluloid, by 1895. The sense of a motion picture was first recorded in 1905. —**v.** 1602, to cover with, or as if with a film, from the noun. The sense of to photograph is first recorded in 1899. —**filmy** *adj.* 1604, formed from English *film*, *n.* + *-y*¹.

filter *n.* Probably before 1425 *filtre* felt (used to filter liquids); borrowed through Middle French *filtre*, and directly from Medieval Latin *filtrum* felt (used to filter liquids), from a Germanic source (compare Old Saxon *filt* FELT). —**v.** 1576, pass (a liquid) through a filter; borrowed probably from Middle French *filtrer*, from New Latin *filtrare*, from Medieval Latin *filtrum* felt. —**filtrate** *v.* 1612, probably a back formation from *filtration*; for suffix see **-ATE**¹. —**filtration** *n.* 1605, perhaps

borrowed from French *filtration* (1578), from *filtrer* to filter; for suffix see **-ATION**.

filth *n.* Probably before 1200 *fulthe*, later *filth* (before 1325); developed from Old English (about 1000) *fyllth*; cognate with Old Saxon *fulitha* foulness, filth, Dutch *vuile*, and Old High German *fulida*, from Proto-Germanic **fullithō*. —**filthy** *adj.* Before 1300 *fulthe* corrupt, sinful; later *filthi* unclean (1384); formed from English *filth* + *-y*¹.

fin *n.* Old English *fin* (about 1000); cognate with Middle Low German *vinne* fin, Middle Dutch *vinne* fin (modern Dutch *vin*), Middle High German *vinne* nail, Swedish *fena* fin, Norwegian *finne* fin, from Proto-Germanic **finnō*.

finagle *v.* 1926, American English, possibly a variant of dialectal *fainague* to cheat or renege (at cards), of unknown origin.

final *adj.* Before 1338 *finale*, borrowed through Old French *final*, and directly from Latin *finalis* of or pertaining to an end, from *finis* end. —**finality** *n.* 1541, borrowed through Middle French *finalité*, from Late Latin *finalitatem* (nominative *finalitās*), from Latin *finalis* final; for suffix see **-ITY**. The word was re-formed in English (1833 or before) from *final* + *-ity*. —**finalize** *v.* 1922, in Australian English, formed from *final* + *-ize*.

finale *n.* 1783, borrowed from Italian *finale* final, from Latin *finalis* final, from *finis* end. The word was first recorded in an English glossary of terms in music (1724) as an Italian word.

finance *n.* Probably about 1400 *fynance*, *fenaunce* settlement, retribution; borrowed from Middle French *finance* ending, settlement of a debt, from Old French *finance* wealth, revenue, extra levy, from Medieval Latin *financia* money, payment, from **finare* pay a fine or tax, from *finis* a payment in settlement, fine or tax (Latin *finis* end). The meaning of management of money, is first recorded in English in 1770. —**finances** *pl.* 1730, formed in English on the model of earlier French *finances*, *pl.* —**v.** 1827, from *finance*, *n.* The earlier obsolete meaning of ransom, appeared about 1616. —**financial** *adj.* 1769, formed from English *finance*, *n.* + *-ial*, variant of *-al*¹. —**financier** *n.* 1618, borrowed from French *financier*.

finch *n.* Probably about 1200 *finçq*; later *fynch* (about 1387–95); developed from Old English (before 700) *finç*; cognate with Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *vinke* finch (modern Dutch *vink*), Old High German *fincho* (modern German *Fink*), from Proto-Germanic **finkiz*, *finkjōn*.

find *v.* 1013 *finden*, developed from Old English *findan* come upon, alight on (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *finda* to find, Old Saxon *findan*, *fithan*, Middle and modern Dutch *vinde*, Old High German *findan* (modern German *finden*), Old Icelandic *finna*, and Gothic *finthan*, from Proto-Germanic **finthanan*. —**n.** 1825, from the verb. —**finding** *n.* About 1300, an abandoned child; later, a discovery, that which is found out.

fine¹ *adj.* of high quality. About 1250 *fin* free from blemish, refined, pure; borrowed from Old French *fin* perfected, of highest quality, from Latin *finis* end, limit, (hence) acme, peak,

height, as in *finis boni* the highest good, *finis honōrum* the highest of honors. A number of Romance languages developed this usage from Latin including Old High German *fin* (modern German *fein*), Middle and modern Dutch *fijn*, Icelandic *fin*, and Swedish *fin*. —**fine arts** (1767) —**finery** n. 1680; formed from English *fine*¹, adj. + *-ery*.

fine² n. money paid as penalty. About 1250 *fin* ending, conclusion, borrowed from Old French *fin* end, from Medieval Latin *finis*; a payment in settlement, fine, or tax (Latin *finis* end); see FINANCE.

The sense of payment as punishment for an offense is first recorded about 1399, and developed from a general meaning of payment by way of compensation, especially as a settlement ending a dispute. In English, the original meaning of conclusion, is still used in the phrase *in fine*. —**v.** About 1300 *finen* pay as a ransom or penalty; from the noun.

finesse n. 1528, fineness, delicacy; hence, subtle strategy (1530); borrowed from Middle French *finesse* fineness, subtlety, from Old French *fin* subtle, delicate, FINE¹ possibly confused with *fineness*. —**v.** 1746, to use a special stratagem for taking a trick in whist; from the noun.

finger n. Before 1121 *finger*; developed from Old English (about 825) *finger*; cognate with Old Frisian *finger*, Old Saxon *finger*, Dutch *vinger*, Old High German *finger* (modern German *Finger*), Old Icelandic *fingr* (Norwegian, Swedish and Danish *finger*), and Gothic *figgers*, from Proto-Germanic **finzraz*. —**v.** Before 1425 *fingeren* touch or point at with a finger; from the noun. The meaning of identify a criminal, is first recorded in 1930, and originates from underworld slang. —**fingering** n. About 1386 *fyngerynge* the action of using the fingers in playing a musical instrument. —**fingermark** n. (1840) —**finger nail** n. (about 1225) —**fingerprint** n. (1859); v. (1905).

finial n. 1426 *fenial* putting an end to, binding; later *finial*, adj. (1433), variant of FINAL.

finicky adj. 1825, dialectal variant, formed from *finikin*, *finicking* (1661, dainty, mincing from *finical*, 1592, too dainty or particular) + *-y*¹. *Finical* is from English *fine*¹ delicate + *-ical*, as in *cynical*, *ironical*.

finish v. Before 1375 *finischen*; borrowed from Old French *finiss-*, stem of *finir* (alteration of *fenir* to end), from Latin *finire* to limit, set bounds, end, from *finis* boundary, limit, border, end; perhaps related to *figere* to fix, fasten; for suffix see *-ISH*². The alteration of the older French *fenir* to *finir* was influenced by *fin* end, from Latin *finis* boundary, limit, end. —**n.** 1779, from the verb. —**finished** adj. (1583; from *finish*, v.)

finite adj. 1410, limited in space or time; borrowed from Latin *finītus*, past participle of *finire* to limit, set bounds, end; see FINISH.

fink n. 1903, of uncertain origin (possibly borrowed from German *Fink* a frivolous or dissolute person; or German *Fink* finch, in the sense of informer, parallel to old slang *sing* to turn informer, and *stool pigeon* an informer; or perhaps the word appeared during the Homestead Strike in 1892, in reference to

Pinks or Pinkerton operatives called in to break up the strike). —**v.** Slang. 1925, American English, from the noun.

Finnish adj. 1789–96, formed from *Finn* + *-ish*¹, and replacing *Finnic* (1668) formed from *Finn* (Old English *Finna*, pl., corresponding to Old Icelandic *Finnr*) + *-ic*.

fiord or **fjord** n. 1674, borrowing of Norwegian *fiord*, *fjord*, from Old Icelandic *fiordhr*; see FORD, and FIRTH.

fir n. Probably about 1300 *fir*; later *firr* (before 1325); *firre*, perhaps developed from Old English *furh-*, *fyrh-* (found only in *furhwudu* fir-wood), or more likely borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *fýri* fir forest, *fura* fir, Danish *fyr*); cognate with Old Saxon *furie* pine, Old High German *forha*, *foraha* pine (modern German *Föhre*), from Proto-Germanic **furHōn*, **furHjōn*.

fire n. 1122 *fir*; found in Old English (about 725) *fyr*; cognate with Old Frisian *fiur*, *fiör* fire, Old Saxon *fiur*, Dutch *vuur*, Old High German *fiur*, *fiur* (modern German *Feuer*), Old Icelandic *fýri*, *fýrr* flame, and Gothic *fōn* fire. A Middle English spelling *fier* (about 1250) is still found in modern English *fiery*, adj. The spelling *fire* is first recorded (probably about 1200), but did not become fully established until about 1600. —**v.** Probably about 1200 *furen* arouse, excite, inflame; later *firen* set a fire (before 1393); from the noun. Old English *fýrian* to supply with fire (recorded once, about 970) is not recorded in Middle English. The informal meaning of dismiss or discharge, is first recorded in 1885 in American English, from the earlier sense of throw (a person) out of a place, recorded in 1871, which is an extension of to discharge a gun, bullet, etc., originally, to apply fire to gunpowder (1530). —**firebrand** n. (probably before 1300) —**firelight** n. (about 725, in *Beowulf*) —**fireman** n. 1377, tender of a fire; 1714, person hired to put out fires. —**firewood** n. (1378)

firkin n. 1391 *ferdkyn*, small cask; apparently borrowed from Middle Dutch **vierdekijn*, **veerdelkijn*, diminutives of *vierde*, *veerde*, literally, fourth, fourth part; for suffix see *-KIN*.

firm¹ adj. fixed, stable. About 1378 *ferme*, borrowed from Old French *ferme*, from Latin *firmus* firm, stable, a dialectal development of pre-Latin **fermos*. —**v.** About 1303 *fermen* make firm, establish; borrowed through Old French *fermer*, or directly from Latin *firmāre*, from *firmus*, adj. The spelling with *i* was not established until the late 1500's, modeled on the Latin.

firm² n. business concern. 1744, name or title of a company; borrowed from German *Firma* a business or name of a business, originally, signature, from Italian *firma* signature, from *firmare* to sign, Latin *firmāre* make firm, affirm, confirm, from *firmus* firm, stable; see FIRM¹.

firmament n. arch of the sky. About 1250 *firmament*; borrowed from Latin *firmāmentum* firmament, literally, a support or strengthening, from *firmāre* make firm, strengthen, from *firmus* FIRM¹ fixed; for suffix see *-MENT*.

Latin *firmāmentum* was used in the Vulgate to translate Greek *sterēōma* of the Septuagint, with the meaning of firm or solid structure (from *sterēōin* make firm, from *sterēós* firm).

first *adj.* Probably about 1200 *firste*, found in Old English *fyrst* earliest, foremost (963); cognate with Old Frisian *ferist*, *ferost*, *ferst* first, Old Saxon *furist* first, *furisto* prince, Middle Dutch *vorste* prince (modern Dutch *vorst*), Old High German *furist* first, *furisto* prince (modern German *Fürst*), and Old Icelandic *fyrrst* first. —**adv.** Before 1121 *first*; found in Old English *fyrst* (963); from the adjective. —**n.** Before 1393 *ferste*, from the adjective. —**first-born** *adj.*, *n.* (about 1350) —**firsthand** *adj.*, *adv.* (1696) —**first-rate** *adj.*, *adv.* (1666)

firth *n.* About 1425, Scottish, from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *fiordhr*, in the dative case *fiordhi*; see FORD; FIORD).

fiscal *adj.* 1563, of or pertaining to a state treasury; borrowed from Middle French *fiscal*, from Late Latin *fiscālis* of or belonging to the state treasury, from Latin *fiscus* treasury, purse, (originally) basket made of twigs; of unknown origin. The general sense of financial, was abstracted from phrases such as *fiscal agent* (1841) and *fiscal year* (1843).

fish *n.* Probably before 1200 *fish*; earlier *fiss* (probably about 1175); developed from Old English (about 750) *fisc*; cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *fisc* fish, Middle Dutch *visc* (modern Dutch *vis*), Old High German *fisc* (modern German *Fisch*), Old Icelandic *fiskr* (Norwegian, Swedish and Danish *fisk*), and Gothic *fisks*, from Proto-Germanic **fiskaz*. —**v.** Probably about 1225 *fissen*, *fysshēn*, developed from Old English (before 899) *fiscian* to catch fish; cognate with Old Frisian *fiskia* to fish, Old Saxon and Old High German *fiskōn* (modern German *fischen*), Old Icelandic *fiska* (Swedish *fiska*, Norwegian and Danish *fiske*), and Gothic *fiskōn*, from Proto-Germanic **fiskōjanan*. —**fishy** *adj.* Probably about 1475, formed from English *fish*, *n.* + *-y*¹. The sense of suspicious, is first recorded in 1840.

fission *n.* 1841, division of a cell or organism; borrowed, perhaps by influence of earlier *fissure*, from Latin *fissio* (nominative *fissio*) a breaking up or cleaving, from *fid-*, root of *findere* to split; for suffix see *-ION*. The meaning as pertaining to atoms is first recorded in English in 1939. An early general sense of cutting into smaller parts is recorded in 1617, but does not appear again until 1865. —**v.** to split or divide. 1929; from the noun.

fissure *n.* Before 1400, borrowed from Old French *fissure*, or directly from Latin *fissūra*, from *fid-*, root of *findere* to split; for suffix see *-URE*.

fist *n.* Probably 1200 *fust*, later *fist* (probably before 1300); found in Old English (before 900) *fyft*; cognate with Old Frisian *fest* fist, Old Saxon and Old High German *füst* (modern German *Faust*), Middle Dutch *vuust* (modern Dutch *vuist*), from Proto-Germanic **fūHstiz*, earlier **funHstiz*.

fistula *n.* 1373, borrowed from Latin *fistula* pipe, ulcer, of uncertain origin; see FESTER.

fit¹ *n.* the way something fits. Before 1250 *fitte* an adversary of equal power, a match; later, the fitting of one thing to another (1823), and the way something fits (1831). The early meaning is of obscure origin, possibly derived from Old English **fitta*,

from *fitt* a conflict or struggle; the later meanings are from the verb. —**adj.** Probably about 1375 *fytt* fitting or suitable; possibly from the noun (though not in the present meaning of the adjective, which may be from **fite*, past participle of the verb *fitten* to be suitable). —**v.** Probably before 1400 *fitten* to marshal troops; later, to be suitable (probably before 1420). Early use of the verb may be derived from noun sense of an adversary or match (a meaning which itself may have existed in English longer than the record shows); the later meaning of be suitable, probably came from the adjective sense of fitting or proper, perhaps influenced by or even, in some cases borrowed from, Middle Dutch *vitten* to suit. —**fitter** *n.* (1660) —**fitting** *adj.* (1535); *n.* (1607; *ittings* fixtures or apparatus, 1864). —**fitness** *n.* (1580)

fit² *n.* sudden attack, as of anger. Before 1376 *fitte* an experience of hardship, excitement, pain, etc., probably developed from Old English *fitt* conflict, struggle, of uncertain origin, though possibly related to *fit*¹, *n.* The meaning of a sudden sharp attack, paroxysm, is first recorded in English before 1547. —**fitful** *adj.* characterized by fits; formed from English *fit*² + *-ful*. The modern sense of shifting, changing, is first recorded in 1810.

five *adj.* Before 1175 *five*, developed from Old English (about 1000) *fif*; cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *fif* five, Dutch *vijf*, all showing loss of *n*, and with Old High German *funf*, *fimf*, *funf* (modern German *funf*), Old Icelandic *fimm* (Norwegian, Danish, and Swedish *fem*), and Gothic *fimf*, from Proto-Germanic **fimfe*.

fix *v.* About 1370 *fixen* set (one's eyes or mind) on something; probably borrowed from Old French *fixer*, from *fixe*, *fix* fixed, from Latin *fixus*, past participle of *figere* to fix, fasten. Alternatively Middle English *fixen* might have developed from an adjective use in English borrowed from Latin *fixus*, past participle of *figere*, but the later date of the adjective in English (about 1395) makes this seem doubtful, unless the record of English is defective. Another word in Middle English, *fichen* to fix or fasten (about 1350), was borrowed from French *ficher*, *fichier* (ultimately from Latin *figere*), but this was gradually displaced by *fix*.

The meaning of fasten, attach, is first recorded about 1386, that of settle, assign, before 1500, which evolved into adjust, arrange (1663), and repair (1737). The sense of tamper with (a jury, etc.), is found in 1790. —**n.** 1809, American English, predicament, condition; from the verb. —**fixation** *n.* Before 1393 *fixacion* chemical process, borrowed from Medieval Latin *fixationem* (nominative *fixatio*), from *fixare* to fix; for suffix see *-ATION*. The sense of emotional attachment, is first recorded in 1910. —**fixture** *n.* 1598, act of fixing, probably alteration of Late Latin *fixūra* (from Latin *fixus*, past participle), on analogy of *mixture*; for suffix see *-URE*. The sense of something fixed or securely fastened is first recorded in 1812.

fizz *v.* 1665, move with a hiss or sputter; imitative of the sound, and perhaps related to *fizzle*. —**n.** 1812, from the verb.

fizzle *v.* About 1532, to break wind without noise, probably an alteration of obsolete *fist* (Middle English *fisten* break wind,

1440) + *-le*³. The meaning of make a hissing sound is first recorded in 1859, preceded by the sense of fail, recorded before 1847. These extended senses may be derived from noun uses. —**n.** 1598; from the verb, though the senses of the action of hissing (1842), and failure (1846) are not considered as derived from the verb.

fjord *n.* See **FIORD**.

flabbergast *v.* 1772, perhaps an arbitrary formation from *flabby* (or *flapper*) and *aghost*; not from Scottish *flabrigastit* worn out with exertion, which first appeared in the 1800's.

flabby *adj.* 1697, variant of *flappy* flap + *-y*¹. —**flab** *n.* 1923, back formation from *flabby*.

flaccid *adj.* 1620, borrowed through French *flaccide*, or directly from Latin *flaccidus* flabby, from *flaccus* flabby, of uncertain origin.

flag¹ *n.* banner. Perhaps 1481; of uncertain origin. This word is found in all modern Germanic languages (for example Danish *flag*, Norwegian *flagg*, Swedish *flagga*, Dutch *vlag*, German *Flagge*), but apparently it was first recorded in English, and that is perhaps the source of the other Germanic words. If the word is English in origin, it might be related to **FLAG**³ (compare Middle English *flakken* flutter). —**v.** 1856, in American English, to stop by waving a flag; from the noun.

flag² *n.* aquatic plant. Before 1387 *flagge* reed, rush; perhaps borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Danish *flæg* yellow iris, and if semantically related to fluttering or waving in the wind, as reeds do, then perhaps related in form to Old Icelandic *flakka* to flicker, flutter, which suggests a possible relationship with English *flag*³).

flag³ *v.* get tired, grow weak. 1545, flap about loosely or hang down; perhaps variant of *flakken*, *flacken* to flap or flutter (1393), and possibly more remotely *flakeren* to flutter or wave (before 1325); both forms probably borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *flakka* to flicker, flutter). The meaning of become limp or droop is first recorded in 1611, followed by that of become feeble or languid, lose strength (1639).

flag⁴ *n.* flagstone. 1415–16, probably borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *flaga* slab of stone). —**flagstone** *n.* (1730)

flagellate *v.* 1623, borrowed from Latin *flagellātus*, past participle of *flagellāre*, from *flagellum* whip, diminutive of *flagrum* whip, scourge; cognate with Old Icelandic *blaka* beat back and forth; for suffix see *-ATE*. *Flagellate* replaced *flagellen* (recorded before 1464), borrowed from Latin *flagellāre*. Also, probably a back formation from *flagellatō* in some uses. —**flagellation** *n.* Before 1415 *flagellacyon*; borrowed, perhaps through French *flagellation*, or directly from Latin *flagellātiōnem* (nominative *flagellātiō*), from *flagellāre*; for suffix see *-ATION*. —**flagellum** *n.* 1807, a whip (later, a long whiplike tail or part, as of certain bacteria, 1852); reborrowed from Latin *flagellum*; see **FLAIL**. The term is found earlier in Middle English *flagelle* (before 1398), but disappeared after 1500.

flagon *n.* 1459, borrowed from Middle French *flacon*, from Old French *flacon*, (earlier) *flascon*, from Late Latin *flascōnem* bottle; see **FLASK**.

flagrant *adj.* Before 1500 *flagraunt* radiant, glorious; later, flaming, burning (1513); borrowed, probably through French *flagrant*, from Latin *flagrantem* (nominative *flagrāns*) burning, present participle of *flagrāre* to burn; for suffix see **EFFULGENT**; for suffix see *-ANT*. The sense of glaringly offensive or scandalous, is first recorded in 1706.

flail *n.* Probably about 1200 *flegl*, suggesting development from Old English **flegel*, of which Late Old English (before 1100) *figel* seems to be a variant corresponding to Middle Dutch, Dutch, and Middle High German *vlegel* flail, Old High German *flegel*, and modern German *Flegel*, and was probably a borrowing of Late Latin *flagellum* winnowing tool or flail, from Latin *flagellum* whip. The word is rare before the late 1300's, then recorded as *feil*, *flail*, influenced by or reborrowed from Old French *flael*, *flaiel* a whip, from Late Latin *flagellum*. —**v.** Before 1500 *flaylen*; from the noun.

flair *n.* About 1390 *flayre* fragrance or odor; borrowed from Old French *flair* odor or scent, from *flairer* to smell, from Late Latin *flagrāre*, altered form of Latin *fragrāre* emit (a sweet) odor; see **FRAGRANT**. The Late Latin spelling with *l* developed from Latin *fragrāre* by dissimilation of *r . . r* to *l . . r*.

The meaning of keen perception, literally, power or sense of smell, is first recorded in 1881 as a reborrowing of French *flair*, from Old French, and the extended sense of special ability, natural aptitude or talent, is first recorded in American English in 1925.

flak *n.* 1938, antiaircraft gun, borrowed from German *Flak*, an acronym formed from *Fl(ieger)a(bwehr)k(anone)*, literally, airplane defense cannon (*Flieger* flier, airplane + *Abwehr* defense + *Kanone* cannon). The meaning of antiaircraft fire, is first recorded in 1940 and the sense of a barrage of criticism, is first recorded about 1963, in American English.

flake *n.* Before 1325, a particle; possibly developed from Old English **flacca*, flakes of snow, **flac-*, in *flaeor* flying; probably borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *flakna* to flake off, peel, *flak* loosened or torn piece, probably related to *flā* to skin, *FLAY*). —**v.** Before 1420 *flaken* fall in flakes, from the noun. —**flaky** *adj.* 1580, formed from English *flake*, *n.* + *-y*¹.

flamboyant *adj.* 1832, of an architectural style with flamelike curves; borrowing of French *flamboyant* flaming, wavy, present participle of *flamboyer* to flame, from Old French *flamboier*, from *flambe* **FLAME**; for suffix see *-ANT*. The sense of showy or ornate (first recorded in 1879), is an extension of brilliantly or flamingly colored (1851). —**flamboyance** *n.* 1891, from *flamboyant*, on analogy of such forms as *clairvoyant*, *clairvoyance*; for suffix see *-ANCE*.

flame *n.* About 1303 *flamme* blazing fire, later *flawme* (about 1340), and *flambe* (about 1375); borrowed through Anglo-French *flaume*, *flaumba*, Old French *flamme*, *flambe* or *flamble*, from Latin *flammula* small flame, diminutive of *flamma* flame.

—**v.** About 1303 *flammen*; later *flaumen* (1350); borrowed through Anglo-French *flaumer*, *flaumber*, from Old French *flammer*, *flamer*, *flamber*, from the noun *flamme*, *flambe*. —**flam-mable** **adj.** 1813; formed in English from Latin *flammāre* set on fire + English *-able*.

flamenco **n.** 1896, borrowed from Spanish *flamenco*, literally, FLAMINGO. Probably first applied to the Gypsy singing and dancing of Andalusia, in reference to the “provocative appearance” of the dancers.

flamingo **n.** 1565, borrowed from Portuguese *flamingo*, from Spanish *flamingo*, variant of *flamenco* (originally) Fleming, a native of Flanders, from Dutch *Vlaming*; so called from association of the bird’s coloring with the pinkish complexion of the Flemish or Dutch.

flange **n.** 1688 *flang* part that widens out, of uncertain origin; perhaps connected with Old French *flanc*; see FLANK.

flank **n.** side. Probably before 1300 *flaunke*, developed from Late Old English (before 1100) *flanc* the fleshy part of the side between the ribs and the hip; borrowed from Old French *flanc*, probably with a replacement of *fl* for *hl* from Frankish **hlanca* (compare Old High German *hlanca* loin, side). The military sense of the extreme left or right side of an army in the field, is first recorded in 1548. —**v.** 1548, to shoot on the flank or sideways; from the noun. The sense of guard, protect, or defend on the flank, is first recorded in 1596.

flannel **n.** 1300–01 *flaunneol* a kind of woolen cloth or garment, apparently variant of *flany* sackcloth (before 1400); borrowed probably from Old French *flaine* a kind of coarse wool. The traditional source of flannel is Welsh *gwlanen* woolen material, but the Welsh consonant cluster *gw* would produce *gl* as in the name *Gwladys* which became *Gladys*.

flap **n.** Probably before 1300 *flappe* a blow, stroke, slap; probably imitative of the sound of striking. The meaning of anything that hangs down, such as the flap of a coat, is first recorded in 1522; the sense of a flapping motion or noise, such as the flap of a bird’s wings, is recorded in 1774, and from this meaning evolved the sense of excitement, commotion, agitation (1916). —**v.** About 1330 *flappen* dash about, shake; later, beat or strike (about 1350); from *flappe*, **n.** —**flapjack** **n.** Before 1600; formed from English *flap*, **n.** + *Jack*, personal name used humorously.

flare **v.** About 1550, spread out (hair), of unknown origin. —**n.** bright, unsteady light. 1814, from the verb.

flash **v.** Probably before 1200 *flasken* to dash or splash, as water, etc.; later *flaschen* (before 1387); probably imitative of the sound. The meaning of give off a sudden short light or flame, is not recorded in English until 1548, but it is found in the earlier phrase *flasshen in a fire* burst into flame (probably before 1400). —**n.** 1566, burst of flame; from the verb. An earlier form, Middle English *flaske* (1306), parallels the early verb use of splash (water), but there is no record of burst of flame; rather it retained its association with water in the meaning of a rush of water. —**flashy** **adj.** 1583, splashing; later, sparkling (1609), and showy, cheaply attractive (before 1690).

flask **n.** 1355–56 *flaske* case; later *flask* cask or keg (1393); borrowed from Medieval Latin *flasco*, *flasca* container, bottle, from Late Latin *flascō*, *flascōnem* bottle, from a Germanic source (compare Old English *flasce*, *flaxe* bottle, Middle Dutch *flasce*, modern Dutch *fles*, Old High German *flaska*, modern German *Flasche*, and Old Icelandic *flaska*). The meaning of a glass or metal bottle, especially one with a narrow neck, is first recorded in 1693.

flat¹ **adj.** level, spread out. Probably about 1300, borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *flatr* flat; cognate with Old Saxon *flat* flat or shallow, Old High German *flaz* even or flat). —**n.** 1167, in the place name *Kirkeflat*; later, level ground (probably about 1390); from the adjective. The musical sense of a half note below natural pitch, is first recorded in 1594. —**flatboat** **n.** (1660) —**flatfooted** **adj.** (1601) —**flatten** **v.** 1375 *flatten* to prostrate oneself; later, to fall flat (before 1400); replaced by the modern English form *flatten* make flat (1630), re-formed from English *flat*, **adj.** + *-en*¹.

flat² **n.** 1801, Scottish, floor or story of a house, alteration of Middle English *flet* room or hall (recorded before 1200), found in Old English *flet* a dwelling, floor, ground (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Saxon *flet* (genitive *fletties*) room, house, Old High German *flezzi* floor in a house, and Old Icelandic *flatr* FLAT¹. The meaning of a set of rooms or residence on one floor, is first recorded in 1824.

flatter **v.** Probably before 1200 *flaten* praise insincerely; later *flatteren* (probably about 1225); borrowed from Old French *flater* to flatter, (originally, stroke with the hand, caress), from Frankish **flat* level, flat compare Old High German *flaz* FLAT¹. —**flatterer** **n.** About 1350, formed from Middle English *flatteren* + *-er*¹. An earlier form *flatour* (1340) was borrowed from Old French *fleteor*, *flatour*. —**flattery** **n.** About 1330 *flaterie*, borrowed from Old French *flaterie*, from *flater* to flatter; for suffix see *-ERY*.

flatulent **adj.** 1599, borrowed from Middle French *flatulent*, an irregular formation from Latin *flātus* (genitive *flātūs*) a blowing, a breaking wind, from *flāre* to BLOW² puff. The French form was probably patterned on words like *virulent* and *succulent*, also borrowed from Latin. —**flatulence** **n.** 1711, vanity, pomposity (figurative sense), from *flatulent*, on the analogy of such words as *eminent*, *eminence*; for suffix see *-ENCE*.

flaunt **v.** 1566, to display oneself in flashy clothes; of unknown origin. The transitive use of display ostentatiously, show off, is first recorded in 1827. The form of the word points to a French origin, but no likely French source is evident.

flautist **n.** 1860, borrowed from Italian *flautista*, from *flauto* flute, from Old Provençal *flaüt*; see FLUTE; for suffix see *-IST*.

flavor **n.** Probably about 1380 *flavor* aroma, odor (usually pleasing); alteration (influenced by *savor*) of a borrowing from Old French *flaour*, *flaor*, *flaur* smell, odor, from Vulgar Latin *flātor* odor (literally, that which blows), from Latin *flātor* blower, from *flāre* to BLOW² puff. The sense of taste, savor, is first recorded in 1697. However, an earlier use (1671) suggests this sense even though seemingly contrasted with “taste.” —**v.**

1730–36, to give flavor to, season, from the noun. —**flavoring** *n.* 1845, from *flavor*, *v.* An earlier form existed in Middle English: 1422 *flauryng* perfume; borrowed from Middle French *flaur*.

flaw¹ *n.* fault, defect. Before 1325 *flay* a flake; later *flaw* a flake (probably before 1400), and *flawe* fragment (probably before 1425); probably borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Swedish *flaga* flake, Old Icelandic *flaga* slab of stone, Icelandic and *flā* to skin, *FLAY*). The sense of a defect, fault, is first recorded in 1586, in reference to character, reasoning, etc., and later in reference to material things (1604); probably extended from the original meaning of a fragment. —**v.** 1423, implied in *flaved*, *flawed*, probably meaning “chipped”; past participle of **flauen* to chip or flake.

flaw² *n.* gust. 1513, probably borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Swedish *flaga* gust of wind; cognate with Middle Low German *vlage* gust, assault, Middle Dutch *vlāghe*, modern Dutch *vlaag* gust).

flax *n.* Before 1325 *flax* flax fibers; earlier in the compound *flexland* field for flax (1207); developed from Old English *flex* cloth made of flax, linen (before 899); cognate with Old Frisian *flax*, Middle Dutch, modern Dutch, and Middle Low German *vlax*, Old High German *flahs* (modern German *Flachs*), from Proto-Germanic **flaHsan*. —**flaxen** *adj.* About 1450 *flaxen*, *flexon*; (earlier in a surname *Flaxenmehed* 1273); formed from English *flax* + *-en*².

flay *v.* Probably about 1300 *fleyen*, earlier *flen* (probably about 1225) and *flan* (probably before 1200); developed from Old English (before 800) *flēan*; cognate with Old High German *flahan* to skin, Middle Dutch *vlaen*, Old Icelandic *flā* to skin, from Proto-Germanic **flaHanan*. The meaning of scold or criticize severely, is found in Middle English before 1333. The spelling *flay* appeared in the late 1300's but was not established until the mid-1800's.

flea *n.* Before 1300 *flei*, developed from Old English (about 700) *flēah*; cognate with Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *vlō* flea (modern Dutch *vlo*), Old High German *flōh* (modern German *Floh*), Old Icelandic *flō*; from Proto-Germanic **flauH-*. The spelling *flea* was not established until after 1550.

fleck *v.* About 1378, implied in the past participial form *flekke* spotted; probably borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *flekka* to spot). The verb form in Middle English may be with *-ed*, assuming the form used with nouns to create such formations as *long-legged*, where there is obviously no verb form as its base. —**n.** 1598, spot, blemish, freckle; perhaps from the verb in English; or borrowed from Middle Dutch *vlecke* spot; corresponding to Middle Low German *vlecke* spot, blot, Dutch *vlek*, Old High German *flech*, *flechho* (modern German *Fleck* spot, stain, *flecken* to spot, stain), and Old Icelandic *flekk* spot, from Proto-Germanic **flek-*.

flection *n.* 1603 *flexion* change, modification; borrowed from Latin *flexiōnem* (nominative *flexiō*) a bending or turning, from *flex-*, past participle stem of *flectere* to bend; for suffix see *-ION*.

The sense of a bending or a bend, curve, or joint appeared in 1607. In the late 1700's the spelling was altered to *flection*, by influence of *inflection* and on analogy with words such as *direction*, spelling retained in American English.

fledgling *n.* 1846, young bird; formed from *fledge* + *-ling*. The sense of an inexperienced person, is first recorded in 1856. —**fledge** *v.* acquire feathers. 1566, from Middle English *flegge* winged, ready to fly (probably before 1300); developed from Old English *-flyge*, as in *unflyge* unfledged; cognate with Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *vlugge* ready to fly, quick (modern Dutch *vlug* quick), Old High German *flucki* (modern German *flügge* ready to fly, from Middle Low German), from Proto-Germanic **fluzja-*. For the development of the English spelling see *EDGE*.

flee *v.* Probably before 1200 *flien*, *fleien*, developed from Old English (about 825) *flēon* take flight, run away; cognate with Old Frisian *fliā* to flee, Old Saxon *flīohan*, Middle Dutch *vliēn* (later Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *vlieden*), Old High German *flīohan* (modern German *fliehen*), Old Icelandic *flýja*, and Gothic *thliuhan*, from Proto-Germanic **fleuHanan*; probably related to Old English *flēogan* to FLY move through the air.

The past tense and past participle *fled* became established in the 1400's after a weak past tense *fledde* and past participle *fled* or *fledd* developed (about 1250, by influence of Scandinavian past-tense forms such as Swedish *flydde* and Danish *flyede*, corresponding to Old Icelandic past tense *flýdha*) displacing the Old English forms of the strong verb *flēon* with its past tense *flēah*, and past participle *flogen*.

fleece *n.* About 1380 *flees*, developed from Old English (before 1000) *flēos*, *flies*, *flȳs*; cognate with Middle Low German *vlūs* fleece, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *vlies*, Middle High German *vlūs* (modern German *Vlies* fleece, *Flaus*, *Flausch* thick woolen material or coat). The German forms with *v-* show the popular etymological association of the word with Latin *vellus* fleece. —**v.** 1537, shear (the wool) from a sheep; (hence, figuratively) to obtain by unfair means; from the noun.

fleet¹ *n.* Before 1147 *flete*, developed from Old English (before 1000) *flēot* ship, floating vessel, from *flēotan* to float; cognate with Old Frisian *fliāta* to float, Old Saxon *flīotan*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *vlieten* to flow, Old High German *flīozan* to flow, float (modern German *fließen* to flow), Old Icelandic *fljóta* to flow, float; related to Old English *flōwan* to FLOW; see also *FLOAT*. The meaning of a naval force is recorded in Middle English before 1200; later a transferred sense, originally applied to a troop of armed men, appeared before 1400, establishing a usage that led to such applications as *a fleet of trucks*.

fleet² *adj.* swift, rapid. Before 1529 *flete*, probably borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *fljót* swift, related to *fljóta* to flow, float; see *FLEET*¹). —**fleeting** *adj.* 1563, passing swiftly, soon gone; from *fleet*, *v.* to drift, probably before 1200, later, to fly, move swiftly (probably about 1200); developed from Old English *flēotan* to float, swim (about 725, in *Beowulf*), corresponding to Old Frisian *flīāta* to flow, Old

Saxon *flotan*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *vlieten*, Old High German *fliozan* to float, flow (modern German *fließen* to flow), Old Icelandic *fljóta* (Swedish *flyta*, Norwegian *flyte*, *flöta*, Danish *flyde*); compare FLEET¹.

Fleming *n.* Probably before 1150 *flameng*; also found in Old English *Flæming*; borrowed from Old Frisian *Fleming*.

Flemish *adj.* Before 1325 *flemmysshe*, probably borrowed from Old Frisian *Flemsche*; also possibly formed from earlier English *Flem(ing)* + *-ish*¹. —**n.** Before 1325, possibly from the adjective.

flesh *n.* Probably before 1200 *flesch*, developed from Old English (before 800) *flæsc*; cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *flesk* flesh, Middle Low German *vles*, Dutch *vlees*, and Old High German *fleisk* (modern German *Fleisch*).

flexible *adj.* About 1412; borrowed from Middle French *flexible*, or directly from Latin *flexibilis* that may be bent, pliant, from *flexus*, past participle of *flectere* to bend; of uncertain origin; for suffix see *-IBLE*. —**flex** *v.* Before 1521, possibly a back formation from *flexible*, after Latin *flex-*, past participle stem of *flectere*.

flick *n.* 1591 *flicke*; probably imitative of the sound; but it is found in the earlier phrase *not worth a flykke* worthless, trivial (about 1445). —**v.** 1816, from the noun.

flicker¹ *v.* shine with a wavering light. Probably before 1200 *flikeren* behave frivolously, trifle; later *flekeren* waver, vacillate (about 1300); developed from Old English (about 1000) *flīcorian* to flutter, flap so as to beat quickly and lightly; cognate with Low German *flickern* and modern Dutch *flikkeren*, and perhaps related to Old English *flacor* flying, fluttering; cognate with Middle Dutch *flackeren* to flap, flutter, Middle High German *vlackern* to flicker (modern German *flackern*), and Old Icelandic *flakka* to flicker, *flakka* to flutter.

The sense of shine with an unsteady light (1605) did not come into common use until the 1800's. —**n.** 1857, a flickering, from the verb.

flicker² *n.* woodpecker of North America. 1808, American English, possibly from the habit of flitting to and fro among trees, especially while feeding, thus showing briefly its white spots of plumage on the wings and suggesting wavering light.

flight¹ *n.* act or manner of flying. Before 1225 *flīht*, developed from Old English (before 900) *flyht* a flying, flight, from Proto-Germanic **fluhtiz*; related to Old English *flēogan* to FLY². The spelling *flight* is first recorded about 1385; for the development of the modern spelling; see FIGHT. —**flighty** *adj.* 1552, swift; later, fickle or frivolous (1768–74); formed from English *flight* + *-y*¹.

flight² *n.* act of fleeing. Probably before 1200 *fluht*; later *flīht* (about 1200), not found in Old English, but suggested by corresponding forms in Old Frisian *flecht* act of fleeing, Old Saxon *fluht*, Dutch *vlucht*, Old High German *fluht* (modern German *Flucht*), Old Icelandic *flōtti*, and Gothic *thlauhs*; from the Germanic source of Old English *flēon* to FLEE; for spelling see FIGHT.

flimsy *adj.* 1702, of uncertain origin (perhaps a formation by metathesis of *i* and *l*, suggested by *film* gauzy covering, with the ending patterned on *clumsy*, *lousy*, *tricksy*, and similar adjectives).

flinch *v.* 1579, draw back, turn aside; probably borrowed from Old French *flenchir*, *flainchir* to bend, from Frankish **hlankejan*; compare (Middle) High German *lenken* to bend, turn; see LANK. The meaning of draw back from pain, wince, is first recorded before 1677.

fling *v.* Probably before 1300 *flingen* to dash, rush; also to be swung, thrown, or shot forth; probably borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *flengja* to beat, thrash, fling). —**n.** 1550, especially in *have a fling* at an attempt or attack on; from the verb; and in *make a flying start* to do something (1325).

flint *n.* 1157–63, developed from Old English (about 700) *flint* flint or rock; cognate with Old High German *flins* flint, rock, Middle Dutch *vlint*, Old Icelandic *fletta* (in compounds) slate, slab, and Swedish *flinta* stone splinter; related to SPLIT and SPLINTER. —**flintstone** *n.* (before 1325)

flip¹ *v.* 1529, as an element in *flip-flop*; possibly imitative of the sound, but also probably imitative of the form *fillip* to toss (1450) and possibly even a contraction of it; compare FILLIP. The meaning of get excited about something, is first recorded in 1950. —**n.** 1692, quick blow or stroke, from the verb, and possibly modeled after *flip*, *v.*

flip² *n.* a hot drink usually containing beer and sugar. 1695, in the sense of a whipped-up mixture, noun use of *flip*¹, *v.*

flip³ *adj.* shortened form of FLIPPANT.

flippant *adj.* 1605, fluent or talkative; perhaps formed from *flip*¹ move nimbly + *-ant*, on analogy of adjectives such as *rampant*. The sense of disrespectful or impertinent, is first recorded in 1677.

flirt *v.* 1553, to turn up one's nose, sneer at; later, to rap or flick, as with the fingers (1563–87); of uncertain origin (possibly related to East Frisian *flirt* a flick or light blow, and *flirtje* a giddy girl). The meaning of play at courtship (1777), presumably evolved from the earlier noun sense. —**n.** 1549, stroke of wit, sneer or jibe; probably from the verb, though first recorded slightly later than the noun. The meaning of a person who plays at courtship, is first recorded before 1732, but is implied in *flirtation* (1718).

flit *v.* Before 1200 *flutten* convey, move, take; later *flytten* change, vary (1369); and *fluttynge* passing, transitory (probably before 1387); of uncertain origin, perhaps borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *flytja* carry away or out, help). —**n.** 1835, from the verb; earlier *flitting*, *n.*, act of changing (before 1400).

float *v.* Probably before 1200 *floten*, developed from Late Old English *flotan* (1031); cognate with Middle Dutch *vlōten* to float, and Old Icelandic *flota*, from Proto-Germanic **flutō-janan*. Also, influenced by Old French *floter* (modern French

flotter), of Frankish origin. —**n.** Before 1121 *flote* state of floating, later, fleet of ships (about 1300); developed from a fusion of Old English nouns: *flot* body of water, and *flota* ship or fleet; both forms cognate with Old High German *flōz* fleet, raft, stream (modern German *Floss* raft), Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *vloete* stream, raft (modern Dutch *vlot* raft), and Old Icelandic *floti* stream, fleet; from the same Germanic source as Old English *flēotan* to flow, float. The sense of a raft or other objects that float, is first recorded in 1322.

flock¹ **n.** group. Probably before 1200 *floc*, developed from Old English *floc* group of persons (894); cognate with Middle Low German *vlocke* crowd, flock (of sheep), and Old Icelandic *flokk* crowd, troop, of unknown origin. —**v.** About 1300 *flocken* gather in a group or crowd, congregate; from the noun.

flock² **n.** tuft of wool. About 1250 *flockes*, probably borrowed from Old French *floc*, from Latin *flocus* (pre-Latin **flōcos*). Alternatively, *flock*² may be an inherited word, cognate with Middle Dutch and Middle Low German *vlocke* (modern Dutch *vlok*), Old High German *floccho* down, flock (modern German *Flocke*).

floe **n.** 1817, probably borrowed from Norwegian *flo* layer, slab, from Old Icelandic *flō* layer, related to *flak* loosened or torn piece; see *FLAKE*.

flog **v.** 1676, a slang term, perhaps originally school slang and therefore a shortened and altered form of Latin *flagellare* *FLAGELLATE*, from student exposure to that language.

flood **n.** 1125 *flod* inundation; developed from Old English *flōd* a flowing of water, flood (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *flōd* flood, Middle Dutch *vloet* (modern Dutch *vloed*), Old High German *fluot* (modern German *Flut*), Old Icelandic *flōdh*, and Gothic *flōdus*, from Proto-Germanic **flōdus*. For development of the vowel see *BLOOD*. —**v.** 1663, from the noun.

floor **n.** Before 1200 *flor*, developed from Old English *flōr* floor (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *vloer* floor, Middle Low German *vlōr* floor-board, meadow, Old High German *vlur* field, plain (modern German *Flur*), Old Icelandic *flōrr* floor of a cow stall, from Proto-Germanic **flōruz*. —**v.** Probably 1440 *flooren* furnish with a floor; earlier, implied in *florynge* act of making a floor (1387); from the noun. The meaning of puzzle or confound, is first recorded in 1830. The spelling *floor*, *floore* is not recorded before about 1390, and did not become fully established until the mid-1600's.

flop **v.** 1602, probably variant of *FLAP*, to indicate a duller or heavier sound. The sense of fall or drop down heavily, is first recorded in 1836, and collapse or fail, in 1919. —**n.** 1823, the action of flopping; from the verb. The figurative use of a failure, collapse, breakdown, appeared in 1893.

flora **n.** 1777, New Latin *flora*, from Latin *Flōra* name of a Roman goddess of flowers, from *flōs* (genitive *flōris*) flower; see *BLOOM*. The word was popularized in the natural sciences after Linnaeus used it in the title of his work *Flora Suecica* Swedish Flora (1745). —**floral** **adj.** 1753, borrowed, by influ-

ence of earlier French *floral*, from Latin *flōrālis* of flora or flowers, from *Flōra* a Roman goddess.

florescence **n.** 1793, borrowed from New Latin *florescentia*, from Latin *flōrescentem* (nominative *flōrescēns*) blooming, present participle of *flōrescere*, form expressing the beginning of the action of *flōrēre* to blossom, *FLOURISH*; for suffix see *-ENCE*.

floret **n.** Probably before 1400 *flourette*, borrowed from Old French *florete*, diminutive of *flor* flower; later, *floret* (1671), reformed in English from Latin *flōris* (genitive of *flōs* flower) + English *-et*.

florid **adj.** 1642, bright or blooming; borrowed through French *floride* flourishing, and directly from Latin *flōridus* flowery, blooming, from *flōs* (genitive *flōris*) flower; see *BLOOM*. The meaning of ruddy, is first recorded in 1650.

florin **n.** About 1303 *florēn* Florentine coin marked with a lily (literally, flower); borrowed from Old French *florin*, and from Italian *fiorino*, from *fiore* flower, from Latin *flōrem* (nominative *flōs*) flower; see *BLOOM*.

florist **n.** 1623, formed in English from *flor-*, stem of Latin genitive *flōris* (nominative *flōs* flower).

floss **n.** 1759, found in *floss-silk* and *floss-silk*, probably a partial translation of French *soie floche*, from Old French *soye floche* (soye silk + *floche* tuft of wool, from *floc* *FLOCK*²). An earlier form exists in the surname *Flosmonger* (1314 *Floss* may be an earlier borrowing from a Dutch, Scandinavian, or Low German word cognate with English *FLEECE*: compare Dutch *vlos* floss, Danish *flos*, Middle Low German *vlūs* fleece).

flotation **n.** 1806 *flotation*, from *float*, *v.* + *-ation*. The current spelling appeared about 1850, probably by influence of French *flottaison* (see *FLOTSAM*), which was used in technical terms translated into English, such as *ligne de flottaison* line of flotation.

flotilla **n.** 1711, borrowing of Spanish *flotilla*, diminutive of *flota* fleet, from *flotar* to float, from Germanic forms of *float*, *n.* and *v.* (Dutch *vlot* raft, and *vloeten* float; Old High German *floz* raft, and *flozzan* float; Old Icelandic *floti* raft, fleet, *flota* float, launch; see *FLOAT*).

flotsam **n.** 1607 *flotsen*, found in earlier Anglo-French *floteson*, in French and Middle French *flottaison* a floating, from Old French *floter* to float + *-aison*, from Latin *-ātiō(em)*; formed from Germanic forms of *float*, *n.* and *v.* (see *FLOTILLA*). The spelling *flotsam* is first recorded in 1853, by influence of *jetsam*.

flounce¹ **v.** fling the body 1542, to plunge, perhaps borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare dialectal Swedish *flunsa* to plunge, fall with a splash, Norwegian *flunsa* to hurry). The spelling *flounce* was possibly influenced by *bounce*, especially in its earliest uses. *Flounce* is recorded in the sense of fling oneself about showing anger or impatience in 1761. —**n.** 1583, from the verb.

flounce² **n.** wide ruffle. 1713, alteration (probably influenced by *flounce*¹) of earlier *frounce* pleat, wrinkle, fold (about 1378); borrowed from Old French *frounce* fold, gather, wrinkle, from

Frankish **hrunkja* wrinkle (with replacement of Frankish *hr-* by *fr-*; also compare Old High German *runza*, *runzala* wrinkle, modern German *Runzel*, and Old Icelandic *hrukka*), of unknown origin. —**v.** 1672, to trim, curl, later, to trim or adorn with flounces (1611).

flounder¹ *v.* struggle awkwardly. 1592, to stumble; of uncertain origin, perhaps an alteration of FOUNDER, influenced by Dutch *flodderen* to flop about. —**n.** 1867, act of floundering; from the verb.

flounder² *n.* a kind of flatfish. 1304–05 *flundr*; later *flounder* (1450); borrowed through Anglo-French *floundre*, Old Norman French *flondre*, apparently from a Scandinavian source (compare Swedish and Norwegian *flundra* flounder, Old Icelandic *flydhra*); related to Middle Low German *flundere*, *vlundere* flounder (modern German *Flunder*).

flour *n.* Probably about 1225 *flur*, a special use of *flur* flower, in the sense of flower being the finest part of meal (compare *flour* of *huete*, literally, flower of wheat, 1340, and French *fleur de farine* fine wheaten flour). The spelling *flower* for this word was used as late as 1809, and even Johnson's *Dictionary* (1755) does not recognize the spelling *flour*, but after about 1830 the modern spelling *flour* is the accepted form.

flourish *v.* Probably before 1300 *florisen* to blossom, flower; later *florishen* (about 1303), and *flourishen* (probably about 1350); borrowed from Old French *floriss-*, stem of *florir*, from Vulgar Latin **flōrīre*, corresponding to Latin *flōrēre* to bloom, blossom, flower, flourish, from *flōs* (genitive *flōris*) a flower; for suffix see -ISH². —**n.** Before 1500, a blossom; later, bloom, vigor, prosperity (1597); gradually developing from Middle English *flourishing*. —**n.** the season of blooming; decoration, embellishment (about 1303).

flout *v.* 1551, apparently a special use of *flowten* to play the flute (about 1410); see FLUTE, *v.* Similar developments of sense are found in the verbs *hoot* and *whistle*.

flow *v.* Old English *flōwan* (before 830; earlier *flēow* past tense, probably about 750); cognate with Middle Low German *vlōien* to flow, Middle Dutch *vloien* (modern Dutch *vloeijen*), Old High German *flouwen* to wash, rinse, and Old Icelandic *flāa* to flow, flood.

flower *n.* Probably before 1200 *flur* blossom of a plant; borrowed from Old French *flur*, *flour*, *flor*, from Latin *flōrem* (nominative *flōs*) flower; see FLOUR. The modern spelling *flower* began to appear probably before 1349 in the form *flowre*, and became so deeply entrenched that the spelling *flour* for milled grain, was not completely accepted as a differentiated form until the 1830's; see BOWER for shift in spelling. —**v.** Probably before 1200 *fluren* to blossom, flourish, probably from Middle English *flur*, *n.*, flower. —**flowery** *adj.* 1369 *floury*, formed from Middle English *flour*, *flur* flower + -y¹.

flu *n.* 1839 *flue*, a shortening of INFLUENZA. The spelling *flu* is first recorded in 1893.

flub *v.* 1924, American English. The origin is unknown but it may have been influenced by earlier verbs with similar mean-

ings, such as *fluff* and *flop*, and possibly in some as yet undetected way with *flubdub* bombastic language (1888), though the semantic barrier is hard to overcome. —**n.** 1952, from the verb.

fluctuate *v.* 1634, possibly developed from earlier English *fluctuate*, *adj.*, wavering; borrowed from Latin *fluctuātum*, past participle of *fluctuāre*, from *fluctus* (genitive *fluctūs*) wave, from past participle of *fluere* to flow; see FLUENT. Also *fluctuate* may be a back formation from *fluctuation*. —**fluctuation** *n.* About 1450, borrowed through Middle French *fluctuation*, or directly from Latin *fluctuātiōnem* (nominative *fluctuātiō*), from *fluctuāre*; for suffix see -ATION.

flue *n.* 1582 *flue*; of uncertain origin; possibly with the more generalized meaning of passage or channel connecting it with earlier use, meaning a mouthpiece of a hunting horn (1410), suggesting comparison with Middle English *flouen*, *v.*, flow, blow steadily (recorded before 1150, and found in Old English *flōwan*), and with Old French *fluie* stream.

fluent *adj.* 1589, borrowed from Latin *fluentem* (nominative *fluens*), present participle of *fluere* to flow; for suffix see -ENT. —**fluency** *n.* 1623, abundance; later, a smooth and easy flow (1636); possibly borrowed from Late Latin *fluentia* flowing, flow, from Latin *fluentem*, present participle of *fluere* to flow; or formed from English *fluent* + -cy, perhaps in part, suggested by, and replacing, earlier English *fluence* fluency (1607).

fluff *n.* 1790, apparently a variant of *floow*, *flue* woolly substance, down, nap (1589); borrowed perhaps through Flemish *vluwe*, from French *velu* shaggy, hairy, from Latin *vellus* fleece, or perhaps through Vulgar Latin **villūtus*, from Latin *villus* tuft of hair; see VELVET. —**v.** 1872, move or settle down like fluff, from the noun. The slang meaning of make a mistake in speaking or performing, is first recorded in theater slang (1884).

fluid *adj.* Probably before 1425 *fluide*, borrowed possibly through Middle French *fluide*, and directly from Latin *fluidus* fluid, flowing, from *fluere* to flow; see FLUENT. —**n.** 1661, from the adjective. —**fluidity** *n.* 1603, borrowed from French *fluidité*, from *fluide* + -ité -ity, or perhaps formed from English *fluid* + -ity.

fluke¹ *n.* flat end of each arm of an anchor. 1561, origin uncertain (perhaps a special use of *fluke³* fish, because of the resemblance of the anchor's shape to the flat shape of the fish). *Fluke*, meaning a whale's flattened tail, is first recorded in 1725.

fluke² *n.* lucky chance. 1857, lucky shot in billiards; of uncertain origin (possibly from English dialect *fluke* a guess, though this meaning is not recorded before 1876).

fluke³ *n.* flatfish. Probably before 1400, developed from Old English (before 700) *flōc* flatfish; cognate with Old Icelandic *flōki* flatfish, Old Saxon *flaka* sole of foot, Old High German *flah* smooth (modern German *flach*); see PLEASE.

flume *n.* Probably before 1200 *flum* stream of water, river; borrowed from Old French *flum*, from Latin *flūmen* river, from *fluere* to flow; see FLUENT.

flunk *v.* 1823, college slang in American English, to back out, give up, fail; origin unknown (traditionally considered to be an alteration of *funk*, in British university slang, to be frightened, shrink from, evade).

flunky or **flunkey** *n.* 1782, footman, liveried servant, in Scottish dialect; of uncertain origin (traditionally considered a possible alteration of *flanker* person positioned at either flank, but outside of military use this term is not recorded before 1827). Originally a Scottish term *flunky* assumed the meaning of a flatterer or toady, in 1855.

fluorescence *n.* 1852, formed from English *fluor* colored mineral which exhibits a glowing light in ultraviolet light + *-escence*. — **fluorescent** *adj.* 1853, formed from English *fluor* + *-escent*.

fluoride *n.* 1826, formed from English *fluor(ine)* chemical element + *-ide*. — **fluoridate** *v.* 1949, back formation from *fluoridation*. — **fluoridation** *n.* 1949, the addition of fluoride to drinking water; formed from English *fluoride* + *-ation*. An earlier meaning of process by which a mineral absorbs fluorine, is first recorded in 1904.

fluorine *n.* 1813, formed from English *fluor* mineral containing fluorine (New Latin *fluor*, a term applied by earlier scientists to several minerals, from Latin *fluor* a flowing, flow, from *fluere* to flow; see **FLUENT**) + English *-ine*².

flurry *n.* 1686, in American English, sudden light fall of snow accompanied by wind; probably formed from English *flurr* to scatter, fly with whirling noise (1627) + *-y*³, perhaps from an earlier verb *flouren* to sprinkle, as with flour, sugar, or spices (before 1399), which may be the source of *flurr*. The sense of a sudden commotion, is first recorded in 1710. — **v.** Before 1757, agitate or fluster; from the noun. The sense of shower down, as snow, is first recorded in 1883, in American English.

flush¹ *v.* to spurt. 1548, rush out, flow copiously; probably related to **FLUSH**³ to fly up suddenly, through the shared notion of sudden movement. The meaning of cause to rush or flow so as to redden the face, is first recorded in 1667. — **n.** 1529, rush of water, possibly from the verb or from earlier *flush*, also spelled *flusche* (1311), which explains the date.

flush² *adj.* even, level. About 1550, perfect or faultless; later, plentiful, abundantly full or supplied (1603); perhaps an extended use of **FLUSH**¹ (flow copiously). The meaning of even, level, in the same plane, is first recorded in 1791, perhaps originally applied to a river running full, and therefore level with its banks.

flush³ *v.* fly up suddenly. About 1250 *flisen*, *flusen*; later *flusshen* (about 1399); perhaps related to *flash* and its variant *flushe* (see **FLUSH**¹ and **FLASH**) showing a connection with Dutch *vlacke* and the source of *fl-*.

flush⁴ *n.* hand of cards all of one suit. Before 1529, perhaps borrowed from Middle French *flus*, found also in Old French *flux* a flowing, as a run of cards, learned borrowing from Latin *fluxus* **FLUX**.

fluster *v.* 1604, to excite with drink, earlier, implied in *flöstryng* agitation or excitement; probably borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Icelandic *flaustur* haste, hurry). — **n.** 1710, from the verb.

flute *n.* Before 1325 *floute* the musical instrument; earlier, implied in *flouter* a flutist (1225); borrowed from Old French *flaute*, *fleüte*, from Old Provençal *flaut*, of uncertain origin.

The meaning of a channel as one of several on the side of a column, is first recorded in 1660. — **fluted** *adj.* 1611, from *flute*, *n.* + *-ed*². — **flutist** *n.* 1603, probably borrowed from French *flûtiste* and replacing earlier English *flouter* (1225).

flutter *v.* About 1300 *floter* be tossed by waves; later, fluctuate, shift (about 1380); developed from Old English (before 1000) *floterian* float to and fro, be tossed by waves, a frequentative form of *flotan* to float. — **n.** 1641, a fluttering, from the verb.

flux *n.* About 1350 *flīx* excessive flow (of blood); later *flux* (about 1378); borrowed through Old French *flux*, or directly from Latin *flūxus* (genitive *flūxūs*), from past participle of *fluere* to flow; see **FLUENT**. The meaning of continuous succession of changes, is first recorded in 1625. — **v.** Probably before 1425 *fluxen* to flow; from the noun.

fly¹ *n.* insect. Probably before 1200 *flehe*; later *flie*, *flye* (about 1300); developed from Old English (before 800) *flēge*, *flyge*; cognate with Old Saxon *fliega* fly, Middle Dutch *vlieghe* (modern Dutch *vlieg*), Middle Low German *vlēge*, Old High German *flioga* (modern German *Fliege*), from Proto-Germanic **flewz(j)ōn*, and Old Icelandic *fluga*. — **housefly** *n.* (before 1425)

fly² *v.* move through air with wings. Before 1175 *flyen*, *fleon*; developed from Old English *flēogan* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *fliāga* to fly, Old Saxon *fliogan*, Middle Dutch *vlieghe* (modern Dutch *vliegen*), Old High German *fliogan* (modern German *fliegen*), Old Icelandic *fljúga*, from Proto-Germanic **flewzanan*. — **n.** Before 1450 *flie* flight, flying; developed from Old English *flyge*, from *flēogan*, *v.* The meaning of something attached by the edge, with the sense of flapping as a wing does, is recorded in the use of a tent flap or fly (1810), and the covering for buttons that close an opening on a garment (1844). — **flier** or **flyer** *n.* 1440, thing that flies, earlier *Flier* (1289, as a surname); formed from Middle English *flyen* + *-er*⁴. The meaning of aviator, is first recorded in 1934, but probably developed earlier during World War I. — **flying saucer** unidentified flying object (1947).

foal *n.* Before 1200 *fole*; developed from Old English (about 950) *fola*; cognate with Old Frisian *fola* foal, Old Saxon *folo*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *veulen*, Old High German *folo* (modern German *Fohlen*, *Füllen*), Old Icelandic *foli*, and Gothic *fula*, from Proto-Germanic **fulōn*. — **v.** to give birth to a foal. Before 1387 *folen*, from the noun.

foam *n.* About 1275 *fom* something unstable; later, saliva (1290), and froth on the seashore (before 1393); developed from Old English (before 700) *fām* foam, froth; cognate with Old High German *feim* foam, from Proto-Germanic **faima-*.

—**v.** Probably about 1375 (in northern dialect) *famen* to flow over, flood; later *fomen* to froth at the mouth, slaver (about 1395; developed from Old English *fāmgian* to foam (about 725). —**foamy** adj. About 1385 *fomy*, developed from Old English (before 1000) *fāmig*, from *fām* foam; for suffix see -Y¹.

fob¹ *n.* piece of leather, ribbon, etc., that hangs from a pocket, and is usually attached to a watch. 1653, small pocket for valuables; of uncertain origin (compare Low German *Fobke* little pocket and dialectal German *Fuppe* pocket).

fob² *v.* Probably about 1375 *fobben* cheat or trick, impose upon; from the noun *fobbe* cheat, trickster (also about 1375), or perhaps related to FOP, *n.* The phrase *fob off* to put off deceitfully, try to satisfy with an excuse or pretense, is first recorded in 1597.

focus *n.* 1644, point at which sound waves meet; New Latin *focus* central point, from Latin *focus* hearth, fireplace. The New Latin use was in reference to the burning point of a lens (at which heat rays meet). The transferred meaning of center of activity or energy, is first recorded in 1796. —**v.** 1775, bring into focus; from the noun. —**focal** adj. 1693, formed from English *focus*, *n.* + -al¹.

fodder *n.* Probably before 1200 *fodder*, developed from Old English (about 1000) *fōdor*, related to *fōda* FOOD. Compare UDDER.

foe *n.* Probably before 1200 *fo*, developed from Old English (about 1000) *gefā* adversary in deadly feud, from *fāh*, *fā* at feud, hostile (about 725, in *Beowulf*), from Proto-Germanic **faiHaz*; cognate with Old High German *fēhan* to hate, *gifēh* hostile, and Gothic *bifaihō* envy; see FEUD¹ quarrel.

fog *n.* 1544, thick mist; probably borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Danish *fog* spray or shower, especially in *sne-fog* snowstorm, Old Icelandic *fok* snow flurry, *ffūk* snowstorm, *ffūka* be driven by the wind). —**v.** 1599, envelop with or as with fog; from the noun. —**foggy** adj. 1544, perhaps formed from English *fog*, *n.* + -y¹, or possibly borrowed directly from a Scandinavian source.

fogy or **fogey** *n.* 1780 *foggie* (Scottish), originally applied to an army pensioner or veteran; indeterminately related to earlier *fogram* (noun 1775, old-fashioned person; adjective 1772, antiquated).

foible *n.* Before 1648, weak point of a sword blade; borrowed from French *foible*, *n.* (now obsolete and replaced by *faible*), from *foible*, adj., weak, from Old French *foible*, *feble* FEEBLE. The general meaning of a weak point or failing, is first recorded in 1673.

foil¹ *v.* baffle. Probably before 1300 *foilen* to trample down, later, to spoil a trace or scent by running over it (about 1410); perhaps borrowed from Old French *fouler* trample, from Vulgar Latin **fullāre* to clean cloth, from Latin *fullō* one who cleans cloth, fuller. The meaning of overthrow or defeat is first recorded in 1548, and that of frustrate the efforts of, in 1564.

foil² *n.* very thin sheet of metal. About 1325 *foyle*, borrowed

from Old French *feuille*, *foille* leaf, from Latin *folia* leaves, plural of *folium* leaf; see FOLIAGE.

foil³ *n.* light sword with a blunt end, used in fencing. 1594, of uncertain origin (possibly from *foil*¹ to frustrate or blunt the efforts of, in the sense of a blunted weapon).

foist *v.* 1545, probably borrowed from dialectal Dutch *vuisten* take in hand, from Middle Dutch, from *vuist* FIST. The earliest use referred to concealment of a flat die in the palm of the hand, in order to cheat at dice.

fold¹ *v.* bend over on itself. About 1250 *folden*, developed from Old English, Mercian Dialect *faldan*, in West Saxon *fealdan* (before 899); cognate with Middle Low German *volden* to fold, Middle Dutch *vouden* (modern Dutch *vouwen*), Old High German *faldan* (modern German *falten*), Old Icelandic *falda*, Gothic *falthan*, from Proto-Germanic **falthanan*. —**n.** About 1250 *fold*; from the verb. —**folder** *n.* 1552, one who folds, from *fold*, *v.* + -er¹. The meaning of a folding cover for loose papers, is first recorded in 1911.

fold² *n.* pen for animals, especially sheep. Before 1200 *fold*; developed from Old English (before 700) *falded*, *fald*, *falod*; cognate with Old Saxon *fald* pen, enclosure, Middle Low German *vālt* enclosure, dunghill, Middle Dutch *vaelt*, and modern Dutch *vaalt* dunghill, of unknown origin.

—**fold** a suffix meaning: ——— times as many, as in *tenfold*, or formed or divided into ——— parts, as in *manifold*. Old English Northumbrian dialect -*fald*, in West Saxon -*feald*; cognate with Old Frisian -*fald*, -*faldech* -fold, Old Saxon -*fald*, Dutch -*voud*, Old High German and modern German -*falt*, Old Icelandic -*faldr*, Gothic -*falths*.

foliage *n.* 1447 *foylage*; later *foillage*, *feillage* (1601); borrowed from Middle French *feuilleage*, *foillage*, from Old French *feuille*, *foille* leaf, from Latin *folia* leaves, plural of *folium* leaf; for suffix see -AGE. The modern spelling (1664) is in imitation of Latin *folium* leaf which was accompanied by a shift in *i* and *l* that disguises the connection with *foil*; see FOIL².

foliate *adj.* 1626, beaten into a thin sheet or foil; later, resembling a leaf (1658); borrowed from Latin *foliatus* leaved, leafy, from *folium* leaf; for suffix see -ATE. —**v.** 1665, to apply silver leaf to; later to beat into leaf or foil (1704), and put forth leaves (1775); possibly a back formation from *foliation*, or more likely, from *foliate*, *adj.* —**foliation** *n.* 1623, the leafing of a plant; borrowed possibly from French *foliation*, or directly from Latin *foliatus*; for suffix see -ATION.

follic acid 1941 *follic* (from Latin *folium* leaf + English -*ic*; so named because of its abundance in green leaves, such as those of spinach).

folio *n.* 1447, borrowed from Late Latin *foliō* leaf or sheet of paper, from Latin *foliō*, ablative of location (usual in page references) of *folium* leaf. The meaning of a sheet of paper folded once, first recorded in 1582, is a borrowing from Italian *in foglio*, from Latin *foliō*.

folk *n.* Old English *folc* common people, tribe, multitude

(about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *folk* people, folk, Old Saxon, Middle Low German, and Middle Dutch *volc* (modern Dutch *volk*), Old High German *folc* (modern German *Volk*), and Old Icelandic *folk* band of warriors, troop, people; from Proto-Germanic **folkan*. —**folksy** adj. 1852, in American English, sociable or informal; formed from English *folks*, n.pl. + *-y*¹.

follicle *n.* Probably before 1425 *follicule*, borrowed from Latin *folliculus* little bag, diminutive of *follis* bellows (literally, leather bag for inflating).

follow *v.* Probably before 1200 *folwen*, *follewen*, later *folowen* (about 1340); developed from Old English *folgian* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); related to *fylgan* to follow; cognate with Old Frisian *folgja*, *fulgia*, Old Saxon *folgon*, Middle Dutch *volghen* (modern Dutch *volgen*), Old High German *folgēn* (modern German *folgen*), and Old Icelandic *fylgja*; from Proto-Germanic **fulǵ-*. —**follower** *n.* Probably before 1200 *folhere*, developed from Old English *folgere* (*folgian* + *-ere* -er¹); cognate with Old Frisian *folgere*, Old High German *folgari* (modern German *Folger*). —**following** *n., adj.* (before 1325 *foluing*).

folly *n.* Probably before 1200 *folie*, borrowed from Old French from *fol* FOOL; for suffix see *-y*³.

foment *v.* About 1425 *fomenten* apply hot liquids; borrowed from Middle French *fomentier*, or directly from Late Latin *fōmentāre*, from Latin *fōmentum* warm application, from *fōvēre* to warm, cherish, encourage. The extended sense of stimulate, instigate (an action or course, especially trouble), is first recorded in 1622, possibly from the same sense in French.

fond *adj.* About 1340 *fonnyd* foolish, silly; later *fond* (probably about 1375); developed from past tense of *fonnen* to fool, be foolish, perhaps from *fonne* fool (before 1325), of uncertain origin; possibly related to FUN, *v.* The meaning of foolishly tender, is first recorded in 1579, followed by the sense of having strong affection for (1590).

fondle *v.* 1694, pamper, found earlier in the participial form *fondling* (1676); developed as a frequentative form of earlier *fond* dote upon (1530), a special use of FOND, *adj.*; for suffix see *-LE*³. The sense of caress, is first recorded in 1796.

fondue *n.* 1878, a French term first recorded in a cooking dictionary, originally, feminine past participle of *fondre* melt; see FOUND² melt.

font¹ *n.* basin holding water for baptism. Old English (about 1000) *font*, *fant*; borrowed from Latin *fōns* (genitive *fontis*) fountain, spring (in Medieval Latin *fons baptismalis* baptismal font).

font² *n.* set of type of one size and style. 1578, a casting; borrowed from Middle French *fonte*, from feminine past participle of *fondre* melt; see FOUND² melt.

food *n.* Probably before 1200 *fode*, later *foode* (before 1387) and *food* (1420); developed from Old English *fōda* (about 1000), from Proto-Germanic **fōdōn*; also related to *fōdor* fodder (from

Proto-Germanic **fodran*, which is cognate with Old High German *fuotar* food, fodder (modern German *Futter*), Old Icelandic *fōdhr* fodder, *fēdha*, *fēdhi* food, and Gothic *fōdeins* food; see also FEED.

fool *n.* Probably about 1200 *fol*; later *fool* (about 1375); borrowed from Old French *fol*, from Latin *folis* bellows, leather bag (in late Vulgar Latin used in the sense of windbag, empty-headed person, fool). —**v.** About 1350 *foolen* be foolish, act like a fool; later *fool* make a fool of (1596); borrowed through Anglo-French *foler* to play the fool, from Old French *foler*, *folier*, from *fol*, *n.* —**foolhardy** *adj.* Before 1250 *folherdi*, borrowed from Old French *fol hardi*. —**foolish** *adj.* Before 1325 *foles*, later *foolish* (1380); formed from Middle English *fol*, *n.* + *-ish*. —**foolscap** *n.* Before 1700, from *fool*'s and *cap*, because this type of paper was originally watermarked with a cap worn by court jesters. —**fool's gold** a mineral (1872, in American English).

foot *n.* About 1125 *foet*; later *foot* (before 1325); developed from Old English *fōt* (about 725, in *Beowulf*), from Proto-Germanic **fōt*; cognate with Old Frisian *fōt* foot, Old Saxon *fōt*, *fuot*, Dutch *voet*, Old High German *fuoz* (modern German *Fuss*), Old Icelandic *fōtr*, and Gothic *fōtus*.

As a linear measurement *foot* is first recorded in Old English (before 1000). The sense of being at the bottom of something (*at a person's feet*) is also recorded in Old English about 950), and the figurative meaning to be subject to another (*under one's foot*) is found in Old English (about 825). —**v.** Probably before 1400 *footen* move the foot, dance, from *foot*, *n.* The informal sense of pay (a bill), is first recorded in 1848, from the meaning of place the sum at the foot of a bill. —**footage** *n.* 1892, piecework system to pay miners; later, length (in feet) of motion-picture film (1916); formed from English *foot*, *n.* + *-age*. —**football** *n.* (1409) —**foothills** *n. pl.* (1850, in American English) —**footing** *n.* 1296, in building; later, position of the feet on the ground (before 1398). —**footman** *n.* (probably before 1300) —**footstep** *n.* (before 1250)

fop *n.* 1440 *foppe* foolish person, of uncertain origin (compare German *foppen* to cheat, deceive; perhaps related to FOB² to cheat). The sense of one who is foolishly attentive to his appearance, dandy, is first recorded in 1672–76.

for *prep.* Old English *for* for, before, on account of (about 725, in *Beowulf*), from Proto-Germanic **fura*; cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *for*, Middle Dutch *vore* (modern Dutch *voor*), Old High German *fora* before, *furi* for (modern German *für*, *vor*), Old Icelandic *fyr* for, and Gothic *fair*. The use of *for* and *fore* was gradually differentiated in Middle English from the previous interchangeable use of Old English. —**conj.** About 1123 *for*, abstracted from Old English phrases, such as *for than the* for the (reason) that, because, since.

for- a prefix meaning away, opposite, as in *forbear*, *forgo*, or completely, as in *forlorn*, *forsake*. Old English *for-*, *fær-*; cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *for-*, Old High German *fra-*, *fir-*, *far-*, Dutch and German *ver-*, Gothic *fra-*, *fair-*, *faür-*, Old Icelandic *fon-*, *fynin-*; related to the root of Old English *for* FOR.

forage *n.* Before 1333 *forage*, borrowed from Old French *forage*, *fouage* pillage, forage, from *fuerre* fodder, straw, from Frankish **fōdr* food (compare Middle Low German *vōder*, Old High German *fuotar* fodder, FOOD). The term is also found in Anglo-Latin *foragium*, *farragium* (about 1273). —**v.** 1417, borrowed from Middle French *fourager* to plunder, collect forage, from *fouage*, *n.* —**forager** *n.* Probably before 1387, something that afflicts, borrowed from Old French *forragier*, *fouragier*, from *forage*, *fouage*, *n.*; for suffix see -ER¹.

foray *v.* 1375 (Scottish), back formation from earlier *forreyer*, *forrier* raider, forager (before 1338 *foreri*); borrowed from Old French *forrier*, from *forrer* to forage; related to *fuerre* fodder; see FORAGE. —**n.** About 1375 (Scottish), from the verb. The word fell into disuse in the 1600's, but was revived in the 1800's by Scott.

forbear¹ *v.* abstain, refrain. 1137 *forberen* refrain from destroying; developed from Old English *forberan* bear up against, control one's feelings, endure (about 725, in *Beowulf*), formed from *for-* against (related to Old English *for* FOR) + *beran* to BEAR² carry. —**forbearance** *n.* 1576, a refraining from enforcing payment of debt; formed from *forbear*¹ + *-ance*. The meaning of refraining from, is not recorded before 1591.

forbear² *n.* 1470, an ancestor, forebear; formed from English *for-*, *fore-* + *beer* (*be* + *-er*¹) one who exists; now replaced by *forebearer* (1578).

forbid *v.* Probably about 1175 *forbēden*; later *forbiden* (about 1425); developed from Old English *forbēodan* (about 725); formed from *for-* against (related to Old English *for* FOR) + *bēodan* to command; see BID. Old English *forbēodan* is cognate with Old High German *farbiotan*, Middle High German and modern German *verbieten*, Dutch *verbieden*, Old Icelandic *fyrirbjōdha*, and Gothic *faurbiudan*, showing the process of formation was not confined to English.

force *n.* Probably before 1300 *fors*, later *force* (before 1325); borrowed from Old French *force*, from Late Latin *fortia*, from neuter plural of Latin *fortis* strong; see FORT. —**v.** Probably before 1300 *forcen*, borrowed from Old French *forcier*, from Vulgar Latin **fortiāre*, from Late Latin *fortia* force. —**forcible** *adj.* About 1422, borrowed from Middle French *forcible*.

forceps *n.* 1563, borrowed from Latin *forceps* (compound of *formus* hot + the root of *capere* to take, hold).

ford *n.* Old English *ford* (before 899), and found in such place names as *Hartford*, *Oxford*. Old English *ford* is cognate with Old Frisian *forda*, Old Saxon and Low German *ford*, Old High German *furt* (modern German *Furt*), from Proto-Germanic **furdús*; also found in place names such as *Frankfurt*, and Old Icelandic *fjörðr* fiord. —**v.** to cross shallow water. 1614, from the noun.

fore *adv.*, *prep.* Old English *fore*, *prep.*, before, in front of (about 725, in *Beowulf*); Old English *fore*, *adv.*, before, previously (about 750); cognate with Old Frisian *fora*, *fara* before, *fore*, Old Saxon and Old High German *fora* (modern German *vor*), Old Icelandic *fyrir*, and Gothic *faurā*; from the same Germanic source as Old English *for* FOR. —**adj.** Before 1450,

forward; later, former, or earlier (1490); and, in or at the front (1500–20); abstracted from compounds such as *forecast*, *forepart* (*fore-* + *cast*, *part*). Since such compounds were sometimes written as two words, the first element came to be treated as an adjective. —**n.** front part. 1636 (as in *to the fore* in the front, ready at hand); from the adjective. —**interj.** (in golf) 1878, probably a contraction of *before*.

fore- a combining form meaning front; in front, as in *foreman*, *foremast*, or before, beforehand, as in *forewarn*, *forerunner*. Found in Old English *fore-*, unstressed form of FORE, *adv.*

forearm¹ *n.* 1741, formed from Middle English *fore-* + *arm*¹ limb of the body.

forearm² *v.* 1592, formed from Middle English *fore-* + *arm*² take up weapons.

forecast *v.* About 1400, implied in *forecasting*; formed from Middle English *fore-* + *casten* contrive. —**n.** About 1422; probably from the verb.

forecastle *n.* 1407 *forcastelle*; earlier Anglo-French *forechasteil* (1338); probably formed from Middle English *fore-* + *castel* fortified tower, after earlier Anglo-French.

foreclose *v.* About 1300, borrowed from Old French *forclōs*, past participle of *forclōre* exclude (*for-* out + *clōre* to shut). —**foreclosure** *n.* 1728, formed from English *foreclose* + *-ure*.

foreground *n.* 1695, formed from English *fore-* + *ground*.

forehead *n.* Probably before 1200, found in Old English *forhēafod*, *fore-hēafod*, formed from *for-*, *fore-* + *hēafod* head.

foreign *adj.* About 1250 *ferren*; later *foreyne* (about 1380); borrowed from Old French *forain*, *forein*, from Late Latin *forānus* on the outside, exterior, (generally found as *forāneus*), from Latin *foris*, *forās* outside, literally, out of doors, from a lost noun **fora*, (related to *foris* DOOR), and altered from **fura* by influence of *foris*. The spelling with *g* is possibly the result of a confused association with *reign* and *sovereign* and is first recorded in 1565, but did not become fully established until the late 1600's. —**foreigner** *n.* 1413 *foreyner*; later *foreigner* (1565) outsider, from Middle English *foreyne* + *-er*¹.

foreman *n.* 1222 *forman*; formed from *for-*, *fore-* + *man*.

foremost *adj.* Before 1525 *formoste*, alteration of *formeste* (probably before 1200, the superlative of *forme* first); developed from *forme*, *adj.* first and Old English *fyrmost* earliest, first (about 725, in *Beowulf*; the superlative of *forma*); related to *fruma* beginning. Old English *forma* is cognate with Old Frisian *forma* first, Old Saxon *formo*, and with Old Icelandic *frum*-first, and Gothic *fruma* first. —**adv.** 1551 *formoste*, alteration of Middle English *formest* (before 1225); developed from the adjective in Middle English and Old English.

forensic *adj.* 1659, shortened form of earlier *forensical* (1581, formed from Latin *forēns*-, stem of *forēnsis* of a forum, place of assembly + English *-ical*), or perhaps formed from *forēns*- + English *-ic*.

foresee *v.* About 1384 *forsen*, developed from Old English *fore-*

sēon (*fore-* + *sēon* to see, see ahead). —**foreseeable** adj. 1804, formed from English *foresee* + *-able*.

forest n. Probably before 1300, borrowed from Old French *forest*, usually considered a learned borrowing from Late and Medieval Latin *forestem silvam* the outside woods. The phrase has two senses which carry over into Middle English: a large, wooded area; and a wooded area at the disposal of a king or other high nobleman, often enclosed, and devoted usually to hunting. But the sense is taken to refer to the woods lying outside of a park, from Latin *foris* outside (literally, out of doors), from a lost noun **fora*, related to *foris* DOOR, and altered from **fura*, by influence of *foris*. Alternatively, it has been proposed that Old French *forest* was a borrowing from Old High German *forst* forest (originally, fir forest), from Medieval Latin. —**v.** 1818, from the noun. —**forested** adj. 1612, formed from English *forest*, n. + *-ed*². —**forester** n. About 1300 *forester*; later *forster*, *foster* (before 1387); borrowed from Old French *forestier*, from *forest*; for suffix see *-ER*¹. —**forestry** n. 1693 (in Scottish law) the privileges of a royal forest; borrowed from Old French *foresterie*, from *forest*; for suffix see *-ERY*. The meaning of science of cultivating and managing forests, is first recorded in 1859.

forestall v. Before 1350 *forstallen* to intercept (goods) before they reach the market, from the earlier noun *forestal* an intercepting or waylaying, ambush (about 1120); developed from Old English *foresteall* (about 1000, a compound of *fore* before + *steall* standing position, *STALL*¹).

forever adv. Before 1375 *for ever*; later *forever* (1670).

foreword n. 1842, formed from *fore-* + *word*, perhaps modeled on, or a loan translation of, German *Vorwort* preface, modeled on Latin *prae-fatiō* preface.

forfeit n. Before 1376 *forfet* penalty for a crime, borrowed from Old French *forfait* crime, originally past participle of *forfaire* transgress (*for-* outside, beyond, + *faire* do). —**v.** About 1350 *forfeten* to transgress or sin; probably borrowed from Old French *forfait*, past participle of *forfaire* transgress. —**forfeiture** n. Before 1338 *forfeture*, borrowed from Old French *forfaiture*, from *forfait* crime; for suffix see *-URE*.

forge¹ n. smithy. 1279, borrowed from Old French *forge*, earlier *faverge*, from Latin *fabrica* workshop, from *faber* (genitive *fabri*) workman in hard materials, smith. —**v.** About 1350 *forger* make, shape, create; borrowed from Old French *forgier*, from Latin *fabricāre* fabricate, from *fabrica*. The meaning of make a fraudulent imitation, counterfeit, is first recorded before 1325, influenced by Anglo-French *forger* to forge, falsify. —**forgery** n. 1583 *forgerye* invention, fiction, a deceit; later, the action of counterfeiting or falsifying (1593); formed from English *forge*¹ + *-ery*.

forge² v. move forward steadily. 1769; earlier, probably in a figurative use (1611), of uncertain origin; perhaps a transferred use of *forge*¹, with reference to the effect of steadily hammering away at something.

forget v. Before 1250 *forgeten*, developed from Old English (about 725) *forgytan* (*for-* away, amiss, opposite + *-gietan* or

-getan get, as in *begietan* beget); corresponding to Old Frisian *forjeta* forget, Old Saxon *forgetan*, Dutch *vergeten*, and Old High German *firgezzan* (modern German *vergessen*).

The Old English form was respelled under the influence of Middle English *geten* to get, acquire. —**forgetful** adj. About 1384 *forgetful*, formed from *forget* + *-ful*.

forgive v. Before 1121 implied in *forgifenness*; developed from Old English (about 900) *forgiefan* give, grant, forgive (*for-* completely + *giefan* GIVE), corresponding to Old Saxon *fargeban* give, forgive, Dutch *vergeven* forgive, Old High German *firgeban* (modern German *vergeben*), Old Icelandic *fyrirgefa*, and Gothic *fragiban*. The Old English form was respelled in Middle English by analogy to *forgive*.

forgo or **forego** v. Probably before 1200 *forigon* do without; give up; developed from Old English (about 950) *forgān* go away, pass over, *forgo* (*for-* away + *gān* GO); associated with Middle High German *vergān*, *vergēn* *forgo* (modern German *vergehen* pass away).

fork n. Probably before 1200 *forken*, pl. gallows; later *fork* a forked weapon (probably before 1300), and pitchfork (about 1325); developed from Old English *forca* forked instrument used by torturers (about 1000); borrowed from Latin *furca* pitchfork, of uncertain origin; however, many of the Germanic languages borrowed the word, including Old Frisian *forke*, Old Saxon *furka*, Middle Dutch *vorke* Old High German *furcha*, and Old Icelandic *forkr*, generally with the meaning of pitchfork. Old North French *forque* fork (from Latin *furca*), influenced the meaning of instrument for eating, first recorded in 1463. —**v.** Before 1325 *forken* divide into branches, from the noun.

forlorn adj. 1137 *forloren* disgraced, dishonored; repudiated; later *forlorn* forsaken, abandoned (1535), past participle of *forlesen* be deprived of, lose, abandon (1102); found in Old English *forlēosan* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); from *for-* completely + *-lēosan* to LOSE. Past participles corresponding to Middle English *forloren* include Old High German *furlorn*, *firloran* (modern German *verloren*) lost, and Dutch *verloren*.

The sense of wretched, miserable, is first recorded in 1582.

form n. Probably before 1200 *furme*, later *forme* (about 1300); borrowed from Old French *forme*, learned borrowing from Latin *fōrma* form, mold, shape, case. —**v.** About 1300 *formen*, *formen*; borrowed from Old French *former*, from Latin *fōrmāre*, from *fōrma* form, mold, etc. —**formation** n. Before 1398 *formacioun*, borrowed through Old French *formation*, or directly from Latin *fōrmatiōnem* (nominative *fōrmatiō*), from *fōrmāre* to form. —**formative** adj. 1490, borrowed from Middle French *formatif*, *formative*, from *forme*, n.; for suffix see *-ATIVE*.

-form a combining form meaning having the form of _____, as in *cuneiform*, or having _____ form or forms, as in *multiform*. Borrowed through French *-forme*, or directly from Latin *-fōrmis*, from *fōrma* shape, FORM.

formal adj. About 1390 *formal*, borrowed through Old French *formel*, and directly from Latin *fōrmālis*, from *fōrma* FORM; for suffix see *-AL*¹. —**n.** 1605, plural, things that are formal; later,

formal concept (1903, in philosophy) and formal dress (1941); from the adjective. —**formality** *n.* 1531, literary form, agreement as to form, borrowed from Middle French *formalité*, from Latin *fōrmālis* formal; for suffix see -ITY. The meaning of convention, something done for the sake of form, is first recorded in 1597. —**formalize** *v.* 1597, formed from English *formal* + -ize.

formaldehyde *n.* 1872, formed from *form-*, abstracted from *form(ic acid)* + *aldehyde*, New Latin formation abstracted from *al(cohol) dehyd(rogenatum)* dehydrogenized alcohol.

format *n.* 1840, borrowed from French *format*, from German, from New Latin *liber formatus* book formed (in a special way); from Latin *fōrmātus*, past participle of *fōrmāre* to FORM. —**v.** 1964, from the noun.

former *adj.* Before 1375 *former*, comparative of *forme* first (patterned on *formest* foremost); see FOREMOST. Earlier (about 1160) use of *former* may be that of a Middle English innovation appearing in an Old English text. The striking significance of *former* is that it assumes the function of a comparative formed on an old superlative (the *m* in *forme* and Old English *forma* is a superlative element). —**formerly** *adv.* 1596, formed from English *former* + -ly¹.

formic acid 1791, formed in English by shortening of Latin *formica* ant + English suffix -ic (so called because it was first obtained from red ants); see PISMIRE.

formidable *adj.* About 1450 *formydale*; borrowed from Middle French *formidable*, learned borrowing from Latin *fōrmīdā-bilis*, from *fōrmīdāre* to fear, from *fōrmīdō* terror or dread; for suffix see -ABLE.

formula *n.* Before 1638, a set form of words used in a ceremony or ritual; borrowed from Latin *fōrmula* form, rule, method, formula (literally, small form), diminutive of *fōrma* FORM; for suffix -la see English equivalent -LE¹.

The sense of prescription or recipe, is first recorded in 1706, the mathematical use (*algebraic formula*) in 1796, and that in chemistry (as in *molecular formula*) in 1846. —**formulate** *v.* 1860, express in a formula; formed from English *formula* + -ate, possibly by influence of earlier French *formuler*. —**formulation** *n.* 1876; formed from English *formulate* + -ion, possibly after earlier French *formulation*.

fornication *n.* About 1303 *fornycacyoun*, borrowed from Old French *fornication*, learned borrowing from Late Latin *fornicātiōnem* (nominative *fornicātiō*), from *fornicārī* fornicate, from Latin *fornix* (genitive *fornicis*) arch, vault, brothel, probably from *forus*, *furnus* oven of arch or dome shape. In ancient Rome prostitutes traditionally solicited under the arches of certain buildings. —**fornicate** *v.* 1552, borrowed from Late Latin *fornicātus*, past participle of *fornicārī* fornicate; for suffix see -ATE¹. In later instances, *fornicate* may have been a back formation from earlier *fornication*.

forsake *v.* Probably before 1200 *forsaken* decline, refuse, also cease, abandon, desert; developed from Old English (about 700) *forsacan* decline or refuse (*for-* completely + *sacan* to deny, refuse). —**forsaken** *adj.* About 1250, from the verb.

forsooth *adv.* Probably before 1200 *forsoth*, developed from Old English *forsōth* (before 899), also found as *for sōth*, from *for* and *sōth* truth.

forswear *v.* Probably about 1175 *forsweren*; developed from Old English *forswerian* forswear, swear falsely (about 725, in *Beowulf*; compound of *for-* completely + *sverian* to SWEAR).

forsythia *n.* 1814, American English; New Latin *Forsythia*, the genus name, in allusion to William Forsyth, Scottish horticulturist who brought the shrub from China.

fort *n.* Probably before 1375 *forte* courage, fortitude; later, fortress, stronghold (1435); borrowed from Middle French *fort*, noun use of Old French *fort*, *adj.*, strong, fortified, from Latin *fortis* strong; see BARROW.

forte *n.* something one does very well. 1648, strong part of a sword blade; later *fort* strong point of a person's abilities (1682); borrowed from French *fort* strong point, fort, from Middle French *fort* FORT. The final -e was added in the 1700's, on analogy with Italian *forte* strong.

forth *adv.* Before 1121 *forth*; developed from Old English (before 700) *forth* forward, onward; cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *forth* forward, onward, Dutch *voort*, Middle High German *vort* (modern German *fort*), from Proto-Germanic **furtha-*; related to Old English *for* FOR and FURTHER. —**forthcoming** *adj.* 1531–32; formed from *forth* + *coming*, after earlier *forthcomen* (about 1250), found in Old English *forthcuman* (before 1000). —**forthright** *adj.* About 1290, found in Old English *forthriht* (about 1000); formed from *forth* + *riht* right. —**forthwith** *adv.* Before 1325 *forthwit*, earlier *forthwith*, prep. (probably about 1200); formed from *forth* + *with*, possibly also influenced by earlier *forthmid* (1120, prep. 1114), found in Old English *forth mid*.

fortify *v.* Probably before 1425, increase efficacy (of medicine), later, to provide with fortifications (1433); borrowed from Middle French *fortifier*, learned borrowing from Late Latin *fortificāre*, from Latin *fortis* strong; see FORT; for suffix see -FY. —**fortification** *n.* 1429, strengthening; later, defensive earthwork, tower (1435); borrowed from Middle French *fortification*, from Late Latin *fortificātiōnem* (nominative *fortificātiō*), from *fortificāre* fortify; for suffix see -ATION.

fortitude *n.* 1422, possibly borrowed from Middle French *fortitude*; earlier *fortitudo* (before 1175); borrowed from Latin *fortitūdō* strength, from *fortis* strong, brave; see FORT; for suffix see -TUDE.

fortnight *n.* About 1300 *fourteniht*, contraction of Old English (before 1000) *fēowertȳne niht* fourteen nights (referred to as the ancient Germanic method of reckoning by nights, mentioned in Tacitus; but evinced in Celtic culture by Welsh *wythnos* eightnight [week] and *pythefnos* fifteen-night [fortnight], by including the night preceding the first day and the night following the last day).

fortress *n.* Probably before 1300 *fortress*, later, variant *forteresse*; borrowed from Old French *forteresse* strong place, variant of *fortelesse*, from Medieval Latin *fortalitia*, from Latin *fortis* strong;

see FORT. The suffix *-ess* represents Latin *-itia* forming nouns denoting quality or condition and though not active in English, it can be found in such words as *duress* and *largess*.

fortuitous *adj.* Before 1652, borrowed from Latin *fortuitus*, from *forte* by chance, ablative case of *fortis* (genitive *fortis*) chance; see FORTUNE; for suffix see *-OUS*.

An earlier form, *fortuit* (about 1380) was borrowed from Old French *fortuit*, from Latin *fortuitus*, but was replaced by *fortuitous*, which became the established form in the 1600's.

fortune *n.* Before 1325 *fortune* chance or luck (personified as a goddess, *Dame Fortune*); borrowed from Old French *fortune*, learned borrowing from Latin *fortūna*, from a lost noun **fortus* (genitive **fortūs*), from *fortis* (genitive *fortis*) chance, luck. —**fortunate** *adj.* Before 1387 *fortunate*, borrowed from Latin *fortunatus* provided with good fortune (quasi-past participial form); from *fortūna* FORTUNE. —**fortuneteller** *n.* 1590, earlier *fortunetelling*, *n.* (1577); formed from *tellen fortune* (1413).

forty *adj.* 1124, but not recorded in a Middle English spelling before 1200; developed from Old English *fēwertig* (about 750, *fēower* four + *-tig* -ty¹, group of ten); cognate with Old Frisian *fiuwertich*, Old Saxon *fiuwartig*, *fiartig*, *fiortig*, Old High German *fiorzug* (modern German *vierzig*), Old Icelandic *fertugr*, and Gothic *fidwōr tigjus*. —**fortieth** *n., adj.* 1107 *fowertigethe*, developed from Old English (about 1000) *fēwertigotha* (*fēower* four + *-tig* -ty¹ + *-otha* -eth¹).

forum *n.* Before 1464 *forum* public place, marketplace (in ancient Rome); borrowing of Latin *forum* marketplace, apparently related to *foris*, *forās* out of doors, outside; see FOREIGN. The sense of assembly, or place, for public discussion, is first recorded in 1690.

forward *adj.* Probably before 1200 *forwarde*, developed from Old English (before 900) *foreweard* toward the front (*fore* + *-weard* -ward). —**adv.** Probably about 1300 *forward*; developed from Old English *forewearde* (about 875), from *foreweard*, *adj.*; cognate with Dutch *voorwaarts* and modern German *vorwärts*. —**n.** Before 1225 *forward*; developed from Old English *foreweard* the fore or front part (about 1000); from the adjective. —**v.** 1596, from the adverb.

fosse *n.* 1327, *Fosse* ditch, pit; earlier, in place name *Vosepole* a pool in a ditch (1296), and in an Old English reference to the *Fosse* principal Roman road in Britain (1130–35), so called from the drainage ditch dug on either side of the road; borrowed through Old French *fosse*, and directly from Latin *fossa* ditch, from feminine of *fossus*, past participle of *fodere* to dig.

fossil *n.* 1619, rock or mineral dug out of the earth; borrowed from French *fossile*, from Latin *fossilis* dug up, from *fossus*, past participle of *fodere* to dig. —**adj.** 1654, obtained by digging; from the noun.

foster *v.* About 1125 *fostrien* nourish, bring up, rear (a child); later *fostren* (probably before 1200); probably to be found in Old English (before 1050) **fōstrian* nourish, foster, formed from *fōstor* food, nourishment, a bringing up; from the same Germanic source as Old English *fōda* FOOD. The figurative sense of encourage, strengthen, is first recorded about 1378,

earlier support, nurture (about 1125). —**adj.** 1 related. 1618, from the meaning “in the same family, but not related by birth”; abstracted from compounds such as found in Old English *fōstor*-, as in *fōstorfæder* (before 800) foster father, and *foster brother* (Old English *fōster-brōthor*, before 1000). 2 of or for a foster child or children, *foster parent* (1649).

foul *adj.* About 1250 *foul*; developed from Old English *fūl* dirty, vile, corrupt (before 800–1000); cognate with Old Saxon and Old Frisian *fūl* foul, Middle Dutch *vuul* (modern Dutch *vuil*), Old High German *fūl* (modern German *faul* foul, lazy), Old Icelandic *fúll*, and Gothic *fūls* from Proto-Germanic **fūlaz*.

In Middle English *foul* was the opposite of *fair*, thus *foul play* meant unfair conduct; but later developed the sense of treacherous or violent dealings (1610). The sense of *foul* out of play in *foul ball*, is first recorded in 1860, in American English. —**v.** Probably before 1200 *fulen* make or become foul; developed from Old English *fūlian* (about 899), and Old English *fylan*; both from *fūl*, *adj.* —**n.** 1304, a muddy place; later, that which is foul, deceitful, ugly (before 1420); developed from Old English *fūl* foulness, impurity, guilt, offense (about 750); from the adjective.

found¹ *v.* establish. About 1290 *founden*; borrowed from Old French *fonder*, from Latin *fundāre* to lay the bottom or foundation of something, establish, from *fundus* bottom, foundation. —**foundation** *n.* Before 1387 *fundacioun*, borrowed from Old French *fondation*, or directly from Latin *fundātiōnem* (nominative *fundātiō*) foundation, from *fundāre*. —**founded** *adj.* Before 1325, from the verb. —**founder** *n.* Before 1338, borrowed through Anglo-French *fundur*, Old French *fondeor*, from Latin *fundātor*.

found² *v.* cast (metal). Before 1399 *founden*, *funden* to mix or mingle; later *found* melt, cast (1562); borrowed from Middle French *fondre* pour out, melt, mix together, from Old French *fondre*, from Latin *fundere* melt, cast, pour. —**foundry** *n.* 1601, borrowed from French *fonderie*, *fondrie*, from Middle French, from *fondre* to melt, pour, found.

founder *v.* Before 1338 *fondren* knock down, later *foundren* to stumble (about 1385); borrowed from Old French *fondrer* fall to the bottom, from *fond* bottom. The earlier sense of sink to the ground (about 1385), was extended to mean to fill with water and sink, and is first recorded in 1610.

foundling *n.* Probably before 1300 *fundelyng*, formed from *funden*, *founden* found (past participle of *finden* to FIND) + *-ling*.

fount *n.* Before 1449 *funte*, later *fount* (1593); probably a shortening of *fountain*, on analogy with *mount*, *mountain*; influenced by Middle French *font* fount, from Latin *fontem* (nominative *fons*) spring.

fountain *n.* About 1410 *fownteyne* natural spring; borrowed from Old French *fontaine*, from Late Latin *fontāna* a fountain, spring, from Latin, feminine of *fontānus* of a spring, from *fons* (genitive *fontis*) spring. The meaning of an artificial jet or stream of water, especially a structure built for such a jet or stream, is first recorded in 1509.

four *adj.* 1122 *fourer*; later *four* (probably before 1200) and *four* (about 1280); developed from Old English (about 725) *fēower*; cognate with Old Frisian *fiuwer*, *fiower*, *fiōr* four, Old Saxon *fiuwar*, *fiwar*, *fior*, Dutch *vier*, Old High German *fior* (modern German *vier*), Old Icelandic *fiōrir* (Norwegian and Danish *fire*, Swedish *fyra*), and Gothic *fidwōr*. —**fourth** *adj.*, *n.* About 1200 *ferthe*, developed from Old English *fēorþa*; for suffix see -TH². The later spelling *fourth* (before 1450) was patterned on the development of *four*. —**four-footed** *adj.* Before 1325 *four footed*, developed from Old English *fēowerfōte*, *-fēte* (*fēower* four + *-fōte* -footed); cognate with Old Frisian *fiuwerfoted*, Old High German *fiorfuozzi* (modern German *vierfüssig*). —**fourteen** *adj.*, *n.* About 1300; developed from Old English *fēower-tēne*, *fēowertýne* (*fēower* + *-tēne*, *-týne* -teen, from *tēn* TEN); cognate with Old Frisian *fiuwertine*, Old High German *fiorzehan* (modern German *vierzehn*), Old Icelandic *fiōrtān*, and Gothic *fidwōrtathun*.

four-flusher *n.* 1904, American English, from earlier verb *four-flush* to bluff (1896), from *four flush* a poker hand with four cards of the same suit, instead of the five to make a flush (1887); for suffix see -ER¹.

fowl *n.* Before 1200 *fiuvel*; developed from Old English *fugel* bird (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *fugel* bird, Old Saxon *fugal*, Middle Dutch *voghel* (modern Dutch *vogel*), Old High German *fogal* (modern German *Vogel*), Old Icelandic *fugl*, and Gothic *fugls*; apparently related to Old English *fleoƿan* to FLY². The narrower sense of domestic rooster or hen, is first recorded in 1580.

fox *n.* Old English (before 830) *fox*; cognate with Old Saxon *vohs* fox, Middle Low German, Middle Dutch, and modern Dutch *vos*, Old High German *fuhs* (modern German *Fuchs*), Old Icelandic *foa* vixen, and Gothic *faúhō*. —**v.** Before 1250, implied in *foxing*, *n.*, a clever deceit.

foyer *n.* entrance hall. 1859, lobby, lounge; borrowed from French *foyer* room for actors when not on stage (literally, fireplace), from Old French *foyer*, from Latin *focārius* having to do with the hearth, from *focus* hearth, fireplace; see FOCUS.

fracas *n.* 1727, borrowed from French *fracas*, from Italian *fracasso* an uproar, crash, from *fraccassare* to smash, crash, break into pieces.

fraction *n.* Before 1410 *fraccioun* a breaking or dividing of the heart; later, a breaking, fracture of a bone (probably before 1425); borrowed through Anglo-French *fraccioun*, and directly from Late Latin *fractiōnem* (nominative *fractiō*) a breaking, especially into pieces, from Latin *frag-*, root of *frangere* to BREAK. The mathematical sense is first recorded in 1391, and something broken off, a fragment, scrap, in 1606.

fractious *adj.* 1725, hard to manage, unruly; formed from *fraction* (in the obsolete sense of a brawling, discord) + *-ous*, probably patterned on *captious*.

fracture *n.* Probably before 1425 *fracture*, borrowed from Middle French *fracture*, learned borrowing from Latin *fractūra* a breach, break, cleft, from *frag-*, root of *frangere* to BREAK; for

suffix see -URE. —**v.** 1612, implied in fractured broken (bone); from *fracture* + *-ed*².

fragile *adj.* 1513 *fragyll* morally weak; either a back formation of earlier English *fragility*, influenced by Middle French *fragile*; or a direct borrowing of Middle French *fragile*, learned borrowing from Latin *fragilis* brittle, easily broken, from *frag-*, root of *frangere* to break. The sense of easily broken or delicate, is first recorded in 1607, with a transferred sense of frail, in 1858. —**fragility** *n.* Before 1398, borrowed from Old French *fragilité*, from Latin *fragilitatem* (nominative *fragilitas*) brittleness, from *fragilis* brittle, easily broken, from *frag-*, root of *frangere* to break; for suffix see -ITY. The sense of fragile quality, delicacy, is first recorded in 1474.

fragment *n.* Probably before 1425 *fragmente*, borrowed from Latin *fragmentum* a fragment or remnant, from *frag-*, root of *frangere* to break; for suffix see -MENT. —**v.** break into fragments. 1818, from the noun. —**fragmentary** *adj.* 1611, formed from English *fragment* + *-ary*.

fragrant *adj.* About 1450 *fragrante*; borrowed from Latin *fragrantem* (nominative *fragrans*) sweet-smelling, present participle of *fragrāre* emit (a sweet) odor; for suffix see -ANT. —**fragrance** *n.* 1667, borrowed through French *fragrance*, or directly from Latin *fragrantia*, from *fragrantem*, present participle; for suffix see -ANCE.

frail *adj.* Probably about 1350 *frele* weak, delicate; borrowed from Old French *frele*, *fraile*, from Latin *fragilis* easily broken; see FRAGILE. —**frailty** *n.* About 1340 *frelte*; borrowed from Old French *fraileté*, from Latin *fragilitatem* (nominative *fragilitas*), from *fragilis* fragile.

frame *n.* About 1250 *frame* composition or plan, earlier, profit, benefit (probably about 1200); from the verb and a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *frami* advancement). —**v.** Probably before 1300 *framen* join timber, etc., construct; developed from Old English (about 961) *framian* to profit, be helpful, make progress, from *fram* forward (see FROM), influenced in meaning by Old English *fremman* (before 800), *fremian* (about 1000) help forward, promote, benefit, and probably by Old Icelandic *frama* to further, execute. Old English *fremman* is cognate with Old Frisian *fremma* perform, Old Saxon *fremmian* promote, further, and Old Icelandic *fremja* to further, carry out, execute. The meaning of compose, devise, fashion, is recorded probably before 1400, and that of invent or fabricate a story with evil intent in 1514. —**frame of mind** (1711) —**framework** *n.* (1644).

franc *n.* About 1390 *frank*, borrowing of Old French *franc*, apparently from Medieval Latin *Francus* FRANK¹, from, or in reference to, *Francorum Rex* King of the Franks, on gold coins first made during the reign of Jean le Bon, 1350–64.

franchise *n.* About 1300 *franchise* freedom; borrowed from Old French *franchise* freedom, from *franch-*, variant stem of *franc* free + *-ise*, as in *bêtise*; see FRANK¹. —**v.** Probably before 1387 *franchisen* make a person a freeman in a city or town; from the noun *franchise*.

francium *n.* 1946, New Latin; formed from *Francia*, Latin form of *France* + *-ium*.

Franco- a combining form meaning France or French, as in *Francophile*, *Francophone*, or French and _____, as in *Franco-German*. Borrowed from Medieval Latin *Francus* Frank; see FRANK¹, *adj.*

frangible *adj.* Probably before 1425 *frangible*, borrowed from Middle French *frangible*, learned borrowing from Medieval Latin *frangibilis*, from Latin *frangere* to BREAK; for suffix see *-IBLE*.

frank¹ *adj.* Probably before 1300 *franc* free, liberal, generous; borrowed from Old French *franc* free, sincere, genuine; also earlier in English, in the surname *Franc* (1182); from *Franc* a freeman, a Frank (member of the Germanic people that conquered Gaul), from Frankish (compare Old High German *Franko* and Old English *Franc* a Frank). The sense of outspoken, candid, is first recorded in English in 1548.

The origin of the ethnic name *Frank* is uncertain (possibly derived from the word for their national weapon, represented by Old English *franca* javelin, lance). The name did not come from the adjective meaning "free," rather Old French *Franc* acquired the meaning "free" because only the dominant Franks possessed the status of freemen. —**v.** 1708, send in the mail free of charge, from the adjective. —**Frankish** *adj.* of the ancient Franks. 1802, formed from English *Frank* + *-ish*. The noun *Frankish*, Germanic language of the Franks, is first recorded in 1863, though an earlier formation exists in *Frenkis* (before 1400). Earlier forms *Frankische* (1338) and *Frankis* (before 1325), are variant terms for Middle English *Frensh* French. The form *Frencise* (French) is first recorded about 1070.

frank² *n.* 1936, American English, shortened form of FRANK-FURTER.

Frankenstein *n.* 1838, monster causing the ruin of its creator, in allusion to Baron *Frankenstein*, a character in Mary Shelley's novel *Frankenstein* (1818). *Frankenstein* was mistakenly taken in popular usage as the name of this monster.

frankfurter *n.* 1894, American English; borrowed from German *Frankfurter*, originally, of Frankfurt; so called because a sausage somewhat like the American hot dog (sometimes referred to as a *frankfurter sausage*) was originally made in Germany and associated with the city of Frankfurt am Main.

frankincense *n.* Before 1398 *fraunkencense*, apparently from Old French *frank* genuine or true, and *encens* incense.

frantic *adj.* About 1378 *frantyk* crazed, frenzied; variant of *frentik* (before 1376); see FRENETIC. The extended sense of panicky with worry, wild with grief, etc., is first recorded in 1464.

frappe *adj.* 1848, American English, borrowing of French *frappé*, from past participle of *frapper* to chill, beat, from Old French *fraper* to hit, strike; of unknown origin. —**n.** 1922, from the adjective.

fraternal *adj.* Perhaps 1421 *fraternal*; borrowed probably from

Middle French *fraternel*, and from Medieval Latin *fraternalis*, from Latin *frāternus* brotherly, from *frāter* BROTHER; for suffix see *-AL*¹. —**fraternity** *n.* Before 1338 *fraternite* brotherhood; borrowed through Old French *fraternité*, and directly from Latin *frāternitatem* (nominative *frāternitās*), from *frāternus* fraternal; for suffix see *-ITY*. —**fraternize** *v.* 1611, borrowed from French *fraterniser*, from Latin *frāternus* fraternal; for suffix see *-IZE*.

fratricide¹ *n.* killer of one's own brother or sister. Before 1500 *fratricide*, borrowed through Middle French *fratricide*, and directly from Latin *frātrīcīda* (*frāter* brother + *-īda* killer, *-CIDE*¹).

fratricide² *n.* a killing of one's own brother or sister. 1568 *fratricide*, borrowed through Middle French *fratricide*, and directly from Latin *frātrīcīdium* (*frāter* BROTHER + *-īdium* a killing, *-CIDE*²).

fraud *n.* 1345–46 *fraude* criminal deception, false representation; borrowed from Old French *fraude*, learned borrowing from Latin *fraudem* (nominative *fraus*) deceit, injury. —**fraudulent** *adj.* Before 1420 *fraudulent*, borrowed from Middle French *fraudulent*, from Latin *fraudentus* cheating, fraudulent, from *fraudem* (nominative *fraus*) deceit.

fraught *adj.* Before 1375, loaded or full, past participle of Middle English *fraughten* to load (a ship) with cargo, from earlier noun *fraght* cargo or lading of a ship (1228), variant of *freghte* FREIGHT; also, in part, from Middle Dutch *vrachten*, *vrachten* to load or furnish with cargo. The figurative use (as in *fraught with difficulties*), is first recorded in 1576.

fray¹ *n.* fight. About 1350, variant form of AFFRAY.

fray² *v.* become ragged. About 1405, to wear, crush; 1410, to rub; borrowed from Middle French *frayer*, from Old French *freier*, from Latin *fricāre* to rub.

frizzle *v.* Before 1825, an East Anglian variant of earlier *fazle* to unravel, fray (1643); from *facelyn* to fray (1440), from *fasyll* fringe or frayed edge, a diminutive formed from Old English *fæs* fringe; cognate with Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *vese* fringe, fiber, chaff, and Old High German *fesa* chaff, *fasa* fringe, fiber (modern German *Faser* fiber, thread, *fasern* to fray, unravel); for suffix see *-LE*¹. —**n.** 1865, American English, weary condition; from the verb.

freak *n.* 1847, in *freaks of nature*; earlier, something very unusual, a fancy (1784); and capricious notion, (1563); of uncertain origin, probably related to Old English *frician* to dance. —**v.** 1637, to streak or fleck whimsically, from the noun sense of whim. The slang use *freak out* become excited is first recorded in 1965 in American English, from the noun *freak* user of drugs (1945), but is found earlier in the meaning change, distort (1911).

freckle *n.* 1380, implied in *fraced* spotted; alteration of *fraknes*, probably from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *freknótt* freckled, Icelandic *frekna* freckle, Swedish *fräknar*).

free *adj.* Probably before 1200 *fre*, developed from Old English (about 725) *frēo* free; cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon

frī free, Dutch *vrij*, Old High German *frī* (modern German *frei*), Old Icelandic *frjǫls*, and Gothic *freis*, from Proto-Germanic **frījaz*. —**adv.** 1250, from the adjective. —**v.** Probably before 1200 *frien*; later *fren* (about 1250); developed from Old English (725) *frēon*, *frēogan* to free, love; cognate with Old Frisian *frīa*, *frīaia* make free, Old Saxon *frīohan* to court, woo, Middle Low German *vrien* make free (modern German *befreien* to free, *freien* to woo), Old Icelandic *frjā* to love, Gothic *frījōn* to love. —**freedom** *n.* Probably before 1200, developed from Old English (about 888) *frēodōm* (*frēo* free + *-dōm* -dom).

freebie or **freebee** *n.* 1946, American English slang, from an earlier *freebee*, *freeby*, *adj.*, free of charge (1942 *free*, *adj.* + suffix *-bee* -by).

freebooter *n.* 1570 *frebetter*, borrowed from Dutch *vrijbuit*, from *vrijbuiten* to rob, plunder (*vrij* free + *buit* booty, from *buiten* to exchange or plunder, from Middle Dutch *būten*, related to Middle Low German *būte* exchange).

freeze *v.* About 1325 *fresen*; developed from Old English (before 971) *frēosan* turn to ice; cognate with Middle Low German *vrēsen* to freeze (modern German *frieren* to freeze), Old High German *friosan* to freeze, Old Icelandic *frjōsa*, from Proto-Germanic **freusanan*. The sense of chill or be chilled is first recorded (before 1393), and the figurative sense as with fear, etc. (about 1400). The related sense of become motionless, is first recorded before 1393, and the extension of fix at a definite value or level, or to make non-transactable, as assets, is first recorded in 1922. —**n.** About 1400, from the verb. —**freezer** *n.* 1847, machine for freezing (originally, ice cream).

freight *n.* 1228 *fraght* cargo or lading of a ship; later *freghte* the transporting of goods or passengers, passage money (1389), and *freight* (1442); borrowed from Middle Dutch or Middle Low German *vracht*, *vrecht*, probably from an unrecorded Old Frisian word (cognate with Old High German *frēht* earnings), ultimately derived from the base of Gothic *fra-* FOR- + *aihts* (from Proto-Germanic **aiHtiz*) property, possession, from *aigan* to possess, have. —**v.** Before 1375 *fraughten* to load (a ship) with cargo; later *freghten* (1415) and *freighten* (1449). —**freighter** *n.* 1622, one who loads a ship; formed from English *freight*, *n.* + *-er*. The meaning of cargo vessel is first recorded in 1836.

French *adj.* Probably before 1200 *Frensch* of France or its inhabitants; developed from Old English *frēncisc*, originally, of the Franks (*Franca* Frank + *-isc* -ish; the suffix producing vowel change in *Franca*; see FRANK¹); cognate with Old High German *frenkeisc*, *frenqisc*. —**n.** Probably before 1200 *frensch*, developed from Old English *frēncisc*, from the adjective. —**french fries** 1918, American English (earlier *french fried potatoes*, 1894).

frenetic *adj.* Before 1376 *frentik* crazed, delirious, frenzied; later *frenetik* (about 1385); borrowed through Old French *frenetique*, from Latin *phrenēticus* delirious, alteration of Greek *phrenētikós*, from *phrenitis* inflammation of the brain, frenzy; for suffix see -IC.

frenzy *n.* Probably before 1396 *frensye* delirium, insanity; contraction of earlier *frenesye* (about 1378); borrowed from Old French *frenesie*, from Medieval Latin *phrenesia*, from *phrenesis*, back formation from Latin *phrenēticus* delirious; see FRENETIC. The extended sense of excited state of mind, is first recorded probably before 1400. —**frenzied** *adj.* (1796)

frequent *adj.* About 1450, ample or profuse; borrowed through Middle French *frequent*, or directly from Latin *frequentem* (nominative *frequēns*) crowded, repeated; for suffix see -ENT. The meaning of common, usual, well-known, is first recorded in 1531, followed by that of happening at short intervals, often recurring in 1604. —**v.** 1477, visit often; borrowed through French *fréquenter*, or directly from Latin *frequentāre* to do or use often, from *frequentem*. —**frequency** *n.* 1553–87, a crowd; borrowed from Latin *frequentia* a crowd, throng, from *frequentem*. The meaning in physics of the rate of recurrence of a vibration is first recorded in English in 1831; for suffix see -ENCY. —**frequentative** *n.* 1530, verb which expresses a repetition of an action; borrowed from Latin *frequentativus*, from *frequentāre*; for suffix see -ATIVE.

fresco *n.* 1598 in *fresco*, in *frisco*, literally, in fresh (air); borrowed from Italian *fresco* cool, fresh, from a Germanic source (compare Old High German *frisc* fresh).

fresh *adj.* Probably before 1200 *fersch* unsalted, pure, sweet, eager; later *fresh* (1288); developed from Old English *fersch* (about 893); cognate with Old Frisian *fersk* fresh, Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *versch* (modern Dutch *vers*), Old High German *frisch* (modern German *frisch*). Before the 1300's, the spelling with *fre-* became prevalent, along with the wider meaning of new, novel, recent, in part influenced by Old French *fres* or *freis*, (feminine) *fresche*, from a Germanic source. —**freshen** *v.* 1697, formed from English *fresh* + *-en*¹. —**freshet** *n.* 1596, fresh water flowing into the sea, from earlier *fresh* flood, stream of fresh water (1538); formed from English *fresh*, *adj.* + *-et*.

fret¹ *v.* be peevish, unhappy or worried. 1127 *freten*; developed from Old English *fretan* eat, devour (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *vrēten* devour (modern Dutch *vreten*), Old High German *frezzan* (modern German *fressen*), and Gothic *fra-itan*; all derived from a Germanic compound formed from the base of Gothic *fra-* completely, FOR- + *itan* to EAT. The meaning of eat away, corrode, is first recorded before 1200, and the transferred sense of irritate or worry, about 1200. —**n.** Before 1420, probably from the verb, but possibly developed from Old English **fræt*.

fret² *n.* ornamental interlaced pattern. About 1386, borrowed from Old French *frete* interlaced work, trellis-work, probably from a Germanic source.

fret³ *n.* About 1500, ridge on a guitar, banjo, etc., to dampen a string; of unknown origin (possibly borrowed from Old French *frete* ring or ferrule; see FRET²).

friable *adj.* 1563, borrowed through Middle French *friable*, and directly from Latin *friabilis* easily crumbled or broken,

from *friāre* rub away, crumble into small pieces; related to *fricāre* to rub; for suffix see -ABLE.

friar *n.* Probably before 1200 *frere*, later *fryer* (before 1450), and *friar* (before 1596); borrowed from Old French *frere* brother or friar, from Latin *frāter* BROTHER. The shift in spelling parallels *briar*, *brier* and *choir*, and may be a spelling from pronunciation.

fricassee *n.* 1568, borrowed from Middle French *fricassée*, from *fricasser* mince and cook in sauce; of uncertain origin; possibly a compound of Middle French *frire* to fry + *casser*, *quasser* break, cut up. —**v.** 1657, from the noun.

fricative *adj.* 1860, formed from Latin *fricātus* (past participle of *fricāre* to rub) + English -ive. —**n.** 1863, from the adjective.

friction *n.* 1563, a chafing or rubbing; borrowed probably through Middle French *friction*, and directly from Latin *frictiōnem* (nominative *frictiō*) a rubbing or rubbing down, from *fricāre* to rub; *frictus*. The sense of resistance to motion or surfaces that touch is first recorded in 1722, though earlier mention of the principle is alluded to in 1704. The figurative extension of a disagreement or clash, is first recorded in 1761.

Friday *n.* 1148 *Friedai*; earlier *fridei* (1137); developed from Old English (before 1000) *frīgedæg*, literally, Frigga's day (in allusion to the Germanic goddess of heaven and of love); corresponding to Old Frisian *frīgendei*, *frīadei* Friday, Middle Low German *vrīdach*, Middle Dutch *vrīdag* (modern Dutch *vrijdag*), Old High German *frīatag* (modern German *Freitag*), and Old Icelandic *frjādagr*.

friend *n.* Probably about 1175 *frend*; developed from Old English *frēond* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *friond*, *friond* friend, Old Saxon *friond*, Dutch *vriend*, Old High German *friont* (modern German *Freund*), Old Icelandic *frændi*, and Gothic *frijōnds*; from the present participle of Proto-Germanic **frijōjanan*. The formation of *friend* parallels that of *fiend*; the spelling change is also found in *field*. —**friendship** *n.* Probably before 1200 *friendshipe*; developed from Old English *frēondscipe* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); formed from Old English *frēond* friend + -*scipe* -ship.

frieze *n.* 1563, borrowed from Middle French *frise*, originally, a ruff, from Medieval Latin *frisium* embroidered border, variant of *frigium*, *phrygium*, probably from Latin *Phrygium* Phrygian, Phrygian work, as in *Phrygiae vestes* (ornate, presumably embroidered, garments), from *Phrygia*, an ancient country in Asia Minor known for its embroidery. The general meaning of any decorative band painted or sculpted, is first recorded in 1847.

frigate *n.* 1585, borrowed from Middle French *frégate*, from Italian *fregata*, of unknown origin.

fright *n.* About 1250 *frigt*, developed from Old English (about 950) *fryhto*, variant of *fyrhtu* fear, dread (before 830); related to *forht* afraid (from Proto-Germanic **furhtaz*), and *fyrhtan* to frighten. Old English *fyrhtan* and *forht* are cognate with Old Frisian *fruchte* fear, *fruchtia* to fear, Old Saxon *forht*, *foraht* afraid, *forhta* fear, *forhtian* to fear, Middle Dutch *vrucht*, *vrocht* fear, *vruchten* to fear, Old High German *forht*, *foraht* afraid, *forhta*

fear, Old High German *furihten*, *for(a)htan* to fear. For the development of the modern spelling see **FIGHT**. —**frighten** *v.* 1666, from *fright*, *n.* + -*en*¹, replacing earlier *fright*, *v.* (Middle English *figten*, about 1250, developed from Old English *fyrhtan* to frighten).

frigid *adj.* Probably before 1425; borrowed from Latin *frigidus* cold, chill, cool, related to *frigere* be cold, *frigus* (genitive *frigoris*) cold, coldness, frost.

frill *n.* 1591, of uncertain origin, sometimes associated with *frill*, *v.*, shiver with cold, in allusion to the way a hawk or other bird ruffles its feathers when cold. The figurative sense of useless ornament, is first recorded in 1893, probably as an extension of earlier sense of ornamented dress or mannered air (before 1845). —**v.** 1574, furnish or decorate with a frill, probably borrowed from the same source as the noun.

fringe *n.* 1354 *frenge*, borrowed from Old French *frenge*, from Vulgar Latin **frimbria*, corresponding to Latin *fimbriae*, pl., fibers, threads, fringe; of uncertain origin; see the verb below. The figurative sense of outer edge or margin (as of society), is first recorded in 1894. The spelling *fringe* parallels *hinge* and *singe*. —**v.** 1480, furnish or decorate with a fringe; probably from the noun, and though verbal forms appeared as early as the 1200's, they probably reflect forms of the noun, as in *frenge* (1275) *frenge* + -*ed*² and *frengyng* (1437–39) *frenge* + -*ing* -*ing*¹.

frippery *n.* 1568, old clothes, borrowed from Middle French *friperie* old clothes, an old-clothes shop, from Old French *freperie*, from *frepe*, *ferpe*, *felpa* rag, from Late Latin *faluppa* chip, splinter, straw fiber; for suffix see -ERY. The sense of tawdry attire, is first recorded in 1637.

Frisbee *n.* 1957, from *Frisbie*, in Mrs. Frisbie's pies of the *Frisbie* bakery in Connecticut, where the prototype pie tins came from.

frisk *v.* 1519, probably developed from Middle English *frisk* lively (about 1450); borrowed from Middle French *frisque* lively, brisk, possibly from a Germanic source (compare Old High German *frisc* lively, FRESH). The meaning of run the hands rapidly over a person's clothing to search is first recorded in 1789. —**n.** 1525, from the verb. —**frisky** *adj.* Probably before 1500, formed from *frisk*, *adj.*, lively (about 1450) + -*y*¹.

fritter¹ *v.* waste little by little, especially in *fritter away*. 1728, perhaps from the noun (unrecorded at the time), but also possibly confused with *fritter*² a small fried cake. —**n.** 1767 *fritters* fragment or shred; possibly an alteration of earlier *fitters* fragments or pieces (1532), from *fitter* to fragment; of uncertain origin.

fritter² *n.* small fried cake. 1381 *frutur*, before 1399 *frytour*; borrowed from Old French *friture*, from Late Latin *frictūra* a frying

frivolous *adj.* 1459 *fryvolus* of little importance, silly; probably a borrowing of Latin *frivulus* silly, empty, trifling, diminutive of a lost adjective **frivos* broken, crumbled, from *friāre* break, rub away, crumble; for suffix see -OUS. The borrowing was possibly also influenced by *frivol* a trifle; later also used as an

adjective; borrowed from Middle French *frivole*, from Latin *frivolus*. — **frivolity** *n.* 1796, borrowed from French *frivolité*, from *frivole* frivolous.

friz or **frizz** *v.* 1660, probably borrowed from French *friser* to curl, perhaps from the stem of *frise* to *FRY*¹ cook. The spelling and pronunciation of this word have been influenced by *frizzle*¹ to curl. — *n.* 1668, frizzed hair; from the verb.

frizzle¹ *v.* curl (hair). 1565–73, of uncertain origin (perhaps related to Old English *frīs* curly; cognate with Old Frisian *frīse* lock of hair; or possibly formed in English from Middle French *friser* to curl + English *-le*¹). — *n.* 1613, crisp curl; from the verb.

frizzle² *v.* fry with a sputtering noise. 1839, probably imitative, perhaps formed from *fry*¹ with the spelling influenced by *sizzle*. — *n.* a hissing noise. (1894)

fro *adv.* Before 1325 *fra*, in Northern British dialect; also, about 1325 *fro*, in Midland British dialect; from earlier *fro*, prep. (before 1200); probably borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *frā*, adv., prep., from). The term survives in ordinary speech in *to and fro*.

frock *n.* 1350, robe worn by monks and friars, cowl; borrowed from Old French *froc* a monk's habit, from Frankish (compare Old High German *hroc*, modern German *Rock* coat; cognate with Old Frisian *hrock*, Old Saxon *hroc*). The sense of a garment worn by a woman or child, is first recorded in 1538.

frog¹ *n.* Probably before 1200 *frogge*; later *froge* (before 1338), and *frog* (1463), developed from Old English *frogga* (about 1000), a diminutive formation related to *frox*, *forse*, *frosce* frog; cognate with Middle Dutch *vorse* frog (modern Dutch *vors*), Old High German *frosk* (modern German *Frosch*), and Old Icelandic *frosker*, from Proto-Germanic **fruska-z*. Another form existed in Middle English *frude*, *froud* frog or toad, from Old Icelandic *fraudhr* frog. — **frogman** *n.* (1945).

frog² *n.* fastening for clothing. 1719, belt loop for carrying a weapon; of uncertain origin (perhaps from Portuguese *froco*, from Latin *flocus* FLOCK² tuft). The sense of ornamental fastening for a coat, is first recorded in 1746.

frolic *v.* 1583, from earlier adjective, joyful, merry (1538); borrowed from Middle Dutch *vrolyc* (*vro-* glad + *lyc* LIKE). Middle Dutch *vro* is cognate with Old Frisian *frō* happy, glad, Old Saxon *frā*, *frō*, *fraho*, Old High German *frō* (modern German *froh* glad, *fröhlich* joyful, merry), Old Icelandic *frār* swift, nimble. — *n.* 1616, mirth or a prank, from the verb.

from *prep.* Old English (before 800) *from*; earlier *fram* (about 700); related to Old English *fram*, adv., forward, forth, away; cognate with Old Saxon *fram* from, away, forward, Old High German *fram*, Old Icelandic *frā* from, *fram* forward, Gothic *fram* forward.

frond *n.* 1785, earlier cited as a Latin word in an English text (1753); borrowed from Latin *frōns* (genitive *frondis*) leaf, leafy branch, foliage.

front *n.* About 1300, forehead; borrowed from Old French

front forehead or brow, from Latin *frōntem* (nominative *frōns*) forehead. The meaning of foremost part, is first recorded before 1338. — *v.* 1523, to face; probably from the noun, and in others borrowed from Middle French *fronter*, from Old French *front* front. — **frontal** *adj.* 1656, borrowed from French *frontal*, and from New Latin *frontalis*, from Latin *frōntem* forehead; for suffix see *-AL*¹.

frontier *n.* Probably before 1400 *frountere* front line of an army, earlier *frountres* an altar cloth hanging over the edge (1392); borrowed from Old French *fronter*, *frontier*, from *front* brow. The meaning of border of a country or settled land, is first recorded in 1413.

frontispiece *n.* 1597–98 *frontispice* front of a building; borrowed from Middle French *frontispice*, probably from Italian *frontespizio*, and from Late Latin *frontispicium* facade, originally, a view of the forehead (Latin *frōns*, genitive *frontis*, forehead + *specere* look at). The meaning of a title page of a book, is first recorded in 1607, borrowed from earlier French (1500's), and that of a picture facing the title page, in 1682. The last syllable of the original spelling was assimilated (by folk etymology) to *-piece*.

frost *n.* Old English (about 725) *forst*; also (before 800) *frost* a freezing or becoming frozen, extreme cold; cognate with Old Frisian *frost*, *forst* frost, Old Saxon *frost*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *vorst*, Old High German *frost* (modern German *Frost*), and Old Icelandic *frost* (Norwegian, Swedish, and Danish *frost*); related to Old English *frēosan* to FREEZE. — *v.* 1635, to cover with frost or as if with frost.

Even Middle English had both *frost* and *forst* until sometime before 1475. It is not clear what established the spelling *frost* except that it has been the prevailing form among most of the Germanic languages, and its antecedents are found also in Proto-Germanic **frusta-*. — **frosted** *adj.* 1645, in reference to white or gray hair; later, covered with sugar or icing (1856); from *frost*, *v.* — **frosting** *n.* 1617, frost; later white sugar covering or icing (1858); from *frost*, *v.* — **frosty** *adj.* 1375, probably developed from Old English *frostig*.

froth *n.* About 1384, probably borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *frodha*, *fraudh* froth). The noun is not found in Old English, but the Germanic base **freuth-* appears in Old English *āfrēothan* to froth. — *v.* About 1384, from the noun.

frou-frou *n.* 1870, a rustling, as of a dress; borrowing of French *frou-frou*, possibly imitative of the sound. The sense of fussy details or frills, is first recorded in 1876.

froward *adj.* Probably before 1325 *fraward*, contrary; later *froward* (about 1330); formed from English *fro* FRO (shortened form of *from*) + *-ward*, literally, turned away from (the opposite of *toward*). A Middle English variant *frommerd* (probably before 1200), later *fromward* (before 1300), is found in Old English *fromweard* turned from or away (before 899); formed from *from* + *-weard* -ward.

frown *v.* About 1395 *frownen*, borrowed from Old French

froignier to frown or scowl, related to *froigne* scowling look, probably from Gaulish **frognā*.

An earlier form in Middle English *frouncen* (before 1395, scowl; earlier, wrinkle, before 1325); is now obsolete. —**n.** 1581, show of disapproval; earlier *frowne* of the lowering of clouds (before 1420); from the verb. The literal meaning of wrinkling of the brow, is first recorded in 1605.

frowzy or **frowsy** *adj.* 1681, ill-smelling or musty; possibly related to dialectal English *frowsty* smelly; of uncertain origin.

fructify *v.* 1340 *fructifien*, borrowed from Old French *fructifier*, learned borrowing from Late Latin *fructificāre* bear fruit, from a lost adjective **fructificus* fruit-bearing, from Latin *fructus* fruit + the root of *facere* make; see FRUIT; for suffix see -FY. —**fructification** *n.* 1615, either formed from English *fructify* + -ation; or borrowed from French *fructification*, modeled on Late Latin *fructificāre* + -tion.

fructose *n.* 1864, fruit sugar; formed in English from Latin *fructus* fruit + English -ose².

frugal *adj.* 1598, possibly a back formation from earlier *frugality*; or borrowed through Middle French *frugal*, from Latin *frūgālis*, from the undeclined adjective *frūgī* economical, useful, proper, originally the dative case of *frūx* fruit, profit, value; related to *fructus* FRUIT; for suffix see -AL¹. —**frugality** *n.* 1531, borrowed from Middle French *frugalité*, from Latin *frūgālītatem* (nominative *frūgālītās*) economy, thriftiness, from *frūgālis* frugal.

fruit *n.* Probably before 1200 *fruit*, later *fruit* (probably about 1200); borrowed from Old French *fruit*, from Latin *fructus* (genitive *fructūs*) fruit, produce, profit, from *frūg-*, stem of *frūi* to use, enjoy. The spelling with *i*, after the French, became established in the 1500's. —**v.** About 1378, to bear or come to fruit, from the noun. —**fruitful** *adj.* About 1390, formed from Middle English *fruyt* + -ful. —**fruitless** *adj.* Before 1400; formed from Middle English *fruyt* + -less.

fruition *n.* 1413 *fruycion* enjoyment; also *frucioun* (before 1415); borrowed through Middle French *fruition*, and directly from Late Latin *fruitionem* (nominative *fruitiō*) enjoyment, from Latin *frūi* to use, enjoy; for suffix see -TION. The meaning of act or state of bearing of fruit, is first recorded in 1885 (by mistaken association with *fruit*), and the figurative sense of realization or fulfillment, in 1889.

frump *n.* 1553, mocking action, jeer; later, shabby, un-stylish woman (1817); of uncertain origin, perhaps a shortening of *frumple* to wrinkle or crumple (*frumplen*, 1440); borrowed from Middle Dutch *verrompelen*, (*ver-* for-, completely + *rompelen* to RUMPLE).

frustrate *v.* 1445 *frustraten*, borrowed from Latin *frustrāre*, past participle of *frustrāri* to deceive, disappoint, frustrate, from *frustrā* in vain. —**frustration** *n.* 1461, nullification; later, act of frustrating, disappointment (about 1555); either formed from English *frustrate* + -ion, or borrowed, probably through Middle French *frustration*, from Latin *frustrationem* (nominative *frustratiō*), from *frustrāre*; for suffix see -ATION.

fry¹ *v.* cook in hot fat. About 1300 *frien*; borrowed from Old French *frīre*, from Latin *frīgere* to roast or fry. —**n.** 1634, excessive heat; 1639, fried food; from the verb. —**frying pan** (1355)

fry² *n.* young fish. 1293 *fry*, probably borrowed through Anglo-French *frei*, Old French *frai*, *froi* spawn, from *froier*, *freier* to rub, spawn (by rubbing the belly on sand); see FRAY² wear away. *Fry*², children or offspring, is first recorded in Scottish before 1400; by 1577 applied to the young of other creatures, especially those produced in large numbers. The sense of young or insignificant persons as a group, is first recorded before 1577. According to many sources these are unrelated to the meaning of young fish, and are borrowed from Icelandic *frjó*, *fræ* seed, from Old Icelandic *frjó*, *fræ*; cognate with Swedish *frö*, Danish, and Norwegian *frø* seed, and Gothic *fraiwa* seed, offspring.

fuchsia *n.* 1753, New Latin *Fuchsia*, the genus name, in allusion to Leonhard *Fuchs*, a German botanist.

fuddle *v.* 1588, to tipple; later, to confuse with or as with drink (about 1600); of uncertain origin (compare Low German *fuddeln* work in a slovenly manner as if drunk, in dialect, swindle, from *fuddle* worthless cloth, related to Dutch *vodde* rag, tatter). The commoner variant of this word is *befuddle*, a derivative which appeared in 1887.

fuddy-duddy *n.* Informal. fussy, old-fashioned person. 1904, American English, of uncertain origin.

fudge¹ *v.* put together clumsily or dishonestly. Probably 1674, apparently an alteration of earlier *fadge* make suit, fit (1573); of unknown origin. —**n.** made-up story. 1797, from the verb.

fudge² *interj.* bunk. 1766, perhaps from FUDGE¹. —**n.** 1791, from the interjection.

fudge³ *n.* soft candy. 1896, American English; possibly a special use of FUDGE¹.

fuel *n.* Probably before 1200 *feoule*, later *fuell* (before 1398); borrowed from Old French *feuaile*, *fouaille* bundle of firewood, from Gallo-Romance **focālia*, from Latin *focus* hearth. —**v.** About 1592, from the noun.

fugitive *adj.* About 1380 *fugityf* running away, fleeing; borrowed through Old French *fugitif* *fugitive*, or directly from Latin *fugitivus* fleeing (but more often as a noun, a runaway), from *fugi-*, stem of *fugere* run away, flee; for suffix see -IVE. —**n.** Before 1382 *fugitif*, borrowed from Old French *fugitif*; from the adjective.

fugue *n.* 1597 *fuge* musical composition based on short interwoven themes; borrowed from Italian *fuga*, literally, flight, a learned borrowing from Latin *fuga* act of fleeing, from *fugere* to flee.

The current spelling *fugue*, first recorded in 1667, was introduced from French *fugue*, also from Italian *fuga*.

-ful a suffix forming adjectives (or nouns) and meaning: 1 having, characterized by, as in *careful*, *thoughtful*; 2 having a tendency to, as in *harmful*; 3 having the qualities of, as in

masterful; 4 (forming nouns) enough to fill a —, as in *mouthful*, *cupful*. The form is found in Old English *-ful*, *-full*, a suffix formed on the adjective *full* **FULL**.

fulcrum *n.* 1674, borrowed from Latin *fulcrum* bedpost, from *fulcīre* to support.

fulfill or **fulfil** *v.* About 1250 *fulfilen* promise or prophesy, also as a variant before 1200; developed from Old English *fullfyllan* fill up, make full (about 1000); formed from Old English *full* **FULL** + *fyllan* to fill. The sense of carry out, satisfy (a prophecy, promise, commandment, etc.), is recorded probably before 1250, and may be a literal translation of Latin *implēre*, *adimplēre*. —**fulfillment** or **fulfilment** *n.* 1775, formed from English *fulfill* or *fulfil* + *-ment*.

full *adj.* Old English *full* complete, full (917); cognate with Old Frisian *full*, *foll* full, Old Saxon *full*, Dutch *vol*, Old High German *fol* (modern German *voll*), Old Icelandic *fullr*, and Gothic *fulls*, from Proto-Germanic **fullaz*, earlier **fulnaz*. —**adv.** Old English *full* (before 899); from the adjective.

fulminate *v.* Probably before 1425 *fulminaten* to hurl or discharge (a formal condemnation); borrowed, perhaps by influence of Old French *fulminer*, from Latin *fulminātus*, past participle of *fulmināre* hurl lightning, lighten, from *fulmen* (genitive *fulminis*) lightning, which is related to *fulgēre* to shine, flash. —**fulmination** *n.* 1502, discharge of a formal condemnation, borrowed from Middle French, from Latin *fulminātiōnem* (nominative *fulminātiō*) discharge of lightning, from *fulmināre*; for suffix see *-ATION*.

fulsome *adj.* About 1250 *fulsum* abundant or full; formed from Middle English *ful* full + *-som* *-some*¹. *Fulsom* plump, well-fed, is recorded by about 1350, but by 1642 the meaning is extended to overgrown or overfed. The general meaning of offensive to tastes or sensibilities, is recorded as early as 1375 (in Scottish), followed by other pejorative senses including coarse, gross, sickening (about 1410), and offensive to good taste, because of excessive flattery, praise, cordiality, or attention, (1663). However, since the 1960's *fulsome* frequently appears in the favorable senses of very flattering, or complimentary; full or complete, a usage that represents a return to the original meaning of the word.

fumble *v.* About 1450 *fomellen* grope; later *fumble* grope about awkwardly (perhaps earlier, see **FUMBLER**, but recorded 1534); of uncertain origin, possibly from a Scandinavian source, and probably cognate with Low German *fummeln*, *fommeln* to fumble, grope (modern German *fummeln* fumble, handle awkwardly), Dutch *fommelen* to fumble, tumble, and Old Icelandic *fálma* (Swedish *fumla*, *famla* to fumble, grope). —**n.** 1647, from the verb. —**fumbler** *n.* 1519; formed from English *fumble*, *v.* + *-er*¹. The *-b-* in *fumble* is probably a development parallel to the change of Middle English *cremelen* to *crumble* and *momelen* to *mumble*.

fume *n.* About 1390 *fume* vapor or exhalation as given by the body or producing emotions, dreams, etc.; later, smoke or vapor given off, especially by a heated substance (about 1395); borrowed from Old French *fum* smoke, steam, vapor, from

Latin *fūmus* smoke. —**v.** Before 1400, to fumigate; borrowed from Old French *fumer*, from Latin *fūmāre* to smoke, steam, from *fūmus* smoke. The figurative sense of to exhibit anger is first recorded in 1522.

fumigate *v.* 1530, back formation from *fumigation*, possibly by influence of Old French *fumiger* to smoke; and in some instances borrowed from Latin *fūmigāt-*, past participle stem of *fūmigāre* to smoke (from a lost adjective **fūmigus* smoke-driving, from *fūmus* smoke, fume + the root of *agere* to drive; see **AGENT**); for suffix see *-ATE*¹. —**fumigation** *n.* About 1380, act of generating smoke as part of a ceremony, later, treatment with aromatic fumes (probably about 1439); borrowed through Old French *fumigation*, from Latin *fūmigātiōnem* (nominative *fūmigātiō*), from *fūmigāre*; for suffix see *-ATION*.

fun *n.* Before 1325 *fon* a fool, later, a jester or buffoon (probably before 1350); of uncertain origin. The spelling *fun* may represent a variant pronunciation of *fon*. *Fun* is first recorded before 1700, meaning a trick, hoax, joke; possibly from Middle English *fonnen* to fool or be foolish, act foolishly (before 1400); see **FOND**. The meaning of amusement appeared in 1727, and was stigmatized in Samuel Johnson's *Dictionary* as "a low cant word." —**funny** *adj.* 1756, formed from English *fun*, *n.* + *-y*¹. —**funny bone** 1840, from the sensation when the nerve of the elbow is struck.

function *n.* 1533 *funcion* proper work or purpose; borrowed through Middle French *fonction*, from Old French *function*, and directly from Latin *functiō* (genitive *functiōnis*) performance, execution, from *functus*, past participle of *fungi* perform, execute, discharge. The use of *function* in mathematics was probably introduced from the Latin *functiō*, by Leibnitz. —**v.** 1856, from the noun. —**functional** *adj.* 1631, formed from English *function* + *-al*¹. —**functionary** *n.* 1791, formed from English *function*, *n.* + *-ary*, patterned after French *fonctionnaire* (1770).

fund *n.* 1677 *fund* bottom, foundation, basis; borrowed from French *fond* a bottom, floor, ground, also a merchant's stock or capital, from Latin *fundus* bottom, piece of land. The spelling *fund* is a Latinization of earlier *fond*, *fonds* foundation, groundwork (1664). The meaning of stock or sum of money, is first recorded in English in 1673 from French. —**v.** 1776, provide a fund; from the noun.

fundament *n.* 1380, borrowed from Latin *fundamentum*, from *fundāre* to found; see **FOUND**¹. The present form replaced Middle English *fundement*, *fondement* (recorded about 1300); borrowed from Old French *fondement*, learned borrowing from Latin *fundamentum*.

fundamental *adj.* About 1443 *fundamental* primary, original; probably formed from English *fundament* + *-al*¹, and modeled on Late Latin *fundamentālis* of the foundation, from Latin *fundamentum* foundation; see **FUNDAMENT**. —**fundamentalist** *n.* 1922, American English; formed from English *fundamental* + *-ist*. —**fundamentalism** *n.* 1923, American English; formed from English *fundamental* + *-ism*.

funeral *n.* 1437 *funerelles*, pl., funeral rites; borrowed from Middle French *funérailles*, pl., learned borrowing from Medi-

eval Latin *funeralia*, pl., funeral rites, but originally neuter plural of Late Latin *funerālis* having to do with a funeral, from Latin *funus* (genitive *funeris*) funeral, death, corpse; for suffix see -AL¹. As in Middle French, the singular and plural of the English word were used in the same sense until the end of the 1600's; by the mid 1600's, the spelling *funeral* was also fixed. —**adj.** About 1385, borrowed from Late Latin *funerālis*; see FUNERAL. —**funereal** **adj.** 1725, borrowed, by influence of Middle French *funerail*, from Latin *funereus*, from *funus* funeral; for suffix see -AL¹.

fungus **n.** 1527 *fungus* toadstool, mushroom; borrowed from Latin *fungus* mushroom, and replacing earlier *fungue* mushroom (before 1398), borrowed from Old French **fungue*, *fonge*, from Latin *fungus*. —**fungous** **adj.** Probably 1440, borrowed from Latin *fungosus*, from *fungus* mushroom.

funk¹ **n.** panic. 1743, recorded as Oxford University slang (before 1677); possibly borrowed from Flemish *fonck* perturbation, agitation, distress; of unknown origin (compare also Old French *funicle* wild, mad).

funk² **n.** strong smell. 1633, probably borrowed from dialectal French *funkière* smoke, from *funkier*, from Old French *funkier*, variant of *fungier* give off smoke, from Latin *fūmigāre* to smoke. —**funky** **adj.** 1784, strong or bad smelling; formed from English *funk*², **n.** + -y¹. The word was probably first adopted in American jazz slang in the title *Funky Butt* (about 1900). The sense of strong, earthy, deeply felt, as applied to jazz music, is first recorded about 1954. In the 1960's the meaning of *funky* was extended to fine, stylish, excellent.

funnel **n.** 1402–03 *funell*, borrowed from Middle French *fonel*, probably through Provençal *founil*, *enfounilh* funnel, from Late Latin *fundibulum*, shortened from Latin *īnfundibulum* a funnel or hopper in a mill, from *īnfundere* pour in (in- in-² + *fundere* pour, FOUND²). —**v.** 1594, from the noun.

fur **n.** Probably about 1375 *furre* fur trimming or lining, garment trimmed or lined with fur; earlier, *fur* in the surname *Furhode* (1301, a hood lined or trimmed with fur); probably borrowed from Old French *fouurer*, *forer* to line, sheathe, from *fuerre* sheath, covering, from Frankish; compare Old High German *fuotar*, *fōtar* lining, Middle Low German *vōder* (modern German *Futter*), Old Frisian *fōder* coat lining, Old English *fōder* sheath, case, Old Icelandic *fōdhr* lining, and Gothic *fōdr* sword sheath, from Proto-Germanic **fōdrān*. An alternate form existed in Middle English *furrūre*, *forour* (before 1338); borrowed from Old French *fouurrēure*, *forreūre*, and had a verb *furrūren* (probably before 1350). These lengthened forms died out in the late 1400's. —**adj.** 1597; from the noun. —**v.** Probably before 1300 *fur*, borrowed from Old French *fouurer*, *forer*, from *fuerre* sheath, covering; see the noun. —**furrier** **n.** 1296 *furrere*; borrowed probably through Anglo-French, from Old French *forreor*, from *fouurer*, *forer* line or trim with fur; for suffix see -IER. —**furry** **adj.** Before 1674, formed from English *fur* + -y¹.

furbish **v.** About 1384 *furbushen*, probably a back formation from *furbisher*, ultimately borrowed from Old French *forbiss-*, stem of *forbir*, *fourbir* to polish, from a Germanic source (com-

pare Old High German *furben* to sweep, clean, Middle High German *fürben* to polish); for suffix see -ISH². —**furbisher** **n.** About 1260, in the surname *Furbisur*, borrowed from Old French *fourbisseur*, *forbisseur*, from *forbiss-*; see FURBISH; for suffix see -ER¹.

furious **adj.** About 1375, borrowed from Old French *furieux*, learned borrowing from Latin *furiosus* full of rage, mad, from *furia* rage, passion, FURY; for suffix see -OUS.

furl **v.** 1556, of uncertain origin; possibly borrowed from Middle French *ferler* to furl (1553 or 1606), from Old French *ferlier* (*fer* firm, from Latin *firmus*, + *lier* to bind, from Latin *ligāre*). —**n.** roll, coil, curl. 1643, from the verb.

furlong **n.** Probably before 1300 *furlong* developed from Old English (about 900) *furlang*, originally, the length of the furrow in the common field (*furh* FURROW + *lang* LONG¹, **adj.**).

furlough **n.** 1625 *vorloff*, borrowed from Dutch *verlof*, literally, permission, from Middle Dutch (*ver-* completely, for- + *laf* permission). The spelling with *gh* developed during the 1600's and became fixed in the 1770's; it represents the *f* of *off*, once pronounced in this word, and even though lost probably before the 1700's as evidenced by the spelling *furlow* (1707), the spelling with *gh* remained. —**v.** to grant a furlough. 1783, from the noun.

furnace **n.** Probably about 1200 *furneise*, Middle English *fur-neise*; borrowed from Old French *fornais*, *fornaise*, from Latin *fornācem* (nominative *fornāx*) an oven, kiln; related to *formus*, *furnus* oven, and *formus* WARM.

furnish **v.** 1442 *fournesshen* provide, fit out, equip, borrowed from Middle French *furniss-*, stem of *furnir*, *fornir* furnish, accomplish, from Old French, from Vulgar Latin **fornire*, alteration of **formire*, **fromire*, from a Germanic source (compare Old High German *frummen* carry out, execute, see FOREMOST); for suffix see -ISH². —**furniture** **n.** 1529, action of fitting out or equipping; borrowed from Middle French *fourniture*, from *fournir*, *furnir* FURNISH. The meaning of movable household articles appeared in 1573.

furor or **furore** **n.** Probably before 1475 *furour* rage, fury; borrowed from Middle French *fureur*, learned borrowing from Latin *furor*, related to *furia* rage, passion, FURY. The form *furore* is first recorded as a borrowing of the Italian, from Latin *furōrem* (nominative *furor*).

furrow **n.** Before 1325 *forow*; earlier *forw* (about 1300) and *furg* (before 1250); developed from Old English (before 800) *furh* furrow; cognate with Old Frisian *furch* furrow, Middle Dutch *vore* (modern Dutch *voor*), Old High German *furuh* (modern German *Furche*), and Old Icelandic *for* furrow, ditch, from Proto-Germanic **furH-*. —**v.** About 1425 *forwen* to plow; from the noun. The sense of make wrinkles in, is first recorded in 1593.

further **adv.** Probably before 1200 *further*, developed from Old English (about 1000) *furthor*, *forthor* to a more advanced point, more forward (corresponding to Old Frisian *further*, Old Saxon *furthor*, Old High German *furdur*, obsolete German

fürder); see FARTHER. —**adj.** 1155 *furthur*; later *further* (before 1387); developed from Old English (about 1000) *furthra*, from *furthor*, adv. —**v.** Probably before 1200 *furthren*, *furthrien* go forth, proceed, assist, improve; later *furtheren* (about 1303); developed from Old English *fyrtthrian* help forward, assist, from *furthor*, adv. and *furthra*, adj. —**furtherance** n. About 1435, formed from Middle English *furtheran* + *-aunce* -ance. —**furthermore** adv. Probably about 1200 *further more*.

furtive adj. 1612, implied in earlier *furtively* (1490); borrowed from French *furtif*, *furtive*, from Latin *furtivus* stolen, hidden, secret, from *furtum* theft, robbery, from *fūr* (genitive *fūris*) thief.

fury n. About 1385 *furie* rage, agony, madness; borrowed through Old French *furie*, from Latin *furia* violent passion, rage, madness; related to *furere* to rage, be mad. The earlier use of *furios* (1375), means that specific dates are of no more consequence than an indication that these words were in the vocabulary in the latter part of the 1300's.

fuse¹ v. melt together. 1681, probably a back formation from *fusible* or *fusion*, perhaps formed by influence of French *fuser*; in some instances also borrowed from Middle French *fuser*, from Latin *fusus*, past participle of *fundere* pour, melt. —**fusible** adj. About 1395, borrowed from Old French *fusible*, from Medieval Latin *fusibilis*, from Latin *fūs-*, stem of *fundere*; for suffix see -IBLE. —**fusion** n. 1555, a melting; borrowed from Middle French *fusion*, from Latin *fusiōnem* (nominative *fusiō*), from *fūs-*, stem of *fundere*; for suffix see -SION. The figurative sense of a blending together of different things is first recorded in 1776.

fuse² or **fuze** n. tube, cord, etc., to detonate an explosive device. 1644, borrowed from Italian *fuso* spindle (originally spindle-shaped device), from Latin *fusus* spindle, of uncertain origin; probably also influenced by French *fusée* spindleful of hemp fiber, and especially English *fusee* musket fired by a fuse. The meaning for the device that breaks an electrical circuit is first recorded in 1884, and is so named for the shape and sometimes erroneously attributed to *fuse*¹ because fuses have an element that melts to break the circuit.

fuselage n. 1909, borrowed from French *fuselage*, from *fuselé* spindle-shaped, from Old French **fus* spindle, from Latin *fusus* spindle.

fusilier or **fusileer** n. 1680 *fusilier* soldier armed with a light musket or fusil; borrowed from French *fusilier*, from *fusil* musket, from Old French *fusil*, *fuisil*, *foisil* musket (earlier, steel for a tinderbox), from Vulgar Latin **focilis* (petra) (stone) producing fire, from Vulgar Latin **focus* fire, from Latin *focus* hearth; for suffix see -IER.

fusillade n. 1801, borrowed from French *fusillade*, from *fusiller* to shoot, from *fusil* musket; see FUSILIER; for suffix see -ADE. —**v.** 1816, from the noun.

fuss n. 1701, bustle, ado, commotion, perhaps imitative of a bubbling or sputtering sound, expressing commotion or agitation.

tion. —**v.** 1792, from the noun. —**fussy** adj. 1831; earlier implied in *fussily* (1817); formed from English *fuss*, n. + *-y*¹.

fustian n. Probably before 1200 *fustane* kind of coarse, thick cloth; later *fustian* (1380); borrowed from Old French *fustaigne*, *fustaine*, from Medieval Latin *fustaneum*, probably from Latin *fūstis* staff, stick of wood, probably a loan translation of Greek *xylina lina* linens of wood (cotton). Also derived from *Fostat*, town near Cairo, where this cloth was manufactured. The figurative meaning of inflated, pompous language, is first recorded about 1590. —**adj.** 1429–30 *fusteyn* made of fustian; later *fustian* worthless, pretentious (1523); from the noun.

fusty adj. 1491 *fusty* smelling of mold; developed from earlier *fust* wine cask (1481–90); borrowed from Old French *fust*, *fuist* (originally, stick, stave), from Latin *fūstis* staff, stick of wood; of uncertain origin; for suffix see *-y*¹.

An earlier term *foist* wooden cask, and its adjective *foyste* musty, smelling of a cask (about 1450) were also borrowed from Old French *fuist*, *fust*.

futile adj. About 1555, borrowed from Middle French *futile* and directly from Latin *fūtilis* vain, worthless, futile (literally, pouring out easily), from the base of *fundere* pour, melt. —**futility** n. 1623, probably formed from English *futile* + *-ity*, modeled on French *futilité*, from Latin *fūtilitatem* (nominative *fūtilitās*), from *fūtilis*.

future adj. About 1380 *future*, *futur*; borrowed through Old French *futur*, *future*, and directly from Latin *futūrus* about to be, irregular suppletive future participle to *esse* to be; see BE. —**n.** About 1380, probably from *future*, *futur*, adj., the use modeled on Latin *futura*, neuter plural of *futūrus*. —**futurism** n. 1909, movement in art originating in Italy; borrowed from Italian *futurismo* (*futuro* future, from Latin *futūrus* + *-ismo* -ism).

fuzz¹ n. fluffy hair or fibers, down. 1674 *fuzze* mass of fluffy particles, from earlier *fusse* (1601, or by shortening of *fusball*, 1597, a puffball of tiny spores); or possibly a back formation from earlier *fuzzy*; of uncertain origin. —**fuzzy** adj. 1616, spongy or fluffy; of uncertain origin, perhaps from Low German *fussig*; spongy; however, if *fuzz* was formed from earlier *fusse*, then *fuzzy* was probably formed from English *fuzz* + *-y*¹, implied also in earlier *fussiness* (1613). The sense of blurred, indistinct, is first recorded in 1778.

fuzz² n. 1929 *the fuzz* the police, American English, of uncertain origin; perhaps a special application of *fuzz*¹.

-fy a suffix forming verbs and meaning: make or cause to be, as in *simplify*; become, as in *solidify*; bring into a certain state, as in *calcify*, *horrify*. Adopted from Old French verbs ending in *-fier*, or formed on analogy of such verbs, from Latin *-ficāre* (sometimes as a replacement of *-ficere*), from *-ficus* making, from *facere* to make, DO¹ perform. The usual ending for these verbs in English is *-ify*, with *i* treated as a simple connective. The same practice is found in *-fic* (see *-FIC*), and in *-ficient*, and *-fication*, and *-faction*.

G

gab *v.* 1369 *gabben* speak foolishly, talk nonsense; earlier, scoff, jeer (probably about 1150); borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *gabba* to mock). The meaning of chatter or gabble was a widespread usage in Northern English and Scottish dialects before its first recorded use in 1786. —**n.** Before 1325 idle talk; earlier *gabbe* gibe, taunt (probably about 1200); borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *gabb*, *gabba* mockery).

gabardine *n.* closely woven cloth. 1904, from the earlier sense of dress, covering (1594); variant of GABERDINE.

gabble *v.* talk rapidly. 1577, formed from English *gab*, *v.* + *-le*³. —**n.** rapid talk. 1601, meaningless noises made by animals, especially geese, from the verb.

gaberdine *n.* long, loose outer garment. 1520, borrowed from Spanish *gabardina* (*gabán* overcoat and *tabardina* coarse coat), influenced by Middle French *gaverdine*, *galverdine*; of uncertain origin.

gable *n.* 1347–48 *gabell*; earlier, in the place name *Mykelgavel* (1338). The form in the south of England was *gable*, borrowed through Old French *gable*, probably from Old Icelandic *gaf* *gable*. The form in Scotland and the north of England was *gavel*, probably borrowed directly from Old Icelandic *gaf*. The word is related to Old English *gafol*, *geafel* fork, possibly all forms developing from Proto-Germanic **gabla*, having the sense of fork, as found in Middle and modern Dutch *gaffel*, and Old High German *gabala* (modern German *Gabel*) fork.

gad *v.* Before 1460 *gadden* move about restlessly, of uncertain origin perhaps a back formation from *gadling*, *gadeling* wandering (probably about 1150); or suggesting association with *gad* a goad for driving cattle (see GADFLY). —**gadabout** *n.* wanderer. 1837, developed from *gad-about*, *adj.* (1817); formed from English *gad*, *v.* + *about*.

gadfly *n.* 1626, fly that bites cattle; probably formed from *gad* goad (1250 metal rod) + *fly*¹ insect. Earlier (1591) *gadfly* is recorded with the meaning of someone who likes to go about, often stopping here and there. This strongly suggests some association with *gad* (move about restlessly) and in turn confusion with *gad* (a goad; borrowed from a Scandinavian source, compare Old Icelandic *gaddr* spike, cognate with Gothic *gazds*, Old High German *gart*, from Proto-Germanic **gazdaz*).

gadget *n.* 1886 *gadjet*, probably a simple phonetic spelling of a

term said to be known as early as the 1850's, apparently in the jargon of sailors for a small device, fitting, or piece of mechanism of unknown or indefinite name. Perhaps a borrowing of French *gâchette* piece of a mechanism, a diminutive form of *gâche* staple of a lock, wall staple or hook (compare *gizmo* for a similar but later formation).

gadolinium *n.* 1886, New Latin *gadolinium*; formed in allusion to the Finnish chemist Johan *Gadolin* (discoverer of gadolinite, a silicate containing this element) + *-ium*.

Gaelic *adj.* 1774, earlier *Gathelik* (1596); formed from *Gael*, Scottish *Gaidheal*, from Old Irish *Góidhel* + *-ic*. —**n.** 1775, from the adjective.

gaff *n.* Probably before 1325 *gaffe* iron hook; borrowing of Old French *gaffe* boat hook; see GAFFE. The specific meaning of hook on a fishing spear, appears in 1656. Slang use as *in stand the gaff*, *get or give the gaff*, is first recorded in American English in 1896. —**v.** 1844, from the noun.

gaffe *n.* 1909, borrowing of French *gaffe* blunder (originally, boat hook), from Old French *gaffe*, from Old Provençal *gaf*, probably from West Gothic **gafa* hook, from Proto-Germanic **gafa*.

gaffer *n.* 1589, old man, apparently contraction of *godfather*, originally a title of address for an elderly man; the vowel partially influenced by *grand-*, in *grandfather*. In the 1800's the term was applied to a foreman or supervisor from which later meanings emerged, such as that of a master glass blower or an electrician in charge of the lighting of a film or television studio set.

gag¹ *v.* choke. About 1440 *gaggen* strangle, suffocate; possibly imitative of the sound made in choking, but perhaps related to Old Icelandic *gaghal* with head thrown back. The sense of stop up (a person's mouth) to prevent speech or outcry, is first recorded in 1509. —**n.** 1553, from the verb.

gag² *n.* joke. 1805, a made-up story, deception, possibly developed from earlier *gag* (1777) to deceive, take in or ply (a person) with talk, especially in the sense of stuff or fill, *GAG*¹. The extended meaning of a joke is first recorded in 1863.

gaga *adj.* 1920, probably borrowed from French *gaga* senile, foolish.

gage¹ *n.* pledge. Probably before 1300 *gage* pledge to fight;

borrowed from Old French *gage*, *guage*, from Frankish **wadjā-*, related to Gothic *wadi* pledge (from Proto-Germanic **wadjan*).

gage² *v.* See GAUGE.

gaggle *n.* Before 1450 *gagalle* flock of geese; possibly borrowed from Old Icelandic *gagl* goose.

gaiety or **gayety** *n.* See GAY.

gaily *adv.* See GAY.

gain *n.* 1473 *gayne* booty or prey; but implied in earlier *gainage* profit from agriculture (before 1393); borrowed from Middle French *gain*, from Old French *gaigne*, from *gaignier* to gain, (also) cultivate land, from Frankish **waidanjan* (compare Old High German *weidenōn* to hunt, pasture, *weidōn* to hunt, seek food, *weida* pasture, fodder, modern German *Weide* pasture, *weiden* to pasture); cognate with Old English *wāth* hunt, *wāthan* to hunt, wander, and Old Icelandic *veidhr* hunt, *veidha* to hunt; the basic Proto-Germanic noun being **warthō*. —**v.** 1530 *gaine* profit; borrowed from Middle French *gaigner*, from Old French *gaignier*.

Gain replaced or merged with *gein* advantage, benefit, remedy; and *geinen* be useful, suitable, serve (before 1200); borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *gegn*, adj., ready, serviceable; and *gegna* to suit). —**gainful** adj. 1549, implied in *gainfully*; formed from English *gain*, *n.* + *-ful*.

gainsay *v.* Before 1325, implied in earlier *genseyying* contradiction, literally, a saying against; formed from *gain-* against (Old English *gegn-*, *gēan-*) + *say*.

gait *n.* About 1450 *gait*, *gate*, derivative use of *gate* a going or walking, departure, journey (probably before 1300), and earlier, way, road, path (probably about 1200); borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *gata* way, road, path); cognate with Old High German *gazza* street (modern German *Gasse*), and Gothic *gatwō*. The form *gait* was not fully established before the 1750's, *gate* being found in 1588.

gaiter *n.* 1775, borrowed from French *guêtre*, from Middle French **gwestre* (misspelled *guietre*), probably from Frankish **urist* instep, cognate with modern German *Rist* instep.

gala *n.* 1625, festive dress or attire; borrowed from Italian *gala*, and later also from French *gala*, from Old French *gale* merriment, from *galer* make merry, from Gallo-Romance **walāre*, from Frankish **wala*, cognate with Old English *wel*, Gothic *waila*; see WELL¹. Related to GALLANT, but also suggesting a connection with Middle English *gale* song, singing, merriment (probably before 1200); borrowed from Old French *gale* merriment. The sense of festive occasion is first recorded in 1777.

galaxy *n.* About 1380, the Milky Way; borrowed from Late Latin *galaxias* Milky Way, from Greek *galaxiās*, from *gála* (genitive *gálaktos*) milk. The technical meaning of stars in a system is first recorded in 1848. —**galactic** adj. 1839, of the Galaxy (Milky Way); borrowed from Late Latin *galacticus* milky, from Greek *gála* (genitive *gálaktos*) milk. The sense of pertaining to a galaxy or galaxies in general, is first recorded in 1849.

gale *n.* Before 1547 *gaile* wind; origin uncertain.

galena *n.* 1601, borrowed from Latin *galēna* a mixture of silver and lead ores, dross from smelting lead; of uncertain origin (possibly from Greek).

gall¹ *n.* Probably before 1200 *galle* gall bladder; later *gall* bile (1373); developed from Old English *galla* bile (Anglian dialect, before 830), *gealla* bile (West Saxon). Old English *galla* is cognate with Old Saxon and Old High German *galla* bile (modern German *Galle*), Middle Dutch *galle* (modern Dutch *gal*), and Old Icelandic *gall*, from Proto-Germanic **gallōn-*. The informal meaning of impudence, boldness, is first recorded in American English in 1882, and developed from embittered spirit, rancor (probably about 1200, possibly by influence of that sense in Latin). —**gall bladder** (1676)

gall² *n.* sore spot. About 1395 *galle*, developed from Old English *gealla* painful swelling (about 1000); borrowed from Latin *galla* GALL³ lump on plant. —**v.** Probably before 1325 *gallen* have sores, be sore; from the noun. The sense of irritate or annoy, is first recorded in 1573, from the meaning of harass in warfare (1548). —**galling** adj. 1583, irritating, offensive; from *gall*², *v.*

gall³ *n.* lump that forms on injured plants. Before 1398 *galle*, borrowed from Old French *galle*, learned borrowing from Latin *galla* oak apple, gallnut, of uncertain origin.

gallant adj. About 1440 *galaunt* stylish, showy; also before 1450, brave, noble in spirit; borrowed from Old French *galant* courteous (earlier, spirited or dashing), from present participle of *galer* make merry, of uncertain origin. In form and meaning the word is probably connected with Middle English *gale* merrymaking, and GALE. —**n.** Probably 1388 *galaunt* dissolute man, rake; later, man of fashion (1448); borrowed from Old French *galant*, *n.*, from Old French *galant*, adj. —**gallantry** *n.* 1595, fine appearance; borrowed from French *galanterie*, from Old French *galant*, adj. and *n.* The meaning of gallant behavior, is first recorded in 1632.

galleon *n.* 1529 *gallion*, *galion*; borrowing of Old French *galion* galleon, from Spanish *galeón* galleon, an armed merchant ship, formed on *galea* galley, from Medieval Greek *galéa* GALLEY.

gallery *n.* Probably before 1439 *gallerie* covered walkway or passage; borrowed from Middle French *galerie* a long portico, gallery, from Medieval Latin *galeria*, of uncertain origin (perhaps alteration of *galilea*, *galilaea* church porch, probably from Latin *Galilaea*, from Greek *Galilā* Galilee, the northernmost region of Palestine in the time of Christ).

The meaning of a building to house works of art is first recorded in English in 1591, and the sense of those people who occupy a gallery, as in a theater, is found in 1649.

galley *n.* Probably about 1225 *galeie*, borrowed from Old French *galie*, *galee*, probably through Catalan *galea*, from Medieval Greek *galéa*, of uncertain origin.

Gallic adj. 1672, borrowed from Latin *Gallicus* pertaining to Gaul or the Gauls, from *Gallia* Gaul, and *Gallus* a Gaul.

—**Gallicism** *n.* 1656, borrowing of French *gallicisme* (*gallic* + *-isme* *-ism*).

gallinaceous *adj.* 1783, borrowed, possibly by influence of earlier French *gallinacé*, from Latin *gallināceus* of poultry, from *gallina* hen, from *gallus* rooster; for suffix see *-ACEOUS*.

gallium *n.* 1875, New Latin, probably formed from a play on words by translating French *le coq* rooster into Latin *gallus* + *-ium*.

gallivant *v.* 1819, a humorous alteration of *gallant*, *v.* (1608, play the gallant, flirt, gad about, from *GALLANT*, *adj.*).

Gallo- a combining form meaning Gaul, Gaulish, Gallic, as in *Gallo-Latin*, *Gallo-Romance*; or France, French, as in *Gallophile*. Borrowed from Latin *Gallo-*, combining form of *Gallus* inhabitant of ancient *Gallia* Gaul.

gallon *n.* Probably about 1225 *galun*, later *gallon* (1475); borrowed from Old North French *galon* (probably Norman dialect), corresponding to Old French *jalon* liquid measure, related to *jale* bowl and *jaloie* measure of capacity, from Medieval Latin *galleta* bucket or pail, of uncertain origin (perhaps from Gaulish *galla* vessel).

gallop *v.* Before 1425 *galopen*, borrowed from Middle French *galoper*, from Old French *galoper*, variant of Old North French *waloper*; see *WALLOP*. —**n.** 1523 *galoppe*; from the verb. These forms existed along with *walop*, *wallop* (Scottish use as early as 1375), but replaced *walop*, *wallop* by the late 1500's.

gallows *n.* 1400 *gallowes*; earlier *galwes*, plural of *galwe* gallows (about 1300), and in the place name *Galowe* (1228–40); developed from Old English *galga* (probably Mercian, about 725, in *Beowulf*), *gealga* (in West Saxon); cognate with Old Frisian *galga* gallows, Old Saxon and Old High German *galgo* (modern German *Galgen*), Old Icelandic *galgi* gallows, *gelgia* twig, stick, Gothic *galga* cross from Proto-Germanic **galz-*.

galore *adv.* 1675, in abundance; borrowed from Irish *go léir*, corresponding to Gaelic *gu léir* sufficiently, enough (*go*, Gaelic *gu*, usually thought to mean *to*, is a particle prefixed to an adjective to form an adverb and does not have the meaning usually ascribed to it).

galosh *n.* About 1364–65 *galoches*, pl., a kind of footwear; earlier variant *galeys*, probably *galegs*, pl. (1353); and found in the surname *Galoche* maker or seller of galoshes (1306); probably borrowed from Old French *galoches*, possibly a word derived from Vulgar Latin **galopia*, from **galopus*, from Greek *kālōpōdion*, diminutive of *kālōpous* shoemaker's last (*kālon* wood + *poús* foot).

galumph *v.* 1872, apparently from a blend of *gallop* and *trumph*; coined by Lewis Carroll.

galvanism *n.* 1797, electricity produced by chemical action; borrowed from French *galvanisme* or from Italian *galvanismo*, formed in allusion to the Italian scientist Luigi *Galvani* + *-isme*, *-ismo* *-ism*. —**galvanic** *adj.* 1797, formed from English *galvan(ism)* + *-ic*, perhaps modeled on French *galvanique*. —**galvanize** *v.* 1802, either formed from English *galvan(ism)*

+ *-ize*, or borrowed from French *galvaniser*, from *galvanisme* galvanism. The figurative sense of excite as if by an electric current, is first recorded in 1853.

gambit *n.* 1656 *gambett*, borrowed from Italian *gambetto*, literally, a tripping up (as a trick in wrestling), from *gamba* leg, from Late Latin *gamba*. The current spelling came from French *gambit*. *Gambit* in the sense of any opening move to gain some advantage, is first recorded in English in 1855.

gamble *v.* 1726, implied in *gambling* playing for high stakes; alteration of *gamner*, *gamener* (1509), from *gamen*, *gamenen* to play, jest, be merry (probably before 1200) or a derivative from *game* to play games (1594). The intrusion of *b* may come from confusion with the homophone *gambol*, *v.*, in the meaning be playful or sportive (1602). —**n.** 1823, risky venture; from the verb. —**gambler** *n.* (1747).

gambol *n.* 1596, alteration (by loss of *d*) in *gambolde* a leap or spring (1530), from *gambad* leap of a horse (1503); borrowed from Middle French *gambade*, possibly through Provençal *gambado*, *campado*, and *camba* leg, from Late Latin *gamba*, *camba* horse's hock or leg, from Greek *kampē* bend; see *CAMP*¹. The sense of frolicsome movements, merrymaking appeared in 1596. —**v.** 1590, alteration (probably by influence of noun *gambolde*, *gambauld*), of *gambade* to leap or spring (1508); borrowed from Middle French *gambader*, from *gambade*, *n.* The sense of to be sportive or frolicsome, is found in 1602.

gambrel *n.* 1851, in *gambrel roof*, so called from the shape of a *gambrel* a horse's hind leg (1601); earlier, stick to hang slaughtered animals on (1547); borrowed from Old North French (Norman dialect) *gamberel*, from *gambe* leg, from Late Latin *gamba*.

game¹ *n.* amusement. Probably before 1200 *gome* (West Midland dialect) and *game*; developed from Old English *gamen* joy, fun, amusement (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *game* joy, glee, Old Saxon, Old High German, and Old Icelandic *gaman* game, sport, merriment, of unknown origin. The meaning of wild animals caught for sport is first recorded about 1300. —**v.** Before 1325 *gamen* to play, be merry, formed from a blend of *gomen* (West Midland dialect, probably before 1200), from the noun; and a shortened form of *gommen* (also West Midland dialect, probably before 1200), later *gomenen*; developed from Old English *gamenian* to play, from *gamen* joy. —**adj.** 1725, brave, spirited; from the noun. —**gaming** *n.* 1501, gambling; formed from English *game*, *v.* + *-ing*. —**gamy** *adj.* spirited, plucky. 1844, formed from English *game*, *n.* + *-y*¹. The sense of having a strong taste or smell, as of game, is first recorded in 1863.

game² *adj.* lame. 1787, of uncertain origin (possibly a variant of *gammy*, slang for bad, 1839, though the date is late, the record of slang is often defective).

gamete *n.* 1886, borrowed from New Latin *gameta*, from Greek *gametē* wife, *gamētēs* husband, from *gamein* marry.

gamin *n.* 1840, street urchin; borrowed from French *gamin*, perhaps from Berrichon dialect *gamer* to steal.

gamma *n.* Probably before 1425, third letter of the Greek alphabet; borrowed from Latin *gamma*, from Greek *gámma*, from a Semitic source (compare Hebrew *gímel* the third letter of the Hebrew alphabet, literally meaning a camel, originally formed from the hieroglyph of a camel). — **gamma globulin** (1937) — **gamma ray** (1903).

gammon *n.* Probably before 1425 *gambon* hindquarter of a pig; later *gammon* (1611); borrowed from Old North French *gambon* ham, from *gambe* leg, from Late Latin *gamba* leg.

— **gamous** a combining form producing adjectives and meaning marrying, as in *monogamous*; or joining in reproduction, as in *homogamous*. Borrowed from Greek *-gamos*, from *gámos* marriage.

gamut *n.* Before 1450, lowest tone in a musical scale of all the recognized notes in medieval music; a contraction of Medieval Latin *gamma ut* (*gamma* Greek letter and *ut*, later replaced by *do*²). In medieval musical notation the names of the notes were taken from the syllables in a Latin hymn to St. John the Baptist. The figurative sense of whole scale or range of a thing is first recorded in 1626.

— **gamy** a combining form producing nouns and meaning marriage, as in *monogamy*; or union in reproduction, as in *heterogamy*. Borrowed from Greek *-gamiā* (as in *monogamiā* monogamy), from *gámos* marriage; see *-GAMOUS*.

gander *n.* Before 1250 *gandre*, developed from Old English *gandra* (about 1000); cognate with Dutch *gander*, and Middle Low German *ganre*, from Proto-Germanic **gánez-*. The slang meaning (by craning the neck as a gander does) of a long look is first recorded in 1914, from the verb (1903).

gang *n.* 1400, band of men; earlier, a number of things used together (probably 1340); also, a going, journey (probably about 1200), a road, path (1199); developed from Old English (before 830) *gong* a going, journey, step, passage. The disparity of meanings indicated two sources: group of men and set, directly from Old Icelandic; and a going, journey, way, from Old English; cognate with Old Frisian, Old Saxon, Dutch, Old High German *gang* (modern German *Gang*) a going, Old Icelandic *gangr* a going (but also, a group), and Gothic *gagg* a going, from Proto-Germanic **ganzaz*. — **v.** *Informal*. 1856, from the noun. This new verb is a reintroduction of the verb use in English, which is earlier found in the obsolete *gangen* (probably about 1200, wander). The sense of arrange tools or machines in gangs is American English (1900). — **gangster** *n.* 1896, American English; formed from English *gang*, *n.* + *-ster*. — **gangway** *n.* Old English *gangweg* road, passage, thoroughfare (about 1000); formed from *gang*, *n.* + *weg* way.

ganglion *n.* 1681, swelling on the sheath of a tendon; borrowing of Late Latin *ganglion*, from Greek *ganglion*, earlier used in the sense of a nerve bundle by Galen, the physician and writer of the 100's A.D., and first recorded in English in 1732.

gangrene *n.* Before 1400 *cancrena*, *cancrene*; later *gangrene* (1563); borrowing of Medieval Latin *cancrena*, from Latin *gangraena*, from Greek *gángraina* an eating or gnawing sore.

— **gangrenous** *adj.* 1612, formed from English *gangrene*, *n.* + *-ous*.

gantlet *n.* See GAUNTLET.

gantry *n.* 1356 *ganter* wooden stand for barrels; borrowed from Old North French *gantier*, Old French *chantier*, from Latin *cantherius* rafter, frame, borrowed from Greek *kanthēlios* pack ass, from the framework placed on its back, *kanthēlion* rafter, of unknown origin.

gap *n.* Before 1325; earlier in the place name *Grenehougap* (1261); borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *gap* chasm, related to *gapa* to GAPE). — **v.** 1847, to notch, make jagged; from the noun. The sense of make a gap, is first recorded in 1893.

gape *v.* Before 1250 *gapen*, probably borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *gapa* to open the mouth, gape; cognate with Middle Low German, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *gapen* to gape, Middle High German and modern German *gaffen* to gape, stare, Old English *ofergapian* neglect, forget), of unknown origin. — **n.** 1535, act of opening the mouth, a yawn; from the verb.

gar *n.* 1765, American English, shortening of GARFISH.

garage *n.* 1902, borrowing of French *garage* place where a vehicle is sheltered, from Middle French *garer* to shelter, from Germanic; (compare Old High German *warōn* take care, modern German *wahren*, safeguard); see *WARY*. — **v.** 1906, from the noun.

garb *n.* 1591, grace, stylishness; borrowed from Middle French *garbe* graceful outline, from Italian *garbo* grace, elegance, perhaps from Germanic; (compare Old High German *garawi*, *garwi* adornment, GEAR). The sense of fashion of dress, appeared in 1622 from manner of doing something, style of living (1599). — **v.** 1836, from the noun.

garbage *n.* 1422, entrails or waste parts of an animal; of uncertain origin (some relation may exist with *garbelage* removal of refuse from spices, and with Old French *garbage*, variant of *jarbage*, a bundle of sheaves, entrails). The specific meaning of refuse is first recorded in English in 1583.

garble *v.* 1419–20 *garbelen* to inspect and remove refuse from; borrowed through Anglo-French *garbeler* to sift, from Middle French, and from Medieval Latin *garbellare*, from Arabic *gharbala* to sift. The Arabic word is related to *ghirbāl* sieve, perhaps from Late Latin *cribellum*, diminutive of Latin *cribrum* sieve, and related to *cernere* to sift, separate. Existence of Italian *garbellare* and Spanish *garbillo* reinforce the opinion that this was a widespread term among Mediterranean traders. The sense of confuse, mix up or distort by mutilating or making unfair selection from (a statement, writing, etc.), is first recorded in 1689–92.

garden *n.* 1171–83 *gardin*, borrowed from Old North French *gardin*, from *gart* garden, from Frankish (compare Old High German *garto* garden, modern German *Garten*; related to *gart* enclosure, YARD; cognate with Old Saxon *gard* enclosure, Old

English *geard*, Old Icelandic *gardhr*, and Gothic *gard-s*; the sense of garden is also found in Old Frisian *garda*, Old Saxon *gardo*, and Old High German). —**v.** 1577; from the noun. —**gardener** *n.* (1130), as part of a surname in *Cardiner*, later *Gardiner* (1169); borrowed from Old North French **gardinier*, from *gardin* + *-ier* (compare Old High German *gartināri*, modern German *Gärtner*).

gardenia *n.* 1757, New Latin, formed in allusion to the American naturalist Alexander Garden.

garfish *n.* 1440 *garfysche*, compound of Old English *gār* spear (with reference to the fish's jaws) + *fisc* FISH.

gargantuan *adj.* 1596, in allusion to *Gargantua* (a large-mouthed giant in novels of French satirist Rabelais supposedly from Spanish and Portuguese *garganta* gullet, throat); for suffix see -AN.

gargle *v.* 1527 *gargle*, *gargil*; probably borrowed from Middle French *gargouiller* to gurgle, bubble, and replacing Middle English *gargarisen* (recorded probably before 1425, and borrowed from Latin *gargarizare*). Middle French *gargouiller* was formed from Old French *gargouille* throat, waterspout, perhaps formed from *garg-*, imitative of sounds made in the throat + **goule*, dialect for mouth, from Latin *gula* throat —**n.** 1657, from the verb.

gargoyle *n.* 1286 *gargurl*; later *gargoille* (1363); borrowed from Old French *gargole*, *gargouille* throat, waterspout; see GARGLE.

garish *adj.* 1545 *garishe* unpleasantly bright, gaudy; possibly formed from Middle English *gawren* to stare (about 1200), from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *gaurr* rough fellow) + *-ish*¹.

garland *n.* Probably about 1300 *gerlond*; borrowed from Old French *gerlande*, *garlande*, perhaps from Frankish **wēron* (compare Middle High German *wieren* adorn, bedeck).

garlic *n.* About 1150 *garleyc*; later *garlec* (before 1300); developed from Old English *gārleac* (about 700, Mercian), later *gārleac* (West Saxon); formed from *gār* spear (with reference to the cloves) + *leac* LEEK. Old English *gār* is cognate with Old Saxon and Old High German *gēr* spear (modern German *Ger*), Old Icelandic *geirr* (from Proto-Germanic **gaizás*).

garment *n.* Probably before 1400 *garment*, variant of earlier Middle English *garnement* (probably before 1300); borrowed from Old French *garnement*, from *garnir* fit out, provide, adorn; see GARNISH; for suffix see -MENT.

garner *v.* Before 1400 (in Scottish) *garner*, from the noun. —**n.** storehouse for grain. Before 1325, earlier *gerner* (probably before 1200); borrowed from Old French *gernier*, variant of *grenier* storehouse, *garret*, from Latin *grānārium* granary; see GRANARY.

garnet *n.* About 1325 *gernet*; later *garnet* (about 1400); borrowed from Old French *grenat* garnet, originally an adjective, of a dark-red color, a form abstracted as *grenate*, from *pomegrenate* POMEGRANATE.

garnish *v.* Probably about 1380 *garnysen* decorate, adorn; borrowed from Old French *garniss-*, stem of *garnir*, *guarnir* (older *warir*) provide, furnish, defend, from a Germanic source (compare Old High German *warōn* provide, take heed, WARN); for suffix see -ISH². The legal sense of notify of the attachment of a person's money or property to settle a debt, is first recorded before 1577. The specific meaning of embellish food, is found in 1693. —**n.** 1393, set of dishes, from the verb. The meaning of things placed on or around food to embellish it, is first recorded in 1673. —**garnishee** *n.* 1627, formed from English *garnish*, *v.* + *-ee*. —**v.** 1892, from the noun. —**garnishment** *n.* 1523, a notice of attaching money or property; formed from English *garnish*, *v.* + *-ment*. The sense of decoration or adornment is first recorded in 1550. —**garniture** *n.* 1532, outfit, furniture, equipment; borrowed from Middle French *garniture*, from *garnir* provide, furnish. The sense of decoration or ornament, is first recorded in 1667.

garret *n.* Probably about 1300 *garite* watchtower; later attic or loft (1310); borrowed from Old French *garite* watchtower, place of refuge, from *garir* (older *warir*) defend, preserve, from a Germanic source (compare Gothic *warjan* forbid, Old High German *weren*, modern German *wehren* defend, Old English *werian* hold, defend, from Proto-Germanic **warjanan*).

garrison *n.* About 1250 *garisoun* treasure, payment; later *gar-nysoun*, pl., body of armed men (1338), and protection, fortress (1410); borrowed from Old French *garison* defense, from *garir* defend; see GARRET.

The variant Middle English *garnyson* was a separate borrowing from Old French *garnison*, from *garnir* defend; (see GARNISH) displaced by *garrison* by the 1500's. —**v.** 1569, from the noun.

garrote *n.* 1622, borrowed from Spanish *garrote*, literally, stick for twisting cord, of uncertain origin (possibly from French as evidenced by earlier Old French *garoquier*, *garochier* to garrote). —**v.** 1851, from the noun.

garrulous *adj.* About 1611, borrowed from Latin *garrulus* talkative, from *garrere* to chatter; for suffix see -OUS. Possibly also a back formation from *garrulity*. —**garrulity** *n.* 1581 *garrulitie*, borrowed from Middle French *garrulité*, from Latin *garrulitatem* (nominative *garrulitās*), from *garrulus*; for suffix see -ITY.

garter *n.* Before 1325 *garter*, borrowed from Old North French *gartier*, from *garet* bend of the knee, perhaps from Gaulish (compare Welsh *gar*, *garr* leg, referring to the bone). One of the earliest references in English (about 1353) is to *the Garter* (highest order of English knighthood), according to tradition established by Edward III about 1344. —**v.** About 1440 *garteren*, from the noun.

gas *n.* 1658, from Dutch *gas*, probably an alteration of Greek *cháos* empty space, CHAOS (since *g* in Dutch represents a sound somewhat like the modern Greek sound transcribed as *ch*); coined by the Flemish chemist Van Helmont in the sense of an occult principle supposedly present in all bodies, probably suggested by the Swiss-born alchemist Paracelsus, who used Greek *cháos* in the sense of proper element of spirits such as

gnomes. The technical sense of any fluid substance that can expand without limit (as air), is first recorded in 1779. Later, as experiment developed knowledge, meanings were specialized to mixture of gases that can be burned for fuel, light, etc. (1794), anesthetic (1894), and poison gas (1900). —**v.** 1889, from the noun. —**gaseous** *adj.* 1799, formed from English *gas*, *n.* + *-eous*, form of *-ous*.

gash *n.* 1548 *gashe*, alteration of earlier *garsshe* (1530), from Middle English *garce* (probably before 1200); borrowed from Old French **garse*, from Old North French *garser* to scarify, wound, apparently from Vulgar Latin **charassāre*, from Greek *charássein* engrave. —**v.** 1570 *gashe*, alteration of Middle English *garsen* (before 1398); borrowed from Old North French *garser* to scarify.

The loss of *r* during Middle and early modern English is characteristic of a sizable group of words, including *bass* (Middle English *barse*), *dace* (Middle English *darse*), *bust* break (Middle English *burst*), etc., in which the final consonant sound or sounds influenced the elimination of the preceding *r*-sound.

gasket *n.* 1622 *casquette* small rope or plaited coil used to secure a sail, later *gassit* (1626), and *gasket* (1630); of uncertain origin. *Gasket* meaning a packing (originally of braided hemp) to seal metal joints is first recorded in 1829.

gasoline *n.* 1865 *gasolene*; later *gasoline* (1871), American English; formed from *gas* + *-ol* (from Latin *oleum* OIL) + *-ene*, variant of *-ine*². The shortened form *gas* is first recorded in 1905.

gasp *v.* Before 1393 *gaspen*, of uncertain origin; perhaps borrowed from the Scandinavian (compare Old Icelandic *geispa* to yawn, Danish *gispe* gasp, Norwegian *giespe* yawn, Swedish *gäspa*). —**n.** 1577, from the verb.

gastric *adj.* 1656, formed in English from Greek *gastēr* (genitive *gastrós*) stomach + English suffix *-ic*.

gastro- or **gastr-** (before vowels) a combining form meaning stomach, as in *gastrovascular*, *gastroenteritis* (inflammation of the enteric membrane lining the stomach and intestines), *gastrectomy* (surgery or cutting of the stomach). Borrowed from Greek *gastro-*, combining form of *gastēr* (genitive *gastrós*) stomach.

gastronomy *n.* 1814, borrowed from French *gastronomie*, from Greek *gastronomía*, from *gastrónomos* one who arranges or prepares food, literally, prepares for the stomach (*gastēr*, genitive *gastrós* stomach + *-nómos* arranging, regulating). —**gastro-** *adj.* 1828, borrowed from French *gastronomique*, from *gastronomie* gastronomy.

gastropod *n.* 1854, earlier *gasteropod* (1826); borrowed from New Latin *Gasteropoda*, *Gastropoda*, pl., name of a class of mollusks (from Greek *gastēr*, genitive *gastrós* stomach + *podós*, genitive *podós* FOOT; from the ventral position of its "foot" or locomotive organ).

gastrula *n.* 1877, New Latin *gastrula* (from Greek *gastēr*, genitive *gastrós* stomach + Latin *-ula*, diminutive suffix).

gate *n.* About 1200 *gate*, developed from Old English *gæt* (about 700), and *geat*, *get*, pl. *geatu*, *gatu* (778); cognate with Old Frisian *gat*, *jet* hole, opening, Old Saxon *gat* eye of a needle, hole, Low German and modern Dutch *gat* gap, hole, breach, and Old Icelandic *gat* opening, passage; from Proto-Germanic **jatan*.

-gate a combining form meaning scandal, as in *Koreagate*, *laborgate* (1973, used chiefly in allusion to the Watergate scandal of corruption and cover-up in the Nixon administration).

gather *v.* 1137 *gaderen* come together, accumulate; developed from Old English *gadian*, *gædrian* (probably about 750); cognate with Old Frisian *gaderia* to gather, Frisian *gearjen*, Middle Dutch *gaderen* (modern Dutch *garen*), Middle Low German *gadderren* to gather, Middle High German *gatern* unite; related to Old English *gæd* fellowship, *gada* companion, and *gōd* GOOD. *Gather*, *together*, *father*, *weather*, and similar words, were spelled with a *d* until the 1500's; the change to *th* before *r* reflected a change in pronunciation that occurred in most of the English dialects before the 1500's. —**gathering** *n.* 1137 *gadering* a meeting, assembly; developed from Old English *gædering* (1050–1175); from the verb.

gauche *adj.* 1751, awkward, tactless; borrowed from French *gauche* left (originally, awkward, awry), from Middle French *gauchir* turn aside, swerve, from Old French *gaucher*, *gauchier* trample, reel, walk clumsily, from Frankish **walkan* (compare German *walken* to full cloth; see WALK).

gaudy *adj.* 1583, showy, tastelessly fine; earlier, deceptive, full of trickery (before 1529); formed from English *gaud*, *n.* (1333 *gaude* deception or trick; later, ornament or rosary bead, 1361; possibly borrowed from Anglo-French *gaudir* be merry, from Latin *gaudēre* rejoice) + *-y*¹; see JOY.

The noun use of *gaudy* meaning a feast or festival, usually marked by frivolity (1561), is found with reference to a college event at Oxford or Cambridge.

gauge or **gage** *v.* 1440 *gaugen*, borrowed through Anglo-French *gauge*, from Old North French *gauger*, from *gauge* gauging rod, perhaps from Gallo-Romance *galga*, collective plural of Frankish **galgo* (compare Old High German *galgo* rod, GALLOWS). An earlier use *gauge* over tower over something, is recorded before 1400. —**n.** About 1332, standard, in a surname *Gageman*; from Old North French *gauge* gauging rod.

The spelling variants *gauge* and *gage* have existed since the first recorded uses in Middle English, though in American English *gage* is found exclusively in technical uses.

gaunt *adj.* 1440 *gawnt*, thin and bony; earlier a surname, in Anglo-French *le Gant* (1247); borrowed from Middle French *gant*, of uncertain origin.

gauntlet¹ *n.* iron or steel glove. Probably before 1425 *gantelet*, borrowed from Middle French *gantelet*, semi-diminutive of *gant* glove, from Frankish **want*, from Proto-Germanic **wantuz* (compare Old Swedish *vanter* glove, Swedish and Danish *vante* mitten, glove, and Old Icelandic *votttr* glove, Norwegian *vott* mitten); for suffix see -LET.

The spelling with *u* is a variant in Middle English and did not become firmly established until the 1500's.

gauntlet² or **gantlet** *n.* punishment in which the offender runs between two rows of men who strike him with weapons. 1661, in the phrase *run the gantlet*, alteration of earlier *gantlope* (1646); borrowed from Swedish *gatlopp*, probably by English soldiers who fought along with Swedish military forces during the Thirty Years' War. Swedish *gatlopp* is a compound of Old Swedish *gata* lane and *lopp* course, from Middle Low German *lōp* (cognate with Middle Dutch *lōpen* to run); see **GAIT** and **LOPE**. The gradual shift from *gantlope* to *gauntlet* (influenced by *gauntlet¹*) did not become fixed until the mid-1800's.

gauss *n.* 1882, unit of magnetic field strength (later called an *oersted*); in allusion to the German mathematician Karl Gauss.

gauze *n.* 1688 *gauze*; earlier *gais* (1561); borrowed from French *gaze*, possibly through Spanish *gasa*, apparently from Arabic *qazz* raw silk.

gavel *n.* 1805, American English, of unknown origin. —*v.* 1925, American English; from the noun.

gavotte or **gavot** *n.* 1696 *gavotte*, borrowing of French *gavotte*, from Provençal *gavoto* mountaineer's dance, from *gavot* an Alpine inhabitant

gawk *v.* 1785 *gawk*, perhaps an alteration of obsolete *gaw*, Middle English *gouwen* to stare (probably about 1200); borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *gā* to heed). Alteration from *gaw* to *gawk* may have been influenced by *gawk hand* left hand (1703 contraction of *gaulick*, *gaulish hand*), and by other verbs in English such as *talk*, *walk* and *caulk*. —**gawky** *adj.* 1759, from *gawk* (in *gawk hand*) + *-y¹*.

gay *adj.* Probably about 1300, splendid or beautiful; earlier, as a surname (1178); borrowed from Old French *gai* gay, merry; perhaps from Frankish (compare Old High German *ugāhi* pretty, modern German dialect *wāeh*). The meaning of joyous or merry appeared probably about 1380. The slang sense of homosexual is first recorded in 1951, apparently shortened from *gay cat* homosexual boy (about 1935, in underworld and prison slang), but used earlier for a young tramp with a connotation of homosexuality (1897, in American English slang). —*n.* 1971, a homosexual, American English; from *gay*, *adj.*; re-development of earlier *gay*, *n.* excellent, gallant, or fair person (probably about 1380; also from the adjective). —**gaiety** *n.* 1634 *gaity*, merrymaking; later cheerfulness, mirth (1647); borrowed from French *gaieté*, from Old French *gai*, influenced by English *gay*; for suffix see *-TY²*. —**gaily** *adv.* Before 1375, formed from Middle English *gai* + *-li* *-ly¹*.

gaze *v.* About 1395 *gazen* to stare; probably borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare dialectal Swedish *gasa* to stare, gape). —*n.* 1542, something which is stared at; later, a long, steady look (1566); from the verb.

gazebo *n.* 1752, summerhouse or turret on the roof of a house, often having six or eight sides and a fine view; supposedly derived from *gaze* and *-bo*, abstracted from Latin future tenses in *-bō*, such as *videbō* I shall see, on the pattern *placebō* I

shall please; perhaps influenced by the earlier formation *belvedere* a cupola (1596), ultimately formed from Italian *bello* handsome + *vedere* sight, from Latin *videre* (to see).

gazelle *n.* 1600, borrowed from French *gazelle*, from Old French *gazel*, from Arabic *ghazāl*.

gazette *n.* 1605, borrowed from French *gazette*, from Italian *gazzetta*, from Venetian dialect *gazeta* newspaper (originally a small coin); for suffix see *-ETTE*. The *gazeta* was first published in Venice in the mid-1500's, and was possibly so called from the price of the paper, or from the meaning of little magpie, applied to the newspaper by association. —*v.* 1678, announce or name in an official gazette; from the noun. —**gazetteer** *n.* 1611, journalist, probably from French *gazetier* (earlier *gazettier*), from *gazette*. The meaning of a geographical index, developed from Echarde's *The Gazetteer's or Newsman's Interpreter* (1704).

gear *n.* Probably before 1200 *gære* equipment, arms, apparatus (about 1250); borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *gervi*, *gorvi* apparel, related to *gerr* ready, *gerva* make ready); cognate with Old High German *garawī*, *garwī* adornment, *garawen* make ready, Old Saxon *garewī* apparel, *gæwian* make ready. The meaning of wheels with interlocking teeth in machinery is first recorded in 1523. —*v.* Probably before 1200 *geren* equip oneself for fighting, dress; probably from the noun. The meaning of to mesh, fit together, be in gear, is first recorded in 1734.

Geiger counter *n.* 1924, in allusion to its inventor, the German physicist Hans Geiger, and earlier *Geiger-Müller counter*, in reference to its co-inventor, W. Müller.

geisha *n.* 1887, borrowing of Japanese *geisha*, literally, person accomplished in the social arts (*gei* art, performance + *sha* society).

gel *n.* 1899, shortened form of *gelatin*; perhaps influenced by earlier *jell* (1870) jelly. —*v.* 1917, from the noun.

gelatine *n.* 1713, jellylike substance; later *gelatin* substance obtained by boiling animal tissues, bones, etc. (1800); in part, borrowed from French *gelatine* clear jellylike substance, fish broth, from Italian *gelatina* (*gelata* jelly, from *gelare* to jell, from Latin *gelāre* freeze see *JELLY* + ITALIAN *-ina* *-ine²*), and in part formed from Latin model **gelātinus* jellylike, from **gelāta* jelly, from *gelāre* freeze. —**gelatinous** *adj.* 1724, formed from English *gelatine* + *-ous* after French *gélatineux*, from *gelatine*.

geld *v.* About 1300 *gelden*, borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *gelda* castrate, from *geldr* barren; cognate with Old High German *galt* barren, *galza*, *gelza* castrated swine, Middle Low German *gelde* barren). —**gelding** *n.* Before 1382 *geldyng* a gelded man; earlier, in the surname *Geldyng* (1296); borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *geldingr*, from *gelda* castrate).

gem *n.* Before 1300 *gemme* precious stone; also figuratively, precious thing; borrowed from Old French *gemme*, a learned borrowing from Latin *gemma* precious stone, jewel; Middle English inherited another form *gyimme* (recorded probably

before 1200); developed from Old English *gim* (about 750), also borrowed from Latin *gemma*, but this form disappeared in the early 1300's. —**v.** 1610, from the noun. —**gemstone** *n.* (about 1000)

—**gen** a combining form meaning something that produces or causes, as in *allergen*, *antigen* etc. Borrowed from French *-gène*, from Greek *-genēs* born, from *génos* birth.

gender *n.* Probably about 1350, grammatical class referring to nouns and pronouns; later, referring to verbs (about 1450). The sense of kind, sort, class of individuals or things, is first recorded in 1378; all borrowed from Old French *genre*, *gendre*, learned borrowing from the stem of Latin *genus* (genitive *generis*) kind, sort, gender; see **GENUS**.

gene *n.* 1911, borrowed from Greek *geneá* generation, race; see **KIN**; originally introduced as German *Gen* in 1909 and proposed then in the English form *gene*.

genealogy *n.* Before 1325 *genealogi* account of the descent of a person or family; borrowed through Old French *genealogie*, from Late Latin *genealogia* tracing of a family, from Greek *genealogiā* (*geneá* generation, descent + *-lógos* student of). —**genealogical** *adj.* 1577, formed in English from Middle French *généalogique* + English suffix *-al*¹; replacing earlier *genealogical* (1447).

general *adj.* Probably before 1200, borrowed from Old French *general* or directly from Latin *generālis* relating to all, of a whole class, from *genus* (genitive *generis*) stock, kind, **GENUS**; for suffix see *-AL*¹.

Apparently the sense of *general* pertaining to all, gained prominence in Latin, and thence probably in Western Europe, as a part of the Aristotelian vocabulary which was the result of the new medieval studies of Greek philosophical thought. —**n.** About 1380, a whole class of things or people; probably from the adjective. The meaning of commander of an army, is first recorded in 1576; borrowed from Middle French *général*, relating to all, general. —**generality** *n.* Probably about 1378 *generalite*, borrowed from Latin *generalitatem* (nominative *generalitas*), from *generālis* **GENERAL**, *adj.* The later *generalitee* (1425) was borrowed from Middle French *généralité*, from *général* **GENERAL**, *n.*; for suffix see *-ITY*. —**generalize** *v.* Before 1751; re-formed from *general*, *adj.* + *-ize*; earlier *generalisen* (before 1425), probably also formed in English. —**generally** *adv.* 1340, formed from English *general* + *-ly*¹.

generation *n.* Before 1325 *generacion* offspring, descendant; borrowed through Old French *generation* and directly from Latin *generātiōnem* (nominative *generātiō*), from *generāre* bring forth; **GENERATE**; for suffix see *-ATION*. The sense of a group of descendants of one family or of one period of time, is first recorded before 1325. —**generate** *v.* 1509, probably a back formation from earlier *generation*; and, in some instances, either developed from English *generate*, *adj.* (probably before 1425), or borrowed directly from Latin *generātus*, past participle of *generāre* bring forth, beget, produce, create, from *genus* (genitive *generis*) kind, race, **GENUS**. —**generator** *n.* 1646, person or thing that generates, borrowed from Latin *generator*, from *generāre*; for suffix see *-OR*². The meaning of a machine

that generates, is first recorded in 1794, and a machine that generates electric energy, in 1879.

generic *adj.* 1676, belonging to a kind or class, general; formed in English from Latin *gener-*, stem of *genus* kind + English suffix *-ic*. The noun use is first recorded in English in 1807.

generous *adj.* 1588, of noble birth, magnanimous; borrowed through Middle French *généreux*, or directly from Latin *generōsus* of noble birth, from *genus* (genitive *generis*) race, stock, **GENUS**; for suffix see *-OUS*. The sense of unselfish is first recorded in English in 1696, probably from earlier French, and that of plentiful (as in *a generous helping of food*), is found in English in 1615. —**generosity** *n.* Probably before 1425 *generosite* excellence, nobility; borrowed from Latin *generositatem* (nominative *generositās*), from *generōsus* of noble birth; for suffix see *-ITY*. The sense of magnanimity, is first recorded in 1623, and that of unselfishness in 1677.

genesis *n.* Old English (before 1000) *Genesis* first book of Old Testament containing an account of creation; borrowing of Latin *Genesis*, from Greek *genesis* origin, creation, generation. The general meaning of origin, creation is first recorded in 1604.

genetic *adj.* 1831, pertaining to origin; borrowed from Greek *genetikós* genitive, from *genesis* origin; for suffix see *-IC*. The biological sense of having to do with origin and natural growth is first recorded in Darwin (1859). —**geneticist** *n.* 1913, formed from English *genetic* + *-ist*. —**genetics** *n.* 1872, laws of origination; formed from English *genetic* + *-s*, on the pattern of *esthetics*, etc. The sense of the study of heredity was introduced in 1905.

genial *adj.* 1566, nuptial, generative; later, conducive to growth (1647); borrowed from Latin *geniālis*, pleasant, festive (literally, pertaining to marriage rites), from *genius* guardian spirit; see **GENIUS**; for suffix see *-AL*¹. The meaning of cheerful and friendly, is first recorded in 1746. —**geniality** *n.* 1609, festivity; formed from *genial* + *-ity*. The sense of cheerfulness is first recorded in 1652.

—**genic** a combining form of adjectives meaning producing, as in *carcinogenic* (producing carcinogens or substances that can cause cancer), *pathogenic*; or well-suited to reproduction or dissemination, as in *photogenic*. Formed from English *-gen* + *-ic*.

genie *n.* 1655 *geny* guardian spirit; borrowed from French *génie*, learned borrowing from Latin *genius* **GENIUS**. The extension of meaning to the powerful spirit of Muslim mythology, appeared in 1748 from French *génie*, used to render the Arabic word *jinnī*, pl. *jinn* spirit.

genital *adj.* Before 1382 *genytale* pertaining to animal generation; borrowed through Old French *genital*, or directly from Latin *genitālis* pertaining to generation or birth, from a lost noun **geneta* (compare Greek *genetē* birth); for suffix see *-AL*¹. —**n.** **genitals** *pl.* Before 1393, formed from English *genital*, *adj.* + *-s*.

genitive *adj.* Before 1398 *genityf*, case in grammar showing possession, source, or origin; in English, the possessive case; borrowed through Old French *genitif*, *genitive*, or directly from Latin *cāsus genitīvus* genitive case (expressing origin), from a lost noun **geneta* birth.

genius *n.* Before 1393 *genius* guardian spirit; borrowed from Latin *genius* guardian deity or spirit, inclination, wit, talent, from the root of *gignere* beget, produce; see KIN. The meaning of a person endowed with natural ability or talent, and also the sense of natural ability, quality of mind, appeared in 1649.

genocide *n.* 1944, formed in American English, from Greek *génos* race, kind + English *-cide*²; coined in reference to the extermination of Jews under the Nazis in World War II.

genotype *n.* 1910, borrowed from German *Genotypus*, from Greek *génos* race, kind + German *Typus* type (from Latin *typus*, form).

genre *n.* 1816, borrowed from French *genre* kind, sort, style, from Old French; see GENDER.

genteel *adj.* 1599 *gentile* stylish, fashionably elegant; borrowed from Middle French *gentil* nice, graceful, pleasing, from Old French, high-born, noble; see GENTLE. The form *genteel* represents a reborrowing from French.

gentian *n.* 1373 *gencyan* plant with funnel-shaped flowers; borrowed possibly through Old French *genciane*, and directly from Latin *gentiāna*, said by Pliny to be used in allusion to *Gentius*, a king of ancient Illyria.

gentile or **Gentile** *n.* Found earliest in a surname (1160), but recorded first in literature before 1382, one who is not a Christian, a pagan; confused in Middle English with *Gentle* one who is not a Jew (probably 1384); both forms borrowed from (ecclesiastical) Late Latin *gentilis* foreign, heathen, pagan, from Latin *gentilis* person belonging to the same family, fellow countryman, from *gentilis*, *adj.*, of the same family or clan, from *gēns* (genitive *gentis*) race, clan; see GENTLE. Late Latin *gentilēs*, from *gentilis* was used to translate Greek *ethnikós*, referring to *tà ethnē* the nations, and in turn translating Hebrew *ha gōyīm* the (non-Jewish) nations. —**adj.** Probably about 1380, pagan or heathen; borrowed from Late Latin *gentilis* foreign, heathen, from Latin, of the same family or clan.

gentility *n.* 1340, borrowed from Old French *gentilité*, and directly from Latin *gentilitās* relationship in the same family or clan, from *gentilis*; see GENTLE; for suffix see -ITY.

gentle *adj.* Probably before 1200 *gentile* noble, of a good family; borrowed from Old French *gentil* high-born, noble, from Latin *gentilis* of the same family or clan, from *gēns* (genitive *gentis*) race, clan, from the root of *gignere* beget; see KIN. *Gentle* in the sense of kind, gracious, etc., is first recorded about 1280. —**gentleman** *n.* Probably before 1200, wellborn man; formed from English *gentle* + *man*. The meaning of a well-bred man, is first recorded probably about 1150.

gentry *n.* About 1303 *gentry* nobility of rank or birth; borrowed from Old French *genterie*, or perhaps an alteration of

earlier *genterie*, *gentrice* (recorded before 1225); borrowed from Old French *genterie*, variant of *gentilise*, *gentillise* noble birth, gentleness, from *gentil*; see GENTLE. —**gentrification** *n.* 1977, formed from English *gentrify*, on the analogy of such pairs as *qualify*, *qualification*. —**gentrify** *v.* 1973, formed from English *gentry* + *-fy*.

genus *n.* 1630, back formation from earlier *genusflection*, modeled on Late Latin *genūflectere* (Latin *genū* KNEE + *flectere* to bend; see FLEX). —**genusflection** *n.* Probably about 1425 *genusflection*; borrowed possibly through Middle French *genuflexion*, and directly from Late Latin *genūflexiōnem* (nominative *genūflexiō*), from stem of *genūflectere* *genusflect*.

genuine *adj.* 1596, natural, native; borrowed from Latin *genuinus* native, natural (perhaps influenced in stem by *ingenuus* native, freeborn, upright, and in formation by contrasting *adulterīnus* spurious); from the root of *gignere* beget; see KIN.

genus *n.*, pl. **genera** 1551, kind or class of things, in logic; borrowed from Latin *genus* (genitive *generis*) race, stock, kind; cognate with Greek *génos* race, kind, and *gónos* birth, offspring, stock; see KIN.

geo- a combining form meaning earth, as in *geography*, *geocentric* from the earth's center; or geographical, as in *geopolitics*. Borrowed through French and Latin, from Greek *geō-*, combining form (as in *geōmetría* geometry) of *gē* earth.

geodesy *n.* 1570 *geodesie* surveying; borrowed from New Latin *geodaesia*, from Greek *geōdaísia* division of the earth (ultimately from *gē* earth, land + *daiein* divide). —**geodesic** *adj.* (1821) —**geodetic** *adj.* (1834)

geography *n.* 1542, borrowed from Latin *geōgraphia*, from Greek *geōgraphía* description of the earth's surface (*gē* earth + *-graphía* description, from *gráphein* write). In some instances borrowed from Middle French *géographie*. —**geographic** *adj.* 1630, a shortened form of earlier *geographical*, in some instances, borrowed from Middle French *géographique*. —**geographical** *adj.* 1559, from Late Latin *geographicus* (from Greek *geōgraphikós*, from *geōgraphía* geography) + English *-al*.

geology *n.* 1735, study of the earth; borrowed from New Latin *geologia*, from Medieval Latin, study of earthly things, from Greek *gē* earth + *-logía*; see -LOGY. —**geological** *adj.* (1795) —**geologist** *n.* (1795)

geometry *n.* About 1330 *geometrie*, borrowed from Old French *géométrie*, from Latin *geōmetria*, from Greek *geōmetría* measurement of earth or land, geometry (*gē* earth, land + *-metría*, from *metrein* to measure). —**geometric** *adj.* 1630, shortened form of earlier English *geometrical*. —**geometrical** *adj.* 1392, formed in English from Latin *geōmetricus*, Greek *geōmetrikós*, from *geōmetrēs* land measurer (*gē* earth + *metrein* to measure) + English suffix *-al*.

geranium *n.* 1548, borrowing of Latin *geranium*, the plant name, from Greek *geránon* the plant name (diminutive of *géranos* CRANE, so called from the supposed resemblance of the seed pod to the bill of a crane).

gerbil *n.* 1849 *gerbille*, borrowing of French, from New Latin *Gerbillus* the genus name (*gerbo*, variant of *jerboa* JERBOA + *-il* -le¹).

geriatrics *n.* 1909, formed in English from Greek *gêras* old age + *iātrikós* of a physician (*iātrós*, related to *iāsthai* heal, treat, of uncertain origin). —**geriatric** *adj.* 1926, back formation from *geriatrics*.

germ *n.* About 1450 *germ* bud or sprout, later, earliest form of a living thing (1644); borrowed from Middle French *germe*, from Old French, from Latin *germen* (genitive *germinis*) sprout or bud. The sense of the seed of a disease is first recorded in 1803; later, with the sense of microbe or microorganism (1871, in *germ theory*).

german *adj.* having the same parents, as in *brothers-german*; related as a child of one's uncle or aunt, as in *cousin-german*. Probably about 1300 *germain*; later *german* (before 1387); borrowed from Old French *germain*, from Latin *germānus* of brother and sisters, related to *germen* (genitive *germinis*) sprout or bud; see GERM. Related to GERMANE.

German *n.* Before 1387 *Germanyn*, *German* member of the Germanic tribes; later, native of Germany (1530, relating to the Holy Roman Empire); borrowed from Latin *Germānus*, a member of the *Germāni*, a group of peoples or tribes inhabiting central and northern Europe at the beginning of the Christian era. The origin of the Latin name is unknown (it was not used by Germanic peoples who have used *Deutsch*, see DUTCH). —**adj.** 1552, of Germany or its people, from the noun in English, and probably influenced by Latin *Germānus* of or pertaining to the *Germāni* or to *Germānia* the country of the Germanic peoples. —**Germanic** *adj.* 1633, of Germany or the Germans, formed from English *German*, *n.* or *adj.* + *-ic*, and probably influenced by Middle French *germanique*, and Latin *Germānicus*, from *Germānus* German. —**n.** 1892, the language family of the Germanic peoples, replacing the older term *Teutonic*.

germane *adj.* closely connected, appropriate, relevant. 1340 *germayn*, a figurative use (with variant spelling) of GERMAN of the same parents, related.

germanium *n.* 1886, New Latin *germanium*; formed from *Germania* Germany, from Latin *Germānia* country of the Germanic peoples + *-ium*.

Germano- a combining form meaning of Germany or of the Germans, as in *Germanophile*; or German and —, as in *Germano-American*. Formed from *German* and the connecting vowel *-o-*.

germinal *adj.* of or in the earliest stage of development. 1808, borrowed from New Latin *germinalis* in the germ, from Latin *germen* (genitive *germinis*) sprout, bud, GERM; for suffix see -AL¹.

germination *n.* About 1450, borrowed from Latin *germinātiōnem* (nominative *germinātiō*) sprouting forth, budding, from *germināre* to sprout, put forth shoots, from *germen* (genitive *germinis*); a sprout or bud. for suffix see -ATION. —**germinate**

v. 1610, probably a back formation from *germination*, replacing earlier *germynen* (recorded probably in 1440); borrowed through, or by influence of, Middle French *germiner*, from Latin *germināre*; for suffix see -ATE¹.

gerontology *n.* 1903, formed in English from Greek *gérōn* (genitive *gérontos*) old man + English *-logy*.

gerrymander *n.* arrangement of electoral divisions to give one political party an unfair advantage. 1812, American English, formed in allusion to Elbridge Gerry + (*sala*)mander. Governor Gerry's party redistricted Massachusetts in 1812 to enable the Antifederalists to retain a majority; consequently Essex County was divided so that one district looked somewhat like a salamander, a figure that was widely caricatured and given the name *Gerrymander*. —**v.** 1812, American English, from the noun.

gerund *n.* 1513, probably a shortening of earlier *gerundif* (referring to nouns as well as adjectives); influenced in the distinction of applying only to nouns by Late Latin *gerundium*, patterned on *participium* participle, from Old Latin *gerundum* (Classical Latin *gerendum*) to be carried out, the gerund form of *gerere* to bear, carry. —**gerundive** *n.* Before 1425, *gerundif* (referring to both nouns and adjectives); borrowed from Late Latin *gerundivus modus* mood, from *gerundium* gerund. —**adj.** 1612, from the noun; for suffix see -IVE.

Gestalt *n.* 1922, in the compounds *Gestalt-psychologists* and *Gestalt theory*; earlier, as part of a German compound *Gestaltqualität* the quality of a Gestalt (1909), from Middle High German *gestalt* form, configuration, appearance, abstracted from *ungestalt* deformity, noun use of the adjective *ungestalt* misshapen (*un-* UN- + *gestalt*, obsolete past participle of *stellen* to place, arrange).

Gestapo *n.* 1934, borrowing of German *Gestapo*, acronym formed from *Ge(heime) Sta(ats)-po(lizei)* secret state police, formed by the Nazis as a para-military instrument to carry out state political policy.

gestation *n.* 1533, borrowed from Latin *gestātiōnem* (nominative *gestātiō*) a carrying, from *gestāre* bear, carry, gestate, a frequentative form of *gerere* to bear, carry, bring forth; for suffix see -ATION. The sense of pregnancy or development of young in the womb, is first recorded in English in 1615. —**gestate** *v.* 1866, back formation of *gestation*, perhaps modeled on Latin *gestātus*, past participle of *gestāre*; for suffix see -ATE¹.

gesticulation *n.* Probably before 1425, borrowed from Latin *gesticulātiōnem* (nominative *gesticulātiō*), from *gesticulārī* to gesture, mimic, from *gesticulus* a mimicking gesture, diminutive of *gestus* (genitive *gestūs*) gesture, carriage, posture; see GESTURE; for suffix see -ATION. —**gesticulate** *v.* 1601, back formation of earlier *gesticulation*, possibly influenced by French *gesticuler*, but probably modeled on Latin *gesticulātus*, past participle of *gesticulārī*; for suffix see -ATE¹.

gesture *n.* About 1400, bearing or deportment; borrowed from Medieval Latin *gestura* bearing, behavior, from Latin *gestus* (genitive *gestūs*) gesture, carriage, posture, from *ges-*, stem of *gerere* to bear, carry. The meaning of movement of the

body to emphasize speech, is first recorded in English about 1454. —**v.** 1542, from the noun.

get *v.* Probably about 1200 *geten* obtained by effort, gain, acquire; borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *geta* to get, reach).

Even though vestiges of the Old English equivalent form *-gietan* (found in various compounds, such as *begietan* beget, *forbietan* forget, *undergietan* understand) remain in the past participle *gotten*, the verb *get* is a Middle English borrowing.

gewgaw *n.* Probably before 1200 *giuegaue*; of uncertain origin (possibly a reduplicated form connected with Old French *gogue* joke, game).

geyser *n.* 1780, in allusion to Icelandic *Geysir*, the name of a hot spring in the valley of Haukadal, Iceland, from *geysa* to gush, from Old Icelandic *geysa*.

ghastly *adj.* Before 1325 *gastli*; earlier *gastlich* (probably before 1300); formed from *gast* (past participle of *gasten* to frighten, make horrible; developed from Old English *gæstan* to frighten) + *-lich* *-ly*². The spelling *ghastly* (with *gh-*) is influenced by *ghost*, with which *gastli*, *ghastly* was often confused, especially in Middle English; see **GHOST**. —**adv.** 1589, from the adjective.

gherkin *n.* 1661 *girkin*, borrowed from Dutch *gurken*, plural of *gurk* cucumber, a shortened form (corresponding to English *cuke*) of *augurk*, *agurk* cucumber; of uncertain origin; probably from a Slavic source (compare Polish *ogórek* cucumber, Czech *okurka*, Serbian *ugorka*, possibly from Medieval Greek *angourion* watermelon). The suffix *-kin* was adopted in Dutch (*-ken*); see **KIN**. The *h* was added in the 1800's to preserve the so-called hard *g*.

ghetto *n.* 1611, a part of a city to which Jews were restricted, chiefly in Italy; borrowed from Italian *ghetto*, of uncertain origin; suggestions include borrowing from Yiddish *get* deed of separation, special use of Italian (Venetian) *getto* foundry (near the site a ghetto in that city); *Egitto*, a borrowing from Latin *Aegyptus* Egypt; or abstraction from Italian *borghetto* small section of a town.

By 1892, the word had acquired the meaning of any section inhabited by Jews, and since the early 1900's it has been used to describe similar quarters of minority groups.

ghost *n.* Probably before 1200 *gost*, *gast* spiritual being; angel, devil, or spirit; developed from Old English (before 800) *gāst* soul, spirit; cognate with Old Frisian *jēst* spirit, Old Saxon *gēst*, Middle Dutch *gheest* (modern Dutch *geest*), Old High German *geist* (modern German *Geist*), Old Icelandic *geiska* in *geiskafullr* full of fright, Gothic *usgaisjan* frighten. The spelling *ghost* appeared about 1425 (probably influenced by Middle Dutch *gheest*).

The transferred sense of a faint image or shadow, slight suggestion (as in *a ghost of a chance*) is found in 1613. The artistic *ghost* who does work for another, is first found in the 1880's. The verb use of to act as a ghost (writer) is recorded in 1922.

ghoul *n.* 1786, borrowed, from Arabic *ghūl*, an evil spirit that

in Muslim countries is believed to rob graves and feed on corpses, from *ghāla* he seized.

GI or **G.I.** *adj.* 1936, American English, apparently from *G(overnment) I(ssue)*, as in *G.I. shoes*, *G.I. trucks*, and applied to anything associated with servicemen (*a GI haircut*, *a GI bride*); possibly influenced by the abbreviation for Galvanized Iron (1928), in *G.I. can*, referring to such iron garbage cans used at military bases. —**n.** *Informal.* 1943, American English, from the adjective.

giant *n.* About 1300 *geant*, *geaunt* mythical being of superhuman height; borrowed from Old French *geant*, from Vulgar Latin **gagantem* (nominative *gagās*), variant of Latin *gigās* giant, from Greek *gigās* (genitive *gigantos*) one of a race of savage men eventually destroyed by the gods. The spelling was first altered from *ge-* to *gi-* about 1350, after the Latin. The meaning of a human being of unusually large stature, is recorded in 1559. —**adj.** Before 1425 *geaunt*, as an attributive use of the noun.

gibber *v.* 1604, probably back formation from *gibberish*. —**gibberish** *n.* About 1554 *gibbrish* (*gibbr-* imitative of the sound of chatter, probably influenced by *jabber* + *-ish*¹).

gibbet *n.* Probably before 1200, a gallows; borrowed from Old French *gibet*, diminutive of *gibe* club, perhaps from Frankish **gibb* forked stick (compare German Bavarian dialect *Gipfel* forked branch); for suffix see **-ET**. —**v.** 1597, from the noun.

gibbon *n.* 1770, borrowed from French *gibbon*, who supposedly based the name on a word of the French colonies in India.

gibbous *adj.* Before 1400, borrowed from Late Latin *gibbōsus* hunchbacked, from Latin *gibbus* hump, hunch.

gibe or **jibe** *v.* 1563, implied in *giber* one who gibes; of uncertain origin (perhaps borrowed in the sense of use horse-play, from Middle French *giber* to handle roughly, or possibly an alteration of *gaber* to mock). —**n.** 1573, from the verb.

giblet *n.* Usually, **giblets**, pl. heart, liver, or gizzard of a fowl. 1440 *gybelet*, earlier *gyblot* unnecessary addition or appendage (about 1303); borrowed from Old French *gibelet* game stew; of unknown origin.

giddy *adj.* Probably before 1300 *gidi* unstable or crazy; developed from Old English (about 1000) *gidig*, spelling variant of **gydig* insane or mad, possessed by a spirit, probably derived from Proto-Germanic **judizás*, from **judán* GOD + *-ig* *-y*¹ possessed.

gift *n.* About 1250, thing given; earlier, in the proper name *Witegift* (1104); borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *gift*, usually written *gipt* a gift). The Old English *gift* does not seem to have long survived Middle English (probably disappearing shortly after 1110), and is recorded only in the sense of payment for a wife; however, cognates are found in Old Frisian *jeft* gift, Old Saxon *gift*, Middle Dutch *ghifte*, Middle Low German *gifte* gift, Old High German *gift* (modern German *Mitgift* dowry), and Gothic

-gifts in *fragifts* espousal, all from the same Germanic source found in Old English *giefan* to GIVE. A specialized meaning in English is that of inspiration, found as early as 1175, and later developing into the sense of natural talent, first recorded in before 1325. —**v.** 1500's, surviving especially in *gifted* talented; from the noun.

gig¹ n. light carriage. 1790, a small rowboat or sailboat; 1791, light carriage; perhaps transferred uses, referring to their bouncing action, of *ghyg*, *gigge* spinning top, found in early compound *whyrlgyg* (1440); probably borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Danish *gig* spinning top, and Old Icelandic *geiga* turn sideways).

gig² n. job. 1926, a single musical engagement, said to be used by U.S. jazz musicians as early as 1905; of uncertain origin.

giga- a combining form meaning one billion, as in *gigacycle*, *gigahertz*, etc. Borrowed from Greek *gigās* giant.

gigantic adj. 1612, of a giant or giants, possibly formed by substitution of -ic from *gigantine* (1605); or formed in English from earlier *gigant* giant (probably before 1425) or Latin *gigant-* (stem of *gigantem*, from *gigās* giant) + English suffix -ic. It is also possibly borrowed directly from Greek *gigantikós*, from *gigās* (genitive *gigantos*) GIANT.

giggle v. 1509, probably of imitative origin, similar to *gaggle*, *cackle*. —**n.** 1577, from the verb.

gigolo n. 1922, borrowed from French *gigolo*, from *gigolette* dancing girl, prostitute. The word appeared in Middle English *giglot* (probably 1350–75) in reference to villainous men, and earlier as *gigelot*, in reference to women (before 1325); borrowed from Old French.

Gila monster n. 1877, American English, in allusion to the Gila River, which runs through the habitat of this lizard.

gild v. Probably before 1300 *gilden*, developed from Old English *gyldan* (especially in compounds, such as *ofergyldan* cover with gold); cognate with Old Icelandic *gylla* to gild, and Old High German *-gulden* in *ubergulden* cover with gold and derived from Proto-Germanic **zulthianan*, from **zulthan* gold, the source of Old English *gold* GOLD.

gill¹ n. organ of breathing. Before 1325 *gille*, probably borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *gjalnar* gills, Swedish *gel*, *geel* gill or jaw, modern Swedish *gäl* gill, Old Danish *-gæln* in *fiske-gæln* fish gill, modern Danish *gjælle* gill, Norwegian *gjell*).

gill² n. measure for liquids. 1310 *gille*; borrowed from Medieval Latin *gillo*, *gello* earthenware jar, and from Old French *gille*, *gello* a wine measure, probably a learned borrowing from Late Latin *gillō*, *gello*.

gillie n. Before 1605, attendant on a Scottish Highlands chief, from Gaelic *gille* lad, servant, from Old Irish *gilla* young man, lad. The meaning of attendant of a sportsman, is first recorded in 1848.

gillyflower n. 1551, spelling alteration (by association with

flower) of earlier *gilofre* clove (before 1300); borrowed from Old French *gilofre*, *girofle* clove, ultimately from Greek *karyōphyllon* clove, nut leaf, the dried flower bud of the clove tree (*káryon* nut + *phýllon* leaf). The original meaning of clove carried over in the sense of flower with clovelike fragrance (1380).

gilt n. 1432, from *gilt*, *gilte*, past participle of Middle English *gilden*, *v.*; see GILD. —**adj.** Probably before 1400 *gilten*, formed as a blend of *gilt* (past participle of Middle English *gilden*, *v.*), and earlier *gilden*, *adj.* (1070), developed from Old English *gyldan*, *v.*; see GILD.

gimbals n.pl. 1780, earlier joints or connecting links (1577), alteration of *gimmels*, *gemels* a hinge (1536), found in Middle English meaning twins (before 1382), plural of *gemel* twin, borrowing of Old French *gemel* twin, from Latin *gemellus*, diminutive of *geminus* twin.

gimcrack n. 1618, affected or showy person, fop, of uncertain origin; a possible altered form of *gibecrake* a kind of ornament (1360; earlier in the surname *Gybecrake*, 1229; perhaps formed in English from Old French *giber* to rattle, shake + Middle English *crak* sharp noise, crack). The meaning of showy trifle is first found in 1839.

gimlet n. 1350 *gymbelette*, as a ship carpenter's tool; later *gymlet* (1475); borrowed from Anglo-French *gimbelet*, perhaps from Middle Dutch *wimmelkijn*, diminutive of *wimmel* auger, drill.

gimmick n. 1926, American English, a gadget or device for performing a trick or deception, perhaps an alteration of *gimcrack*. The sense of a tricky or clever idea, is first recorded in the 1940's. —**gimmickry n.** (1952) —**gimmicky adj.** (1957)

gimp¹ n. braidlike trimming. 1664, of uncertain origin; possibly borrowed from Dutch *gimp*, of the same meaning.

gimp² n. lame person or leg. 1925, a lame leg; perhaps formed by association with *limp*. The sense of a person who is not very adroit, is found about 1952.

gin¹ n. alcoholic drink. 1714, alteration and shortening of *geneva* a spirit flavored in Holland with juice from juniper berries (1706). The name is an alteration of earlier Dutch *genever*, *jenever* juniper, from Old French *genevre*, from Vulgar Latin **jeniperus*, altered from Latin *jūniperus* juniper.

gin² n. machine for separating cotton from its seeds. 1740, American English, from earlier *gin* any ingenious device or contrivance, skill, artifice (probably about 1200); borrowed from Old French *gin* machine, device, scheme.

ginger n. 1363–64 *gynger*; earlier *gingivre*, and *gingivere*, (probably before 1200); developed, with influence of Old French *gingibre*, from Old English (about 1000) *gingifer*. Both the Old English and Old French forms were borrowed from Medieval Latin *gingiber*, from Latin *zingiberi*, from Greek *zingiberis*, from Middle Indic, as represented by Tamil *iñci* ginger and *vēr* root.

Ginger spirit, spunk, temper, is first recorded in American English, in 1843. —**gingerbread n.** Before 1450 *gyngere brede* a kind of stiff pudding; earlier, preserved ginger (1228); bor-

rowed from Old French *gingembraz*, *gingembras*, from Medieval Latin **gingibratum*, *gingebrada* (from *gingiber*); the last syllable re-formed in Middle English to conform to the sense of *bread*. The later sense of a kind of cake, is first recorded after 1570.

gingerly *adv.* 1519, elegantly, daintily (walking or dancing), of uncertain origin; perhaps formed in English from *ginger-*, from Old French *gensor*, *genzor* pretty, delicate + English suffix *-ly*¹. Extended sense of the word was first recorded to mean with extreme caution, especially to avoid making noise or injuring something (1607), and later cautiously or warily (1647). —**adj.** 1533, dainty, delicate, mincing; probably from the adverb. The sense of very cautious or wary, is recorded in the 1800's.

ingham *n.* 1615, borrowed through Dutch *gingang*, *ginggang*, Dutch traders' rendering of a Malay word transliterated as *ginggang* striped, especially later, in reference to cloth.

gingival *adj.* 1669, formed in English from Latin *gingiva* gums + English *-al*¹. —**gingivitis** *n.* 1874, formed in English from Latin *gingiva* + English suffix *-itis* inflammation.

ginkgo *n.* 1773, borrowed from a Japanese word transliterated as *ginkō*, from Chinese *yin-hing* (*yin* silver + *hing* apricot).

giraffe *n.* 1594 *gyrassa*, borrowed from Italian *giraffa*, from Arabic *zarāfa*, probably from an African language. The spelling of this word in English has varied, depending on which language was the immediate source. The current spelling in English is a borrowing from French *girafe*, but earlier forms, such as *jarraf* and *ziraph* (1600's) were probably taken directly from Arabic. In Middle English the spelling *gerfauntz* (about 1400) came possibly from Middle French *gerfaucz*, from an Egyptian form of Arabic; and *gerfaunt* was probably formed in Middle English from Old French *ger-*, in *gerfaucz* + *-faunt*, abstracted from Middle English *olifaunt* elephant.

gird *v.* Probably before 1200 *gurdan*, developed from Old English *gyrdan* put a belt or girdle around (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *gerda* to gird, Old Saxon *gurdian*, Old High German *gurtan* (modern German *gürten*), Old Icelandic *gyrdha*, and Gothic *bigairdan*, from Proto-Germanic **zurdjanan* and **zurdanan*. The figurative sense of prepare for action, is first recorded before 1500. —**girdler** *n.* 1611, main supporting beam; formed from *gird*, *v.* + *-er*¹.

girdle *n.* Probably about 1200 *girdel*, before 1200 *gurdel*; developed from Old English (about 1000) *gyrdel* belt, sash, cord, etc., worn around the waist; cognate with Old Frisian *gerdel* girdle, belt, Middle Low German and Dutch *gordel*, Old High German *gurtel* (modern German *Gürtel*), Old Icelandic *gyrdhill*, and related to Old English *gyrdan* to GIRD. The modern sense of a lightweight, elastic corset, is first recorded in 1925. —**v.** 1582, encircle; from the noun.

girl *n.* Probably before 1300 *gyrle* child of either sex, young person; perhaps related to Old English *gierela* garment. Such forms as appear in Low German *gör*, *göre* child (modern dialectal German *Göre* girl), Norwegian dialect *gorre*, and Swedish dialect *garre*, *gurre* a small child, may be cognates or simply

accidental, vaguely similar forms. *Girl* with the specific meaning of female child, is first recorded in English before 1375.

girth *n.* Probably before 1300 *gerth* belt placed around an animal's belly; earlier, in the compound *Gerthmakere*; borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *gjörð* girdle, belt, hoop, from Proto-Germanic **ertu*). The meaning of the measurement around an object, is first recorded in 1664.

gist *n.* 1711, the basis for a legal action, found in *Je scay bien ou gist le lievre* I know well which is the very point of the matter, quoted in a French-English dictionary (1611), and also found in Anglo-French law *cest action gist* this action lies; *gist* being from Old French *gist* in *gist en* it consists in, it lies in (third person singular present indicative of *gisir* to lie), from Latin *jacet* it lies, third person singular present indicative of *jacere* to lie.

The extended meaning of the essential part or essence of anything is first recorded in English in 1823.

give *v.* About 1200 *gifen* (with initial guttural *g*), alteration of earlier *yiven*, *yeven* (before 1131). This change probably took place by influence of Scandinavian forms (compare Old Icelandic *gefa* to give, Swedish *giva*, Old Danish *giva*), as seen first in early texts of the north of England, where forms with *g* originated. The vowel also fluctuated even in Middle English and there is disparity within texts, perhaps being merely graphic but indicating the range (*giefan*, *gifan*, *gyfan*, *gefan*), and between texts (*yiven*, *yeven*). Middle English *yiven*, *yeven* developed largely from the West Saxon dialect form in Old English *giefan* (usually transcribed *giefan* in this book to show antecedents of the development of *g*; recorded about 725, in *Beowulf*).

The Old English forms are cognate with Old Frisian *jeva* to give, Old Saxon *geban*, Middle Dutch *gheven* (modern Dutch *geven*), Old High German *geban* (modern German *geben*), Old Icelandic *gefa*, and Gothic *giban* to give, from Proto-Germanic **zebanan*, altered by influence of its opposite **nemanan* take, from the original stem **gab-*, as in Gothic *gabei* riches. —**giver** *n.* (1340)

gizmo *n.* 1943, American English, of uncertain origin; an arbitrary formation probably out of the same linguistic mechanism as *gadget*, *dingus*, *thingumbob*, and similar words referring to things whose names are unknown or difficult to remember.

gizzard *n.* Before 1450 *gyssour* second stomach of a fowl; earlier *gisser* the liver (1373); borrowed from Old French *gisser*, *guiser* formed by a sound change of dissimilation of Latin *gig-*, in *gigeria*, *gizeria* (neuter plural) cooked entrails of a fowl. Addition of the final *-d* in the 1500's, to form *gizzard*, came from the influence of words ending in *-ard*, such as *coward*, *dastard*.

glacial *adj.* 1656, cold, icy; borrowed probably through French *glacial*, from Latin *glaciālis* icy, frozen, full of ice, from *glaciēs* ice; for suffix see *-AL*¹.

glacier *n.* 1744, borrowed from French *glacier* (earlier, dialectal *glacière*), from Old French *glace* ice, from Vulgar Latin **glacia*, from Latin *glaciēs*; see *COLD*.

glad *adj.* Probably before 1200 *glad* joyful, merry, mild, gracious, pleased; developed from Old English *glæd* bright, shining, joyous (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *gled* smooth, Old Saxon *glad-* (in compounds such as *gladmōdi* joyous, happy), Old High German *glat* shining, Middle High German *gelat*, *glat* shining, smooth, slippery (modern German *glatt* smooth), Middle and modern Dutch *glad* smooth, and Old Icelandic *gladhr* bright, glad, from Proto-Germanic **gladaz*. — **gladden** *v.* Before 1400 *gladenen* to rejoice, make glad; formed from earlier *gladen* make glad (probably before 1200; developed from Old English, about 950, *gladian* be glad, make glad) + *-en*¹.

glade *n.* About 1400 *glade* a bright or open space in a wood, a clearing; earlier in the place name *Gledele* (1131–41); probably borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *gladhr* bright). Later writers associated it with *shade* or an open area in the woods. In American English the sense of a marshy tract of low ground covered with grass, is first recorded in 1644; since the 1800's such tracts are often called *everglades*, from the *Everglades* region in Florida.

gladiator *n.* Probably before 1439, borrowing of Latin *gladiātor* (literally, swordsman), from *gladius* sword, allegedly from Gaulish **kladyos* (compare Welsh *clddyf* sword). In some later instances the word spelled with *-our* may have been borrowed from Middle French.

gladiolus *n.* About 1000, as Latin *gladiolum*; later, Anglicized as *gladiol* (probably 1440); and perhaps reborrowed (1567) from Latin in the form *gladiolus* wild iris (literally, small sword), diminutive of *gladius* sword (so called by Pliny in reference to the plant's sword-shaped leaves).

glamour or **glamor** *n.* 1720, Scottish *glamour* magic, enchantment, spell; possibly earlier *glamer*, alteration of English GRAMMAR and its Scottish variant *gramarye* occult learning or scholarship. The meaning of magical beauty or alluring charm, is first recorded in 1840. — **glamorize** *v.* 1936, American English; formed from English *glamor* + *-ize*. — **glamorous** *adj.* 1882, formed from English *glamor* + *-ous*.

glance *v.* 1441 *glawncen* to glide off at a slant as a weapon does, probably variant of earlier *glacen* to graze, strike a glancing blow (about 1300); borrowed from Old French *glacer*, *glacier* to slip, make slippery, from *glace* ice; see GLACIER. The meaning of look quickly (first recorded in 1583), was probably further influenced by *glenten* look askance; see GLINT. — **n.** 1503, from the verb, probably influenced by *glente*, *n.*, a glimpse, look (before 1338). The meaning of a brief or hurried look is first recorded in 1591.

gland *n.* 1692, possibly a shortened form of earlier *glandele*, *glandula*, *n.* (before 1400); borrowed through Old French *glandule*, or directly from Latin *glandula*; and borrowed from French *glande* gland, tumor, altered form of Old French *glandre* gland, swollen gland in the neck, from Latin *glandula* gland of the throat, tonsil, diminutive of *glāns* (genitive *glandis*) acorn. — **glandular** *adj.* 1740, borrowed from French *glandulaire*, from *glandule* small gland, from Latin *glandula*; for suffix see

—AR. This word replaced the adjective *glandulous* (recorded before 1400).

glanders *n.* About 1410 *glaundres*; borrowed from Old French *glandres*, plural of *glandre* GLAND.

glare¹ *v.* About 1275 *glaren* to shine with a brilliant light; borrowed perhaps from Middle Dutch or Middle Low German *glaren* to gleam, related to *glas* GLASS. The meaning of to stare fiercely, is first recorded about 1387–95. — **n.** Probably before 1400 *glayre*, bright light; later, a fierce look (1667); from the verb. — **glaring** *adj.* 1387–95, from *glare*, *v.*; later, conspicuous (1706).

glare² *adj.* bright and smooth. 1832, American English as *glare ice*, from earlier *glare* icy condition (1567); probably an extended use of *glare*¹, *n.*; and a confusion with *glair*, *n.*, clear, glistening (1296, borrowed from Old French *glair*, from Gallo-Romance **clāria*, from Latin *clārus* clear). — **n.** 1854; from the adjective.

glass *n.* Probably about 1225 *glas*; earlier *gles* (probably before 1200); found in Old English (about 750) *glæs*; ultimately derived from Proto-Germanic **glāsa-n*, from the base **gla-*, variant of **glē-* (compare Old Frisian *gles* glass, Old Saxon, Middle Low German, Middle High German, Middle Dutch, and modern Dutch *glas*, modern German *Glas*, and Old Icelandic *gler* glass). The meaning of a drinking glass is recorded probably before 1200. — **v.** 1577, cover or protect with glass; earlier, fit or provide with glass, especially with glass windows (1369); from the noun. — **glassy** *adj.* Before 1398, formed from Middle English *glas* glass, *n.* + *-y*¹.

glaucoma *n.* 1643 *glaucome*, borrowed from Greek *glaukōma* cataract, opacity of the crystalline lens, from *glaukōs* bluish green, gray; (originally) gleaming, of uncertain origin. The distinction between cataracts and glaucoma was not established until about 1705.

glaze *v.* 1369 *glasen* to fit or furnish with glass; from *glas* GLASS, probably influenced by earlier *glazier*. — **n.** 1784, substance used to make a glossy coating; from the verb; earlier a window (before 1700). — **glazier** *n.* 1296–97 formed from *glas*, *n.*, and *glasen*, *v.* + *-ier*.

gleam *n.* Probably before 1200 *gleam* beam of light; developed from Old English *glām* brightness, splendor, radiance (about 725), from Proto-Germanic **glaimiz*; cognate with Old Frisian *glā* to glow, Old Saxon *glimo*, Old High German *gleimo* glowworm, Old Icelandic *gljá*. — **v.** Probably about 1200 *gleamen*, from *gleam*, *n.*

glean *v.* About 1330 *glenen* to gather; borrowed from Old French *glener*, from Late Latin *glennāre* make a collection, from Gaulish (compare Old Irish *doglinn* he gathers, or gleans). — **gleanings** *n. pl.* (1440)

glee *n.* Before 1250 *gle*, developed from Old English (about 700) *gliu*, (before 800) *glio*; later *glīu*, *glēo* entertainment, mirth, jest, from Proto-Germanic **gliujan*; cognate with Old Icelandic *glý* joy. Throughout Old and Middle English *glee* was largely of poetic use and became rare after the 1400's. Its revival

remains unexplained. —**glee club** 1814, a group of singers organized originally to sing part songs and *glees* (song of three or more parts, 1659, from music or musical entertainment, probably before 1200).

glen *n.* 1489, small, narrow valley, in Scottish; developed from Gaelic *gleann*; earlier, *glenn* mountain valley; cognate with Old Irish *glenn*, Irish *gleann* and Welsh *glyn* valley.

glib *adj.* 1593, speaking or spoken smoothly or too easily; 1598, easy or offhand; 1599, smooth and slippery, as of a surface; earlier, as an adverb (1594); possibly a shortened form of obsolete *glibbery* slippery; possibly borrowed word from Low German *glibberig* smooth or slippery, from Middle Low German *glibberich* (*glibber* jelly + *-ich* -y¹).

glide *v.* Before 1200 *gliden*; found in Old English *glīdan* move along smoothly and easily (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *glīda* to glide, Old Saxon *glīdan*, Middle Low German *gliden* (modern Dutch *glijden*), Middle High German *glīten*, Old High German *glītan* (modern German *gleiten*). from Proto-West-Germanic **glīdan*. —**n.** 1590, from the verb. —**glider** *n.* 1440 *glydare* person or thing that glides, formed from *glide*, *n.* + *-er*¹. The sense of an airplane without a motor, appears about 1897.

glimmer *v.* Before 1375 *glimeren* to shine brightly; probably a frequentative form related to Old English *glāem* brightness; see GLEAM, and cognate with Middle Dutch *glimmen* to glimmer, and Middle High German *glimmern* to glow. The meaning of shine brightly, died out in the early 1500's, leaving only a weakened sense of shine faintly. —**n.** 1590, from the verb.

glimpse *v.* 1592, to shine faintly, alteration of *glymsen* to glance at (1450); earlier, to glisten (before 1325); developed possibly from Old English **glimsian*; cognate with Middle High German *glimsen* to glimmer, and *glimmern* to glow; see GLIMMER, and possibly from Proto-Germanic **glīm-/glaim-/glim-*; see GLEAM, GLIMMER. The *p* is possibly an intrusion that developed dialectally to facilitate pronunciation. The meaning of catch a quick view of, is first recorded in 1779. —**n.** About 1540 *glimse* momentary appearance; from the verb; earlier *glimpsing* imperfect vision (about 1359).

glint *v.* 1787, Scottish, shine with flashing light; apparently an alteration of earlier *glenten* to gleam, flash, glisten (probably about 1380); probably from a Scandinavian source (compare dialectal Swedish *glinta* to slip, shine, and dialectal Norwegian *gletta* to look), from Proto-Germanic **glenti-*. —**n.** 1826, from the verb.

glissade *n.* 1843, a sliding step in ballet; later, a slide down a slope, especially in ice or snow (1862); borrowed from French *glissade*, from *glisser* to slip or slide, from Dutch *glissen*, from Old Dutch *glissen*, *glitsen*; for suffix see -ADE.

glisten *v.* Probably about 1200 *glistnen* to glitter or gleam; developed from Old English (about 1000) *glisnian*, a form related to *glisian* glisten, and cognate with Old Frisian *glisia* to glimmer or blink, Middle Low German *glisen*, *glissen* to glitter, Middle High German *glistern* to sparkle, dialectal Norwegian

glissa to glitter, and Old Danish *glisse* to shine. —**n.** 1398, from *glistening*, *n.*, from the verb.

glitch *n.* 1962, American English; probably borrowed from Yiddish *glitsh* a slip, from *glitshn* to slip, from German *glitschen*, and related to *gleiten* to glide; see GLIDE.

glitter *v.* About 1380 *gliteren* to flash, sparkle; earlier *glideren* (probably before 1300); borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *glitra* to glitter, related to *glita* to shine); for suffix see -ER⁴. The Old Icelandic forms are cognate with Old Saxon *glītan*, Middle High German and modern German *glitzern* to glitter, Old High German *glīzzan* to shine, Gothic *glitmunjan* to glitter, and Old English *glitenian* to glitter. —**n.** 1602; from the verb.

glitzy *adj.* 1966, probably formed in English from German *glitz(ern)* to GLITTER + English suffix -y¹. —**glitz** *n.* 1978, back formation from *glitzy*.

gloaming *n.* About 1425 *gloming*, Scottish; developed from Old English (about 1000) *glōmung*, from *glōm* twilight, related to *glōwan* to GLOW; for suffix see -ING¹. The word continued to be used by Scottish writers after falling into disuse in standard English and was reintroduced through their writings in the 1800's.

gloat *n.* 1575, to look with a secret or sidelong glance; perhaps borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *glotta* smile scornfully, Swedish *glutta* to peep, peer). The meaning of gaze or ponder with pleasure is first recorded in 1748.

globe *n.* About 1450, anything round like a ball, a sphere; borrowed from Middle French *globe*, and as a learned borrowing directly from Latin *globus* sphere. The meaning of the planet Earth, is first recorded in 1553, in which *globe* is also used to mean a sphere with the map of the earth on it. —**global** *adj.* 1676, spherical; formed from English *globe*, *n.* + *-al*¹. The meaning of universal, world-wide, is first recorded in 1892. —**globular** *adj.* 1656, borrowed from French *globulaire*, modeled on Latin **globulāris*, as if formed from *globulus*; for suffix see -AR. —**globule** *n.* 1664, borrowed from French *globule*, from Latin *globulus*, diminutive of *globus* globe; for suffix see -ULE; or perhaps a back formation from *globular*. —**globulin** *n.* 1835, in botany; 1845, of blood; formed from English *globule* + *-in*².

glom¹ *v.* 1907 *glahm*, grab, snatch, steal. American English underworld slang, variant of earlier Scottish *glau* (1715); apparently developed from Gaelic *glam* to handle awkwardly, grab voraciously, devour. The slang phrase *glom on to*, meaning to get hold of is first recorded about 1960 in American English.

glom² *v.* 1945, American English, look at, watch, perhaps a transferred use of GLOM¹. —**n.** 1953, American English; from the verb.

gloom *n.* 1596, in Scottish, sullen look; probably from the verb. The sense of darkness or obscurity, is first recorded in 1629, and that of a state of melancholy or depression, appears

in 1744. —**v.** About 1300, implied in *glouminge* scowling, frowning; later, *gloumben* (probably about 1380), and *gloumen* look gloomy or sullen (probably before 1400); perhaps borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare dialectal Norwegian *glome* to stare somberly). —**gloomy** adj. 1588, dark or obscure; formed from English *gloom*, *v.* + *-y*¹. The figurative sense of downcast or depressed, is first recorded in 1590.

gloria *n.* Before 1225, song of praise to God, or its musical setting; borrowing of Medieval Latin *Gloria*, in *Gloria Patri*, name of a Medieval Latin hymn praising God, which begins "Glory be to the Father," from Latin *glōria* glory.

glory *n.* Probably before 1200 *gloire* splendor (of Christ), praise (to God); later *glorie* (probably about 1200); borrowed from Old French *gloire*, *glorie*, learned borrowing from Latin *glōria* great praise or honor of uncertain origin. —**v.** About 1350 *glorien* rejoice; borrowed from Old French *glorier*, and directly from Latin *glōriārī*, from *glōria* glory. This verb may also be a back formation from earlier *glorify*. —**glorify** *v.* 1340 *glorifen*; borrowed from Old French *glorifier*, learned borrowing from Late Latin *glōrificāre*, from Latin *glōria* glory; for suffix see *-FY*. —**glorious** adj. About 1275 *glorius*; borrowed from Old French *glorieus*, from Latin *glōriōsus* full of glory, famous, from *glōria* glory; for suffix see *-OUS*.

gloss¹ *n.* luster. 1538, perhaps borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Icelandic *glossi* flame, related to *glossa* to flame); cognate with Middle High German *glosen* to glow, and Dutch (obsolete) *gloos* a glowing, which is a possible alternative source of the English word. —**v.** Before 1656, from the noun. The figurative meaning of smooth over or hide is first recorded in 1729, influenced by *gloss*², *v.* —**glossy** adj. 1556, formed from English *gloss*¹, *n.* + *-y*¹.

gloss² *n.* explanation. 1548, a reborrowing directly from Latin *glōssa* obsolete or foreign word which needs explanation, from Ionic Greek *glōssa* (Attic *glōtta*) obscure word, language (literally, tongue). —**v.** 1579, from the noun. The extended meaning of explain away (*gloss over*, 1764), is first recorded in 1638. *Gloss* replaced earlier *glose* in both noun and verb (*n.*, about 1300, borrowed from Old French *glose* explanation, and directly from Late Latin *glōssa*, *glōsa*, from Latin *glōssa*; *v.*, before 1378 *glosen* interpret, comment, provide with a gloss, borrowed from Old French *gloser* make an explanation, from *glose*; and probably developed in English from the noun in the sense of provide with a gloss, but an earlier sense in Middle English, to flatter or use deceit, about 1300, was most likely borrowed from Old French).

glossary *n.* Probably about 1350 *glosarie*; borrowed from Latin *glōssarium*, from Greek *glōssarion*, contemptuous diminutive of *glōssa* obsolete or foreign word which needs explanation; for suffix see *-ARY*, but compare this normalized use of the suffix with *-arion* from the Greek *-arion* used as a diminutive showing contempt.

glottis *n.* 1578, New Latin, borrowed from Greek *glōttis* (genitive *glōttidos*), from *glōtta*, Attic dialect variant of *glōssa* tongue. —**glottal** adj. 1846, formed from English *glottis* + *-al*¹.

glove *n.* Probably before 1200 *glove*, developed from Old English *glōf* covering for the hand (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Icelandic *glōfi* glove. —**v.** About 1400, from the noun.

glow *v.* Old English *glōwan* shine as if red-hot (about 1000); cognate with Old Frisian *glēd* glow, blaze, Old Saxon *glōian* to glow, Old High German *gluoen* (modern German *glühen*), and Old Icelandic *glōa* to glow, from the Proto-Germanic base **glō-*. —**n.** About 1450 *glou* glowing heat; from the verb.

glower *v.* Probably before 1400 *glören* to glare, glower; earlier, shine (probably about 1350); perhaps borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare dialectal Norwegian *glora* to glow, stare, Icelandic *glōra* to gleam, glare). The Middle English *glören* is directly related through the Proto-Germanic base **glō-* to Old English *glōwan* to GLOW; which influenced the spelling *glower*. —**n.** 1715, from the verb.

glucose *n.* 1840, borrowing of French *glucose*, from Greek *gleitkos* must, sweet wine, related to *glykys* sweet.

glue *n.* 1225 *glu* substance used to stick things together; borrowed from Old French *glu*, *glus*, from Late Latin *glūs* (genitive *glūtis*) glue. —**v.** About 1392 *glewen*; earlier *gliwen* (about 1380); borrowed from Old French *gluer*, from *glu*, *n.* —**gluey** adj. Before 1398 *glewy*; formed from Middle English *glue* glue + *-y*¹.

glum adj. 1547 *glumme*, probably developed from Middle English *gloumen* become dark (about 1300), later *gloumben* look gloomy or sullen (about 1380); see GLOOM, *v.*

gluon *n.* 1972, American English, formed from *glue* + *-on*.

glut *v.* Before 1333, implied in *gloutinge* a feasting to excessive fullness; later *glotten* (probably before 1400); probably borrowed from Old French *gloter*, *glotoier* to swallow, gulp down, from Latin *glutire* swallow, gulp down. —**n.** 1579, excessive flow; from the verb.

gluten *n.* 1803, sticky substance in flour, specialization of earlier meaning, animal albumin or fibrin (1597); borrowed probably through Middle French *gluten*, from Latin *glūten* (genitive *glūtīnis*) glue, related to Late Latin *glūs* GLUE. —**glutinous** adj. Probably before 1425 *glutinose*, *glutinous*; borrowed probably by influence of Middle French *glutineux*, from Latin *glutinōsus*, from *glūten* (genitive *glūtīnis*) glue.

glutton *n.* Probably before 1200 *glutun* greedy eater; borrowed from Old French *gluton*, *gloton*, and from Latin *glutōnem*, accusative of *glutō* glutton, related to or formed from *glutire* to swallow, *gula* throat. —**gluttonous** adj. About 1350 *glotonis*; later *glotonos*; borrowed from Old French *glotonos*, from *gloton* glutton; for suffix see *-OUS*. —**gluttony** *n.* Probably before 1200 *glutunie*, borrowed from Old French *glutonie*, from *gluton* glutton.

glycerin *n.* 1838, sweet syrupy liquid obtained from fats and oils; borrowed from French *glycérine*, formed from Greek *glykerós* sweet (related to *glykys* sweet) + French *-ine* *-ine*².

glycogen *n.* 1860, carbohydrate stored in the liver and other

tissues; borrowed from French *glycogène*, formed from Greek *glykys* sweet + French *-gène* -gen.

gnarled *adj.* 1603, probably a variant of *knarled*, probable diminutive of *knar* knot in wood (1382; earlier, a rock or stone, before 1250); cognate with Middle High German *knorre* knobby protuberance (modern German *Knorren*). *Gnarled* occurs once in Shakespeare and is not recorded again until the 1800's. —**gnarl** *v.* 1814, back formation from *gnarled*. —**n.** 1824, from the verb or back formation from *gnarled*.

gnash *v.* 1496, possibly a variant of obsolete *gnasten* (before 1325, but implied earlier in *gnaisting* action of grinding the teeth, about 1300); perhaps borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *gnastan* a gnashing), of unknown origin. The ending in *-sh* may have been influenced by the similar use of *-ish* from French verb stems to create such a formation as *banish*.

gnat *n.* About 1250 *gnatt*, developed from Old English *gnætt* (before 899); earlier *gneat* (before 830, erroneous spelling by analogy with plural forms). Old English *gnætt* is cognate with Low German *gnatte* gnat, dialectal High German *Gnatze*, from Proto-Germanic **gnattaz*; East Frisian *gnit*, Middle Low German *gnitte* (modern German *Gnitze*), Middle High German *gnaz* scurf; and ultimately related to Old English *gnagan* to GNAW.

gnaw *v.* Before 1200 *gnawen*, developed from Old English (before 1000) *gnagan*; cognate with Old High German *gnagan*, *nagan* (modern German *nagen*), and Old Icelandic and Swedish *gnaga*; cognate with Lettish *gñēga* one who eats with long teeth. Whether the Old English is cognate with Old Saxon *knagan*, and Middle and modern Dutch *knagen* is conjectural.

gneiss *n.* 1757, borrowing of German *Gneiss*, from earlier variants *Geneuss*, *Knaust*, probably alterations of Middle High German *gneist*, *gneiste*, *ganeiste* spark (perhaps because the rock sparkles), from Old High German *gneisto* spark.

gnome *n.* 1712–14, borrowing of French *gnome*, from New Latin *gnomus*, possibly with the meaning of earth dweller. The word is often said to have been coined from a Greek form **gēnōmos* earth dweller, as gnomes were considered protectors of the treasures of the earth.

gnomic *adj.* 1815, full of instructive sayings; borrowed, perhaps through French *gnomique*, from Late Latin *gnōmicus* concerned with maxims or didactic, from Greek *gnōmikos*, from *gnōmē* thought, opinion, maxim, intelligence, from *gignōskein* to come to know; see KNOW; for suffix see -IC. It is also possible that *gnomic* is a shortened form of earlier *gnomical* (1603).

gnomon *n.* 1546, rod, pointer, or triangular piece especially on a sundial; borrowed from Latin *gnōmōn*, from Greek *gnōmōn* indicator (literally, one who discerns), from *gignōskein* to come to know; see KNOW.

Gnostic *n.* 1585–87, believer in a mystical religious doctrine of spiritual knowledge, practiced in early Christian times; borrowed from Late Latin *Gnōsticus*, from Late Greek

Gnōstikós, noun use of adjective *gnōstikós* knowing, able to discern, from *gnōstós* knowable, from *gignōskein* to come to know. —**adj.** 1656, relating to knowledge; from the noun. —**Gnosticism** *n.* 1664, formed from English *Gnostic*, *n.* + *-ism*.

gnotobiotic *adj.* 1949, formed in English from Greek *gnōtós* known (from *gignōskein* to come to know) + English *biotic* of life, as in *antibiotic*. —**gnotobiotics** *n.* 1949, formed from *gnotobiotic*.

gnu *n.* 1777 *gnoo*, African antelope, wildebeest, borrowed probably through Dutch *gnoe*, alteration of Hottentot *i-ngu* black hartebeest or white-tailed *gnu*, from Southern Bushman, transcribed as *!nu*: (in which *!* and *:* represent clicks).

go *v.* Probably before 1200 *gon*, *gan* to walk, move along; developed from Old English *gān* to go (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian, Old Saxon, and Middle Low German *gān* to go, Middle Dutch *gaen* (modern Dutch *gaan*), Old High German *gān*, *gēn* (modern German *gehen*), Old Danish and Old Swedish *gā* (modern Danish, Norwegian, and Swedish *gå*), and Crimean Gothic *geen*, from Proto-Germanic **gai-/3æ-*.

The Old English verb form for the past tense was *ēode* (Middle English *yode*), replaced in the 1400's by *went*, the past tense of *wenden* to direct one's way; see WENT, WEND. —**n.** 1727, action of going, gait; also, on the verge of destruction; from the verb. The sense in *on the go*, is first recorded in 1843, and that in *at one go*, in 1825. —**adj.** 1951, American English, in order; (used in aerospace jargon); from the verb. —**go-ahead** *n.* 1838, implied in earlier *go-aheadism*. —**go-between** *n.* (1598). —**gocart** *n.* 1676, a litter or sedan chair also infant's walker. —**go-getter** *n.* 1922, an energetic person (antecedents are found in *goer*, *n.*, about 1378, and in a surname, about 1250). —**going** *n.* Before 1250; *goings*, as in *goings on* (1775, but implied in earlier rules of *goings*, about 1475). —**goner** *n.* 1850, formed from English *gone* + *-er*¹. The idea is found in *gone goose* (1830).

goad *n.* Before 1200 *gode*; developed from Old English (about 725) *gād*; cognate with Langobardic *gaida* spear, from Proto-Germanic **gaidō*. The sense of anything which urges on, appeared in 1600. —**v.** 1579, from the noun.

goal *n.* 1531, place where a race ends; of uncertain origin. An isolated form *gol* boundary or limit, appears before 1333, and does not recur in the record before 1531, becoming very common thereafter. It is suggested that *goal* developed from Old English **gāl* obstacle or barrier, for which indirect evidence is furnished by the apparent derivative *gēlan* to hinder.

goat *n.* Before 1200 *got*, and *geat*; developed from Old English (about 700) *gāt* she-goat; cognate with Old Saxon *gēt* she-goat, Middle Dutch *gheet* (modern Dutch *geit*), Old High German *geiz* (modern German *Geiss*), Old Icelandic *geit* (Norwegian *geit*, Swedish *get*, Danish *ged*), Gothic *gaits* goat, she-goat, from Proto-Germanic **gaitaz*. In Old English, *gāt* was a specialized term, as the male goat was called *bucca*; see BUCK¹. In the late 1300's the sexes began to be distinguished through the use of *he-goat* and *she-goat*. —**goatee** *n.* 1844 *goaty*; 1847 *goatee*

man's beard like that of a he-goat, English *goat* + *-ee*, variant of *-y²*. — **goatherd** *n.* (1229, in the surname *Gothirde*) — **goatskin** *n.* (before 1387)

gob¹ *n.* lump, mass. About 1382, Middle English *gobbe*, borrowed probably from Old French *gobe* mouthful or lump, from Old French *gober* gulp or swallow down, probably from Gaulish **gobbo-* (compare Old Irish *gob* beaklike mouth or face, and Gaelic *gob* beak, mouth).

gob² *n.* sailor. 1915, American English, probably a shortened form of earlier British nautical slang *gobby* a coastguardsman (1890); said to be derived from dialectal *gob* spit (extended sense of *gob¹*), from lump of chewing tobacco.

gobbet *n.* 1290, a fragment or piece; borrowed from Old French *gobet* mouthful, piece, diminutive of *gobe* **GOB¹**; for suffix see *-ET*.

gobble¹ *v.* eat fast and greedily. 1601; probably a frequentative form of *gob* from *gobben* to drink something greedily; for suffix see *-LE³*.

gobble² *v.* make the throaty sound of a turkey. 1680, probably imitative, but perhaps influenced by *gobble¹* or **GARBLE**. — **n.** 1781, from the verb. — **gobbler** *n.* 1737, English *gobble*, *v.* + *-er¹*.

gobbledygook *n.* 1944, American English; formed in imitation of the gobbling of the turkey cock.

goblet *n.* Probably about 1380 *gobelot*, *goblot*; borrowed from Old French *gobelet*, diminutive of *gobel* cup, probably related to *gobe* gulp down; see **GOB¹**.

goblin *n.* Probably before 1320 *gobylyn* mischievous sprite or elf; borrowed possibly from Old French *gobelin*, which was apparently the source of Medieval Latin *Gobelinus*, the name of a spirit that supposedly haunted the French town of *Evreux*, in the 1100's. Though French *gobelin* was not recorded until almost 250 years after appearance of the English term, it is probably reasonable to assume the French term was in existence long before it was recorded, as it is a French ghost that is mentioned in the Medieval Latin text of the 1100's, and few people who believed in folk magic used Medieval Latin. German *Kobold* a spirit of the earth, is probably of different origin.

God or **god** *n.* Old English (about 725) *god* Supreme Being, deity; cognate with Old Frisian, Old Saxon, and Dutch *god* Supreme Being, deity, Old High German *got* (modern German *Gott*), Old Icelandic *godh*, *guðh*, and Gothic *guth*, from Proto-Germanic **gudān*. The Germanic words for *god* were originally neuter, but after the Germanic tribes adopted Christianity, *God* became a masculine syntactic form. — **god-child** *n.* (probably before 1200) — **goddamn** *n.*, *v.* (probably before 1398) — **goddaughter** *n.* (about 1250) — **goddess** *n.* (probably before 1350) — **godfather** *n.* (before 1200) — **godly** *adj.* (probably 1384) — **godmother** *n.* (about 1273) — **godsend** *n.* (1679 *God's send*) — **godson** *n.* (1205) — **Godspeed** *n.* (1275)

gofer *n.* 1956, American English, alteration *go for*, so called

from the worker being told to *go for* coffee, spare parts, etc. Also a pun on *gopher* in the sense of a little animal who runs around.

goggle *v.* 1540 *gogle* roll one's eyes; stare with bulging eyes, from *gogelen* to roll about (probably about 1400), also influenced by *gogel-eyed* squint- or one-eyed (about 1384); of uncertain origin. — **n.** 1651, goggling look; earlier, person who goggles (1616); perhaps from *gogle eye(s)*, or from the verb. The plural form *goggles* large eyeglasses for protection, is first recorded in 1715.

goiter or **goitre** *n.* 1625, borrowed from French *goître*, *goitre*, from a dialect of the Rhône region, from Old French and Old Provençal *goitron* throat, gullet, from Vulgar Latin **guttur-iōnem*, from Latin *guttur* throat.

gold *n.* Old English (about 725) *gold* a shiny, bright-yellow precious metal; cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *gold* gold, Middle Dutch *gout* (modern Dutch *goud*), Old High German *gold* (modern German *Gold*), Old Icelandic *goll*, *gull* (Swedish, Danish *guld*, Norwegian *gull*), and Gothic *gulth*, from Proto-Germanic **gulth-*. — **adj.** Probably before 1200; from the noun. — **golden** *adj.* About 1300, formed from *gold*, *n.* + *-en²*. *Golden* replaced the earlier Middle English form *gilden*, which developed from Old English *gyldan*. — **gold-enrod** *n.* (1568) — **goldfinch** *n.* 1229, in the surname *Goldfinch*, developed from Old English *gold-finc* (about 1000). — **goldsmith** *n.* Old English *gold-smith* (about 1000).

golf *n.* 1457, Scottish *golf*, *gouf* the game of golf, played first in Scotland in the 1400's; perhaps alteration of Middle Dutch *colf*, *colve* stick, club, bat (modern Dutch *kolf*); cognate with Middle Low German *kolve* club, bat, Old High German *kolbo* club (modern German *Kolben* club, mallet), and Old Icelandic *kolfr* bolt, rod, from Proto-Germanic **kulb-*. — **v.** 1800, from the noun.

gonad *n.* 1880, from New Latin *gonas* (pl. *gonades*), from Greek *gonē* seed, from *gignesthai* be born.

gondola *n.* 1549; borrowed from Italian (in Venetian dialect) *gondola*; earlier in English *goundel*; borrowed from Old Italian *gondula*, of uncertain origin (possibly from Italian diminutive of *gonda* a kind of boat. — **gondolier** *n.* 1603, borrowed from French, and directly from Italian *gondoliere*, from *gondola* *gondola*; for suffix see *-IER*.

gong *n.* About 1600, borrowed from Malay *gōng* or Javanese *gong*, alleged to be a formation imitative of the sound made by the instrument.

gonorrhea *n.* 1526, borrowed, probably through Middle French *gonorrhēa*, from Late Latin *gonorrhoea* involuntary discharge of semen, from Greek *gonorrhōia* (*gónos* seed + *rhōē* flow, from *rhein* to flow); so called from the discharge of mucus in the disease mistaken as a discharge of semen.

gonzo *adj.* 1972, American English, borrowed from Italian *gonzo* simpleton or blockhead, first appearing in *gonzo journalism* referring to a personal style of reporting.

goo *n.* 1911, American English; perhaps a shortened form of *burgoo* thick porridge (1787) or stew (1853), but more likely a back formation from *goosey* (1905, formed from *(bur)goo* + *-ey*).

goober *n.* 1833, American English peanut, of African origin; perhaps Bantu (compare Kikongo and Kimbundu *nguba* peanut).

good *adj.* 1124 *god*; later *good* (about 1250); developed from Old English (about 725) *gōd* having the right or desirable quality. Old English *gōd* is cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *gōd* good, Dutch *goed*, Old High German *guot* (modern German *gut*), Old Icelandic *gōðr*, and Gothic *gōths* or *gōds*, from Proto-Germanic **gōdaz*. —*n.* 1102 *god*; developed from Old English *gōd* that which is good (about 725, in *Beowulf*); from the adjective. The plural form *goods* property or possessions, is first recorded about 1280; the singular form in the same sense, is found in Old English about 950. —**goodly** *adj.* Probably about 1150; developed from Old English *gōdlic* (about 1000). —**good will** (Old English, about 725).

good-by or **good-bye** *interj.* 1811 *Good-bye*; earlier *godbwyre* (1573–80); a contraction (by confusion of *god* good, and *God* God) of “God be with ye (you),” paralleling *good day* and *good night* (before 1200).

goody *n.* something very good to eat. 1745, formed from *good* + *-y*. —**adj.** 1830, good in a weak or sentimental way; formed from *good* + *-y*. The reduplicated form *goody-goody*, appeared in 1871, probably by association with *goody*, *n.* a person who makes too much of being good. —**interj.** 1796 *goodie* exclamation of pleasure, formed from *good* + *-ee*, alteration of *-y*.

goosey *adj.* See **GOO**.

goof *n.* 1916, American English, a stupid person or fool; possibly a variant of dialectal English *goff* foolish clown or silly fellow (1869), from earlier *goffe* (1570), probably borrowed from Middle French *goffe* awkward or stupid, of uncertain origin. Alternatively, early modern English *goffe* may have developed from *goffen* to speak in a frivolous manner (about 1175), possibly from Old English *gegāf* buffoonery, and *gafetung* scoffing, related to modern English *gaff* to jest. The sense of a blunder, appeared about 1954, probably influenced by modern English *gaffe* blunder. —*v.* 1932, American English waste time, loaf (also in the phrase *goof off*, 1941); 1941, to blunder; from the noun. —**goofy** *adj.* 1921, American English slang, stupid or silly, formed from *goof*, *n.* + *-y*.

googol *n.* the number 1 followed by 100 zeroes or 10¹⁰⁰. 1940, coined possibly as a word from children’s vocabulary, perhaps with some influence of the comic-strip character Barney Google.

goon *n.* 1921, American English *goon* a stupid person, possibly a shortened form of earlier *gooney* stupid person (1896). The meaning of thug hired to disrupt labor disputes, is first recorded in 1938.

goose *n.* Old English (about 700) *gōs*; cognate with Old Frisian *gōs*, *gōz* goose, Middle Low German *gōs*, Middle Dutch

and modern Dutch *gans*, Old High German *gans* (modern German *Gans*), and Old Icelandic *gās*, from Proto-Germanic **gans-*. The loss of *n* (English, Old Frisian, Middle Low German, and Old Icelandic) is a normal development before *s*. The plural *geese* is from Proto-Germanic **ans-iz*, and if the *s* is formative to a base **gan-*, then a connection can perhaps be established with *gannet*, and *gander*. —**gooseberry** *n.* 1530, formed from English *goose* + *berry*. —**goose flesh** (before 1425) —**gooseneck** *n.* (1688, iron hook; 1827, curved metal pipe) —**goose pimples** (1914)

gopher *n.* 1814, American English, of uncertain origin; perhaps an alteration to Anglicize American French (Louisiana) *gaufre* honeycomb, waffle (said to be a general term for many mammals in allusion to the structure of their burrow), from Old French *gaufre*, from Frankish (compare Middle Dutch *wafel* honeycomb).

Gordian knot 1579, in allusion to the knot tied in legend by Gordius, king of Phrygia; for suffix see *-AN*. The one to loosen the knot should rule Asia; instead Alexander the Great *cut the Gordian knot*, which means to solve a difficult problem in a quick, easy, or unexpected way.

gore¹ *n.* blood that is shed, clotted blood. About 1150 *gore*; developed from Old English *gor* dirt, dung (about 725), related to *gyre* dung, and cognate with Old High German and Middle Low German *gor* dung, Dutch *goor* dingy, Old Icelandic *gor* cud, slimy matter; of uncertain origin. The meaning of blood is first recorded as thickened or clotted blood, especially that shed in battle (1563, found in the distinction *blood and gore*, also Dutch *bloed en goor*). —**gory** *adj.* About 1480, Scottish *gorrie* bloody, formed from *gore* + *-y*.

gore² *v.* to wound with a horn, tusk, etc. Before 1400 *goren*, Scottish *gorren* to pierce, stab; origin uncertain (occasionally attributed as a variant of *gore* spear, from Old English *gār*).

gore³ *n.* long, triangular piece of cloth made in a skirt, sail, etc. About 1250, a skirt; developed from Old English *gāra* angular point, as of land (before 899); cognate with Old High German *gēro*, *kēro* (modern German *Gehren*, *Gehre*), Old Icelandic *geire*, and related to *gār* spear (from its shape). —*v.* put or make a gore in. 1548, from the noun.

gorge *n.* deep, narrow valley. About 1350, throat; earlier, as a surname (1185); borrowed from Old French *gorge* throat, bosom, from Late Latin *gurga*, variant of *gurgus* gullet or throat, jaws, probably from classical Latin *gurgus* abyss or whirlpool, related to *gurguliō* gullet. The transferred sense of a narrow valley or ravine, is found in 1769, possibly influenced by a similar sense in French. —*v.* Probably before 1300, eat greedily; from Old French *gorger*, *gorgier*, from Old French *gorge* throat.

gorgeous *adj.* About 1495, borrowed from Middle French *gorgias* elegant, fashionable, fond of jewelry (probably with reference to *gorge* neck), perhaps from Old French *gorge* bosom, throat (also in reference to something adorning the neck); see **GORGE**. The forms *gorgayse*, *gorges*, and *gorgyas*

eventually gave way to the spelling *gorgeouse* (also recorded before 1500).

Gorgon *n.* any of three hideous sisters in Greek legend whose look turned the beholder to stone. Before 1398, borrowed from Latin *Gorgō* (genitive *Gorgōnis*), from Greek *Gorgō*, from *gorgós* terrible.

gorilla *n.* 1847, American English, borrowed from Greek *Górrilai*, pl., the name given to a group of wild, hairy creatures in a Greek translation of the Carthaginian navigator Hanno's account of his voyage made along the northwest coast of Africa about 500 B.C.

gorse *n.* 1287 *gorste*; earlier *Gorst*, in the place name *Gorstley* (1228); found in Old English *gors* (before 800), *gorst* (about 950); cognate with Old Saxon and Old High German *gersta* barley (modern German *Gerste*), Middle Dutch *gherste* (modern Dutch *gerst*), from Proto-Germanic **gurst-/gerst-*.

gosh *interj.* 1757, altered pronunciation and spelling of *God*, originally in the phrase *by gosh*, probably developed from *gosse* (before 1553).

goshawk *n.* Probably before 1300 *goshauk*, developed from Old English *gōshafoc* (about 1000); from *gōs* GOOSE + *hafoc* HAWK.

gosling *n.* About 1350 *goselyng*; earlier, in the surname *Goseling* (about 1275), from Middle English *gos* goose + *-ling*; replacement of earlier *gesling* (recorded probably before 1300); borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *gæs-lingr*).

gospel *n.* the teachings of Jesus and the Apostles. Before 1250 *gospel*, developed from Old English *godspell*, *gōdspel* good news (about 750, a compound of *gōd* good + *spell*, *spel* story or message, a translation of Latin *bona adnūtiatiō*, itself a translation of Greek *euangēlion* evangel). The first element (*gōd*) of the Old English compound *gōdspell* was mistakenly associated with *god* God, and for this reason a short *o* appeared in the Old English variant *godspell*.

gossamer *n.* Probably before 1300 *gossummer*, seemingly formed from *gōs* goose + *sumer*, *sumor* summer.

The reference is to the threads spun especially in fields of stubble or on bushes in late fall. It is unclear whether or not the analogy of these threads is to the downy appearance of gossamer and further to the time of year when geese are in season; thus a name for Indian summer as the season of the goose and cobwebs. Dutch has a similar allusion to summer threads in *zomerdraden*, also German *Sommerfäden*, and Swedish *sommartråd*. —**adj.** filmy. 1806–07, very light and thin; from the noun.

gossip *n.* Probably before 1300 *gossip* godparent; (also) a familiar acquaintance; developed from Old English (1014) *god-sibb* godparent (*god* God + *sibb* relative). In Middle English *gossip* was extended in use to a form of address for such an a familiar acquaintance, and was later applied to anyone who engages in familiar or idle talk (1566). Probably by influence of the verb, *gossip* further developed the meaning of idle talk

about others, trifling or groundless rumor (1811). —**v.** 1590, to act as a familiar acquaintance; from the noun. The meaning of talk idly, mostly about other people's affairs, is first recorded in 1627.

gouge *n.* 1350–51, borrowing of Old French *gouge*, from Late Latin *gubia*, alteration of *gubia* hollow beveled chisel, probably from Gaulish (compare Old Irish *gulban* prick, sting, *gulba* beak, Welsh *gylf* sharp point, knife, beak). —**v.** 1570, cut with a gouge; from the noun. The meaning of dig, tear, or force out, with, or as if with, a gouge, is first recorded in 1616.

goulash *n.* 1866, borrowed from Hungarian *gulyás*, from *gulyás* herdsman and *hús* meat (in Hungary, a beef or lamb soup first made by herdsman while pasturing).

gourd *n.* About 1303, melon, borrowed through Anglo-French *gourde* (Old French *cōorde*), ultimately from Latin *cucurbita*, of uncertain origin (possibly related to *cucumis* CUCUMBER).

gourmand *n.* 1450 *gourmaunt* glutton; borrowed from Middle French *gourmant*, *gourmand* glutton (originally, gluttonous), of uncertain origin.

gourmet *n.* 1820, borrowing of French *gourmet*, alteration (probably influenced by Middle French *gourmant* *gourmand*) of Old French *grommes*, pl., wine tasters, wine merchant's servants, of uncertain origin (perhaps related to Old English **grom* man servant).

gout *n.* About 1300 *goute*; earlier *gute* in the compound *gut-feastre* festered gouty swelling (probably before 1200); borrowed from Old French *gote*, *goute* gout, drop, from Latin *gutta* a drop (in Medieval Latin, *gout*), of unknown origin. The disease was thought to be caused by drops of viscous humors seeping from the blood into the joints. —**gouty** *adj.* Before 1398, formed from Middle English *goute* gout + *-y*¹.

govern *v.* Probably about 1280 *governen* to rule; borrowed from Old French *gouverner* govern, from Latin *gubernāre* to direct, rule, guide (originally, to steer), from Greek *kybernān* to steer or pilot a ship, direct. —**governess** *n.* About 1450 *governesse*, a shortened form of earlier *gouvernouresse* woman who rules, (also) a governing or guiding influence (about 1370); later, guardian, governess (about 1422); borrowed from Old French *governeresse* (*gouverneur* governor + *-esse* -ess). —**government** *n.* About 1380, borrowed from Old French *gouvernement* (*gouverner* govern + *-ment* -ment). —**governor** *n.* Probably before 1300, protector or guide; borrowed from Old French *gouverneur*, and directly from Latin *gubernātor* (nominative *gubernātor*) director, ruler, governor, (originally, steersman, pilot), from *gubernāre* to govern; for suffix see -OR². The sense of ruler or lord is first recorded before 1338.

gown *n.* Probably before 1325 *gunne* an official's robe; borrowed from Old French *goune*, *gone*, from Late Latin *gunna* leather garment, skin, hide, of unknown origin. —**v.** 1422, from the noun.

grab *v.* 1589 *grabbe* probably borrowed from Middle Dutch or Middle Low German *grabben* to grab; cognate with Old Eng-

lish *græppian* to seize (which did not survive into Middle English), East Frisian and Low German *grapsen* to grab, snatch (modern German *grapschen*), and Old Icelandic *grāpa*. —**n.** 1824, from the verb. —**grabby** adj. 1910, greedy; formed from English *grab* + *-y*¹.

grace *n.* Probably before 1200 *grace* God's favor or help; borrowed from Old French *grace* pleasing quality, favor, good will, thanks, from Latin *grātia* pleasing quality, goodwill, gratitude, from *grātus* pleasing, agreeable. The meaning of goodness, virtue, graciousness, is first recorded about 1330, and that of beauty of form or movement, pleasing quality, charm, in 1340. —**v.** Probably before 1200 *gracen* to thank; borrowed from Old French *gracier*, from *grace* thanks, grace. The meaning of give or add grace to is first recorded before 1586. —**graceful** *n.* (before 1449) —**gracious** adj. About 1303 *gracyous* filled with God's grace; later, beautiful, fair (about 1325); borrowed from Old French *gracieus* having grace, pleasing, from Latin *grātiōsus*, from *grātia* GRACE.

grackle *n.* 1772 *gracule*, 1782 *grakle*, Anglicized forms of the New Latin genus name *Gracula*, from Latin *grāculus* jackdaw, a European crow.

gradation *n.* 1538, climax; borrowed from Middle French *gradation* and directly from Latin *gradātiōnem* (nominative *gradātiō*) an ascent by steps, a gradation or climax, from *gradus* step, degree. The sense of gradual change is first recorded in 1549; and one of the steps in a gradual change, in 1599.

grade *n.* 1796, step or stage in a process; borrowed from French *grade* grade or degree, learned borrowing from Latin *gradus* (genitive *gradūs*) step or degree, replacing Middle English *gree*, *gre* step or degree in a series; degree in order, rank, amount, or intensity; academic degree (probably about 1303); borrowed from Old French *gre*, *grei* step, from Latin *gradus*, related to *gradī* to walk, step, go. —**v.** 1659, arrange in grades; from the noun.

gradient *n.* 1835, rate at which a road, railroad track, etc., rises; probably from *grade*, *n.* step or degree, patterned on *quotient*, *salient*. —**adj.** 1641, (of animals) characterized by walking, ambulant; later, going up or down gradually (1855, from the noun); borrowed from Latin *gradientem*, present participle of *gradī* to walk, go.

gradual *adj.* Probably before 1425, having steps or ridges; later, taking place by degrees (1692); borrowed from Medieval Latin *gradualis*, from Latin *gradus* step.

graduate *adj.* Before 1415, in the phrase *graduate man*; borrowed from Medieval Latin *graduatus*, past participle of *graduari* to take a degree, graduate, from Latin *gradus* step, GRADE; for suffix see *-ATE*¹. —**v.** 1421, confer a university degree on; probably from the adjective, and borrowed from Medieval Latin *graduatus*, past participle of *graduari*. The technical use of divide (a scale, etc.) by degrees, appeared probably before 1425. —**n.** 1459, borrowed from Medieval Latin *graduatus*, past participle of *graduari*. —**graduation** *n.* 1423 *graduacion* act of conferring a university degree; borrowed from Medieval

Latin *graduatiōnem* (nominative *graduatio*), from *graduari*; for suffix see *-ATION*.

graffiti *n.pl.* 1851, ancient drawings or writings scratched on walls, as those of Pompeii and Rome; borrowing of Italian *graffiti*, plural of *graffito* a scribbling, from *graffio* a scratch or scribble, from *graffiare* to scribble, ultimately from Greek *gráphein* draw, write. The transferred meaning, applied to recently made crude drawings or scribbles, is first recorded in English in 1877.

graft¹ *n.* shoot inserted into another plant. Probably about 1475 *grafe*, alteration of earlier *graft* (probably about 1387); borrowed from Old French *grafe* graft or stylus, from Latin *graphium* stylus, from Greek *grápheion* stylus, from *gráphein* write. This use of *graft* is an allusion to the shape of a stylus which looks like a modern pencil. —**v.** Probably about 1475, implied in *grafting*, alteration of earlier *graffen* (about 1378); probably borrowed from Old French *grafier* to graft, from *grafe*, *n.*

graft² *n.* 1865, American English, perhaps from the verb. In 1901 the word was applied to the money so obtained. —**v.** 1859, American English, possibly an extension of *graft*¹, *v.*, in the figurative sense of insert something as if by grafting.

graham *adj.* (of crackers, bread, etc.) made from unsifted whole-wheat flour. 1834, American English, in allusion to Sylvester Graham, 1794–1851, American dietetic reformer, whose ideas were part of the popular wisdom from the 1830's to the 1850's.

Graill *n.* Probably before 1300 *greal*, cup, earlier a dish, used by Christ at the Last Supper, and into which Joseph of Arimathea received the last drops of blood of Christ; borrowed from Old French *grail* cup; earlier, flat dish, from Medieval Latin *gradalis* a flat dish or shallow vessel, perhaps through Gallo-Romance **grātālis*, or directly from Latin *crāter* bowl, from Greek *kráter* bowl, especially for mixing wine with water.

grain *n.* About 1202, in the surname *Graindorg*; later *greyn* small, hard particle (about 1300), and seed of plants or flowers (about 1325); borrowed from Old French *grain*, *grein*, from Latin *grānum* grain, seed; see CORN¹. The meaning of granular texture is first recorded before 1420.

gram *n.* 1797 *gramme*, borrowing of French *gramme*, from Late Latin *gramma* small weight, from Greek *grámma* small weight (originally, something written), from the stem of *gráphein* to draw, write.

—**gram**¹ a combining form meaning: something drawn or written, message, as in telegram, monogram; or something recorded, record, as in cardiogram. Borrowed from Greek *-gramma*, from *grámma* something written.

—**gram**² a combining form meaning: so many grams, as in kilogram = one thousand grams; or so many parts of a gram, as in centigram = one hundredth of a gram. Borrowed from Greek *grámma* small weight; something written.

grammar *n.* 1176, as a surname *Gramaire* a grammarian or

scholar; later *grammar*, *gramere* (before 1387); borrowed from Old French *grammaire*, *gramaire* learning, especially Latin learning, philology, an irregular learned borrowing from Latin *grammatica*, from Greek *grammatikḗ téchnē* art of letters, from *grámma* (genitive *grámmatos*) something written, letter, from the stem of *gráphein* to draw or write. — **grammarian** n. Probably about 1375, learned man; about 1378, Latin scholar; borrowed from Old French *gramarien*, from *gramaire* grammar. — **grammatical** adj. 1526, borrowed possibly through Middle French *grammatical*, and directly from Late Latin *grammaticālis* of a scholar, from Latin *grammaticus* grammatical, from Greek *grammatikós* skilled in grammar, from *grámma* something written.

Gramophone n. 1887 *gramophone*, American English, possibly an inversion of earlier *phonogram* the record or tracing made by a phonograph (1884).

grampus n. 1593; earlier *graundepose* (before 1529), alteration of earlier *grapays* (1325), and *graspeys* (1267); borrowed from Anglo-French *grampais*, alteration (influenced by *grand* big) of Old French *graspets*, from Medieval Latin *craspiscis*, literally, fat fish, from Latin *crassus* thick + *piscis* fish.

granary n. 1570, borrowed from Latin *grānārium*, from *grānum* grain; for suffix see -ARY.

grand adj. 1125–30, as a surname *Grand*, but generally found in Middle English *graunt* large, big (before 1399); borrowed, in part through Anglo-French *graund*, *graunt*, and directly from Old French *grand*, *grant*, from Latin *grandis* big, great, full-grown. — **n.** thousand dollars. 1921, American English, from the adjective. — **grandchild** n. (1587) — **granddaughter** n. (1611) — **grandfather** n. (1424) — **grand jury** (1495) — **grandmother** n. (before 1420; earlier *grandame*, probably about 1200) — **grandson** n. (1586)

grandeur n. About 1500, loftiness or height; borrowed from Middle French *grandeur* grandness, greatness, from Old French *grand* great. The extended meaning of majesty, stateliness, is first recorded in 1669.

grandiloquence n. 1589, borrowed from Latin *grandiloquentia*, from *grandiloquus* using lofty speech (*grandis* big + *-loquus* speaking, from *loqui* speak); for suffix see -ENCE. — **grandiloquent** adj. 1593, probably a back formation from *grandiloquence*.

grandiose adj. 1840, borrowed from French *grandiose* impressive, from Italian *grandioso*, from Latin *grandis* big; for suffix see -OSE¹.

grange n. 1252 *Grange*, as a place name; later *graunge* small farm (1440); borrowed from Old French *grange*, from Gallo-Romance **grānica* barn or shed in which to keep grain, etc., from Latin *grānum* grain. — **granger** n. 1173, as a surname *Grangier*; later *graunger* man in charge of a grange (1195); borrowed through Anglo-French *granger*, and directly from Old French *grangier*, from Old French *grange*, n.

granite n. 1646, borrowed from French *granit(e)*, from Italian

granito granite, (originally) grained, past participle of *granire* to granulate, from *grano* grain, from Latin *grānum* grain.

granny n. 1663, probably a clipped form of *grannam*, *grandam*, or *grandmother* + -y².

granola n. 1970, American English, probably formed from Italian *grano* grain + *-ola*, suffix forming nouns.

grant v. Probably about 1225, borrowed through Anglo-French *graunter*, Old French *granter*, *graanter* (changing *c* to *g* perhaps from *garantir* guarantee) or *craunter*, variant of *creanter* to promise, guarantee, confirm, authorize, from Gallo-Romance **crēdentāre*, from Latin *crēdentem* (nominative *crēdens*), present participle of *crēdere* to trust. — **n.** Probably before 1200, borrowed from Old French *grant*, variant of *creant* assurance, promise, pledge.

granulation n. 1612, formed in English from Late Latin *grānul(um)* + English suffix *-ation* (probably suggested by earlier *granulous* granular, before 1398; borrowed from Medieval Latin *granulosus*, from Late Latin *grānulum*, diminutive of Latin *grānum* grain; for suffix see -OUS). — **granulate** v. 1666, back formation from *granulation*. — **granular** adj. 1794, formed in English from Late Latin *grānulum* granule + English suffix *-ar*. — **granule** n. 1652, a back formation from *granulation*, or a borrowing from Late Latin *grānulum*, diminutive of Latin *grānum* grain.

grape n. Probably before 1300 *grape*; earlier, in *win-grape* bunch of grapes (about 1250); borrowed from Old French *grape* bunch of grapes, from *graper* pick grapes, from Gallo-Romance **crappāre* pick grapes (possibly with a vine hook), from Frankish (compare Old High German *krāpfō* hook). — **grapefruit** n. (1814)

graph¹ n. line or diagram. 1878, a shortening from *graphic formula* (1866; earlier *graphical*, as in *graphical method*, in a general sense of any line drawing, 1784, and implied earlier in *graphically*, 1771); see GRAPHIC. — **v.** make a graph of. 1898, from the noun. — **graphic** adj. Before 1637, drawn with pencil or pen; probably a shortening of *graphical* (1626); formed in English from Latin *graphicus* picturesque, from Greek *graphikós* of or for writing, belonging to drawing, picturesque, from *graphé* writing, drawing, from *gráphein* write + *-a*¹. The meaning of vividly descriptive, lifelike, is first recorded in 1669 (from *graphical*, 1644). — **graphics** n. pl. (1889)

graph² n. letter or symbol. 1933, American English; borrowed from Greek *graphé* writing, related to *gráphein* write. — **grapheme** n. 1937, American English, formed from *graph*² + *-eme* unit of language structure (abstracted from *phoneme* etc.).

— **graph** a combining form meaning: 1 to draw, trace, or record, as in *photograph*. 2 machine that draws, traces, or records, as in *seismograph*. 3a something drawn or written, as in *autograph*, *monograph*. b drawn or written, as in *lithograph*. Borrowed from French *-graphie*, from Latin *-graphus*, from Greek *-graphos* drawn, written, from *gráphein* draw, write.

graphite *n.* 1796, borrowed from German *Graphit* (from Greek *gráphein* write + German *-it* *-ite*¹).

-graphy a combining form meaning: 1 process of tracing, describing, writing, or recording, as in *radiography* = *the process of recording with X rays*. 2 tracing, writing, designing, description, or recording, as in *choreography* = *the designing or arranging of a ballet*. Borrowed from Greek *-graphiā*, from *gráphein* draw, write.

grapnel *n.* 1373 *grapenel*, later *grapnell* (1436); diminutive formed on Old French *grapin*, *grapil* hook, from *grape* hook, from Frankish (compare Old High German *krāpfō* hook); for suffix see *-LE*¹. An earlier form *grapel* (1295) was borrowed from Old French *grape* hook, also formed in English *-le*¹.

grapple *n.* 1295 *grapell* grappling iron; borrowed from Old French *grapil* hook; see *GRAPNEL*. The meaning of the action of grappling, is first recorded in 1601, probably from the verb. —*v.* 1530, to seize and hold fast; from the noun, in relation to the action of a hook. The meaning of battle or struggle (with), is first recorded in 1593. —**grappling iron** (1538)

grasp *v.* About 1350 *graspen* reach for; later, to grope, feel around (before 1382), of uncertain origin, possibly developed by metathesis of *s* and *p* from Old English **græpsan* (compare East Frisian and Low German *grapsen* to GRAB). The sense of seize is first recorded before 1586. —*n.* a seizing. 1561, from the verb. —**grasping** *adj.* (before 1382)

grass *n.* Probably about 1150 *gras*, found in Old English *græs*, *gærs* herb, plant, grass (about 725; earlier in *græsgwēni* grass green); cognate with Old Frisian *gres* grass, Old Saxon and modern Dutch *gras*, Old High German *gras* (modern German *Gras*), Old Icelandic *gras* herb, grass, and Gothic *gras* herb, from Proto-Germanic **grasan*. The sense of marijuana is first recorded in 1943 in American English; earlier, often called *weed*. —**grasshopper** *n.* About 1350, earlier *greshoppe* (probably about 1200); found in Old English *gærs-hoppa*. —**grassy** *adj.* Probably 1440, formed from Middle English *gras* grass + *-y*¹.

grate¹ *n.* framework. 1348, a grating; borrowed from Old French *grate*, or from Medieval Latin *grata* lattice, or Italian *grata* grate, from Vulgar Latin **crāta*, from Latin *crātis* wickerwork. —*v.* About 1450, furnish with a grate; from the noun. —**grating** *n.* 1626, framework; formed from English *grate*¹, *v.* or *n.* + *-ing*¹.

grate² *v.* make a grinding sound. Before 1399 *graten* to reduce (bread) to crumbs; borrowed from Old French *grater* to scrape, scratch, from Frankish **krattōn* (compare Old High German *chrätzōn*, modern German *kratzen* to scratch). The sense of sound harshly is first recorded in 1596. —**grater** *n.* 1390–91, instrument for scraping; borrowed from Old French *grateor*, *gratour* (or possibly a lost form **gratoir*), from *grater*; for suffix see *-ER*¹. —**grating** *adj.* 1563, annoying, irritating.

grateful *adj.* 1552, formed from obsolete *grate* agreeable (1523; borrowed from Latin *grātus* pleasing) + *-ful*; possibly influenced by Italian *gradevole* pleasing.

gratify *v.* Before 1400 *gratyfien* to favor; later, to reward or show gratitude (about 1540); borrowed from Latin *grātificāri*, from a lost adjective **grātificus* doing a kindness (*grātus* pleasing + the root of *facere* make, DO¹ perform); for suffix see *-FY*. The meaning of to please is first recorded in 1568. —**gratification** *n.* 1598; borrowed through Middle French *gratification*, or directly from Latin *grātificātiōnem* (nominative *grātificātiō*), from *grātificāri*.

gratis *adv.* 1444, voluntary; later, free of charge (1541); borrowing of Latin *grātīs*, contraction of *grātius* (just) for thanks; (hence) without recompense, free; ablative of *gratiæ* thanks, plural of *gratia* favor. —**adj.** 1659, from the adverb.

gratitude *n.* Before 1447, good will; later, grace or favor (1500–20); borrowed through Middle French *gratitude*, or directly from Medieval Latin *gratitudo* thankfulness, from Latin *grātus* thankful, pleasing. The meaning of thankfulness, is first recorded in English in 1565.

gratuity *n.* 1523, graciousness or favor; later, money for service, tip (1540); borrowed through Middle French *gratuité*, or directly from Medieval Latin *gratuitas* gift, probably from Latin *grātuitus* free, freely given, voluntary, from *grātus* pleasing, thankful. —**gratuitous** *adj.* 1656, borrowed from Latin *grātuitus* free, etc.. The sense of unnecessary or uncalled-for, is first recorded in 1691.

grave¹ *n.* place of burial. About 1250 *grave*, developed from Old English (before 1000) *græf* grave, ditch; cognate with Old Frisian *græf* grave, Old Saxon and modern Dutch *graf*, Old High German *grab* (modern German *Grab*), Old Icelandic *grof*, and Gothic *graba*; from Proto-Germanic **graban*. —**grave-stone** *n.* Before 1399, stone; earlier, stone coffin (probably about 1200).

grave² *adj.* weighty, momentous. 1541, borrowed from Middle French *grave*, learned borrowing from Latin *gravis* weighty, serious, heavy. —*n.* 1609, accent mark over vowel; from the same sense in French.

grave³ *v.* carve. Probably before 1200 *graven* carve, engrave; developed from Old English (before 1000) *grafan* to dig, carve; cognate with Old Frisian *grēva* to dig, carve, Middle Dutch *grāven* to dig (modern Dutch *graven*), Old High German *graban*, Middle High German and modern German *graben*, Old Icelandic *grafa*, and Gothic *graban*, from Proto-Germanic **grabanan*. —**graven** *adj.* 1382, from the past participle of the verb.

gravel *n.* Probably about 1225, sand; later, pebbles and rock fragments (before 1333); borrowed from Old French *gravele* diminutive of *grave* sand or seashore, perhaps from Celtic or a pre-Latin **grava* (compare Welsh *gro* gravel, sand, Old Cornish *grow*); for suffix see *-LE*¹. —*v.* lay or cover with gravel. Probably 1440, implied in *gravelled*, from the noun. —**gravelly** *adj.* Before 1382, formed from English *gravel* + *-ly*¹.

gravitate *v.* 1644, exert weight or move downward; adapted from New Latin *gravitatum*, past participle of *gravitare* gravitate, a formation based on Latin *gravis* weight; for suffix see *-ATE*¹. The extended use of tend to move toward a certain point, is

first recorded in 1673. —**gravitation** *n.* 1644, natural tendency toward some point or object, adapted from New Latin *gravitationem* (nominative *gravitatio*), from *gravitatum*, past participle of *gravitare*.

gravity *n.* 1509, weighty dignity, deep seriousness; borrowed through Middle French *gravité*, or directly from Latin *gravitatem* (nominative *gravitas*) weight, heaviness, pressure, from *gravis* heavy. The sense of force that causes objects to have weight, is first recorded in 1641.

gravy *n.* 1381, sauce or dressing for fish, fowl, etc.; probably a misreading of *u* for *n* in Old French *grané* sauce, stew (originally properly grained or seasoned), from Latin *grānum* grain, seed.

gray *adj.* Probably before 1200 *greie*, developed from Old English *græg* (about 725; earlier *grēi* in Mercian dialect about 700); cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *grē* gray, Middle Dutch *grā* (modern Dutch *grauw*), Old High German *grāo* (modern German *grau*), and Old Icelandic *grār*, from Proto-Germanic **græwjaz*. —**n.** Probably about 1200 *grei*; from the adjective. —**v.** Before 1618, become gray; from the adjective. An isolated example is recorded about 1390. —**grayling** *n.* fish related to the trout. 1326, formed from English *gray*, *adj.* + *-ling*.

graze¹ *v.* feed. Before 1393 *grasen*; developed from Old English (about 1000) *grasian* to feed on grass, from *gras-*, the base of *græs* grass; see GRASS (compare Middle Dutch, Middle High German *grasen*, modern Dutch *grazen* and modern German *grasen*).

graze² *v.* touch. 1604, in perhaps a transferred use of *graze*¹ in the sense of crop grass close to the ground.

grease *n.* About 1300 *grece*, later *gres* (before 1325); borrowed through Anglo-French *grece*, *gresse*, from Old French *graisse*, *craisse*, from Vulgar Latin **crassia* fat or grease, from Latin *crassus* thick. —**v.** About 1350 *gresen*; from the noun. —**greasy** *adj.* 1514, formed from English *grease*, *n.* + *-y*¹.

great *adj.* Probably before 1200 *grete* big in size, important, admirable, excellent; earlier, in a place name *Greteleia* (1130); found in Old English *grēat* big, coarse, stout (before 899); cognate with Old Frisian *grāt* large, Old Saxon *grōt*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *groot*, Old High German *grōz* (modern German *gross*). In modern English *great* has replaced earlier *mickle*, which has also been superseded in some uses by *grand*. A similar development has taken place in other Germanic languages. —**Great Britain** (about 1400 *Grete Britaigne*) —**great-grandfather** *n.* (1513) —**greatly** *adv.* (probably before 1200), —**great-grandmother** *n.* (1530) —**greatness** *n.* About 1020, Old English *grētnys*.

grebe *n.* 1766, borrowed from French *grebe*; of uncertain origin (possibly so called with reference to the crest of some species, found in Breton *krib* a comb).

greedy *adj.* Probably about 1175 *gredi* avaricious, covetous; later, gluttonous or ravenous (before 1200); developed from Old English *grædig* greedy, covetous (about 725, in *Beowulf*);

cognate with Old Saxon *grādag* greedy, (modern Dutch *gretig*), Old High German *grātag*, Old Icelandic *grādhugr*, and Gothic *grēdags* hungry; possibly from Proto-Germanic **grædazaz*. —**greed** *n.* excessive desire, especially for money. 1609, back formation from *greedy*.

green *adj.* About 1150 *grene*; found in Old English (about 1000) *grēne*; earlier *grēni* (about 700); cognate with Old Frisian *grēne* green, Old Saxon *grōni* (modern Dutch *groen*), Old High German *gruoni* (modern German *grün*), and Old Icelandic *grœnn*; related to Old English *grōwan* to grow through Proto-Germanic **grōnja-* from the base **grō-*. —**n.** Probably before 1200 *grene* the color green, about 1200, a field or grassy place; found in Old English (about 1000) *grēne*, from the adjective. —**v.** Probably about 1200 *grenen*; developed from Old English (before 1000) *grēnian* to grow or cover with green. —**greenhorn** *n.* 1455 *greene horn* horn of a freshly-slaughtered animal; applied to a recently enlisted soldier (1650) and extended to any inexperienced person (1682). Use of *green* in *greenhorn* corresponds to the sense of new, fresh, recent (about 1150, in freshly-cut herb). —**greening** *n.* Before 1325 *grening*, earlier in a plant name *greningwert* (before 1200).

greet *v.* 1100 *greten*; found in Old English *grētan* to attack, accost, salute, welcome (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *grēta* accost, greet, Old Saxon *grōtian*, (modern Dutch *groeten* greet, salute), Old High German *gruozen* accost, attack (modern German *grüssen* greet, salute), and Old Icelandic *græta* cause to weep, from Proto-West-Germanic **grōtjan* to resound, which is the causative form of Old Icelandic *grāta* weep, Old English *grētan* (Anglian) *grētan* weep, bewail, from Proto-Germanic **grāetan*; still found in Scottish and northern English dialects *greet* to cry, weep, and probably in *-gret* of *regret*. —**greeting** *n.* About 1125, found in Old English (about 900) *grēting* salutation, formed from *grētan* greet + *-ing*¹.

gregarious *adj.* 1668, borrowed from Latin *gregarius*, from *grex* (genitive *gregis*) flock, herd; for suffix see -OUS. The sense of inclined to associate with others, sociable, is first recorded in 1789.

gremlin *n.* 1941, originally British Royal Air Force slang; of uncertain origin (said to have been used as early as 1923, and to have been derived from Old English *gremman* to anger, vex + *-lin* of *goblin*, or formed from Irish *gruaimin* bad-tempered little fellow, with the ending of *goblin*).

grenade *n.* 1591 small bomb; earlier, pomegranate (about 1532); borrowed from Middle French *grenade* pomegranate, from Old French *grenate* in *pomegrenate*; so called because the many seeds of the pomegranate are suggestive of granules of powder inside the grenade and the many small parts a grenade flies into on exploding; also from the bomb's shape. —**grenadier** *n.* 1676, (originally) soldier who threw grenades; borrowing of French *grenadier*, from Middle French *grenade* grenade; for suffix see -IER.

grenadine *n.* 1896, borrowed from French *sirop de grenadine*, from Middle French *grenade* pomegranate; for suffix see -INE².

greyhound *n.* Probably before 1200 *greahunt*, later *greihund*

(about 1220), probably alteration of Old English (about 1000) *grighund*, *grieghund* (*grig-*, *grieg-* + *hund* dog, HOUND). The alteration of the forms in Old English may have been influenced by a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *greyhundur*, from *grey* bitch or coward).

grid *n.* 1839, shortened form of GRIDIRON.

griddle *n.* Probably before 1200 *gridil* gridiron, later, an iron plate for cooking (probably before 1300); borrowed from Old North French *gredil*, with later Old French *grail*, *greil*, *gril* a grate, grating, alteration of *graille*, from Latin *crātīcula* GRILL. —**v.** Before 1450 *gredylen*, from the noun.

gridiron *n.* 1349–50 *griderne*; later *gridirne* (probably before 1475), alteration of earlier *gridire* griddle (about 1300), variant of *gridil* GRIDDLE. For the spelling change to *gridiron*; see IRON.

grief *n.* Probably before 1200 *gref* pain or torment; later, sorrow (about 1250); borrowed from Old French *grief*, *grieve* a grieving, from *grever* cause pain; see GRIEVE. The spelling *grief* was introduced about 1390. —**grievance** *n.* Probably before 1300 *grevaunce*; borrowed from Old French *grevaunce*, from *grever* cause pain; for suffix see -ANCE. —**grieve** *v.* Probably before 1200 *greven* cause pain; later, to be very sad, lament (before 1325); borrowed from Old French *grever*, from Latin *gravāre* to cause grief, make heavy or burdensome, from *gravis* weighty, GRAVE². —**grievous** *adj.* About 1300 *grevous*, borrowed through Anglo-French *grevous*, Old French *grevos*, *greveus*, from *gref* grief; for suffix see -OUS.

griffin or **griffon** *n.* 1338 *griffon*; earlier, as a surname *Griffin* (1205); borrowed from Old French *grifon*, a bird of prey, and a fabulous bird of Greek mythology, from *grif*, learned borrowing from Latin *grīphus*, misspelling of *grīpus*, variant of *grīps* (genitive *grīpos*), from Greek *gryps* (genitive *grīpós*) curved, hook-nosed, in reference to the griffin's beak.

grill *n.* 1685, borrowed from French *gril*, from Old French *greil*; earlier *grail*, alteration of *graille*, from Latin *crātīcula* gridiron, small griddle, diminutive of *crātis* wickerwork. In most instances, however, *grill*, *n.* is possibly a shortened form of *grille*, influenced perhaps by *grill*, *v.*, or is directly from the verb in English. —**v.** 1668, borrowed from French *griller*, from *gril*, *n.*

grille *n.* 1661, borrowed from French *grille* grating, from Old French *greille* gridiron, from Latin *crātīcula* gridiron.

grim *adj.* Old English *grimm* fierce, cruel (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian, Old Saxon, modern Dutch, Middle High German, and Old High German *grim* (modern German *grimm*), and Old Icelandic *grimmr*. The sense of dreary or gloomy is first recorded in about 1175.

grimace *n.* 1651, borrowing of French *grimace*, from Middle French *grimache*, replacing the unfamiliar ending -*uche* from Old French *grimuche*, possibly from Frankish (compare Old Icelandic *grima* face mask, Old Saxon *grīma*). —**v.** 1762, borrowed from French *grimacer*.

grime *n.* 1590, of uncertain origin; probably from *grim* dirt,

filth (about 1300); borrowed from Middle Low German *greme* dirt; cognate with Flemish *grijm*, Middle Dutch *grīme* soot, mask, Old Saxon *grīma* mask, East Frisian *grīme*, Old High German *grīmo*, and Old Icelandic *grīma* mask. —**v.** Probably about 1475 *grymen*; earlier punish, make unhappy (before 1450); borrowed possibly from Middle Low German **gremen*, from *greme* dirt, *n.* or from Middle Dutch **grīmen*, from *grīme* soot, mask. This verb was replaced by *begrime* (before 1553). —**grimy** *adj.* 1612, formed from English *grime*, *n.* + -*y*¹.

grin *v.* Before 1200 *grennien* bare the teeth (as an indication of pain or anger), snarl; found in Old English (before 1000) *grennian* show the teeth, snarl; cognate with Middle Low German *greneken* to smile, Old High German *grennen* to snarl, and Old Icelandic *grenja* to howl; possibly related to Old English *grānian* to GROAN through association between the Germanic bases **gran-* and **grin-*, producing cognates including Old High German *grīnan* gnash the teeth, grimace, grin (modern German *greinen*); Middle High German *grinnen* gnash the teeth, Middle Dutch *grinsen* to grin (modern German *grinsen*), etc. The sense of bare the teeth in a broad smile, is first recorded before 1500. —**n.** 1635–56

grind *v.* Old English (about 1000) *grindan*; earlier, *forgrindan* destroy by crushing (about 725); cognate with Middle Dutch *grinde* thick sand (modern Dutch *grind*, *grint* gravel), Old Icelandic *grandi* sandbar, from Proto-Germanic **grindanan*. Related to GROUND. —**n.** About 1175, from the verb. The sense of steady, hard work, is first recorded in 1851.

gringo *n.* 1849, borrowed from Mexican Spanish *gringo* foreigner, from Spanish *gringo* foreign, unintelligible talk, gibberish, of uncertain origin (perhaps ultimately from *griego* Greek, from Latin *Graecus*, from Greek *Graikós*).

grip *n.* Probably before 1200 *gripe*, developed from a fusion of Old English *gripe* grasp, clutch (about 725, in *Beowulf*) and Old English *gripa* handful, sheaf (about 1000). Old English *gripe* corresponds to Old Frisian *gripe* grasp, clutch, Old High German *grif* (modern German *Griff*), and Old Icelandic *grip* treasure. —**v.** Before 1375 *gripen*; found in Old English *gripan* (about 950) and corresponding to Middle High German *gripen* to grip.

gripe *v.* Probably about 1150 *gripen* seize; found in Old English *gripan* grasp at, lay hold (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *gripa* to grasp or grip, Old Saxon *gripan* (modern Dutch *grijpen*), Old High German *grīfan* (modern German *greifen*), Old Icelandic *grīpa*, and Gothic *greipan* to grasp, from Proto-Germanic **grīpanan*. The figurative sense of complain or grouse is first recorded about 1932, probably evolved from the meaning of produce griping pains in the bowels, in use before 1611. —**n.** About 1385, from the verb. The figurative sense of a complaint is first recorded in 1934.

grippe *n.* 1776, borrowed probably through French *grippe* influenza (originally, seizure), from *gripper* to grasp or hook, from Frankish (compare Old Saxon *grīpan* to grasp, *GRİPE*). The word entered European languages through German *Russische Chrippe* or *Grippe* Russian *grippe*, with the epidemic

of influenza during the Russian occupation of Prussia in the Seven Years' War (about 1760).

grisly *adj.* Before 1300 *grisli*, developed from Late Old English *grislic* horrible or dreadful (*gris-*, related to *-grisan* to shudder or fear + *-lic* -ly²); cognate with Old Frisian *grislik* horrible, Middle Low German *grisen*, *gresen* to shudder, *greselik* frightful or horrible (modern German *gruselig*), Middle Dutch *grisen* to shudder (modern Dutch *griezelen*), Old High German *grisenlik* horrible, and probably Middle High German *gris-* in *grigram* gnashing of teeth (modern German *Gries-* in *Griesgram* peevishness, peevish person).

grist *n.* Old English *grist* action of grinding, grain to be ground (before 1000); related to *grindan* to GRIND.

gristle *n.* Old English (before 700) *gristle*, related to *grist*; of unknown origin, but found in cognates in Old Frisian *gristel*, *grestel* gristle, East Frisian *grössel*, *grüssel*, Middle Low German *gristel*, and Middle High German *gruschel*.

grit *n.* About 1250 *gret*, earlier *grit-* in the place name *Grittona*; developed from Old English *grēot* sand, dust, earth, gravel (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *grēt* grit, Old Saxon *griot*, Old High German *grioz* (modern German *Griess*), and Old Icelandic *grjót* grit, gravel, stone, *grautr* groats, from Proto-Germanic **griutan*. The abnormal development of the vowel into *i* may be from the influence of assimilation of *gryt*; see GRITS. The sense of spirit, pluck, is first recorded in American English in 1808. —**v.** make a grating sound. 1762, probably a reborrowing from the noun. The earliest occurrence of the noun appears before 1500, as a manuscript variant. —**gritty** *adj.* 1598, formed from English *grit*, *n.* + *-y¹*.

grits *n.pl.* About 1150 *grutta* bran, coarse meal; developed from Old English (about 700) *grytt*, *pl. grytta*, coarse meal, groats, grits; cognate with Middle Low German *grütte*, *gorte* grits, groats, Middle Dutch *gorte* (modern Dutch *gort*), Middle High German *grütze*, Old High German *gruzzi* (modern German *Grütze*), from Proto-Germanic **grutja-*, from the same root as GRIT. This word and the preceding *grit* sand, have influenced each other in development.

grizzled *adj.* 1390 *griseld*, from earlier *grisell* gray (about 1349, also in a surname *Grissel*, 1319); borrowed from Old French *grisel*, diminutive of *gris* gray, from Frankish (compare Old High German *chrīsil*, *grīs* gray). Middle English *grisell* is cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *grīs* gray, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *grijs*, Middle Low and Middle High German *grīs* old man (modern German *Greis*). The spelling with *-zz-* is first recorded about 1425. —**grizzly** *adj.* 1594, from *grizzle* gray + *-y¹*. The name *grizzly bear* is first recorded in 1793 (*grizzled bear* in 1752, with reference in 1691, that does not use the name).

groan *v.* Before 1250 *gronen* to moan, bewail; developed from Old English (probably before 800) *grānian* to groan, murmur; cognate with Middle Low German *grīnen* to twist the mouth in a grumble, growl, snarl, etc., Old High German *grīnan* to laugh or cry (modern German *greinen* to whine), and Old Icelandic *grīna* bare the teeth, from Proto-Germanic **grain-*.

Possibly related to GRIN. —**n.** Before 1325 *grane*, later *gron* (about 1390); from the verb.

grocer *n.* 1418, wholesale dealer in wine, spices, foods, etc.; earlier, found in a surname *Grocere* (1255), and in the London Company of *Grocers* (founded about 1344); borrowed through Anglo-French *grossier*, in Middle French *grossier* wholesaler, from Medieval Latin *grossarius* grocer (variant *grocerius* grocer, literally, dealer in quantity), from Late Latin *grossus* coarse (of food), great, gross; see GROSS. The meaning of a merchant or his shop, selling individual items of food appeared in 1578. —**grocery** *n.* 1436, goods sold by a grocer (now *groceries*, 1635); earlier, in *The Grocery Grocers' Hall*, in London; formed from English *grocer*, *n.* + *-y³*.

grog *n.* 1770 *grogg*, supposedly in allusion to *Old Grog*, nickname of Edward Vernon (1684–1757), British Admiral who wore a cloak of *grogram*. The nickname was said to be applied to the drink when in 1740 Vernon ordered his sailors' rum to be diluted. —**groggy** *adj.* 1770, intoxicated; formed from English *grog* + *-y¹*.

grogram *n.* 1562, borrowed from Middle French *gros grain* coarse grain or texture.

groin *n.* 1592, alteration of earlier *grynde* groin (recorded before 1400). The new form *groin* was probably influenced by *loin*.

grommet *n.* 1626 *grummet*, borrowed from obsolete French *gromette* (now *gourmette*) curb of a bridle, from *gourmer* to curb; of uncertain origin. The extended sense of a metal eyelet is first recorded in 1769.

groom *n.* Probably before 1200 *grome* male child, boy, youth, servant, attendant; earlier, in the surname *Grom*; perhaps developed from Old English **grōma*, related to *grōwan* GROW. The meaning of male servant who attends to horses is first recorded in 1553. As the shortened form of BRIDEGROOM, the word first appears in 1604, but that word element in *bridegroom* (earlier *bridegome*) from Old English *guma* man, is not to be confused with this entry *groom* from *grome* which is a different word. However, it is evident that the Middle English *-gome* in *bridegome* was influenced in its later spelling *bridegroom* by the sense of attendant in *groom*. —**v.** 1809, from the noun.

groove *n.* Probably before 1400 *grofe* cave, mine, pit; earlier, in a place name *Grovhall* (1290); probably borrowed either from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *gröf* pit); or from Middle Dutch *groeve* furrow, ditch; cognate with Old High German *gruoba* pit, hole, ditch, mine (modern German *Grube*), Old Icelandic *gröf*, and Gothic *grōba*, from Proto-Germanic **grōbō*. The related Old English *græf* ditch survives in GRAVE¹. The sense of long, narrow channel or furrow, is first recorded in 1659. —**v.** make a groove in. 1686, from the noun. The slang sense of enjoy, get along, be in the groove, feel groovy, is first recorded in the late 1930's in American English. —**groovy** *adj.* 1937, American English, first-rate, excellent, from (*in the*) *groove* + *-y¹*.

grope *v.* Probably before 1200 *grapen*, later *gropen* (about

1280); developed from Old English *grāpian* to feel or handle (about 725, in *Beowulf*); related to *gripan* grasp at; see *GRİPE*.

grosbeak *n.* 1678, formed in English, from French *gros-* + English *beak* as a partial loan translation of French *grosbec*, from Old French *gros* large + *bec* beak. The coincidence of French *gros* and English *gross* preserved the French form of the first syllable.

gross *adj.* 1347–50 *grosse* large; borrowed from Old French *gros* big, thick, coarse, from Late Latin *grossus* thick or coarse (of food and mind), but not found as an adjective in Classical Latin. Both the negative sense of glaring, flagrant, monstrous (1581), and the positive sense of entire, total, whole (as in *gross receipts*, *gross national product*) developed from the earlier meaning of coarse or heavy (probably before 1425). —*n.* twelve dozen. 1394, borrowed probably through Anglo-French *gros*, from Old French *gros*. The sense of a total of or a profit is first recorded in 1579. —*v.* 1884, to earn a total of, make a profit; from the noun.

grotesque *adj.* 1603, originally *Crotesko*, in reference to the cave paintings found in Roman ruins, characterized by fanciful or odd representations of human and animal forms; later *grotesque* bizarre (1687); from the noun. —*n.* 1561, originally *crotesque*; later *grotesque* (1643) and *Grotesques* (1643); borrowed from Middle French *crotesque*, from Italian *grottesco*, literally, of a cave, from *grotta* GROTTO.

grotto *n.* 1617, borrowed from Italian *grotta*, (with substitution of a terminal *o*, possibly from the spelling *grotto* in various later foreign editions of Dante's *Divine Comedy*), from Vulgar Latin **crūpta*, **grūpta*, from Latin *crypta* vault, cavern, from Greek *kryptē*. Connection of *grotto* with earlier English *grot* (1507, borrowed from French *grotte*), is hard to establish, especially as both *grotto* and *grot* have existed in English for about 300 years.

grouch *n.* 1900, back formation from *grouchy*. —*v.* 1916, from the noun. —**grouchy** *adj.* 1895, of uncertain origin (possibly formed from *grutch-* in *grutching*, *n.*, complaint, grumbling + *-y*).

ground *n.* About 1280 *ground*, developed from Old English *grund* bottom, foundation, ground, earth (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *grund* ground (modern Dutch *grond*), Old High German *grunt* (modern German *Grund*), and Gothic *grundu-* in *grunduwaddjus* foundation wall, from Proto-Germanic **grundūs*, and Old Icelandic *grunnr* from Proto-Germanic **grūnthuz*. Related to *GRIND*. —*v.* put on or in the ground. 1265 *grounden* to fortify; earlier *grundien* strike to the ground; probably from the noun in Old English *grund*.

group *n.* 1695, assemblage of figures or objects in a painting or design; borrowed from French *groupe* cluster, group, from Italian *gruppo* group, knot, of uncertain origin; perhaps from Germanic (compare Old Low German **cropp*, Middle Low German *kropp* swelling on a bird's throat; see *CROP*). The generalized sense of any assemblage, is first recorded in English in 1736. —*v.* 1718, from the noun.

grouper *n.* 1697 *grooper*, borrowed from Portuguese *garupa*, probably of South American Indian origin, perhaps from a Tupi word.

grouse¹ *n.* bird. Before 1547 *grewes*; earlier *grows* (1531); of unknown origin.

grouse² *v.* complain. 1887, originally British Army slang, of uncertain origin (perhaps borrowed from French dialect *groucer*, from Old French *groucier*, *groucher* to murmur, grumble, also the source of *GRUDGE*; see *GROUCH*, *v.*). —*n.* 1918, from the verb.

grout *n.* 1638, probably a technical application of coarse porridge (1587); developed from *grut* ground malt grain (probably before 1150), from Old English (about 835) *grūta*, *pl.* coarse meal. Corresponding to Middle Dutch *grūte* coarse meal, malt, yeast, and Middle High German *grūz* grain, sand, Old Icelandic *grútr*, a cognomen (Norwegian *grut* grounds), and is related to Old English *grytta* GRITS. —*v.* 1838, from the noun.

grove *n.* Probably before 1200, earlier, in the place name *Holgrove* (1128–35); developed from Old English (889) *grāf*, related to *grāfa* grove, thicket.

grovel *v.* 1593, humble oneself; back formation from earlier *groveling* prostrate (before 1325), from *on grufe* prone (with the adverbial suffix *-ling*); borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *ā grifu*: *ā* on, and *grifu*, related to *grífa* grovel).

grow *v.* Probably before 1200 *growen*, found in Old English *grōwan* (of plants) to flourish, develop, grow bigger (about 725); cognate with Old Frisian *grōia* to grow, Middle Dutch *groeyen*, *groyen* (modern Dutch *groeien*), Old High German *gruoen*, and Old Icelandic *grōa*. The application to human beings and animals generally, began in the 1300's. In Old English the usual word was *weaxan* to *WAX*. —**grower** *n.* 1449, formed from Middle English *grow*, *v.* + *-er*¹. —**grown-up** *adj.* Before 1393; *n.* 1813. —**growth** *n.* 1557, formed from *grow* + *-th*, as in *health*, *stealth*, etc., perhaps by influence of a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *grōdhi*, *grōdhr* growth, from *grōa* to grow).

growl *v.* Before 1667, developed from *groulen* (of the bowels) to rumble, growl (before 1450); earlier *gnulen* (before 1425), and *grolling* rumbling in the bowels (before 1398); probably borrowed from Old French *grouler* to rumble, from Frankish (compare German *grollen* to grumble); cognate with Middle High German *grellen* scream with anger. —*n.* 1727, from the verb.

grub *v.* Before 1325 *gruben* dig, root up; probably developed from Old English **grubbian*, and earlier Germanic **grubbian*; cognate with Middle Dutch *grubben* scrape together, earlier Dutch *grubbelen* to root, Low German *grubbeln*, Old High German *grubilōn* to dig, search (modern German *grübeln* to ponder, brood), and Old Icelandic *gryfja* pit, hole (Norwegian *gruble*, *gruvle* ponder, brood). Probably from earlier Germanic **grub-* variant of **grab-* to dig, base of Old English *grafan* to dig; see *GRAVE*³. The meaning of toil or drudge, is first

recorded in 1735. —**n.** larva. Before 1415; earlier, a dwarfish fellow (probably before 1400), and as the surname *Grubbe* (1176); from the verb. The slang sense of food is first recorded in 1659. —**grubby** *adj.* Before 1845, dirty or slovenly; formed from English *grub*, *n.* + *-y*¹; earlier stunted, dwarfish (1611).

grudge *v.* Before 1382 *grucgen* to grumble, complain (against); variant of earlier *gruchen* (probably before 1200); borrowed from Old French *groucher* to murmur or grumble; of unknown origin; related to GROUCH and GROUSE. For the spelling of *grudge* (1461), see DRUDGE. —**n.** 1459, from the verb.

gruel *n.* About 1330 *gruel* meal or flour; earlier, as a surname (1199); borrowed from Old French *gruel*, from Gallo-Romance **grütellum*, from Frankish (compare Middle Dutch *grūte* coarse meal or malt, Middle High German *grūz* grain. —**v.** 1850, from *gruel*, *n.* in *have or get one's gruel* receive one's punishment (1797). The participial adjective *grueling* exhausting or punishing, is first recorded in 1891.

gruesome *adj.* 1570 *growsome*, from *grow* (variant of *grue* feel horror, shudder) + *-some*¹. The verb *grue* developed from Middle English *gruen* (before 1325), probably borrowed from Middle Dutch *grūven* or Middle Low German *gruven*, *growen* shudder with fear; cognate with Old High German *ingrūen* to shudder, Middle High German *grūven* (modern German *grauen* to fear, feel terror, *Grauen* terror, horror).

gruff *adj.* 1533, coarse or coarse-grained; borrowed from Middle Dutch or Middle Low German *grof* coarse, thick, large; cognate with Old High German *groh*, *geroh* gross or coarse (modern German *groß*), a compound of the Germanic prefix **ja-* + the adjective stem **Hrub-*, cognate with Old English *hrēof* rough, scabby. The sense of rough, surly, is first recorded in the derivative form *gruffness* (1690–91).

grumble *v.* Before 1586, borrowed possibly through Middle French *grommeler* mutter between the teeth, or directly from Middle Dutch *grommelen* murmur, mutter, grunt, from *grommen* to rumble; growl; cognate with Middle Low German *grummen* to grumble, and Old High German *-grummōn* in *umbegrummōn* to gnaw (modern German *grummeln* to rumble, of Low German origin). —**n.** 1623, from the verb.

grump *n.* 1727, in the obsolete phrase *humps and grumps* surly remarks; later *the grumps* a fit of ill humor (1844), and a person in an ill humor (1900); perhaps an extension of *grum*, morose, surly (1640); of uncertain origin (compare Danish *grum* cruel). —**grumpy** *adj.* 1778, *Evelina*; formed from English *grump* + *-y*¹.

grungy *adj.* 1965, American English slang, perhaps a blend of *grubby* and *dingy*. —**grunge** *n.* 1965, American English slang, probably a back formation from *grungy*.

grunion *n.* 1917 *grunyon*, borrowed from American Spanish *gruñón*, in Spanish *gruñón* grunting fish, from *gruñir* to grunt, from Latin *grunnire*, *grundire* to grunt, and Greek *grýzein* to grunt, *grý* a grunt.

grunt *v.* Before 1250 *grunten*; developed from Old English (about 725) *grunnetan*, from *grunian* to grunt, probably an

imitative formation; possibly cognate with Old High German *grunnizōn* to grunt (modern German *grunzen*), and even Old Icelandic *krytja* to murmur, *krutr* outcry, shouting. —**n.** 1553, from the verb.

G-string *n.* 1878 *gee-string*, American English, loincloth worn by American Indians (originally, the string holding up such a loincloth); formed from *gee* (of uncertain origin) + *string*. The spelling with *G* (1891), is perhaps from some influence of a violin string, tuned to *G* (1831). The piece of cloth worn by stripteasers is first recorded in 1936.

guacamole *n.* 1920, borrowed from American Spanish (originally Mexican Spanish) *guacamole*, from Nahuatl *ahuacamolli* (*ahuacatl* avocado + *molli* sauce).

guanine *n.* 1850, formed from *guano* (from which it was originally isolated) + *-ine*².

guano *n.* 1604, borrowed from Spanish *guano* dung, especially of sea birds found on islands near Peru, from Quechua *huanu* dung.

guarantee *n.* something given as security, pledge. About 1436 *garant*, *garrant* a warranty that the title of some property is true; borrowed from Old and Middle French *garant*, *guarant* warrant, in Old North French *warant*, from Frankish; see WARRANT.

The later forms *garanté* (1679) and *guarantee* (1710) reflect Old French spellings. The later sense of a pledge given as security developed in the 1600's, though it did not displace the sense of the act of guaranteeing (*guaranty*), and the two forms are still confused. —**v.** About 1410 *garanten* to give a warranty or pledge that something is what it purports to be; borrowed from Middle and Old French *garantir* promise, guarantee, from Frankish; see WARRANT.

guaranty *n.* act or fact of guaranteeing, security, warranty. 1523 *garrantye*; though formed in part by influence of earlier *garant* guarantee, the somewhat artificial differentiation of *guarantee* and *guaranty* comes from the borrowing of *guaranty* through Anglo-French *guarantie*, from Old French *garantie*, *guarantie*, also from *garant*, *guarant* warrant, protection, corresponding to Old North French *warant*, from Frankish; see WARRANT.

In English *guaranty* and *warranty* are variant forms borrowed by way of Old French and Old North French from Frankish. In Old French, *gu-* took the place of Frankish *w-* in **wārjand-s* and developed in Old French as *guarant* (later *guarantie*), borrowed into English as *garrantie*, *guaranty*. However, in Old North French, the original form with *w-* in Frankish was preserved in *warantie*, which was later borrowed into English as *warranty*. The same process is evident in *guard* and *ward*, and in *guardian* and *warden*.

guard *n.* About 1400 *garde* care, custody, protection; earlier in the surname *Legard* (1275); borrowed from Middle French *garde* guardian, warden, keeper, from *garder* to guard, from Old French *garder*, from Frankish **wardōn* (compare Old High German *wartēn* to watch); see WARD; and for a general explanation see GUARANTY. —**v.** 1448 *garden* protect, defend;

borrowed from Middle French *garder* to guard. —**guardian** *n.* Probably before 1400 *garden* one who guards or protects; later *gardein* (1417); borrowed through Anglo-French *gardein*, from Old French *gardien*, *gardian*; earlier *guardenc*, from Frankish **warding-*, corresponding to Old North French *wardein*, from *guarder* to guard.

guava *n.* 1555, borrowed from Spanish *guaya*, variant of *guayaba*, from Arawakan (West Indies) *guayabo* guava.

gubernatorial *adj.* 1734, American English; borrowed from Latin *gubernātor* GOVERNOR + English *-ial*, variant of *-al*.

gudgeon *n.* Before 1425 *gojune*; borrowed from Middle French *goujon*, from Old French *gojon*, from Latin *gōbiōnem* (nominative *gōbiō*), alteration of *gōbius*, from Greek *kōbiōs* a kind of fish.

guerrilla *n.* 1809, borrowed from Spanish *guerrilla* a body of skirmishers, skirmishing warfare (literally, little war), diminutive of *guerra* war, from Germanic with substitution of *gu-* for *u-* (compare Old High German *uerra* strife, conflict, WAR). —**adj.** 1811, from the noun.

guess *v.* About 1303 *gessen* suppose, assume, think, guess, borrowed probably from a Scandinavian source (compare Middle Danish *gitse*, *getze* to guess, Middle Swedish and modern Swedish *gissa*, Icelandic *gizka*), probably from Proto-Germanic **zetiskanan*, **zetanan* get; also, probably influenced by Middle Dutch *gessen*, *gissen*, *ghissen* (modern Dutch and Frisian *gissen*); cognate with Middle Low German *gissen* to guess. The modern forms with *gu-* in *guess* (1591), is sometimes attributed to Caxton and his early experience as a printer in Bruges. —**n.** About 1303 *gesse* supposition, assumption, guess; probably from the verb. —**guesstimate** *n.* 1936, originally used by statisticians and population experts, as a blend of *guess* and *estimate*. —**v.** 1942, American English, from the noun.

guest *n.* Probably before 1200 *gest*, borrowed probably from Old Icelandic *gestr* and replacing Old English *gæst*, *giest* guest, stranger, enemy (about 725, in *Beowulf*); also found in Anglian *gest*. The Old English forms are cognate with Old Frisian *jest* guest, Old Saxon, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *gast*, Old High German *gast* (modern German *Gast*), Old Icelandic *gestr*, and Gothic *gasts*, from Proto-Germanic **gastiz*.

guffaw *n.* 1720, Scottish, possibly imitative of the sound. —**v.** 1721, Scottish; from the noun.

guide *v.* About 1380 *giden* to lead, direct, conduct; implied in *giding* guiding, guidance, borrowed from Old French *guider*, alteration (by influence of Old Provençal *guidar*) of earlier *guier*, from Gallo-Romance **wiāre*, from Frankish **wītan* show the way. —**n.** Before 1376 *gide* one who leads or guides, borrowed from Old French *guide*, from Old Provençal *guida*, from *guidar* to guide, from Frankish. —**guidance** *n.* 1538, formed from English *guide*, *v.* + *-ance*, replacing earlier *guying* (before 1420).

guidon *n.* 1548, borrowed from Middle French, from Italian *guidone* battle standard, from *guidare* to direct, guide, from Old

Provençal *guidar*; GUIDE; a replacement for earlier *gitoun* a military standard (1393).

guild *n.* Before 1338 *gylde*, earlier in the compound *Chapmanegilde* (probably about 1230). This Middle English form developed by influence of Old Icelandic *gildi*, from earlier *yilde* which represents a semantic fusion of Old English *gild*, *gylt* payment, tribute, compensation, and (infrequently) *guild*; and of Old English *gegylde* *guild*, both terms recorded before 1000 and cognate with Flemish *gild* *guild*, Middle Dutch *gilde*, Old Frisian *geld*, *jeld* money, Old Saxon *geld* payment, sacrifice, reward, Old High German *gelt* payment, tribute, money (modern German *Geld* money), Old Icelandic *gjáld* payment, tribute, compensation, and Gothic *gild* tax; related to the root of English YIELD. The meaning of tribute or payment is associated with burial and benefit societies that existed even before the Norman Conquest.

The merchant guilds with their protected trading rights are represented in words occurring in Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *gilde* (modern Dutch *gild* and modern German *Gilde*), and Old Icelandic *gildi*. Such terms also refer to the trade guilds that emerged in England largely after 1200. The term *guild* replaced *hanse* (see HANSEATIC), known in English before 1135, especially in the compound *hanshus* *guild hall*. —**guildhall** *n.* 1262, developed from Old English *gegylde-heall* (about 1000).

guilder *n.* 1467 *gilder*; earlier *gyldern*, *gyldren* (probably 1458); usually considered a mispronunciation of Middle Dutch *gulden*, literally, golden, from *gulden florijn* golden florin; cognate with Old Frisian *gelden*, *golden*, *gulden*, Old Saxon and Old High German *guldin*, Old Icelandic *gullin*, and Gothic *gultheins*; also related to Old English *gylden* golden.

guile *n.* Probably about 1150 *gile*; borrowed from Old French *guile*, from Frankish **wigila* trick or ruse (compare Old Frisian *wigila* sorcery, witchcraft; for spelling change in Old French see GUARANTY). —**guileless** *adj.* 1728, re-formed from English *guile*, *n.* + *-less*; originally *gilles* (1435).

guillotine *n.* 1793, borrowing of French *guillotine*, formed in allusion to Joseph Guillotin, French physician, who as a deputy to the National Assembly (1789), proposed that capital punishment be by beheading by a machine, which was built in 1791 and first used in 1792. —**v.** 1794, borrowed from French *guillotiner*, from French *guillotine*, *n.*

guilt *n.* Probably about 1175 *gult*; later *gilt* (probably before 1200); developed from Old English (971) *gylt* crime, sin, fault, fine; of unknown origin. —**guilty** *adj.* Before 1250 *gulti*, developed from Old English (about 1000) *gyltig*, from *gylt* *guilt* + *-ig* *-y¹*.

guinea *n.* 1664, in allusion to *Guinea*, a region along the coast of West Africa (so called because the coins were first minted in 1663 for British trade with Guinea and were made of gold from Guinea).

The word *guinea* is also used as a shortened form of *guinea hen* (1578) and *guinea fowl* (1788), domestic fowl imported from Guinea in the 1500's. The *guinea pig* (1664) was associated

with "Guinea-men" plying between England, Guinea, and South America, to which the animal is native.

guise *n.* Probably before 1300 *gise* fashion, style, garb; borrowed from Old French *guise*, from Frankish (compare Old High German *wisa* manner, WISE²); for development of *gu-* in Old French spelling, see GUARANTY.

guitar *n.* 1621 *guittara*, borrowing of Spanish *guittara*; later, blended with *gittar* (1688), borrowed from French *guitare*, also from Spanish *guitarra*, from Greek *kitharā* cithara. Also probably associated in meaning with earlier *giterne* guitarlike instrument known in England by 1350.

gulch *n.* 1832, American English; perhaps found in obsolete or dialect English *gulch* or *gulsh* (of land) to sink in, (of water) to gush through a narrow passage, from earlier *gulchen* to gush forth (about 1410), and to drink greedily (before 1250), formed by metathesis of *u* and *l* from *gluchen* (probably before 1200).

gulf *n.* Probably about 1380 *golf* deep cavity or abyss; borrowed from Old French *golfe* a gulf or whirlpool, from Italian *golfo* a gulf or bay, from Late Latin *colpus*, *colpus*, from Greek *kólpos* bay or gulf (originally, bosom). The meaning of a large body of water is first recorded about 1400. — **Gulf Stream** (1775)

gull *n.* Before 1450, of uncertain origin; possibly from a Brythonic Celtic source (compare Welsh *gwyllan* gull, Cornish *guilan*, and Breton *goelann*).

gullet *n.* 1305, as a surname *Gullet*; later *golet* throat (about 1390); borrowed from Old French *goulet*, diminutive of *goule*, *gole* throat or neck, from Latin *gula* throat.

gullible *adj.* 1793, implied in *gullibility* (*gull* to dupe + *-ible*); of uncertain origin; perhaps from *gull* to swallow (1530), from *golen* to act as if swallowing (about 1425), from *gole*, *gulle* throat; borrowed from Old French *goule*, from Latin *gula* throat.

gully *n.* 1538, gullet; later, channel made by running water (1657); possibly a variant of earlier *golet* a water channel (1373); see GULLET.

gulp *v.* 1530, to gasp or choke when drinking a large draft of liquid; borrowed probably from Flemish or Dutch *gulpen* to gush, pour forth, guzzle, swallow; cognate with East Frisian *gulpen* to gush or gulp, and Danish *gulpe*, *gylpe* to gulp; all may be ultimately of imitative origin.

Isolated uses, *ygulpid* gulped (before 1376) and *goppyn*, *golping*, *gluping* (probably about 1395); are found in Middle English. — *n.* act of gulping. 1568 *goulpe*, probably borrowed from Flemish *gulpe*, from *gulpen* to gulp.

gum¹ *n.* Before 1325, sticky juice of certain trees and plants. later *gumme* (1336); borrowed from Old French *gomme*, learned borrowing from Late Latin *gumma*, corresponding to Latin *gummi*, *cummi*, from Greek *kōmmi* gum. As a shortened form of *chewing gum*, *gum* is first recorded in American English, in 1842. — *v.* About 1325 *gummen* treat with gum; from

the noun. — **gum arabic** (before 1398) — **gummy** *adj.* Before 1398, formed from Middle English *gomme* gum, *n.* + *-y*¹.

gum² *n.* Before 1325, flesh around the teeth; earlier *gome* inside of the mouth (about 1150); developed from Old English *gōma* palate (before 830); cognate with Old High German *guomo* and *goumo* palate, gum (modern German *Gaumen*), Old Icelandic *gōmr* gum.

gumbo *n.* 1805, American English, in American French (Louisiana) *gumbo*, *gombo*; probably borrowed ultimately from a Central Bantu dialect; compare Mbundu *kingombo* (*ke-*, singular prefix + *ngombo* okra).

gumption *n.* 1719, Scottish, common sense or shrewdness, of uncertain origin; possibly connected with Middle English *gome* attention, heed (probably about 1200); borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *gaum*, *gaumr* heed) and the ending *-tion*. The meaning of initiative, was an early secondary sense, recorded about 1812.

gun *n.* Probably before 1300 *gunne* an engine of war that throws rocks, arrows, or other missiles; probably a shortened form of the name *Gunilda* (compare Anglo-Latin *Domina Gunilda* Lady Gunilda, the name of a specific engine used to throw missiles), possibly derived from Old Icelandic *Gunnhildr* (*gunnr* + *hildr*, both with the meaning of war, battle). In relation to this term Middle English also has *gonnilde*, *n.*, a cannon (before 1325). — *v.* Before 1622, shoot with a gun; from the noun. — **gunman** *n.* (1624) — **gunner** *n.* (1345) — **gunpowder** *n.* (1400) — **gunshot** *n.* (probably about 1421) — **gunwale** *n.* 1466, formed from *gun* + *wale* plank, formerly used to support the guns.

gung ho 1959, American English; found earlier in *Gung Ho* (1942, a slang term or motto of Carlson's Raiders, a guerrilla unit operating in the Pacific area in World War II); borrowed from Chinese *kūng hō* work together, cooperate.

gunk *n.* 1949, American English, sticky mess or substance, in allusion to *Gunk*, a trademark for a thick liquid soap patented in 1932.

gunny *n.* 1711, Anglo-Indian *goney*, coarse fabric, borrowed from Hindi *gōnī*, from Sanskrit *gonī* sack. — **gunny sack** 1862, earlier *gunny bag*, (1764). The spelling *gunny* is first recorded in 1727.

guppy *n.* 1925, in allusion to J. L. Guppy, who supplied the first recorded specimen (1866) to the British Museum.

gurgle *v.* Probably before 1425, implied in *gurgulyng* a gurgling heard in the abdomen, and found in *gurgulacioun* (before 1400); probably a medical term, and not in use of the sound of liquids outside the body before 1596 and not in general use before the 1700's. This phenomenon of long specialized use before becoming a part of the general vocabulary is often found in English. The immediate source may be found in Medieval Latin (the medical language of the 1400's) in *gurgulationem* (nominative *gurgulatio*) from **gurgulare* to gurgle. — *n.* Probably before 1425, a gurgling, perhaps from an earlier verb. The meaning of bubbling sound is first recorded in 1757.

guru *n.* 1800 *gooroo* Hindu spiritual leader or guide; later *guru* (1876); borrowed from Hindi *gurū* teacher or priest, from Sanskrit *gurū-s*, one to be honored, teacher. The generalized sense of any influential teacher, guide, or mentor is first recorded in 1940. The sense of an expert or authority is first found in Canadian English, about 1966.

gush *v.* Probably before 1200 *gosshien* make noises in the stomach; later *guschen*, *gosshen* to rush out suddenly, pour out (probably before 1400); probably formed in English by influence of a Scandinavian form such as Old Icelandic *gusa* to gush, spurt. The sense of act or speak in an effusive manner is first recorded in 1873. —**n.** rush of water from an enclosed place. About 1682; from the verb.

gusset *n.* Before 1420, flexible material used to fill up space in a suit of armor; borrowed from Middle French *gosset*, *gousset*, perhaps a diminutive of *gousse* husk, shell, of uncertain origin (perhaps from Italian *guscio* husk, shell).

gussy *v.* 1952, American English slang, apparently from earlier *Gussy*, name applied to an overdressed person (1940); of uncertain origin (perhaps related to *gussie* an effeminate man, 1901).

gust *n.* 1588, possibly borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *gustr* gust, Old High German *gussa* flood). The fact that *gust* appears so late in English, suggests that it was confined to dialect or specialized use, perhaps as a term among sailors. —**gusty** *adj.* 1600, formed from English *gust* + *-y¹*.

gustatory *adj.* 1684, formed in English possibly from Latin *gustātus*, past participle of *gustāre* to taste + English *-ory*.

gusto *n.* 1629, borrowed from Italian *gusto* taste, from Latin *gustus* (genitive *gustūs*) a tasting, related to *gustāre* to taste.

gut *n.* Probably before 1300 *gutte* intestine; developed from Old English (before 1000) *guttas*, pl., bowels, entrails; cognate with Middle Dutch *gote* gutter, drain (modern Dutch *goot*), Old High German *guz* act of pouring (modern German *Gosse* gutter, drain). The figurative plural use *guts* energy, courage, pluck, is first recorded in 1893. The adjective, as in *gut issue* and *gut reaction* is first recorded in 1963, probably as a back formation from earlier *gutsy*. —**v.** About 1390, from the noun. —**gutsy** *adj.* 1936, tough, plucky, formed from English *guts* courage + *-y¹*.

gutter *n.* 1280 *goteris* channel along the side of a street to carry off water; later, trough on eaves (*guttur*, 1333); borrowed from Old French *gutiēre*, *goutiēre*, from *goute* a drop.

guttural *adj.* 1594, borrowed through Middle French *guttural*, or perhaps directly from New Latin *gutturalis*, from Latin *guttur* throat. —**n.** sound formed in this way. 1696, from the adjective.

guy¹ *n.* rope, chain, wire. 1623 *guie*, developed from Middle English *gye* a guide (before 1375, found also in *girap* guy rope, 1371); borrowed from Old French *guie* a guide, from *guier* to GUIDE. —**v.** 1712, from the noun.

guy² *n.* fellow. 1847, from earlier grotesquely or poorly dressed person (1836); originally, a grotesquely dressed effigy of Guy Fawkes (1806; leader of the Gunpowder Plot to blow up the British king and Parliament in 1605).

gymnasium *n.* 1598, borrowed from Latin *gymnasium* school for gymnastics, from Greek *gymnásion*, from *gymnázein* to exercise or train, (literally, to train naked), from *gymnós* naked. —**gymnast** *n.* 1594, a back formation from *gymnastic*, though in some instances probably borrowed through Middle French *gymnaste*, from Greek *gymnastēs* trainer of athletes. —**gymnastic** *adj.* 1574, borrowed through Middle French *gymnastique*, from Latin *gymnasticus*, from Greek *gymnastikós* pertaining to or skilled in bodily exercise. —**gymnastics** *n.* 1652, from *gymnastic* + *-s*, on the analogy of such pairs as *mathematic*, *mathematics*.

gymnosperm *n.* 1830, borrowed from French *gymnosperme* and probably from New Latin *gymnospermus* having naked seeds, from Greek *gymnóspermós* (*gymnós* naked + *spérma* seed).

gynecology *n.* 1847, borrowed probably from French *gynécologie*, from Greek *gynaiko-*, combining form of *gyné* woman + French *-logie* -logy, study of.

gyp *v., n.* 1889, American English, probably a shortening of GYPSY.

gypsum *n.* Before 1384 *gypsus*; later *gipsum* (probably before 1425); borrowed from Latin *gypsum*, from Greek *gýpsos* chalk.

Gypsy *n.* 1600 *gipsy*, alteration of *gypcian* (before 1400), shortened form of *Egyptian*, Middle English *egyptien* (before 1325); possibly from the mistaken belief that Gypsies came from Egypt. —**adj.** About 1630, from the noun.

gyrate *v.* 1830, back formation from earlier *gyration*; for suffix see -ATE¹. —**gyration** *n.* 1615, borrowed from French *giration*, but modeled on Late Latin *gýrātum*, past participle of *gýrāre*, from Latin *gýrus* circle, from Greek *gýros*, related to *gýrós* rounded; for suffix see -ATION.

gyrfalcon or **gerfalcon** *n.* large white falcon of the Arctic. 1209 *girfaucan*; later *gerfauc* (probably about 1300); borrowed from Old French *gerfauc*, *gerfaucan*, from Germanic (possibly from Old High German *gir* vulture, also found in Old French *gir* + Latin *falcō* hawk; the Old Icelandic *geirfalki* gyrfalcon, is now thought to have been influenced by the Old French word).

gyro- a combining form meaning ring, circle, spiral, rotation, as in *gyrostatistics* = statistics dealing with the rotation or circling of solid bodies; or in some compounds, meaning gyroscope, as in *gyrostabilizer* = stabilizer of a ship controlled by a gyroscope. Borrowed from Greek *gýro-*, combining form of *gýros* ring, circle.

gyroscope *n.* 1856, borrowing of French *gyroscope*, from Greek *gýros* circle + *skopós* watcher; so called the device demonstrates that the earth rotates on its axis.

H

habeas corpus 1463 *habeās Corpora* writ or process requiring a sheriff to provide jurymen; also, 1465 *habeās corpus* writ requiring that a prisoner be brought before a judge or court (to decide whether he is being held lawfully); borrowing, especially in Anglo-French documents (1376), of Latin *habeās corpus* have the body, in the phrase *habeās corpus ad subjiciendum* produce or have the body to be subjected to (examination), which are the opening words of the writ. The phrase in Latin is made up of *habeās*, 2nd person singular present subjunctive of *habēre* have or hold, and *corpus*, literally, body.

haberdasher *n.* 1311, a dealer in small articles of trade; earlier as a surname *Haperdasser* (1280); probably an alteration (with formative *-er*) of Anglo-French *hapertas* small wares, of unknown origin. The meaning of a dealer in men's wear (1887 in American English), probably stems from the specialized sense of a dealer or maker of hats, caps, etc. (possibly 1491). —**haberdashery** *n.* 1419, goods sold by a haberdasher; formed from English *haberdasher* + *-y*³. The meaning of a shop of a haberdasher, is first recorded in 1813.

habiliment *n.* dress, attire. Also, **habiliments**, articles of clothing. 1422 *ablement*, *ablements*, also, 1436 *habilement*, *habilements* military equipment; borrowed from Middle French *habillement*, *abillement*, from *abiller* prepare or fit out, originally, reduce a tree by stripping off the branches (*a-* to + *bille* stick of wood).

The early forms had senses connected with *able*, *ability*. The meaning of clothing, dress (about 1450), developed by association with French *habit* clothing.

habit *n.* Probably before 1200, dress or clothing, especially of a religious order; borrowed from Old French *habit*, *abit*, from Latin *habitus* (genitive *habitus*) condition, demeanor, appearance, dress, from *habi-*, the stem of *habēre* to have, hold, possess. The extended meanings of outward form, appearance, and customary practice, which existed in Latin *habitus*, are first recorded in English in the 1300's. —**habitual** *adj.* About 1445, borrowed, possibly by influence of Middle French *habituel*, from Medieval Latin *habitualis*, from Latin *habitus* behavior. —**habituate** *v.* 1530, developed from earlier *habituate*, *adj.* (before 1425); borrowed from Late Latin *habituatus*, past participle of *habituāri* be influenced by, be in a state of, possibly a passive form of **habituāre* bring into a state, from Latin *habitus* behavior; see **HABIT**, which probably influenced the form and meaning English; for suffix see *-ATE*¹. Middle

French *habituē* to accustom, also influenced the verb use in English. —**habitué** *n.* 1818, borrowing of French *habitué*, past participle of *habituē* accustom, from Late Latin *habituārī*.

habitat *n.* 1762, used as a technical term in a Latin text on plants in Great Britain; literally, it inhabits, third person singular present indicative of *habitāre* live in, dwell. The generalized use of a dwelling place or habitation, is first recorded in 1854. —**habitable** *adj.* Before 1393 *habitable*; earlier *abitale* (1388); borrowed from Old French *habitable*, *abitale*, from Latin *habitābilis* that is fit to live in, from *habitāre* live in; for suffix see *-ABLE*. —**habitation** *n.* About 1375 *habitacioun* act of living in a place, later, dwelling place (about 1384); borrowed through Old French *habitation* act of dwelling, or directly from Latin *habitātiōnem* (nominative *habitātiō*) act of dwelling, from *habitāre* a frequentative form of *habēre* possess, have, hold.

hack¹ *v.* cut roughly. Probably before 1200 *hacken*, developed from Old English *-haccian* in *tōhaccian* hack to pieces; cognate with Old Frisian *hakkeia* to chop or hack, Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *hacken* (modern Dutch *hakken*), Old High German *hacchōn* (modern German *hacken*), of unknown origin. The sense of give a short dry cough is found in 1802. The American slang use (as in *to hack it*) to cope with, is first recorded in the 1950's, influenced by, the sense of get through by some effort (as in *cut the mustard*). —**n.** tool for chopping. Before 1325, from the verb. The sense of a dry cough appeared in 1885.

hack² *n.* vehicle. Before 1700, person hired to do routine work; shortened form of **HACKNEY**. The meaning of carriage for hire is first recorded in 1704. The sense of one who will do anything asked, is recorded before 1848. —**adj.** Before 1734, from the noun. The phrase *hack writer* is first recorded in 1826. —**v.** 1745, make commonplace; from the noun.

hackle¹ *n.* bird's plumage. Before 1450 *hakle*; later *hakille* (before 1475); developed from Old English *hacele* cloak or mantle (before 899). The sense of feathers on the neck of a rooster, pigeon, etc., is first found in 1496, but the idiom to *raise one's hackles* was only recently derived from *with the hackles up* (1881).

hackle² *n.* comb used in dressing flax or hemp. 1485 *hakell*, variant of *hekele*; see **HECKLE**.

hackney *n.* Probably about 1300 *hakene*y; earlier in a surname

Hakenesho, horseshoe for a hackney (1205). The meaning of hiring is first recorded in 1546, becoming obsolete in the 1700's, replaced by shortened form *hack*². The meaning of carriage used for hire (also shortened to *hack*²) is found in 1664. —**v.** 1570, use (a horse) as a hack, for ordinary riding; extended to "make common by everyday usage, make trite" (1596). —**hackneyed** adj. (1749)

hadal adj. 1964, of or inhabiting the very deep part of the ocean; formed from English *Hades* the nether world + *-al*¹.

haddock n. 1307–08 *haddock*; earlier as a surname *Haddock* (1286); of unknown origin. The French word was borrowed from English.

Hades n. 1597, borrowed from Greek *Háidēs* God of the nether world; of uncertain origin.

hadron n. 1962, formed in English from Greek *hadrós* thick or heavy + English suffix *-on* elementary particle after the original coinage in Russian as *adron*.

hafnium n. 1923, New Latin *hafnium* (*Hafnia*, the Medieval Latin form of Copenhagen, where the element was discovered + *-ium*).

haft n. About 1330 *haft*, developed from Old English *hæft* handle, in the compound *hæftmece* hilted sword (about 725, in *Beowulf*); also related to *hæft* fetter (about 725); cognate with Old Saxon *haft* captured, modern Dutch *heft* handle, Old High German *hefti* handle, *haft* fetter (modern German *Heft* handle, *Haft* arrest), Old Icelandic *hapt* fetter, *hepti* handle (with *-pt-* pronounced as if *-ft-*), and Gothic *hafis* fastened, secured, related to *haffan* HEAVE. —**v.** 1440 *haften* furnish with a haft; from the noun.

hag n. Probably before 1200 *hagge*, probably a shortening of Old English *hægtesse*, *heptes* witch, fury, on the assumption that *-tesse*, *-tes* was a suffix. The Old English forms are cognate with Middle Dutch *haghetisse* witch (modern Dutch *heks*), and Old High German *hagzissa*, *hagazussa* (modern German *Hexe*). *Hag* did not become a common word in English before the 1500's, and the same development occurred about the same time with German *Hexe*.

haggard adj. 1580, wild, unruly, a figurative use of wild or untamed, in reference to hawks (1567); borrowed from Middle French *hagard*, of uncertain origin; perhaps referring to Old French *faulcon hagard* wild falcon, literally, falcon of the woods, from Middle High German *hag* hedge, copse, or woods, with the suffix *-ard*, possibly reinforced by Low German and German *hager* gaunt, haggard. The meaning of looking careworn developed through the sense of the effects of pain, fatigue, or worry on the face (1853), a generalized application of a wild or haunted expression in someone's eyes (1697).

haggle v. 1583, to advance with difficulty, but implied in earlier *haggler* one who haggles (1577); later, to hack, mangle, mutilate (1599); apparently a frequentative form with addition of the suffix *-le*³ to earlier *haggen* to chop (probably about 1325); borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old

Icelandic *hogga* to hack, HEW). The meaning of dispute about a price or terms of a bargain, is first recorded in 1602 and may have developed from the earlier meaning through the notion of chopping or whittling away. —**n.** 1858, from the verb. —**haggler** n. 1577, probably from *haggle*, v. (unrecorded at the time) + *-er*¹.

hagiology n. 1807, literature that deals with the saints; formed in English from Greek *hágios* holy + English *-logy*.

hahnium n. 1970, in allusion to the German radiochemist Otto Hahn + *-ium*.

hail¹ interj. greetings! About 1200, borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *heill* healthy; but also compare Gothic *hails*, used as a salutation without a verb, and Old English *hails*). A shortening of *hail be thou* and *wæs hæil*, in which *hail* functions as an adjective meaning healthy; see WASSAIL and HALE¹. —**v.** Probably about 1200, earlier, to drink a toast (before 1200); from the interjection. —**n.** 1500, from the verb and the interjection.

hail² n. frozen rain. About 1250 *hail*, developed from Old English *hægl* (probably about 750), *hagol* (about 1000); cognate with Old Frisian *heil* hail, Old Saxon and Old High German *hagal*, Middle Low German *hagel* (modern German *Hagel*), Middle Dutch *haghel* (modern Dutch *hagel*), and Old Icelandic *hagl*, from Proto-Germanic **Haglaz*. —**v.** About 1300 *hailen*; developed from Old English (about 893) *hagalian*, from *hagol*, n. —**hailstone** n. Before 1387; developed from Old English *hagol-stān*.

hair n. Probably about 1150 *her*; later *heare* (about 1250, also as *hair* in 1200); developed from Old English *hær* (about 1000), *hēr* (about 800); cognate with Old Frisian *hēr* hair, Old Saxon *hār*, Middle Dutch *haer* (modern Dutch *haar*), Old High German *hār* (modern German *Haar*), and Old Icelandic *hār*, from Proto-Germanic **Hæran*. The modern English spelling derives from influence of the now obsolete Middle English *haire* cloth made of hair (probably before 1200); borrowed from Old French *haire*, from Frankish **hārja*. —**hairbreadth** adj., n. (about 1450, *heere-brede*) —**hair** adj. Before 1325 *hari*, formed from Middle English *har*, *her* hair + *-i* ^{-y}¹.

hake n. 1280, of uncertain origin; perhaps found in Old English *haca* a hook, represented in *hacad* a pike (fish); or borrowed from a Scandinavian source; compare Norwegian *hakefisk*, from *hake* hook (compare Old Icelandic *haki* HOOK) + *fisk* fish (compare Old Icelandic *fiskr* FISH).

halberd n. weapon that is both a spear and a battle-ax. 1495 *haubert*, also *halberd* (1497); borrowed from Middle French *hallebarde* (found also in Old French *alabarde*, and Italian *alabarda*), from Middle High German *halmbarde*, *helmbarte* broad-axe with a handle (from *halm*, *helm* handle); see HELM + *barte* hatchet, from Old High German *barta*, possibly from *bart* BEARD.

halcyon adj. 1631 *halcyon*, abstracted from *halcyon days* fourteen days of calm weather (1601; *halcyons dayes*, 1545). According to legend, the winter solstice when the *halcyon*, a mythical

bird identified as the kingfisher, bred in a nest floating on a calm sea.

The name *halcyon* was borrowed from Latin *halcyōn*, from Greek *halcyōn*, variant of *alkyōn* kingfisher (*hals* sea, salt, + *kyōn* conceiving, present participle of *kyein* conceive).

hale¹ *adj.* healthy. Before 1325 *hale* (in Northern dialect of England); developed from Old English (about 725) *hāl* healthy; see *HAIL*¹ and *HEAL*.

hale² *v.* drag, summon. Probably before 1200 *halen*, borrowed from Old French *haler*, from a Germanic source (compare Old High German *halōn*, *holōn* to fetch; cognate with Old Saxon *halōn* to fetch, Old Frisian *halia*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *halen* to fetch, draw, haul, and modern German *holen*); Middle English *halen* is probably also related to Old English *-holian* in *geholian* obtain; see *HAUL*, *v.*

half *n.* 1123 *half*; found in Old English *half*, *halb* side, part (about 700, in Mercian); later *healf* half (in West Saxon); cognate with Old Frisian *halve* side, Old Saxon *halba*, Middle Dutch and Middle Low German *halve*, Old High German *halba*, Middle High German *halbe*, Old Icelandic *halfa*, and Gothic *halba* side, half. —**adj.** 1137 *half*; found in Old English (811) *healf*, *half*; cognate with Old Frisian, Old Saxon, Middle Dutch, modern Dutch, and Middle Low German *half* half, Old High German and modern German *halb*, Old Icelandic *hálf*, and Gothic *halbs*, from Proto-Germanic **Halbás*, the source of Old English *healf* side. —**adv.** Probably before 1200 *half*; found in Old English (944); from the adjective. —**half brother** (before 1338) —**half-hearted** *adj.* (perhaps before 1425) —**half hour** (about 1420) —**half moon** (probably before 1425) —**half sister** (probably before 1200) —**halfway** *adv.* (about 1330) —**halve** *v.* Probably before 1200 *halfen*, from *half*, *n.*

halibut *n.* 1396 *halibut* (*hali* HOLY + *butte* flatfish, cognate with Low German *hilligbutt*, *hillebutt*, Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *but* flatfish; also found in modern German *Butte* and *Heilbutt*; perhaps also cognate with *-bot* in French *turbot*); so called from its being eaten especially on holy days. Middle English *butte* flatfish is cognate with Low German *butt* short and fat, from Proto-Germanic **but-*.

halite *n.* 1868, borrowed from New Latin *halites*, from Greek *hals* (genitive *halós*) salt + New Latin *-ites* *-ite*¹.

halitosis *n.* 1874, New Latin *halitosis*, from Latin *hālītus* breath (related to *hālāre* to breathe) + New Latin *-osis* *-osis*.

hall *n.* Probably before 1200 *halle*, developed from Old English *heall* place covered by a roof, spacious roofed residence, temple, etc. (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Saxon *halla* place covered by a roof, Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *halle* (modern Dutch *hal* hall), Old High German *halla* (modern German *Halle* hall), and Old Icelandic *holl*, from Proto-Germanic **Hallō-*. —**hallway** *n.* (1876)

hallelujah or **halleluia** *interj.* 1535 *halleluya*, borrowed from Hebrew *hallālū-yāh* praise Jehovah, (*hallālū*, plural imperative of *hallēl* to praise + *yāh*, shortened form of the name of God

Yahweh); a replacement for earlier English *alleluia* (recorded probably before 1200). —**n.** 1667, from the interjection.

hallmark *n.* 1721, official stamp of purity in gold and silver articles (in allusion to Goldsmiths' *Hall* in London, + *mark*). The sense of a mark of quality, is first recorded in 1864. —**v.** 1773, from the noun.

hallow *v.* Before 1121 *halgod* (past participle); later *halwen* and *halowen* (about 1300); developed from Old English *hālgian* (about 725); related to *hālig* HOLY.

Halloween or **Hallowe'en** *n.* About 1745, Scottish, shortening of *Allhallow-even*; earlier *All hallow eve* Eve of All Saints, last night of October (1556). According to the Celtic calendar November 1 began the year and the last evening of October was old-year's night (the night of all witches), which the Christian Church transformed into the Eve of All Saints.

hallucination *n.* 1646, borrowed from Latin *alucinātiōnem*, later *hallucinātiōnem* (nominative *hallucinātiō*), from *alucināri* wander (in the mind), dream, probably from Greek *alyein*, *halyein* be distraught; probably related to *alásthai* wander about; for suffix see *-TION*. —**hallucinate** *v.* 1604, to deceive; 1652, to have illusions, from Latin *alucinātus*, later *hallucinātus*, past participle of *alucināri*; for suffix see *-ATE*¹.

halo *n.* 1563, borrowed as Spanish *halon*, later borrowed as French *halo*, or directly as Latin accusative *halō*; all forms from Latin *halōs*, from Greek *hálōs* disk of the sun or moon, and disk around the sun or moon, of unknown origin. The sense of a nimbus, or disk of light surrounding the head of a divine or saintly person, is first recorded in 1646. —**v.** surround with a halo. 1801, from the noun.

halogen *n.* 1842, borrowing of Swedish *halogen*, from Greek *hals* (genitive *halós*) salt + *-gen*; so called because a salt is formed.

halt¹ *n.* stop. 1622, earlier *alt*, *alto* (1591–98); borrowed through French *halte* and earlier Italian *alto*, or directly from German *Halt*, from *halten* to stop or hold, from Old High German *halten* to HOLD. —**v.** 1656, from the noun.

halt² *adj.* lame. Probably about 1200 *halt*; found in Old English (about 700) *-halt*, in *lemphalt* lame, limping; cognate with Old Frisian, Old Saxon, and Middle Dutch *halt* lame, Old High German *halz*, Old Icelandic *haltr*, and Gothic *halts*, from Proto-Germanic **Haltaz*. —**v.** hesitate, waver. Before 1325 *halten* to limp; later, hesitate, waver (1382); found in Old English (about 830) *háltian* to be lame, to limp, from the adjective.

halter *n.* Before 1225 *helfter* snare, noose; later *haltre*, *halter* (about 1300); developed from Old English (before 830) *hælfre*, *hælfier*; cognate with Old Saxon *haliftra* halter, Middle Low German *halchter*, Middle Dutch *halfier* (modern Dutch *halster*), and Old High German *halftira* (modern German *Halfter*), from Proto-Germanic **Halftira-*.

halve *v.* See *HALF*.

halyard *n.* 1611, alteration of earlier *halier* (1373; also found in

the surname *Haliere* porter, carrier, 1279), from *halen* to haul, *HALE*². The spelling was influenced by *YARD*² long beam used to support a sail.

ham¹ *n.* meat of a hog's hind leg. Old English *ham* hollow or bend of the knee (about 1000); cognate with Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *hamme* hollow or bend of the knee, thigh, ham (modern Dutch *ham*), Old High German *hamma*, and Old Icelandic *höm*, from Proto-Germanic **Hamō*. The meaning of thigh of a hog, is first recorded about 1475.

ham² *n.* performer. 1882, American English, apparently a shortened form of *hamfatter* (1880), an actor of low grade, said to be from an old minstrel song "The Ham-fat Man." The idea amateurish was extended to an amateur telegraphist (1919) and an amateur radio operator (1922). —*v.* 1933, from the noun, especially *ham it up*.

hamburger *n.* 1889, in *hamburger steak*, borrowed from German *Hamburger*, originally, of or from the city of Hamburg; perhaps because this type of steak was associated with the port of Hamburg, through which many immigrants came to the United States.

hamlet *n.* Before 1338 *hamlet*, *hamelet*, borrowed from Old French *hamelet*, diminutive (with *-et*) of *hamel* village, itself a diminutive of *ham* (with *-el* *-le*¹); derived from Frankish **haim*; see HOME.

The form *ham* (Old English *hām* home) does not appear in Old or Middle English with the meaning of town, village, except in compounds of place names, such as *Birmingham* and *Nottingham*.

hammer *n.* About 1125 *hamer*; found in Old English *hamor* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Saxon *hamur* hammer, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *hamer*, Old High German *hamar* (modern German *Hammer*), and Old Icelandic *hamarr* hammer, stone, crag, from Proto-Germanic **Hamur*. —*v.* Probably about 1390, from the noun.

hammock *n.* 1657 *hamock*, alteration of *hamaca* (1555); borrowing of Spanish *hamaca*, from Arawakan language of Haiti, apparently referring to fish nets. The ending *-ock* was possibly influenced by *-ock*, as in *hillock*.

hamper¹ *v.* hinder. Before 1375 *hampren* to surround, imprison, confine; later, to pack in a container; of uncertain origin, possibly from *hamper*², *n.*

hamper² *n.* basket. 1316–17 *hampyr* container as for documents, utensils, or foodstuff; contraction of Anglo-French *hanaper* (1314; also Anglo-Latin *hanepario*, 1292). The term was borrowed from Old French *hanepier* case for holding a large goblet or cup, from *hanap* goblet, from Frankish (compare Old Saxon *hnapp* cup, bowl, Middle Low German, Middle Dutch, and modern Dutch *nap*, Old High German *hnappf*, modern German *Napf*, Old Icelandic *hnappr*, and Old English *hnæpp*).

hamster *n.* 1607, borrowed from German *Hamster*, from Middle High German *hamastra* hamster (possibly in Old High

German *hamastro* but only in the sense of weevil, also in Old Saxon *hamstra*), probably from Old Slavic *choměstorŭ* hamster.

hamstring *v.* 1641, to disable as if by cutting the hamstrings of; from earlier noun *hamstring* tendon at the back of the knee (1565; from *ham*¹ bend of the knee + *string*).

hand *n.* Old English (before 830) *hond*; earlier *hand* in *handful* (about 700); cognate with Old Frisian *hand*, *hond* hand, Old Saxon and Dutch *hand*, Old High German *hant* (modern German *Hand*), Old Icelandic *hond*, and Gothic *handus*, from Proto-Germanic **Handuz*. —*adj.* Before 1000, from the noun. —*v.* Probably before 1400 *handen* take charge of; later, seize (probably about 1400); from the noun. —**handbell** *n.* (before 1000, in Old English) —**handbook** *n.* (before 900, in Old English) —**handful** *n.* (about 830, in Old English) —**handgrip** *n.* (about 725, in *Beowulf*) —**hand towel** (about 1350) —**handy** *adj.* 1535, performed by hand, manual; formed from English *hand* + *-y*¹, but the form is found in the surname *Handibody* dexterous (1312), and *hondiwer* (about 1200, from Old English *hand-geweorc*, about 725). The meaning of conveniently accessible, is first recorded in 1650.

handicap *n.* Probably before 1653, from *hand in cap* a wagering game in which forfeit money was deposited in a cap. Reference to horse racing appeared in *Handy-Cap Match* (1754). The sense of encumbrance or disability, is first recorded in 1890. —*v.* 1649, to gain as in a wagering game; from the same source as the noun. The meaning of equalize chances of competitors, is first recorded in 1852, and that of put at a disadvantage, disable in 1864. —**handicapped** *adj.* disabled. 1915, from the verb.

handicraft *n.* About 1300, alteration of *hændecraft* (probably before 1200); found in Old English (before 975) *handcraft*.

handiwork *n.* About 1200 *hand-iwer* work done with hands; developed from Old English (probably about 725) *handgeweorc* handwork (*hand* + *geweorc*, collective form of *weorc* WORK).

handkerchief *n.* 1530, formed from English *hand* + *kerchief* and parallel in usage to *handkercher* (about 1532), which remained in use through the 1860's.

handle *n.* Old English (before 800) *handle*, from *hand* + *-le* in the sense of a tool as found in *thimble*. —*v.* Old English (about 1000) *handlian* to touch or move with the hands, manipulate; cognate with Old Frisian *handelia* to handle, Old High German *hantalon* to handle, touch (modern German *handeln*, and modern Dutch *handelen* to treat, handle), and Old Icelandic *hondla* lay hold of, handle; from Old English *hand* + *-lian* *-le*³. —**handlebar** *n.* (1887, two words) —**handler** *n.* (before 1398)

handsome *adj.* Probably before 1400 *handsom* easy to handle, ready at hand; formed from English *hand* + *-some*¹. An early sense of handy, convenient, suitable (1530), was extended to of fair size, considerable (1577), and having a fine form, good-looking (1590). The meaning of generous, as in *a handsome donation*, is first recorded in 1660.

hang *v.* 1137 *hongen*; developed by fusion of: 1) Old English

(about 1000) *hōn* (with past tense *heng*) suspend, and 2) Old English (about 1000) *hangian*, *hongian* (with past tense *hangode*, *hongode*) be suspended; also probably by influence of a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *hengja* suspend, and *hanga* be suspended, hang). Old English *hangian* corresponds to Old Frisian *hangia* be suspended or hang, Old Saxon *hangōn*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *hangen*, Old High German *hangēn* (modern German *hangen*, *hängen*), and Old Icelandic *hanga*, from Proto-Germanic **Hang-*. Old English *hōn* corresponds to Old Frisian *hūa* suspend or hang, Old Saxon *hāhan*, Middle Low German *hān*, Middle Dutch *haen*, Old High German and Gothic *hāhan*, from Proto-Germanic **HanH-*.

The distinction between *hanged* and *hung* is one of historical grammar. In the 1500's speakers in northern England adopted *hung* as the past participle. This became standard English in the 1600's, and *hanged* was retained only in law and in extension of legal use, such as *be hanged* (in *I'll be hanged if*). —**n.** 1473–74, a sling; later, a curtain (before 1500); from the verb. The sense of the way cloth hangs, is first recorded before 1797. —**hangman** *n.* (1345; earlier in the surname *Hangeman*, 1253) —**hangnail** *n.* (1678, earlier *agnail* a corn on the foot, about 950)

hangar *n.* 1852, a covered shed for carriages; borrowed from French *hangar*, from Middle French *hanghart*, perhaps alteration of Middle Dutch **ham-gaerd* enclosure near a house; of uncertain origin. The sense of covered shed for airplanes is first recorded in 1902.

hank *n.* 1294–95, probably borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *hōnk*, *hanki*, clasp, hank; cognate with Middle Low German *hank* handle, and Old High German *henken*, *hengen* to cause to hang, related to *HANG*).

hanker *v.* 1601, to linger with longing; borrowed probably from Flemish *hankeren*, related to Dutch *hunkeren* to hanker; of uncertain origin (perhaps an intensive form of *hangen* to hang, related to Middle Dutch *hangen* to hang).

hanky-panky *n.* 1841, British slang; possibly a variant of *hoky-poky* deception or fraud (1847); altered from *HOCUS-POCUS*.

Hanseatic *adj.* 1614, of or pertaining to the *Hanseatic League* (medieval association of North German towns); borrowed from Medieval Latin *Hanseaticus*, from *hansa* from Middle Low German *hanse*, from Old High German *hansa* military troop, band, company. The term *hanse* merchant guild is found in English before 1135 in the compound *hanshus* guild hall.

hansom *n.* 1847, in allusion to J.A. *Hansom*, English architect who designed such cabs.

haphazard *n.* 1575, implied in earlier nonce use *haphazarder* (1573); formed from English *hap* chance or luck (probably before 1200; borrowed from a Scandinavian source; compare Old Icelandic *happ* chance, good luck) + *hazard* risk, danger, peril. Old Icelandic *happ* is from Proto-Germanic **Hapan*.

happen *v.* Probably about 1380 *happenen* to come to pass, occur; originally, occur by *hap* or chance in the verb *happen*

(about 1303, from *hap*, *n.*, chance, fortune, luck; see *HAPHAZARD*; and possibly Old English *hæppan*). —**happening** *n.* 1551, occurrence; earlier, chance, luck (before 1450); formed from English *happen* + *-ing*¹.

happy *adj.* About 1380, fortunate or lucky; formed from English *hap* chance or fortune + *-y*¹. The sense of very glad, is first recorded about 1390. —**happiness** *n.* 1530, formed from English *happy* + *-ness*.

harangue *n.* Before 1450, Scottish *arang*; borrowed from Middle French *harangue*, (also in Old Provençal and Italian *aringare* to harangue, from *aringo* public square, or platform), ultimately from Germanic **hari-hring* army ring, circular gathering (compare Old High German *hring* circle of spectators, *RING*). —**v.** 1660, from French *haranguer*, from Middle French *harangue*, *n.*

harass *v.* Before 1618, to lay waste or devastate; borrowed from French *harasser* tire out, vex; of uncertain origin (possibly from Old French *harer* set a dog on, and perhaps blended with Old French *harier* to harry, draw, drag). The meaning of trouble by repeated attacks, is found in 1622. —**harassment** *n.* 1753, formed from English *harass* + *-ment*.

harbinger *n.* About 1471 *herbengar* one sent ahead to arrange lodgings for an army, etc., alteration of earlier *herberger* provider of shelter, innkeeper (before 1200), borrowed from Old French *herbergeor*, from *herbergier* provide lodging, from *herberge* lodging or shelter, from Frankish; compare Old High German *heriberga* army shelter, lodging (*heri* army + *berga* shelter, related to *bergan* to shelter); see *HARBOR*; for suffix see *-ER*¹. —**v.** announce beforehand. 1646, from the noun.

harbor *n.* About 1125 *herbyrge* refuge, lodgings; later *herberwe* harbor for ships (probably before 1200), and *harber* (about 1475); probably developed from Old English *herebeorg* (here army, host; see *HARRY* + *beorg* refuge, shelter, related to *beorgan* save, preserve); possibly borrowed from, or at least modeled on late Old Icelandic *herbergi*; also cognate with Old Saxon and Old High German *heriberga* (modern German *Herberge*), Old Frisian *herberge*, Middle Low German *herberge*, and Middle Dutch *herberghe* (modern Dutch *herberg*). —**v.** About 1125 *herbyregen* to shelter; later *herbonwen* (before 1200); from the noun.

hard *adj.* 1126 *hard*, developed from Old English *heard* not yielding or soft, solid, firm (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *herd* hard, Old Saxon *hard*, Middle Low German *hard*, *harde*, Middle Dutch *hart*, *hard* (modern Dutch *hard*), Old High German and modern German *hart*, Old Icelandic *hardhr*, and Gothic *hardus*, from Proto-Germanic **Hardús*. —**adv.** Probably before 1200 *harde*; earlier *herde* (about 1175); developed from Old English (about 725) *hearde*; from the adjective. —**harden** *v.* Probably about 1200 *hardnen* make hard, formed from English *hard* + *-nen* (*-enen*) *-en*¹. —**hard-headed** *adj.* (1583, stubborn; 1779, practical, shrewd) —**hard-hearted** *adj.* (probably before 1200) —**hardly** *adv.* (probably before 1200, found in Old English *heardlice*) —**hardship** *n.* (probably before 1200)

hardy *adj.* robust. Probably before 1200, bold or daring, and in the surname *Stonhardi* (1194); probably influenced by English *hard*, *adj.*, but essentially a borrowing of Old French *hardi*, from past participle of *hardir* to harden, be or make bold, from Frankish (compare Gothic *gahardjan* make hard, Old High German *herten* harden, modern German *härten*, Old Icelandic *herdha*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *harden*, Old Saxon *herdian*, Old Frisian *herda*, and Old English *hierdan* to make or become hard; from West Germanic **hardjan* to make hard), found in Old English *heard* HARD. The meaning of strong, vigorous, robust, is first recorded before 1398.

hare *n.* Probably about 1200 *hare*, and in the place name *Haredena* (before 1154); found in Old English (about 700) *hara* hare; cognate with Old Frisian *hasa* hare, Middle Dutch *haese* (modern Dutch *haas*), Middle Low German *hase*, Old High German *haso* hare (modern German *Hase* hare), and Old Icelandic *heri* hare. Old High German *haso* developed from Proto-Germanic **Hásan-*, *Házán-*. —**harebrained** *adj.* 1548, formed from English *hare* + *brain* + *-ed*².

Hare Krishna 1972, American English, from *Hare Krishna* a chant used by the sect (1968); borrowed from Hindi *hare Krishna* O Lord Krishna.

harem *n.* 1634 *haram*, borrowed from Arabic *ḥaram* women's quarters (literally, something forbidden or kept safe), from the root of *ḥarama* he guarded, forbade. The form *harem* is a borrowing of Turkish *harem*, from Arabic *ḥarīm*, a variant of *ḥaram*.

hark *v.* About 1200 *harkien*, *harken*, probably developed from Old English **hercian*, *heorcian* (see HEARKEN); cognate with Old Frisian *harkia*, *herkia* listen, Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *horken*, Old High German *hörechen* (modern German *hören*); of unknown origin. —**harken** *v.* See HEARKEN

harlequin *n.* 1590 *Harlicken*, borrowed from Middle French *harlequin* (probably equivalent to Italian *arlecchino*), variant of *Herlequin*, *Hellequin*, as in Old French *maisnie Hellequin* leader of demons who ride through the air on horses, probably corresponding to Middle English **Herleking*, Old English *Herla cyning* king Herla, a mythical character sometimes identified with Woden. —**adj.** 1779, from the noun.

harlot *n.* Probably before 1200 *hearlot* vagabond or itinerant jester, later *harlotte* prostitute (probably before 1425); borrowed from Old French *herlot*, *arlot* vagabond or tramp; of uncertain origin.

harm *n.* Probably before 1200 *harm*, and in the surname *Harm* (1176); found in Old English *hearm* hurt, evil, grief, pain, insult (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *herm* insult or pain, Old Saxon *harm*, Old High German *harm*, *haram* (modern German *Harm*) grief or harm, and Old Icelandic *harmr* grief, from Proto-Germanic **Harmaz*. —**v.** About 1225 *harmen*; found in Old English *hearmian* to hurt (about 1000); from *hearm*, *n.* —**harmful** *adj.* 1340, formed from Middle English *harm* + *-ful*. —**harmless** *adj.* About 1280; formed from Middle English *harm* + *-les* *-less*.

harmonic *adj.* 1570, perhaps a back formation from earlier *armonical* (before 1500), influenced by, and in some instances borrowed from, Middle French *harmonique*, from Latin *harmonicus*, from Greek *harmonikós* harmonic or musical, from *harmonía* HARMONY; for suffix see *-ic*. —**n.** 1 **harmonics**. 1709, theory of musical sounds, formed in English on the model of *physics*, etc. 2 **overtone**. 1777, shortening of *harmonic tone*. —**harmonica** *n.* 1873, American English, alteration of earlier *armonica* glass harmonica (1762; borrowing of Latin *harmonica*, *harmonicus* harmonic).

harmony *n.* About 1380 *armonye* concord of sounds, melody, borrowed from Old French *armonie*, *harmonie*, from Latin *harmonia*, from Greek *harmonía* joining, agreement, concord of sounds; related to *harmós* joint; see ARM¹; for suffix see *-y*³. The meaning of a combination of notes to form chords, is first recorded before 1398, and that of agreement, accord about 1385. —**harmonious** *adj.* 1549, borrowed from Middle French *harmonieux*, from Old French *harmonie* harmony; for suffix see *-ous*. —**harmonize** *v.* 1483, to play or sing in harmony; later, to be in harmony with (1629); borrowed from Middle French *harmoniser*, from Old French *harmonie* harmony; for suffix see *-ize*.

harness *n.* Probably before 1300 *harnais*, *herneys* harness, gear, military equipment, and as a surname *Herneys* (1275); borrowed from Old French *harneis*, perhaps from a Scandinavian source; compare Old Icelandic **hernest* provisions for an army. —**v.** Probably before 1300 *herneysen*, from Old French *harneschier* to arm or equip, from the noun in Old French.

harp *n.* Probably before 1200 *harpe*, found in Old English (about 725) *hearpe*; cognate with Old Saxon *harpa* instrument of torture, Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *harpe* harp (modern Dutch *harp*), Old High German *harpha* harp (modern German *Harfe*), and Old Icelandic *harpa* harp, from Proto-Germanic **Harpōn-*. —**v.** Probably before 1200 *harpian*; found in Old English *hearpiān* to play a harp; possibly, in part, from Old French *harper*, but immediately from Germanic; compare Middle and modern Dutch *harpen*, Middle High German *harpfen* (modern German *harfen*). The later sense of to talk too much about, as in *harp on*, is first recorded in 1562. —**harp-sichord** *n.* 1611, alteration of obsolete French *harpechorde* (*harpe* harp + *-chorde*, from Latin *chorda* string; see CORD).

harpoon *n.* 1625 *harpon* barbed dart or spear, and implied in *harponier* (1613); borrowed from French *harpon* (also *harpin* boat hook), from Old French *harpon* cramp iron or clamp, from *harper* to grapple, grasp, possibly from a Germanic source (compare Icelandic *harpa* to press something together, pinch), or from Latin *harpa*-hook, in *harpagōnem* grappling hook, from Greek **harpagōn*, related to *harpē* sickle; for suffix see *-oon*. The harpoon traditionally used in whaling, replaced *harping iron* (1442). —**v.** 1774; from the noun.

Harpy *n.* About 1375 *Arpie*, borrowed from Latin *Harpyia*, from Greek *Hárpyia*, pl., snatchers, probably related to *harpazein* to snatch. The meaning of a rapacious, grasping person, spelled *arpie*, is first recorded about 1400.

harquebus *n.* 1532, *arkbusse*, borrowed from Middle French

harquebuse, *arquebuse*, from Italian *archibuso*, *arcobuso*, and from Middle Dutch *hakebus* (*hake* hook + *bus* gun, from Late Latin *buxis* container, BOX¹); so called from the shape of its stock and the hook to fasten it to a support.

harrier *n.* 1542, developed from *hayrer* a small hunting dog (1408, also *eier* about 1410); possibly borrowed from Middle French *errier* wanderer.

harrow *n.* About 1300 *harewe*; later *harow* (1377–78); developed from Old English **hearwa*. —**v.** Before 1325 *harven*, from the noun.

The participial adjective *harrowing* extremely distressing or painful, is first recorded in 1810, from a now archaic sense of wound, pain, distress, found in 1602.

harry *v.* Probably before 1200 *herigan*, *herien*, developed from Old English (about 893) *hergian*; cognate with Old Frisian *urheria* lay waste, ravage, plunder, Old Saxon and Old High German *heriōn*, Middle High German *hergen*, *hern* destroy by war (modern German *verheeren* lay waste, devastate), and Old Icelandic *herja* lay waste, plunder; from Proto-Germanic **Harjaz* an armed force.

harsh *adj.* 1533 *harrish* bitter or astringent, probably variant of earlier *harske* rough, coarse, sour (implied in *harskly*, about 1300); borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Danish and Norwegian *harsk* rancid or rank, older Swedish *hårsk*, now *hårskén*; cognate with Middle Low German and modern German *harsch* harsh, related to *harst* a rake).

hart *n.* Before 1250 *hert*, later *hart* (1410); developed from Old English *heort*, *heort* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *hert* stag, deer, Old Saxon *hirot*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *hart*, Old High German *hiruz*, *hirz* (modern German *Hirsch*), and Old Icelandic *hjort* (Norwegian, Swedish and Danish *hjort*), from Proto-Germanic **Herut-*.

hartebeest *n.* 1786, borrowed from Afrikaans *hartebeest* deer or hart (now *harthees*), from Dutch *hartebeest*, variant of *hertebeest* (*hert* hart + *beest* beast, from Middle Dutch *beest*).

harum-scarum *adv.* 1674–91, probably compounded from earlier *hare* harry, worry, harass + *scare*, with *-um*, a reduced form of them. —**adj.** 1751, from the adverb. —**n.** 1784, from the adjective.

harvest *n.* Before 1250 *hervest* time for reaping and gathering in crops; earlier *herfest* season of autumn (1105); developed from Old English *herfest* autumn (probably about 750); cognate with Old Frisian *herfst* autumn, Old Saxon *hervist*, Middle Low German *hervest*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *herfst*, Old High German *herbist* (modern German *Herbst*), and Old Icelandic *haust*, probably from Proto-Germanic **Harbitás*. —**v.** About 1400 *hervesten*; from the noun.

hash¹ *n.* 1662–63, mixture of cooked meat, potatoes, etc., from the verb. *Hash* is a replacement of earlier *hache* (about 1330), also *hachey*, *hachy*; borrowed perhaps from Old French *haché*, from *hacher* to hack. —**v.** 1657, borrowed from French *hacher* to hack, chop, from Old French *hache* axe.

hash² *n.* 1959, American English; shortened form of *hashish*.

hashish *n.* 1598, borrowed from Arabic *hashish* powdered hemp (literally, dry herb), from *hashsha* it became dry, it dried up; see ASSASSIN.

hasp *n.* Before 1200 *hespe* fastening for a door, window, trunk, etc.; later *haspe* (probably before 1300); developed by alteration in a metathesis of *s* and *p* from Old English *hæpse* (about 1000); cognate with Middle Low German *hespe*, *haspe* hasp or hinge, Middle Dutch *hespe*, Old High German *haspa* (modern German *Haspe*), and Old Icelandic *hespa*.

hassle *n.* 1945, American English, perhaps from Southern dialect *hassle* to pant, breathe noisily (1928); of unknown origin. —**v.** 1951, from the noun.

hassock *n.* 1440 *hassok* clump of coarse grass, earlier, possibly meaning mound or hillock, in the place name *Hassok* (about 1150); developed from Old English (986) *hassuc* clump of grass, coarse grass; of uncertain origin. The meaning of thick cushion (often stuffed with straw), is first recorded in 1516.

haste *n.* Probably about 1225 *haste* hurry or speed; borrowed from Old French *haste*, from Frankish (compare adjectives in Old High German *heist*, *heisti* vehement, violent, which is cognate with Old Frisian *hāste* violent, Old English *hæste* violent, vehement, impetuous, and the noun *hæst* violence, neither of which survived into Middle English); also related to Gothic *haifsts* strife, from Proto-Germanic **Haifstiz*. —**hasten** *v.* 1565–73, formed from English *haste* + *-en*¹. —**hasty** *adj.* Probably about 1280 *hasti*; formed from Middle English *haste*, *n.* + *-i*-y¹; and borrowed from Old French *hasti*, *hastif*, from Old French *haste* *haste* + *-if* -ive. The native English form replaced *hastif* by the 1500's.

hat *n.* Old English (before 800) *hæt* hat or head covering; cognate with Frisian *hat*, *hatt* hat or hood, Old Icelandic *hattir*, *hōtr* cowl, from Proto-Germanic **Hattuz* hood or cowl (earlier **Hādunús*); see HOOD¹. —**v.** Before 1425, provide with a hat, from the noun.

hatch¹ *v.* develop from eggs. Before 1250 *hachen*, of uncertain origin (developed probably from Old English **hæccan*, **hec-can*); compare Middle High German and modern German *hecken* to hatch or breed, also Swedish *håcka*, Danish *hække* to hatch. —**hatchery** *n.* 1880, formed from English *hatch*¹, *v.* + *-ery*.

hatch² *n.* opening. About 1250 *hacche*; later *hatche* half door, small door, gate, wicket; developed from Old English (1015) *hæc* (genitive *hæcce*); cognate with Middle Low German *heck* fence, Middle Dutch *hecke* hatch, grating (modern Dutch *hek* fence), from Proto-Germanic *Hak-*. The meaning of plank for a ship's deck, from which the sense of opening in a ship's deck developed, is first recorded in Anglo-Latin in 1233–34, and in Middle English *hacchenayl* (1294–96).

hatch³ *v.* draw fine parallel lines on. 1389, implied in *hachying* drawing of parallel lines for ornament; borrowed from Old French *hacher* chop or hatch, from *hache* axe.

hatchet *n.* 1307 *hachet*; earlier as a surname (1166); borrowed from Old French *hachette* *hatchet*, diminutive of *hache* *axe*, possibly from Frankish **hāppja* (compare Old High German *hāppa* *sickle, scythe*) from Proto-Germanic **Hæbijō*; for suffix see -ET.

hate *v.* About 1175 *haten*, developed from Old English *hatian* (before 899); cognate with Old Frisian *hatia* *to hate*, Old Saxon *haton*, Dutch *haten*, Old High German *hazzōn* (modern German *hassen*), Old Icelandic *hata*, and Gothic *hatjan*, *hatan*, from Proto-Germanic **Hatōjanan*. —*n.* About 1175 *hate*, developed with *a* by influence of *hate*, *v.*, from Old English *hete* *hatred, spite* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *hat* *hatred*, Old Saxon *heti*, Middle Dutch *hate* (modern Dutch *haat*), Old High German *haz* (modern German *Hass*), Old Icelandic *hatr*, and Gothic *hatis* *hate or anger*, from Proto-Germanic **Hatis-*. —**hateful** *adj.* About 1380; formed from English *hate*, *n.* + *-ful*. —**hatred** *n.* Before 1200 *hatrede*, from *hate*, *n.* + *-rede*, from Old English *ræden* *state or condition*.

haughty *adj.* 1530 *hawty* *too proud*; earlier *hawte*, *haute*, *noble, excellent* (probably before 1400); borrowed from Old French *haut* *high*, from Latin *altus* (with initial *h-* by influence of Frankish *hōh*; see OLD).

The form *haute* changed in the late 1500's to *haught* after words like *caught*, and assumed the suffix *-y* on the model of *might*, *mighty*.

haul *v.* About 1300 *hauen* *to pull or drag, transport, carry*, variant of *halen* (probably before 1200); see HALE² *drag*. The spelling with *u* represents a development of Middle English pronunciation that departed from *halen* before the 1500's and is paralleled in *crawl*. —*n.* 1670, *act of hauling*; from the verb. The figurative sense of something gathered or gained, is first recorded in 1776.

haunch *n.* Before 1250 *haunche*; earlier *hanche* (probably before 1200); borrowed from Old French *hanche*, from Frankish **hanka*; cognate with Middle Dutch *hanke*, *henke* *hip*, Middle High German *hanke* *hip, shank*, and Old High German *hinkan* *to limp*, from Proto-Germanic **Hink-/Hank-*.

haunt *v.* Probably about 1200 *hanten* *practice habitually*; later *haunten* (before 1250), and in the sense of *visit frequently* (probably before 1300); borrowed from Old French *hanter* *to frequent, resort to, be familiar with* (originally, of a spirit coming back to the house he had lived in); probably from Old Icelandic *heimta* *bring home*, from Proto-Germanic **Haimat-janan*, from **Haimaz* *HOME*. —*n.* Often, **haunts**. Probably before 1300, developed from the verb, and as a borrowing from Old French *hant* *frequentation, intimacy, acquaintance*.

have *v.* 1100 *haven*, developed from Old English *habban* *to own, possess* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *hebbā* *to have*, Old Saxon *hebbjan*, Middle Low German *hebben*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *hebben*, Old High German *habēn* (modern German *haben*), Old Icelandic *hafa*, and Gothic *haban*, from Proto-Germanic **Haf-* (unrelated to Latin *habere*, in spite of the resemblance in form and sense). In Old English, this verb had in all parts of the present tense, except the second person singular *hafast*, *hæfst*, and the third

person singular *hafath*, *hæfth*. In Middle English the forms of Old English in *f* gradually lost the medial consonant becoming *hast*, *hath*, and thence *has*, *had* and the Old English *-bb-* was supplanted by *-v-* (*have*), by gradual levelling, on analogy with other parts of the verb. The past participle *had* developed from Old English *gehæfd*.

haven *n.* Probably before 1200, developed from Old English *hæfen* (1031); borrowed from Old Icelandic *hǫfn*, from Proto-Germanic **Hafnaz*. The figurative sense of *refuge* is first recorded about 1200.

havoc *n.* 1419 *havokey*, borrowed from Anglo-French *havok* (in *crier havok* *cry havoc*, as a signal to soldiers to seize plunder), from Old French *havot* *plundering or devastation*, from a Germanic source (compare Middle Dutch *havot* *grain measure, and perhaps plunder*; also Old High German *heffen* *to raise*). The general sense of *devastation*, is first recorded in 1480.

haw *n.* About 1250 *hawe*, developed from Old English (before 1000) *haga* *fruit of the hawthorn bush*, *hagathorn* *HAWTHORN*; probably the same word as Old English *haga* *enclosure, HEDGE*.

hawk¹ *n.* bird. Probably before 1200 *havek*; later *hawk* (probably before 1300); developed from Old English *hafoc* (West Saxon); earlier *heafuc* (before 830), and *-habuc*, *-hebec* (about 700); cognate with Old Frisian *havek* *hawk*, Old Saxon *habuc*, Middle Dutch *havic*, *havec* (modern Dutch *havik*), Old High German *habuh*, Middle High German *habech* (modern German *Habicht*), Old Icelandic *haukr* (Norwegian *hawk*, Swedish *höke*, and Danish *høg*), from Proto-Germanic **habukaz*.

hawk² *v.* sell. 1390, implied in *hawking* *peddling*, especially from house to house, and in *hawker* *street peddler* (1409); borrowed from Middle Low German *höker*, from *höken* *to peddle, carry on the back, squat*; cognate with Middle Dutch *hoken*, *hoecken* *to peddle, carry on the back, squat*, Middle High German *hüchen* *to squat, crouch* (modern German *hocken*), and Old Icelandic *hūka* *to crouch*, *hoka*, *hokra* *to crawl*, from Proto-Germanic **Hūk-*.

hawk³ *v.* clear the throat noisily. 1581, possibly imitative of the sound. —*n.* 1604, from the verb.

hawse *n.* Old English *hals*, *heals* *prows of a ship, neck*; cognate with Old Icelandic *hals* *hawse*, (literally, *neck*). The form *hawse* is a phonetic respelling of the late 1500's, paralleling *crawl*, *small*; see also *HAUL*.

hawser *n.* 1294 *ausor*, large rope or cable. 1295 *haucel*; borrowed from Anglo-French *haucier*, from Old French *haucier* *to hoist or raise*; found also in Old French *halcier*, from Vulgar Latin **altiāre*, alteration of Late Latin *altāre* *make high*, from *altus* *high*. English *hawser* is mistakenly associated with *hawse* and the hauling of boats, and thereby with the suffix *-er*¹.

hawthorn *n.* Probably about 1300 *hawethorn*; earlier, in the place name *Hauthorn* (about 1220); developed from Old English *hagathorn* (about 950), *hæguthorn* (about 700), a Germanic compound found in Old Dutch *haginthorn*, Middle

Dutch *hagedorn* (modern Dutch *haagdoorn*), Middle High German *hagendorn*, *hagedorn*, and Old Icelandic *hagthorn* (Swedish *hagtorn*).

hay *n.* Before 1200 *hei*; later *hai* (before 1325); developed from Old English, Anglian *hēg* grass cut or mown for fodder (before 830); later, West Saxon *hieg*, *hig*; cognate with Old Frisian *hā*, *hē* hay, Old Saxon *hōi*, Middle Dutch *hoy* (modern Dutch *hooi*), Old High German *hewi* (modern German *Heu*), Old Icelandic *hey* (Norwegian *høy*, *høye*, Danish *hø*, Swedish *hø*), and Gothic *hawi*, from Proto-Germanic **Haujan*, adjective used as a noun, meaning that which can be mowed, from **Hauw*.

haywire *adj.* 1905, American English, soft wire for binding bales of hay. Reference to the springy and uncontrollable nature of haywire, was first recorded in *go haywire* (1929).

hazard *n.* About 1300 *hasard* game of chance played with dice; earlier as a surname *Hasard* (1167); borrowed from Old French *hasard*, possibly through Spanish *azar* an unfortunate card or throw at dice, from Arabic *az-zahr* the die (*az-* a form of the definite article *al-* by assimilation to the *z* of the following word). The meaning of chance of loss or harm, risk, is first recorded in 1548. —*v.* 1530, take a risk, venture, from the noun. —**hazardous** *adj.* 1580, venturesome; later, risky, perilous (1618); borrowed from Middle French *hasardeux*, from Old French *hasard* hazard.

haze¹ *n.* mist, smoke. 1706, probably a back formation from *hazy* misty; with antecedents found also in earlier English dialect *haze* to drizzle, be foggy (1674–91). The sense of slight confusion, vagueness, is first recorded before 1797. —**hazy** *adj.* 1625 *hawsey*, (also *heysey*, *haizy*, *hazy*); of uncertain origin.

haze² *v.* 1850, American English, harass with ridiculous tasks; extended use of an earlier nautical sense of punish by keeping at unpleasant and unnecessary hard work (1840); perhaps developed from earlier *haze*, *hawze* terrify, frighten, confound (1678); borrowed from Middle French *haser* irritate, annoy; of uncertain origin.

hazel *n.* Old English *hæsl* (about 700); cognate with Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *hasel* hazel (modern Dutch *hazelaar*), Old High German *hasal* (modern German *Hasel*), and Old Icelandic *hasl* (Norwegian, Danish, and Swedish *hassel*), from Proto-Germanic **Hasalaz*.

he *pron.* Old English (about 725) *hē*, masculine singular pronoun of the third person representing original **His*, *Hiz* of the demonstrative Proto-Germanic base **Hi-* this, which supplied the pronoun forms *him*, *his*, *her*. Though Old English had both the masculine and feminine forms, during the early Middle English period the feminine forms (*hāo*, *hīo*) of *he* began to fall into disuse and were replaced in part by forms from other stems (see *SHE*, *THEY*). The *h*, aspirate, is suppressed in British English after accented syllables and this process led to *it* for original *hit*.

Old English *hē* is cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *hē*, *hī* he, Middle Dutch *hi* (modern Dutch *hij*), Old High

German *hē* (rare), Old Icelandic *hann* he, and Gothic *himma* (dative case), *hina* (accusative case) this. —*n.* a male. Old English (about 950) *hē*, from the pronoun.

head *n.* About 1150 *hed*; earlier *hevod* (1123); developed from Old English *hēafod* top of the body (about 725); chief person, leader, ruler (about 897); cognate with Old Frisian *hāved*, *hāfd* head, chief, Old Saxon *hōbid*, Middle Dutch *hōvet* (modern Dutch *hoofd*), Old High German *houbit* (modern German *Haupt*), Old Icelandic *hofudh*, and Gothic *haubith*. English *head* and German *Haupt* imply an original form in *-au-* represented by Proto-Germanic **Hauþuðan*. The spelling *head* does not appear in the record of English before 1420, and represents an original long vowel. —*adj.* Probably before 1200 *heved* and *heaved*; later *hed* (before 1393); from the noun. —*v.* About 1230 *heden* provide with a head; later *heafden*; from the noun. The meanings of be at the head, lead (probably about 1200) and direct the head, face (probably before 1200), developed from Old English *hēdan* in the 1600's. —**headache** *n.* (about 1000, in Old English) —**headlong** *adv.* (before 1382); *adj.* (about 1550) —**headquarters** *n.* (1647) —**headstrong** *adj.* (before 1398) —**headway** *n.* (about 1300, main road; 1748, motion forward) —**heady** *adj.* (before 1382)

—**head** *suffix.* See *-HOOD*.

heal *v.* Probably before 1200 *healen*, *helen*; developed from Old English *hēlan* make whole, sound, and well (about 725); cognate with Old Frisian *hēla* to heal, Old Saxon *hēlian*, modern Dutch *heelen*, Old High German *heilan* (modern German *heilen*), Old Icelandic *heila*, and Gothic *hailjan*; from Proto-Germanic **Hailaz*, also the source of Old English *hāl* healthy, whole. —**health** *n.* Probably before 1200 *helthe*; later *health* (probably before 1425); developed from Old English (about 1000) *hēlth* a being whole, sound, or well, from *hāl* whole; for suffix see *-TH*. —**healthy** *adj.* 1552; formed from English *health* + *-y*¹.

heap *n.* Probably before 1200 *hep*; developed from Old English (about 725) *hēap* pile, great number, multitude; cognate with Old Frisian *hāp* heap, Old Saxon *hōp*, modern Dutch *hoop*, Old and Middle High German *houf*, and Old Icelandic *hōpr*; from Proto-Germanic **Hauptaz*, related to Old English *hēah* HIGH. —*v.* Probably before 1200 *heapen*; later *hepen* (about 1300); developed from Old English (about 900) *hēapian* form into a heap; corresponding to Old High German *houfōn* to heap.

hear *v.* 1127 *heren*; developed from Old English, Anglian *hēran* (before 800); later West Saxon *hieran*, *hīran*; cognate with Old Frisian *hēra*, *hōra* hear, Old Saxon *hōrian*, modern Dutch *horen*, Old High German *hōran* (modern German *hören*), Old Icelandic *heyra*, and Gothic *hausjan*; from Proto-Germanic **Hauz-janan*. The spelling *hear* (differentiated from *here*, etc.) began to appear occasionally even before 1200, but was not fully established until after the mid-1500's. —**hearer** *n.* (1340) —**hearsay** *n.* (probably 1438)

hearken or **harken** *v.* Probably before 1200 *hercnien*, *hercnen*, *harcnen*; developed from Old English (about 1000) *heorcnian*, itself a modification of **he(o)rcian* HARK; for suffix see *-EN*¹.

hearse *n.* Probably before 1300 *hers* flat framework somewhat like a harrow for candles and decorations, hung or placed over a coffin; borrowed from Old French *herce* harrow, and from Medieval Latin *hercia*, from Latin *hirpicem* (nominative *hirpex*, in Classical Latin *irpex*) harrow, from Oscan *hirpus* wolf, in allusion to the resemblance of a harrow's teeth to those of a wolf. The meaning of a vehicle for carrying a body, is first recorded in 1650. Development of the spelling *hearse* parallels that of HEART.

heart *n.* Probably about 1175 *herte*, developed from Old English (about 725) *heorte*; cognate with Old Frisian *herte*, *hirte* heart, Old Saxon *herta*, Middle Dutch *herte*, *harte* (modern Dutch *hart*), Old High German *herza* (modern German *Herz*), Old Icelandic *hjarta* (Swedish *hjärta*, Danish and Norwegian *hjerter*), and Gothic *hairtō*; from Proto-Germanic **Hertan-*. The spelling in *-ea-* developed in the 1500's by analogy of pronunciation with *stream*, *heat*, etc. (replacing the earlier normal development *hart*), but while the pronunciation changed, the spelling *ea* was retained. —**heartache** *n.* (about 1000, in Old English) —**heartburn** *n.* (about 1250) —**hearten** *v.* 1526, formed from English *heart* + *-en*¹. —**heartless** *adj.* (before 1382) —**heartsick** *adj.* (about 1390) —**hearty** *adj.* Before 1375 *herty* courageous or zealous; formed from *hert* + *-y*¹.

hearth *n.* About 1350 *herthe*; earlier, in *huerthselver* tax on households, literally, hearth silver (1189); developed from Old English (about 725) *heorth*; cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *herth* hearth, Middle Dutch *hert* (modern Dutch *haard*), and Old High German *herd* (modern German *Herd*), from West Germanic **Herthaz*. For the spelling in *-ea-* see HEART.

heat *n.* Probably about 1175 *hete*; developed from Old English (about 725) *hætu*, *hæto*; cognate with Old Frisian *hēte* heat, Middle Dutch *hēte*, *heete*, and Old High German *heizi*, derived from Proto-Germanic **Haitin-*, formed from **Haitaz*, the source of Old English *hāt* HOT. —**v.** Probably before 1200 *heaten* make hot, inflame, inspire; developed from Old English (about 700) *hētan*; cognate with German and Old High German *heizen* to heat, and Old Icelandic *heita*; from Proto-Germanic **Haitijanan*.

heath *n.* About 1330 *heth* open wasteland, especially such land with heather growing on it; developed from both Old English *hæth* tract of wasteland; earlier, heather (about 700); and from Old Icelandic *heidhr* field. Old English *hæth* is cognate with Old Saxon *hētha* wasteland, heather, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *heide*, Middle Low German *heed* heather, *heie* heath, Middle High German *heide* wasteland, heather (modern German *Heide*), and Gothic *haiþi*, from Proto-Germanic **Haiþijō*.

heathen *adj.* Before 1121 *hethen* not Christian or Jewish, pagan; developed from Old English (about 725) *hæthen* and Old Icelandic *heidhinn*. The Old English form is cognate with Old Frisian *hēthen* heathen, Old Saxon *hēthin*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *heiden*, Old High German *heidan*, *adj.*, *heidano*, *n.* (modern German *Heide*, masculine, *Heidin*, feminine), and Gothic *haiþnō* Gentile or heathen woman. Historically the word has been assumed to come from Gothic as used

by Ulfilas, Bishop of the Goths and translator of the Bible into Gothic, and to be a derivative of Gothic *haiþi* dwelling on the heath (where paganism was still practiced), but no record of this meaning exists. —**n.** 1128 *hethen*, Old English (about 725) *hæthen*; from the adjective.

heather *n.* 1725, in *heather-bell*, spelling alteration (influenced by *heath*) of earlier *hathir* (1335) and in the place name *Faghadre* (1600–35); found in Old English **hæddre*.

heave *v.* Probably before 1200 *heven*; developed from Old English *hebban* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Saxon *hebbian* to raise, lift, Dutch *heffen*, Old High German *heffen* (modern German *heben*), Old Icelandic *hefja*, and Gothic *haffan*; from Proto-Germanic **Haffanan*. The spelling with *-ea-* is a development of the 1500's. —**n.** Before 1571, from the verb.

heaven *n.* About 1150 *heven*; developed from Old English (about 1000) *heofon* the place where God dwells; earlier, the sky, firmament (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Saxon *heban* sky, heaven, Middle Low German *heven* sky, Old Icelandic *himinn* sky, heaven, Gothic *himins*, and, perhaps by dissimilation, with an *-l* suffix, Old Frisian *himel*, *himul* sky, heaven, Old Saxon *himil*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *hemel*, and Old High German *himil* (modern German *Himmel*), from Proto-Germanic **Hemina-*.

heavy *adj.* 1124 *hevi* weighty, grave; developed from Old English *hefig* (about 725); cognate with Old Saxon *hebig* heavy, Middle Dutch *hevich* (modern Dutch *hevig* violent, heavy), Old High German *hebig* heavy, and Old Icelandic *hofugr*; derived from Proto-Germanic **Habizās* from **Haffanan*, and thereby related to Old English *hebban* to HEAVE; for suffix see *-y*¹. —**n.** About 1250 *hevie* something heavy, heaviness; from the adjective. The sense of greater atomic weight as in *heavy hydrogen*, is first recorded in 1933, and that of villain in theatrical usage in 1880.

Hebrew *adj.* About 1250 *Ebriu*; later *Hebru* (before 1325); borrowed from Old French *Ebreu*, *Ebrieu*, learned borrowing from Latin *Hebraeus*, from Greek *Hebraios*, from Aramaic *'ebhrāi*, corresponding to Hebrew *'ibhrī* an Israelite, (literally, one from the other side, in reference to the river Euphrates, from *'ebher* region on the other or opposite side). —**n.** Probably before 1200 *Ebrew* the Hebrew language; later *Hebrew* a Jew of Biblical times, an Israelite (before 1382); borrowed from Old French *Ebreu*, *Hebrieu*, from Latin *Hebraeus*, *adj.* During the Middle Ages, it was regarded as Classical Latin *Hebraeus*, thereby establishing the spelling with *H-*. —**Hebraic** *adj.* About 1380, borrowed from Old French *hebraïque*, and directly from Late Latin *Hebraicus* from Greek *Hebraikós*, from *Hebrai-*, found in *Hebraios*; HEBREW; for suffix see *-IC*.

heckle *v.* 1808, perhaps earlier noun (1788); both verb and noun being respectively transferred uses of *hekelen* to comb (flax or hemp) with a hackle (1325), and *hekele* a comb for flax or hemp, hackle (before 1425); borrowed from Middle Dutch *hekelen* comb flax or hemp with a hackle; also, to prick or irritate; and Middle Dutch *hekele* hackle, from Proto-Germanic **Hakilō*. —**heckler** *n.* 1885, developing parallel to

heckle, v., from the sense of one who dresses flax or hemp (1440).

hectare *n.* 1810, borrowing of French *hectare*, formed from Greek *hekatón* HUNDRED + French *are* ARE² measure.

hectic *adj.* Before 1398 *etik* feverish, consumptive; borrowed from Old French *etique*, from Late Latin *hecticus*, from Greek *hektikós* continuous, habitual, consumptive (of a disease), from *héxis* habit, from *échein* (earlier stem **heche-*) have, hold, continue; for suffix see -IC. The spelling with *h-* (influenced by Late Latin *hecticus*) dates from the 1500's. The sense of feverishly exciting or full of disorganized activity, is first recorded in 1904.

hecto- a combining form meaning a hundred, as in *hectoliter*, *hectometer*. Borrowed from French *hecto-*, alteration of Greek *hekatón* a HUNDRED.

hector *v.* 1660 *Hector* to act in a bragging, bullying manner; also, intimidate by bluster, bully (1664 *hector*); from *Hector*, *n.* bragging, bullying person (1655). The name was originally applied to gangs of disorderly young men on the streets of London in the mid-1600's; in allusion to *Hector* (Greek *Héktōr*), Trojan hero in the *Iliad*, who behaved in a belligerent way challenging any Greek to combat.

hedge *n.* About 1250 *hegge*, earlier in the surname *Hegge* (1188); developed from Old English (785) *hecg*; cognate with Middle Dutch *hegge* hedge (modern Dutch *heg*), Old High German *heggia*, *heckia*, Middle High German *hegge*, *hecke* (modern German *Hecke*), and Old Icelandic *hegg* a type of cherry tree. From Proto-Germanic **Hazjō*, and related to Old English *haga* enclosure, hedge, HAW. —**v.** About 1384, from the noun. The sense of dodge or evade, is first recorded in 1598, and insure oneself against loss, as on a bet, in 1672.

The spelling *hedge* was formed in the 1500's by analogy with *edge*, *bridge*, etc. —**hedghehog** *n.* (about 1450) —**hedgerow** *n.* (940, Old English *heggeræw*)

hedonism *n.* 1856, probably formed from Greek *hēdonē* pleasure (related to *hēdys* SWEET) + English -ism; but perhaps also influenced by earlier borrowing from Greek in English *hedonic* of or having to do with the Cyrenaic school of philosophy that deals with the ethics of pleasure (1656). —**hedonist** *n.* 1822, formed in English from from Greek *hēdonē* pleasure + English -ist, but see HEDONISM for earlier influence in English.

heed *v.* Probably before 1200 *heden*; found in Old English *hēdan* to take care, attend (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *hōda* protect, guard, tend, Old Saxon *hōdian*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *hoeden*, Old High German *huotan* (modern German *hüten*), from West Germanic **hōd-jan*. These forms are derivatives of the source of Old Frisian *hōde*, *hūde* protection, guard, Old High German *huota* (modern German *Hut* care, keeping, protection), and probably Old English *hōd* HOOD¹. —**n.** Probably before 1300 *hede*, from the verb.

heehaw *n.* 1815, probably imitative of the sound made by a

donkey; later, a loud laugh (1843); *v.* 1821, perhaps from the noun, or formed independently.

heel¹ *n.* back part of the foot. Probably before 1200 *hele*, developed from Old English (about 800) *hēla*; cognate with Old Frisian *hēla* heel, Middle Dutch *hiele* (modern Dutch *hiel*), and Old Icelandic *hæll*; related to Old English *hōh* heel, HOCK. —**v.** 1605, from the noun. The meaning of follow at the heels of, follow closely, is first recorded about 1889. —**heeled** *adj.* 1880, American English, provided with money (usually in *well-heeled*); developed from furnished with a gun, armed (1866), from furnished with a heel or heel-like projection (1562); formed from English *heel*, *n.* + -ed².

heel² *v.* lean. About 1575, alteration of *hield* (1559), in Middle English *helden*, *halden* fall, bend, lean (probably before 1200); developed from Old English *hyldan* incline (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Saxon *heldian* to incline, Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *helden* (modern Dutch *hellen*), Old High German *hald* inclined, *helden* to bow (modern German *Halde* slope), and Old Icelandic *hallr* inclined, from Proto-Germanic **Helthijanan*. The form *heel* probably arose from the misinterpretation of -d in *hield* as a past tense suffix. —**n.** 1760, from the verb.

heel³ *n.* contemptible person. 1914, American English (underworld slang), an incompetent or worthless criminal (probably from *heel*¹ person that is the lowest in position).

heft *n.* About 1445, developed from *heave*, *v.*, apparently on the analogy of pairs such as *weave*, *weft*, *thieve*, *theft*, etc., and probably further influenced by *heft*, obsolete variant of *heaved*, past participle. —**v.** Before 1661; from the noun. —**hefty** *adj.* 1867, formed from English *heft*, *n.* + -y¹.

hegemony *n.* 1567, borrowed from Greek *hēgemoniā* leadership, from *hēgēmōn* leader, from *hēgēsthai* to lead; for suffix see -Y². —**hegemonism** *n.* 1965, variant of *hegemony* in the sense of a policy of political domination, patterned on *imperialism*; for suffix see -ISM.

hegira *n.* 1757, transferred sense of earlier *Hegira* the flight of Mohammed from Mecca to Medina in 622 (1590); borrowed from Medieval Latin *hegira*.

heifer *n.* Probably about 1200 *heifre*, developed from Old English *hēahfore* (about 900); of uncertain origin.

height *n.* About 1230 *hiht* the quality of being high; later *heght*, *hight* (before 1325); developed from Old English *hiehthu*, *hēhthu* highest part or point, summit (before 900); cognate with Middle Dutch *hogede*, *hoochte* height (modern Dutch *hoogte*), Middle Low German *hogede*, Old High German *hōhida*, Old Icelandic *hædh*, and Gothic *hauhitha*; derived from *hauh-* high, and the root of Old English *hēah* HIGH + -itha -TH. The form of the suffix has varied from *height* to *heighth*, since the 1200's, but by analogy with words such as *drought*, it has stabilized, dropping the terminal -h in most use since the late 1800's. The form of the vowel comes directly from the Old English, Anglian *hēhthu*; for the spelling with -gh- see FIGHT. —**heighten** *v.* About 1450 *heightenen* to honor or raise to high position; formed from English *height* + -en¹ + -en².

heinous *adj.* About 1385 *heynous*, borrowed from Old French *haineus*, from *haine* hatred, from *hair* to hate, from Frankish (compare Old Saxon *hatōn* to HATE); for suffix see -OUS.

heir *n.* Probably about 1225 *heir*, *aire*; borrowed through Anglo-French *heir*, *aire*, from Old French *hoir*, from Latin *hērēs* (genitive *hērēdis*) heir, heirress. —**heirress** *n.* 1659, formed from English *heir* + -ess, possibly by influence of Middle French *hoirresse*. —**heirloom** *n.* 1424–25 *heyrlome*; earlier *ayre lome* (1421); formed from *heir*, *aire* + *loom* implement or tool.

heist *v.* 1927, implied in *heister* shoplifter or thief, American English slang; probably a spelling alteration of *hoist* to lift or shoplift (in older British slang, to lift another on one's back to help him break in). The alteration in spelling may have been from a dialectal pronunciation. —**n.** 1930, American English slang; from the verb.

heli⁻¹ a form of *helio*- before vowels, as in *helianthus* (New Latin, sunflower).

heli⁻² a combining form abstracted from *helicopter*, as in *heli-borne* = borne or carried by helicopter (1966), *heliport* = airport for helicopters (1948).

helical *adj.* See HELIX.

helicopter *n.* 1887, borrowed from French *hélicoptère* (from Greek *hélīx*, genitive *hélīkos* spiral + *pterón* wing).

helio- a combining form meaning sun, as in *heliocentric* = having or representing the sun as its center. Borrowed from Greek *hēlio*-, combining form of *hēlios* sun.

heliotrope *n.* Before 1626 *heliotrope*, borrowed from French *héliotrope*, from Latin; earlier in English (about 1000 to 1600), applied to the sunflower and marigold, also borrowed from Latin *hēliotropium*, from Greek *hēliotropion* (*hēlios* sun + *trópos* turn).

helium *n.* 1868, New Latin; formed from Greek *hēlios* sun + New Latin -ium. Reference to the sun comes from observation of helium in the solar spectrum.

helix *n.* 1563, borrowing of Latin *helix* spiral, from Greek *hélīx* (genitive *hélīkos*), related to *eileîn* to turn, twist, roll, *eilýein* enfold. —**helical** *adj.* spiral. 1591 (earlier *heliacall* 1545), formed in English from *helic*-, stem of Latin *helix* + English suffix -al.

hell *n.* Before 1121 *helle*; found in Old English (about 725) *hel*, *helle* nether world of the dead, infernal regions, Hades; possibly borrowed, in part, from Old Icelandic *Hel* goddess of death and the underworld, as a transfer of a pagan concept to Christian theology and its vocabulary. Germanic cognates exist in Old Frisian *helle*, *hille* hell, Old Saxon *hellja*, Middle Dutch *helle* (modern Dutch *hel*), Old High German *hella* (modern German *Hölle*), and Gothic *halja*; from Proto-Germanic **Halja* one who covers up or hides something.

hellebore *n.* 1373 *elebyr*, *elebur*; borrowed from Old French *ellebre*, *ellebore*, from Latin; also Middle English (about 1150) *elleborum*; borrowed directly from Latin *elleborus*, *helleborus*, from Greek *ellēboros*, *hellēboros*, of uncertain origin.

Hellenic *adj.* 1644, of the Greeks or Greece; borrowed from Greek *Hellēnikós*, from *Hellēn* a Greek; for suffix see -IC.

—**Hellenism** *n.* 1609, an idiom or expression peculiar to Greek; possibly borrowed from French *hellénisme*, and directly from Greek *Hellēnismós* imitation of the Greeks, from *Hellēnizein* make Greek, speak Greek, from *Hellēn* a Greek. The meaning of the culture and ideals of ancient Greece, is first recorded in 1865. —**Hellenistic** *adj.* 1706, of or pertaining to Greece or the Greek language or art, after Alexander; formed from English *Hellenist* one who affected Greek ways or language + -ic.

hellion *n.* 1846, American English; probably an alteration (by association with *hell*) of earlier Scottish and Northern English dialect *hallion* worthless fellow or scamp (1786); of uncertain origin.

hello *interj.* 1883, alteration of earlier *hallo* (1840), itself an alteration of *holla*, *hollo* a shout to attract attention (1588), a native English formation, perhaps from the earlier English exclamation *holla!* stop! cease!

helm *n.* Before 1338 *helme*, found in Old English (before 830) *helma*; cognate with Old High German *helmo* tiller, and Middle High German *helm*, *halm*, *halme* handle (modern German *Helm* tiller, axe handle), from Proto-Germanic **Helman-/Halman*-. The sense of position of guidance or control, is recorded in Old English about 888 and does not appear again before 1529. —**v.** steer. 1603, from the noun. —**helmsman** *n.* 1622, formed from English *helm* + *man*.

helmet *n.* About 1450 *helmet*, *helmete*; borrowed from Middle French *helmet*, diminutive of *helme* helmet, from Frankish (compare Old High German *helm* helmet, modern German *Helm*, Old Frisian, Old Saxon, Middle Dutch, and modern Dutch *helm*, Old Icelandic *hjalmr*, and Gothic *hilms*), from Proto-Germanic **Helmaz*, Old English *helm* never became an active term in the standard vocabulary of English.

helminth *n.* 1852, borrowed, probably through French *helminthe*, from Greek *hélmins* (genitive *hélminthos*) worm, especially an intestinal worm; related to *eulē* worm, and *eileîn* to turn, twist.

helot *n.* 1579, borrowed from Greek *Hellōtes*, plural of *Hellōs*, popularly associated with *Hēlos*, a Laconian town whose inhabitants were enslaved by Sparta, but perhaps related to Greek *halōnai* be captured, by popular etymology.

help *v.* Before 1200 *helpen*, found in Old English (about 725) *helpan*; cognate with Old Frisian *helpa* to help, Old Saxon *helpan*, Middle Low German, Middle Dutch, and modern Dutch *helpen*, Old High German *helfan* (modern German *helfen*), Old Icelandic *hjálpa*, and Gothic *hilpan*, from Proto-Germanic **Helpanan*. —**n.** Old English *help*, *helpe* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *helpe* help, Old Saxon *helpa*, Middle Dutch and Middle Low German *helpe*, Old High German *helfa*, *hilfa* (modern German *Hilfe*), and Old Icelandic *hjalp*; from the stem of Old English *helpan* to help. —**helper** *n.* About 1340, formed from Middle English *helpen* + -er¹.

helter-skelter *adv.* 1593, apparently an expression imitative of the hurried clatter of running feet. It resembles *hurry-scurry* in form, and while *helter* has no explanation other than its suggestive sound and rhyme with *skelter*, the final element is probably based on *skelte* to hasten, scatter hurriedly. The adjective meaning of disorderly or confused, is first recorded in 1785; the noun, about 1713.

helve *n.* Probably about 1200 *helfe*, handle of an ax, hammer, etc.; developed from Old English *helfe*, *hielfe* (before 899); cognate with Old Saxon *helvi* helve, Middle Dutch *helf*, and Old High German *halb*; related to HALTER.

hem¹ *n.* edge. Old English *hem* a border (about 1000); cognate with Old Frisian *hemma* to hinder, modern German *hemmen*, and Old Icelandic *hemja* hem in, curb, from Proto-Germanic **Hamjanan*. —**v.** About 1340, implied in *hemming*; from the noun. The phrase *hem in* shut in or confine, is first recorded in 1538.

hem² *interj.* a sound like clearing the throat. 1526, probably from the verb. —**v.** Before 1470, implied in *hemyng*, probably imitative of the sound of clearing the throat. The expression *hem and haw* to hesitate, is first recorded in 1786 (*haw*, denoting hesitation, is first recorded in 1632).

hem- a form of *hema-* and *hemo-* before vowels, as in *hemagglutination*.

hema- a form of *hemo-*, as in *hemachrome*.

hematite *n.* Before 1398 *emachite*, later *haematites* (1543); borrowed probably from Old French *hematite*, from Latin *haematitēs*, from Greek *haimatītēs* bloodlike, from *haīma* (genitive *haīmatos*) blood.

hemato- (also *hemat-* before vowels), a combining form meaning blood, as in *hematology* = study of blood. Borrowed from Greek *haimato-*, combining form from *haīma* (genitive *haīmatos*) blood.

hemi- a prefix meaning half, as in *hemisphere*. Borrowed from Greek *hēmi-*; cognate with Latin *sēmi-* SEMI-.

hemipterous *adj.* 1816, possibly formed in English from French *hémiptère*, or directly from New Latin *Hemiptera* order of insects (from Greek *hēmi-* half + *pterón* wing) + English suffix *-ous*; so called with reference to the insects' wing structure.

hemisphere *n.* About 1385 *hemysperie*; later re-formed as *hemispeire*, *emispeire*, *hemisphere* (1532), by influence of Middle French *emispeire*, *emisphere*; all forms ultimately borrowed from Latin *hēmīsp̄raerium*, from Greek *hēmīsp̄rairion* (*hēmi-* half + *sphaira* SPHERE). —**hemispheric** *adj.* 1585, formed from English *hemisphere* + *-ic*.

hemistich *n.* 1575, borrowed possibly through Middle French *hémistiche*, from Latin *hēmistichium*, from Greek *hēmīstichion* (*hēmi-* half + *stichos* row, line of verse).

hemlock *n.* Before 1325 *hemeloc*; earlier in the place name *Humbelochlaile* (before 1200); developed from Old English

hemlic (about 1000); earlier *hymlice*, *hymblice* (about 700); of uncertain origin.

hemo- a combining form meaning blood, as in *hemoglobin* = *globin* (*globulin* or *protein*) of the blood, *hemorrhage* = discharge or flow of blood. Borrowed possibly through Old French *hemo-*, and Latin *haemo-* from Greek *haimo-*, from *haīma* blood.

hemoglobin *n.* 1862, shortened form of earlier *hematoglobulin* (1845), from *hemato-* + *globulin* a protein, from Latin *globulus* GLOBULE + English *-in* ².

hemophilia *n.* 1854, New Latin *haemophilia*, from Greek *haīma* blood + *philā* affection (medically, a tendency), from *philein* to love, related to *philos* loving; see PHILO-. —**hemophilic** *adj.* 1896, formed from *hemophilia* + *-ac*, adjective suffix, from Greek *-akós*. —**n.** 1897, from the adjective. Both the adjective and noun in English may have been modeled on the earlier French *hémophilique*, *adj.* (1880), *n.* (1884).

hemorrhage *n.* Probably before 1425 *emorogie*; later re-formed as *hemorrhage* (1671), borrowed through French *hémorrhagie*; both the Middle English and French forms borrowed from Latin *haemorrhagia*, from Greek *haimorrhagīa* (*haīma* blood; see HEMO- + *rhagē* a breaking, from *rhēgnynai* to break, burst).

hemorrhoids *n.pl.* Before 1398 *emeroides*, borrowed from Old French *emorroides*, *hemorroides*, learned borrowing from Latin *haemorrhoidae*, from Greek *haimorrhoidēs*, plural of *haimorrhōis*, (*haīma* blood, + *rhōos* a stream, a flowing, from *rhein* to flow).

hemp *n.* About 1300 *hemp*, developed from Old English (before 1000) *haenep*; cognate with Old Saxon *hanap* hemp, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *hennep*, Old High German *hanaf* (modern German *Hanf*), and Old Icelandic *hamp*; all probably borrowed very early from the same source as Greek *kánnabis* hemp.

hen *n.* Old English *hen* (about 950); earlier, in *edisc-hen* quail (about 700); cognate with Old Frisian *henn* hen, Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *henne* (modern Dutch *hen*), and Old High German *henna* (modern German *Henne*), related to Old English *hana* rooster (modern German *Hahn*). Old English *hen(n)*, and its Germanic cognates, are from Proto-West-Germanic **Han(e)nī*.

hence *adv.* Probably about 1225 *hennes* away from here, away; formed from *henne* away, hence + *-s* adverb ending; developed from Old English *heonan*; cognate with Old Saxon *hinan*, *hinana* from here, away, Middle Dutch *henen*, *hin* (modern Dutch *heen*), Old High German *hinnan*, *hinana*, *hina* (modern German *hinnen*, *hin*), from Proto-West-Germanic **Hin-*. Related to Old English *hēr* HERE. The spelling in *-ce* (recorded before 1460) is a device to indicate the sound denoted by earlier *-s* (in *-es*), as in *twice* and *pence*. The meaning of from this (fact or circumstance), therefore, is first recorded in 1586. —**henceforth** *adv.* (before 1375; earlier *henne forth*, probably about 1200)

henchman *n.* 1463–64 *henshman*; earlier *hengsman* high-ranking servant (originally, a groom); formed from Old English *hengest* horse, stallion, gelding + *man* man; cognate with Old Frisian *hengst*, *hanxt* horse, Middle Dutch *henxt* (modern Dutch *hengst*), Old High German *hengist* stallion, gelding (modern German *Hengst* stallion), from Proto-Germanic **Hanzistās* best at springing; and Old Icelandic *hestr* (Swedish *häst* horse, Danish and Norwegian *hest*), from Proto-Germanic **HánHistaz*.

Henchman personal attendant of a Highland chief, is first recorded about 1730, and obedient or unscrupulous follower is found in 1839.

henequen or **henequin** *n.* yellow fiber from the agave of Yucatán. 1880, American English; borrowed from Spanish *henequén*, *jeniquén*, from the Maya (Yucatán) native name.

henge *n.* 1932, prehistoric circular structure of stone or wood, abstracted from *Stonehenge*, prehistoric stone circle in southern England.

The name *Stonehenge* appeared about 1130 as *Stanenge*, later *Stanhenge* (1205); the element *henge* is probably derived from the verb *hang* that which hangs in the air, in reference to the horizontal stones resting on pillars at *Stonehenge*, and called *henges* in Yorkshire since at least the early 1700's.

henna *n.* 1600, small thorny tree from whose leaves a dye is made; later, the dye itself; borrowed from the Arabic name for the plant *hinna*.

hepatic *adj.* Before 1398 *epatike*; borrowed perhaps through Old French *hepatique*, and directly from Latin *hepaticus* of or belonging to the liver, from Greek *hepatikós*, from *hepar* (genitive *hepatós*) liver; for suffix see -IC.

hepatica *n.* Probably before 1425 *epatica*; borrowed from Medieval Latin *hepatica*, from feminine of Latin *hepaticus* HEPATIC; from the plant's liver-shaped leaves.

hepatitis *n.* 1727, New Latin *hepatitis*, from Greek *hepatós* (genitive of *hepar* liver) + New Latin -itis inflammation.

hepta- (also *hept-* before vowels). a combining form meaning seven, as in *heptagon* = figure with seven angles. Borrowed from Greek *heptá* seven; cognate with Latin *septem* SEVEN.

heptagon *n.* plane figure having seven angles and seven sides. 1570, borrowed probably from Middle French *heptagon*, from Greek *heptágōnon* (*heptá* seven + *gōnía* angle).

her *pron., adj.* Before 1225 *here*; developed from Old English (before 830) *hire*, *hiere* (third person singular feminine) dative and genitive forms of *hēo*, *hīo* she, feminine forms of *hē* HE. Old English *hire*, *hiere* are cognates of Old Frisian *hiri* her, and Middle Dutch *hare* (modern Dutch *haar*), paralleling Old Saxon *iru* her, Old High German *iru*, *iro* (modern German *ihr*), and Gothic *izai* (dative singular), *izē*, *izō* (genitive plural). —**hers** *pron.* (before 1325)

herald *n.* Probably about 1300 *heraud* officer who is an expert in arms, armorial bearings, and tournaments, also as a surname *Haroud* (1204); later *herald* (before 1393); borrowed through

Anglo-French *heraud*, *herald* from Old French *heraut*, *hiraute*, *herault*, *heralt*, from Frankish **hariwald* commander of an army. (apparently a compound represented in Old High German *heri* army and *waltan* to command, rule). The meaning of messenger or envoy is first recorded about 1378, from the sense of an officer of a tournament who introduced knights, etc. —**v.** 1380 *herauden*, later *harrold* (1605); from the noun, by influence of Middle French *herauder*, *hirauder* to herald, from *heraut*, *hiraute*, *n.* —**heraldic** *adj.* 1772, borrowed from French *héraldique*, from Medieval Latin *heraldus* (from Germanic); for suffix see -IC. —**heraldry** *n.* Before 1393 *heraldie*, later, heralds collectively (before 1500) and the art or science of arms and armorial bearings (1572); borrowed from Old French *hiraudie*, from *hiraute*, *n.*; for suffix see -RY, -Y³.

herb *n.* Probably before 1300 *erbe*, *herbe*; borrowed from Old French *erbe*, and from Latin *herba* grass, herb. —**herbaceous** *adj.* 1646, borrowed from Latin *herbaceus* grassy, from *herba* grass; for suffix see -ACEOUS.

herbivorous *adj.* 1661, borrowing of New Latin *herbivorus* herb-eating, from Latin *herba* herb + *vorare* devour, swallow; for suffix see -OUS.

herculean *adj.* 1593, formed from *Hercules* + -an.

herd *n.* Before 1225 *hurde* (in dialect of Southwestern England, and earlier in the place name *Herdewich*, 1185); later, in general use, *herde* (before 1325); developed from Old English (before 1000) *heord*; cognate with Old High German *herta* herd (and, through Low German, with modern German *Herde*), Old Icelandic *hjórdh* (Danish and Swedish *hjord*), and Gothic *halrda*; from Proto-Germanic **Herdō*. —**v.** Probably before 1387 *herdeyen*, later, *herden* (about 1400); from the noun. —**herder** *n.* 1327, as a surname for a herdsman; formed from English *herd*, *v.* + -er. —**herdsman** *n.* Probably before 1200 *herdman*, found in Old English *heordman*, *hyrdeman* (about 1000). The form with *s* (*herdsman*) appeared by 1603 on the model of *craftsman*, *kinsman*.

here *adv.* Probably about 1200 *here*, earlier *her* (1101), found in Old English *hēr* in this place where one puts himself (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *hīr* here, Old Saxon *hēr*, *hīr*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *hier*, Old High German *hiar* (modern German *hier*), Old Icelandic and Gothic *hēr* (Swedish *här*, Norwegian and Danish *her*); all belonging to the Proto-Germanic base **Hi-*, which is the source of English *HE*. —**n.** 1605, from the adverb. —**hereafter** *adv.* Old English *hērefter* (about 900); —**n.** (1546). —**hereby** *adv.* (about 1250) —**herein** *adv.* Old English *herinne* (about 1000). —**heretofore** *adv.* (about 1200) —**herewith** *adv.* Late Old English *hēr-with* (1017–23).

heredity *n.* About 1540, inheritance; either a back formation from *hereditary*, or a borrowing through Middle French *hérédité*, from Latin *hērēditās* condition of being an heir, from *hērēs* (genitive *hērēdis*) HEIR; for suffix see -ITY. The meaning of an inheritable quality or character, is first recorded in 1784; the biological meaning of inheritable traits, is found in 1863. —**hereditary** *adj.* Probably before 1425 *hereditarie*, borrowed from Latin *hērēditārius*, from *hērēditās* heredity.

heresy *n.* Probably before 1200 *heresie*, borrowed from Old French *heresie*, *eresie*, alteration of Latin *haeresis* heresy, school of thought, from Greek *haíresis* a taking or choosing, from *haírein* take, seize, from *haírelsthai* choose. —**heretic** *n.* 1340 *heretike*, borrowed from Old French *heretique*, *eretique* heretic, from Latin *haereticus*, from Greek *hairetikós* able to choose, from *haírelsthai* to choose; for suffix see -IC. —**heretical** *adj.* Before 1425, borrowed from Middle French *heretical* and Medieval Latin *haereticalis*, from Latin *haereticus*; see HERETIC; for suffix see -AL¹.

heritage *n.* Probably before 1200 *eritage* spiritual inheritance or bequest; later *heritage* (before 1225); borrowed from Old French *eritage*, *heritage*, from *heriter* inherit, from Late Latin *hērēditāre*, ultimately from Latin *hērēs* (genitive *hērēdis*) HEIR. —**heritable** *adj.* About 1375, borrowed from Old French *heritable*, from *heriter*; see HERITAGE; for suffix see -ABLE.

hermaphrodite *n.* Probably about 1408 *hermofrodyte*, earlier *hermofrodita* (before 1387); borrowed from Medieval Latin *hermofroditus*, from Latin *hermaphroditus*, from Greek *Hermaphrōdītēs* Hermaphroditus, son of Hermes and Aphrodite (Venus), who was united with the body of a nymph, combining male and female characteristics.

The word was known in Old French *hermaphrodite* in the 1200's, but the Middle English spelling would indicate the original borrowing into English was from Medieval Latin.

hermetic *adj.* Before 1637 *hermetticke* pertaining to magic or alchemy, shortening of *hermetical* (1605, also in the sense of airtight, in hermetically sealed or closed); borrowed from new Latin *hermeticus* + English -al¹. *Hermeticus* is an adjective adapted from Greek *Hermēs*, god of science and arts, who was identified by the Neoplatonists, mystics, and alchemists with the Egyptian god Thoth, who supposedly invented the process of making a glass tube airtight by using a secret seal.

hermit *n.* 1196 *heremite* religious recluse; earlier in the place name *Bechermet* (about 1130); borrowed from Old French *heremite*, *hermite* (influenced by Medieval Latin *heremita*), from Late Latin *ermīta*, from Greek *erēmītēs*, literally, person of the desert, from *erēmīa* desert, solitude, from *erēmos* uninhabited. —**hermitage** *n.* About 1300 *ermitage*, and in the place name *Le Hermitage* (about 1280); borrowed from Old French *hermitage*, *ermitage*, from *heremite*, *hermite* hermit.

hernia *n.* About 1390 *hirnia*, borrowed from Latin *hernia* a rupture, related to *hīra* intestine. The spelling with *e*, after the Latin, was introduced in the 1600's.

hero *n.* 1555 *heroes*, pl., men of superhuman strength, courage, or ability; borrowed from Latin *hērōēs*, plural of *hērōs*, from Greek *hērōs* (plural *hērōēs*). The sense of the chief male character in a play, poem, motion picture, story, etc., is first recorded in 1697.

The earliest English forms were the plural *heroes* and the singular *heros*, corresponding to the Latin. A variant singular *heroe* was replaced by *hero* in the 1600's. —**heroic** *adj.* 1549, shortening of earlier *heroycus*, *adj.* (1410), borrowing of Latin *hērōicus*; and of earlier *heroical*, *adj.* (probably before 1425), borrowed from Latin *hērōicus*, from Greek *hērōikós*, from *hērōs*

hero; for suffix see -IC. —**heroine** *n.* Before 1659 *heroína* demi-goddess; borrowed through French *héroïne*, and directly from Latin *hērōína*, *hērōinē*, from Greek *hērōinē*, feminine of *hērōs* hero. —**heroism** *n.* 1717, borrowed from French *héroïsme*, from *hērōs* hero (from Latin *hērōs*); for suffix see -ISM.

heroin *n.* 1898, borrowed from German *Heroin*, a former trademark for this drug, registered in the 1890's by Friedrich Bayer and Company in Germany as a substitute for morphine. There is no evidence so far to indicate, as has been suggested, that the drug's name derives from Greek *hērōs* HERO, supposedly because of the euphoric feeling which the drug produces.

heron *n.* wading bird. 1353 *heron*; earlier *heyrun* (1302), *hayroun* (about 1300), and in the surname *Hayrun* (1124–30); borrowed from Old French *hairon*, *heron*, from Frankish (compare Old High German *heigaro*, *reigaro* heron, Middle High German *heiger*, *reiger*, modern German *Reiher*). The German forms correspond to Middle Dutch *reigher*, modern Dutch *reiger*, Old Icelandic *hegri*, and Old English *hrāgra*, a form which did not survive into Middle English. The two Old High German forms are dissimilated variants of **hreigaro*, from Proto-Germanic **Hraigrán-*.

herpes *n.* Before 1398 *herpes* skin disease; borrowing of Latin *herpēs* a spreading skin eruption, from Greek *hērpēs* the disease shingles (literally, a creeping), from *hērpein* to creep.

herpetology *n.* 1824, probably borrowed from French *herpétologie*, from Greek *herpetón* creeping thing, reptile, from *hērpein* to creep; see SERPENT; for suffix see -LOGY.

herring *n.* 1130 *hareng*; later *heryng* (before 1300); developed from Old English, *hēring*, Anglian about 700, *hāring* (West Saxon, about 1000); cognate with Old Frisian *hēring* herring, Old Saxon *hering*, Middle Low German *herink*, Middle Dutch *herinc* (modern Dutch *haring*), and Old High German *hāring*, *hering* (modern German *Hering*). The Etymology of this West Germanic word is uncertain. A possible explanation refers to the color and is thereby related to Old English *hār* gray, HOAR; another refers to the large schools of the fish and that from that the name is related to Old High German *heri* host, multitude. —**herringbone** *n.* 1652, the bone of a herring. —*adj.* 1659.

hesitate *v.* Probably before 1622, implied in *hesitating* slow, failing to act promptly; either a back formation from *hesitation*; or borrowed, perhaps by influence of French *hésiter*, from Latin *haesitātum*, past participle of *haesitare* stick fast, stammer in speech, be undecided, a frequentative form of *haerere* stick, cling; for suffix see -ATE¹. —**hesitant** *adj.* 1647, probably a back formation from earlier *hesitancy*. —**hesitancy** *n.* 1617, borrowed from Latin *haesitantia* action of stammering, from *haesitantem* (nominative *haesitāns*), present participle of *haesitare*; for suffix see -Y³. —**hesitation** *n.* Before 1400 *hesitacyoun*; borrowed from Old French *hesitation*, or directly from Latin *haesitātiōnem* (nominative *haesitātiō*), from *haesitare*; for suffix see -ATION.

hetero- a combining form meaning another, other, different, as in *heterosexual* = *of or having to do with different sexes*. Bor-

rowed from Greek *héteros* one or the other of two by assimilation from earlier *háteros*.

heterodox *adj.* 1637, 1650; earlier as a noun (1619); borrowed from Greek *heteródoxos* (*héteros* the other + *dóxa* opinion). —**heterodoxy** *n.* 1652, borrowed from Greek *heterodoxía* error of opinion, from *heteródoxos* heterodox.

heterogeneous *adj.* 1624, borrowed from Medieval Latin *heterogeneus*, from Greek *heterogēnēs* (*héteros* different + *gēnos* kind, gender, race, stock); for suffix see -OUS. *Heterogeneous* replaced earlier *heterogeneal* (1605), formed from English *heterogene* (1541, borrowed from Greek *heterogēnēs* of different kinds) + -al¹.

heuristic *adj.* 1821, borrowed as if from Greek **heuristikós* of or having to do with discovery (erroneous form of *heuretikós* inventive), apparently influenced by Greek *heuriskein* to find, discover. —*n.* 1860, from the adjective. The plural *heuristic* heuristic methods or their study is first recorded in 1959.

hew *v.* Probably before 1200 *hewen*, developed from Old English *hēawan* (before 900), earlier *geheawan* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *hawa*, *howa* to hew, Old Saxon *hauwan*, Middle Dutch *hauwen*, *houwen* (modern Dutch *houwen*), Old High German *houwan* (modern German *hauen*), Old Icelandic *hogga* (Swedish *hugga*, Norwegian *hogge*, Danish *hugge*); from Proto-Germanic **Hauwanan*.

The phrase *hew to hold fast to, stick to*, developed from *hew to the line* stick to a course (literally, cut evenly with an axe), first recorded in 1891.

hex *v.* 1830, American English, found in Pennsylvania German *hex* (in German *hexen* to hex, related to *Hexe* witch). —*n.* 1856 (a witch), 1909 (magic spell), American English, found in Pennsylvania German *hex* (in German *Hexe* witch).

hexa- (also *hex-* before vowels). a combining form meaning six, as in *hexagon* = figure having six angles. Borrowed from Greek *hexa-* combining form of *héx* six.

hexagon *n.* 1570, borrowed, perhaps through Middle French *hexagone*, from Greek *hexágōnon* (*héx* SIX + *gōniā* angle). —**hexagonal** *adj.* 1571, formed from *hexagon* + -al¹.

hexameter *adj.* 1546, borrowed probably through Middle French *hexamètre* and directly from Latin *hexameter*, and from Greek *hexámētros* (*héx* SIX + *mētron* meter). —*n.* 1579, probably from the adjective.

hey *interj.* Probably about 1200 *hei*, possibly an imitative formation.

heyday *n.* About 1590 *hayday* a state of exaltation or excitement; probably alteration of earlier (1526) *heyda*, an exclamation of playfulness, surprise, etc. (1526); apparently an extended form of Middle English *hei*, *hey*, *interj.* The sense of flush, stage of greatest vigor, etc., is first recorded in 1751.

hi *interj.* 1862, American English, originally used to attract attention (probably before 1500), variant of Middle English *hei* HEY.

hiatus *n.* 1563, borrowing of Latin *hiātus* (genitive *hiātūs*) gap, from *hiāre* to gape, stand open.

hibachi *n.* 1863, borrowing of Japanese *hibachi*, (literally, fire pot), a compound of *hi* fire, and *hachi* bowl or pot, with a shift from *h* to *b*, such as is in *Nippon*, *Nihon*.

hibernate *v.* Before 1802, probably a back formation from *hibernation*, possibly by influence of French *hiberner*, from Latin *hibernāre*; see HIBERNATION. —**hibernation** *n.* 1664, borrowed from Latin *hibernātiōnem* (nominative *hibernātiō*) the action of passing the winter, from *hibernāre* to winter; for suffix see -ATION.

hibiscus *n.* 1706, borrowed from Latin *hibiscum*, later *hibiscus* marshmallow (a plant), perhaps from Gaulish.

hiccup or **hiccough** *n.* 1580 *hiccup*, variant of earlier *hicket* (1540), and *hyckock* (1538), words considered imitative of the sound of hiccuping, and parallel with French *hoquet* hiccup, Walloon (French dialect) *hikete*, Middle Dutch *hick*, Danish *hikke*, and Swedish *hicka*, among others. The modern spelling *hiccup* is first recorded in 1788, *hiccough* in 1626, by mistaken association with the word *cough*. —*v.* 1580 *hiccup*, probably from the noun.

hick *n.* 1565, awkward, unsophisticated, provincial person, from *Hick*; earlier *Hikke* (1376); a former nickname of Richard.

hickory *n.* 1671, American English; borrowed from Algonquian (perhaps Powhatan), a shortening of *pockerchicory* (about 1618), *pohickery* (1653), and other similar words for a species of walnut.

hidden *adj.* Before 1547, from a late past participle of *hide*¹. The noun *hiddenesse* is first recorded about 1384.

hide¹ *v.* conceal. About 1121 *hiden*, developed from Old English *hȳdan* (before 899); cognate with Old Frisian *hēda* conceal, Middle Dutch and Middle Low German *hūden*, from Proto-Germanic **Hūdjanan*.

hide² *n.* skin. About 1150 *hide*, *hid* skin of an animal or human; found in Old English *hȳd* (891); cognate with Old Frisian *hēd* skin, Old Saxon *hūd*, Middle Dutch *huut* (modern Dutch *huid*), Old High German *hūt* (modern German *Haut*), and Old Icelandic *hūdh*, from Proto-Germanic **Hūdts*; related to Old English *hȳdan* to HIDE¹. —*v.* beat, thrash. 1757, from the noun. —**hide-and-seek** *n.* 1672, replacing earlier *All hid* (1588). —**hidebound** *adj.* 1559, of cattle having skin sticking closely to the back and ribs as a result of emaciation; later, of people, attitudes, etc., that are restricted or narrow (1603). —**hide-out** *n.* (1885, in American English)

hideous *adj.* About 1303 *hydus*, later *hidous* (before 1333); borrowed through Anglo-French *hidous*, from Old French *hideus*, *hidos*, (earlier) *hisdos*, from *hide*, *hise* horror or fear, perhaps from Germanic. The ending -eous is patterned on words such as *courteous*.

hie *v.* Probably before 1200 *hihin*, later *hien* (before 1250); developed from Old English *higian* strive, hasten (before 899), from Proto-Germanic **Hij-*.

hierarchy *n.* Probably about 1343 *ierarchi*, *ierarchie* ranked division of angels; borrowed from Old French *ierarchie*, *jerarchie*, learned borrowing from Medieval Latin *hierarchia*, from Greek *hierarchiā* rule of a high priest, from *hierarchēs* high priest, leader of sacred rites (*tā hierá* the sacred rites, neuter plural of *hierós* sacred + *árchein* to lead, rule).

The sense of ranked organization of persons or things, is first recorded in 1643, and seems to have also been associated semantically with *higher* to explain the sense of ranks. Initial *h* appeared before 1450 in imitation of the Latin. —**hierarchic** *adj.* 1681, back formation from *hierarchical*, formed from English *hierarchy* + *-ical*, possibly by influence of Old French *hierarchique* on the model of Medieval Latin *hierarchicus*.

hieratic *adj.* 1669, borrowed possibly from French *hiératique*, from Latin *hieraticus*, from Greek *hieratikós*, from *hieratēla* priesthood, from *hierasthai* be a priest, from *hierēus* priest, from *hierós* sacred; for suffix see -IC.

hieroglyphic *adj.* 1585, borrowed, perhaps through Middle French *hiéroglyphique*, from Late Latin *hieroglyphicus*, from Greek *hieroglyphikós* (*hierós* sacred + *glyphē* carving, from *glýphein* carve); for suffix see -IC. —**n.** 1596, probably from the adjective. —**hieroglyph** *n.* 1598, a shortened form of *hieroglyphic*, *n.*, possibly influenced by or, in some instances, borrowed from Middle French *hiéroglyphe* (1576).

higgledy-piggledy *adv.* *adj.* 1598 *higledi-pigledie* in confusion, probably formed in relation to *pig* and its various connotations of messy, disorganized, etc. and perhaps to the way pigs huddle when herded.

high *adj.* About 1303 *hygh*, later *high* (before 1325), and *heigh* (about 1375); developed from Old English, in Anglian *hēh* of great height, lofty, tall (about 825), in West Saxon *hēah*; cognate with Old Frisian *hāch* high, tall, Old Saxon *hōh*, Middle Dutch *hooch* (modern Dutch *hoog*), Old High German *hōh* (modern German *hoch*), Old Icelandic *hār* (Swedish *hög*, Norwegian *høy*, *hog*, and Danish *høi*), and Gothic *hauhs*; from Proto-Germanic **HauHaz*.

The Middle English forms reflect the change of the Old English vowel to so-called long *i*, similar to *die* and *eye*. In the mid to late 1300's the final guttural sound, represented by *gh*, was dying away, though the spelling with *-gh* remained.

The biological meaning, as in *the higher plants*, *the higher apes*, is first recorded in 1848. The meaning of euphoric or exhilarated from the use of alcohol or a narcotic drug is found in 1932. —**adv.** About 1303, developed from Old English (about 1000) *hēage*; from *hēah*, *hēh*, *adj.* —**n.** Before 1325 *high* high point, top, developed from Old English *hēh*, *hēah*, *adj.* Various meanings developed in American English: area of high barometric pressure (1878); highest point, price, temperature, etc., record (1926); state of euphoria induced by a narcotic drug (1953). —**highland** *n.* Before 1000, Old English *hēoh-lond*. —**highly** *adv.* About 900, Old English *hēalīce*. —**highness** *n.* Before 899, Old English *hēanes*. —**high school** Before 1475, school for advanced learning, possibly in reference to the type of school founded in Edinburgh (1519) to teach the higher branches of school learning, and expanded in the mid-1800's to general public education in Scotland.

—**high sea** (about 1380) —**high tide** Before 1000, Old English *hēahtide*. —**high time** (about 1390) —**highway** *n.* (probably before 1200)

hijack *v.* 1923, American English, to rob (a bootlegger, smuggler, etc.) in transit; apparently a back formation and alteration of *highjacker* (also 1923), perhaps from *high(way)* + *jacker* one who holds up. In the 1960's usage extended *hijack* to mean "seize an aircraft in flight for blackmail, escape, etc." (also found in *skyjack* 1968); in the 1970's extended further to mean "take over any form of public transportation."

hike *v.* 1809, English dialect *hyke*, *heik* to walk vigorously; of uncertain origin. The sense of pull up (as in *hike up one's pants*), is first recorded about 1873 in American English, and the extended sense of raise (wages, prices, etc.) in 1904. —**n.** 1865 *heik* a walk; from the verb. The meaning of a raise in wages, prices, etc., is first found in 1931; from the verb. —**hiker** *n.* (1913)

hilarity *n.* Probably 1440 *hillarite*, borrowed through Middle French *hilarité*, or directly from Latin *hilaritās* (genitive *hilaritātis*) cheerfulness, gaiety, from *hilaris*, *hilarus* cheerful, gay, from Greek *hilarós*, related to *hilaos* gracious, kindly; for suffix see -ITY. —**hilarious** *adj.* 1823, formed in from Latin *hilaris* cheerful, gay + English suffix *-ous*.

hill *n.* Probably about 1175 *hulle*, in dialect of Southwest and Midland England; later *hil* (probably about 1200); found in Old English *hyll* (about 1000), from Proto-Germanic **Hulnīs*; cognate with Old Frisian *holla* head, Frisian *hel* hill, Middle Dutch *hille*, Low German *hull* hill, and Old Saxon *holm*, Old Icelandic *holmr* island (Danish *holm* and Swedish *holme* islet).

—**hillock** *n.* Before 1382 *hilloc* small hill; earlier, as a surname *Hilloc* (1205); formed from English *hill* + *-oc*, diminutive suffix. —**hillside** *n.* (before 1387) —**hilltop** *n.* (1408)

hilt *n.* Old English *hilt* (about 725, in *Beowulf*), from Proto-Germanic **Heltiz*; cognate with Old Saxon *hilta* hilt, *helta* handle of an oar, Middle Dutch *helt*, *hilt*, Middle Low German *hilde*, Old High German *helza*, Middle High German *helze*, and Old Icelandic *hjaltr*.

him *pron.* Old English *him*, dative of *hē* HE (before 855); cognate with Gothic *himma* this (dative). *Him* originally was the dative masculine and neuter of *hē*, and *hine* was the masculine accusative form of *hē*. During the 1100's to the 1300's *him* replaced the accusative *hine* but the neuter dative was retained as *hit*, *it*.

hind¹ *adj.* back, rear. 1454 *hynde*; earlier in the compound *hindeward* (probably before 1300); a shortened form of Middle English *bihenden* (probably about 1175); developed from Old English *behindan*, *adv.* and *prep.*, back, behind (about 725); and possibly also influenced by Old English *hinder*, *adv.*, back, rear. These forms are probably cognate with Old High German *hintana*, *adv.*, *hintar*, *prep.*, *hintaro*, *adj.*, hind, behind (modern German *hinten*, *hinten*, *hintere*), Old Frisian *hindera* behind, Old Icelandic *hindri* later, farther, *hinztr* latest, last, and Gothic *hindana*, *adv.*, *hindar*, *prep.*, behind, beyond.

hind² *n.* female deer. Old English (before 970) *hind*; cognate

with Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *hinde* hind, Old High German *hinta* (modern German *Hinde*), and Old Icelandic *hind*, from Proto-Germanic **Hindō*.

hinder¹ *v.* impede. About 1385 *hyndre* to impede, keep back, prevent; earlier *hindren* to cause harm or injury (probably before 1200); developed from Old English (about 1000) *hindrian*; cognate with Middle Low German, Middle Dutch, and modern Dutch *hinderen* to hinder, and Old High German *hintarōn* (modern German *hindern*), from Proto-Germanic **Hindērōjanan*.

hinder² *adj.* rear. About 1300 *hindore*, probably from Old English *hinder*, *adv.*, possibly the comparative of *HIND*¹ back. —**hindermost** *adj.* 1398 *hyndermest*.

hindrance *n.* 1436 *hinderaunce*; formed from *hindren*, *hindre* HINDER + *-aunce* -*ance*.

hinge *n.* 1356 *heyngge* joint on which a door or gate moves; later *henge* (about 1380); cognate with Middle Dutch *henghe*, *henghene* hook, handle, and Middle Low German *henge* hinge; related to *HANG*. —*v.* 1607 *hinge* to bend; later, to hang with a hinge (1758–65); from the noun. The sense of turn on, depend, is first recorded in 1719.

The spelling change from *e* to *i* is a regular shift before *ng*; the pronunciation, as if *-dg-* in *edge*, is a development found in the ending *-ge* as in *singe*.

hint *n.* 1604 *hint* a slight sign or indication; an occasion, opportunity, probably developed from *hinten* to tell, inform (before 1400); earlier, *henten* to catch (probably before 1200); developed from Old English (before 1000) *hentan* to seize, from Proto-Germanic **Hantijanan*. —*v.* give a hint. 1648; from the noun.

hinterland *n.* 1890, borrowed from German *Hinterland* (*hinter* behind + *Land* land).

hip¹ *n.* joint. 1369 *hippe*, earlier in *hipes-banes* hipbones (about 1150); developed from Old English (before 800) *hype*, from Proto-Germanic **Hupiz*; cognate with Middle Dutch *hōpe*, *hēpe* hip (modern Dutch *heup*), Old High German *huf* (modern German *Hüfte*), and Gothic *hups*.

hip² *n.* seed pod. About 1415 *hipe*, earlier *hepe* (probably before 1300); developed from Old English (about 800) *hēope*, *hīope*. Old English *hēope* derived from the same root as Old Saxon *hiopo* bramble, thornbush, Old High German *hīafo*, *hiufa*, *hiefa*, Middle High German *hiefe*, and Dutch *joep* hip, Norwegian *hjupe*, Danish *hyben*, from Proto-Germanic **Hiup-*. The irregular shift from the so-called long *e* to modern English short *i* is possibly the result of change in stress in the numerous compounds of this word from Old and Middle English, like *hip-bramble*, *hip-tree*.

hippie *n.* About 1965, American English, extended use of earlier *hippie* (1953), a disparaging term for a *hipster* (1941), person who is hip or keenly aware of what is new or stylish; *hip* up-to-date (1904) + *-ie*.

hippodrome *n.* oval track for races. 1585, borrowed from

French *hippodrome*, and directly from Latin *hippodromos* race course, from Greek *hippódromos* (*hippos* horse + *drómos* course).

hippopotamus *n.* 1563 *hippopotame*; later *hippopotamus* (1600), replacing earlier *ypotame* (probably before 1300); borrowed from Late Latin *hippopotamus*, from Greek *hippopótamos* riverhorse, an irregular compound of *hippos* horse + *potámōs* river. The earlier forms *ypotame*, *ypotamus* were borrowed into English through Old French *ypotame*, from Medieval Latin *ypotamus*, an alteration of Latin *hippopotamus*.

hire *v.* Probably before 1300 *hiren*, earlier *huren* (probably before 1200); developed from Old English (about 1000) *hýrian* pay for service, employ for wages, engage, probably from Old English *hýr*, *n.*, hire; cognate with Old Frisian *hēra* to hire, rent, Middle Low German *hüren* (modern German *heuern* hire, engage), and Middle Dutch *hūren* (modern Dutch *huren*).

—*n.* Probably about 1250 *hire*, earlier *hure* (probably before 1200); developed from Old English (about 1000) *hýr* payment for service, wages; cognate with Old Frisian *hēre* lease, rent, wages, Old Saxon *hūra*, Middle Low German *hūre* (modern Low German *hüre* and German *Heuer* wages, pay, hire), and Middle Dutch *hūre* (modern Dutch *huur*); probably represented in Proto-Germanic **Hūrja-*. —**hired man** About 1175, found in Old English *hired-man*, originally a household servant, from *hired* household; later associated with the past participle of *hire* employ for wages. —**hireling** *n.* 1459 *hirlyng*; found in Old English *hyrlyng* (about 1000); from *hýr* + *-ling*¹.

hirsute *adj.* hairy. 1621, borrowed from Latin *hirsūtus* rough, shaggy, originally, having bristles, formed from a lost noun **hirsus* bristle, related to *hirtus* shaggy, and possibly to *horrere* to bristle with fear.

his *pron., adj.* Old English (before 725) *his*, genitive of *hē* HE, from Proto-Germanic **Hisa*.

Hispanic *adj.* 1889, American English; probably shortened from earlier *Hispanical* of Spain or its people (1584, formed in English from Latin *Hispānicus* Spanish, from *Hispānia* Spain + English suffix *-ical*). —*n.* 1972, American English; from the adjective.

Hispano- a combining form meaning Spanish, as in *Hispano-American*. Borrowed from Spanish *Hispano* Spanish, from Latin *Hispānus*.

hiss *v.* About 1382 *hissen*, implied in *hissyng*; of imitative origin. —*n.* 1513, from the verb.

histo- (also *hist-* before vowels). a combining form meaning tissue, as in *histology* = study of tissue. Borrowed from Greek *histo-* combining form of *histós* loom, web, originally a STAND, formed from *histasthai* to take a stand.

histology *n.* 1847, borrowed from French *histologie*, from Greek *histós* web, formed from *histasthai* to STAND; for suffix see *-LOGY*.

history *n.* Before 1393 *histoire* story, legend, biography; borrowed from Old French *histoire*, *estoire*, *estorie*; and borrowed

from Latin *historia* narrative, account, tale, story, from Greek *historiā* a learning or knowing by inquiry, history, record, narrative, from *historeîn* inquire, from *histōr* wise man, judge; related to *ideîn* to see, *eidēnai* to know; for suffix see -Y³. The meaning of a record of past events is probably first recorded about 1451, and the spelling *historie* (about 1425). —**historian** n. Probably before 1439, borrowed from Middle French *historien*, from Latin *historia*; for suffix see -IAN, -AN. —**historic** adj. 1669, probably a back formation from *historical*, possibly influenced by French *historique*. —**historical** adj. Probably before 1425 *historicalle*, formed in English from Latin *historicus*, Greek *historikós* + English suffix -al¹ or -ical.

histrionic adj. 1648 *histrionick* theatrical, deceitful; either formed from English *histrion* actor (about 1566) + -ic, or borrowed from Late Latin *histrionicus*, from Latin *histrīō* (genitive *histrīōnis*) actor, for suffix see -IC. —**n. histrionics** pl. theatrics, pretense. 1864, from *histrionic*.

hit v. Probably before 1200 *hitten* to strike, knock; developed from Late Old English (before 1075) *hyttan* come upon, meet with; borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *hit* to light upon, meet with, Swedish *hit* to find, Norwegian and Danish *hitte* to hit, find), from Proto-Germanic **Hitjanan*. —**n.** 1598, a blow, stroke; found earlier in the figurative sense of a rebuke (before 1475); from the verb. The meaning of a success, especially in reference to a play, song, person, etc., is first recorded in 1811.

hitch v. 1440 *hytchen* move with a jerk; earlier *hetchyn* (before 1400), probably developed from *ichen* to move, stir (about 1200); uncertain, especially because of a notable lack of cognates in related languages. The meaning of become fastened by a hook, is first recorded in 1578, and that of get a free ride, 1931. —**n.** 1664, a limp or hobble; 1674, abrupt movement; from the verb. The meaning of obstruction is first recorded in 1748. —**hitchhike** v. 1923, from *hitch*, v., n., the hitching of a sled to a moving vehicle, 1880 + *hike*, v.

hither adv. Before 1382 *hyther*, earlier *hider* (1100); found in Old English *hider* (about 725); from Proto-Germanic **Hideran*; cognate with Old Icelandic *hedhra* here or hither, and Gothic *hidrē*. The phrase *hither and thither* is recorded in Old English (about 725). The change of spelling from *d* to *th*, is parallel to that in *FATHER*. —**hitherto** adv. Before 1382 *hytherto*, earlier *hiderto* (probably before 1200; formed from *hider*, + *to*).

hive n. 1127 *hive*, developed from Old English *hȳf* (about 725), from Proto-Germanic **Hūfiz*; probably cognate with Old Icelandic *húfr* ship's hull. —**v.** Before 1400; from the noun.

hives n. About 1500 *hyvis*, itchy condition of the skin; of uncertain origin.

hoagie n. 1945, American English, large sandwich made from a long roll split in half; hero sandwich; originally known in Philadelphia, alteration of earlier *hoggie*, *hoggy* (about 1936); from *hog* + -ie, -y, diminutive suffix; of uncertain origin.

hoard n. About 1125 *hord* things saved and stored; developed from Old English *hord* valuable stock or store (about 725, in

Beowulf); cognate with Old Saxon *hord* treasure, hidden or inmost place, Old High German *hort* (modern German *Hort*), Old Icelandic *hodd*, and Gothic *huzd*, from Proto-Germanic **Huzdan*. —**v.** Probably about 1200 *horden* to save and store away; developed from Old English (about 1000) *hordian*; from *hord*, n.

hoarse adj. sounding rough and deep. 1369 *hors*; earlier *hos* (about 1250), developed from Old English (about 1000) *hās*; cognate with Old Frisian *hās*, Old Saxon and Middle Low German *hēs*, modern Dutch *heesch*, Old High German *heis*, from Proto-Germanic **Haisa-*, coexisting, with Proto-Germanic **Haisra-*, which in metathesized **Hairsa-*, produced Middle English *hors*.

hoary adj. 1530 *hoory*, formed from English *hoar*, adj., gray with age; grayish-white + -y¹. Probably before 1300 *hōre*; developed from Old English *hār* gray, venerable, old (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Saxon and Old High German *hēr* old (modern German *hehr* august, stately), and Old Icelandic *hār* gray, from Proto-Germanic **Hairaz*. —**hoarfrost** n. (about 1300 *hore-forst*)

hoax v. 1796, probably an alteration of *hocus* conjurer, juggler (1640), or *hocus* to hoax (1675), a phonetic shortening of *hocus-pocus*. —**n.** 1808; from the verb.

hob n. 1674 *hob* shelf at the back or side of a fireplace; alteration of earlier *hub* (1600), *hubbe* (1511); of unknown origin. The meaning of rounded peg or pin, as in *hobnail*, is first recorded in 1589; it may also be a different word.

hobble v. Probably before 1300 *hoblen* to rock in a boat, to bob; later *hobelen* to limp (before 1376); probably cognate with Dutch *hobbelen* to rock back and forth, toss up and down. The transitive meaning of tie the legs of an animal is first recorded in 1831, probably an alteration of earlier *hopple* (1586), and probably cognate with Flemish *hoppelen* to rock, jump, related to Dutch *hobbelen*. The sense of hamper, hinder, is first recorded in 1870. —**n.** 1727, from the verb. The meaning of something that hobbles, a fetter (*hobbles*, pl.), is first recorded in 1831, probably an alteration of earlier *hopple* (before 1825); from the verb.

hobby n. Before 1420 *hoby* small horse, pony; earlier *hobyn* (1298); of uncertain origin. *Hobby horse* a toy or mock horse is first recorded in 1557, and the transferred sense of favorite pastime or avocation, in 1676.

hobgoblin n. 1530 *hobgoblyng*, a compound of *hob* elf (about 1460, from *hobbe*, 1307, and the surname *Hobbe*, 1230; a variant of *Rob* for *Robin* in reference to *Robin Goodfellow*, elf in Germanic folklore) + *goblin*.

hobnob v. 1831, extended sense of earlier *hob-nob* drink together (1828), and in the adverb phrase, *hob and nob* to toast each other by turns (1756). The phrase *hob nob* give or take, is found in 1601, and developed from *hab nab*, have or have not (about 1550).

hobo n. 1889, American English, of uncertain origin. Compare dialectal English *haubuck* clumsy fellow, lout, country

bumpkin (1805) and *hawbaw* (1857), which may be forerunners of *hobo*.

hock¹ *n.* joint. About 1410 *hokke*; earlier in the compound *hokschyne* ankle or back of the knee (probably about 1395), apparently altered from Old English *hōh-sinu* Achilles' tendon, and possibly a variant of *houghe* (about 1350), *ho* (about 1300); developed from Old English *hōh* heel, from Proto-Germanic **HanHa-*. Old English *hōh-sinu* is cognate with Old Frisian *hōsene*, Achilles' tendon, Old Icelandic *hāsin*, and Old High German *hahsa* hock.

hock² *n.* wine. Before 1625, shortened form of *Hockamore* (1673), alteration of German *Hochheimer*, from *Hochheim*, town in Germany, where this wine is made.

hock³ *n.* pawn, debt. 1859, American English, in *hock* in pawn, in debt; possibly borrowed from Dutch *hok* jail, pen, doghouse. —*v.* 1878, American English, to pawn; from the noun.

hockey *n.* 1527, of uncertain origin (perhaps originally connected with Middle French *hoquet* shepherd's staff, crook, diminutive of Old French *hoc* hook).

hocus-pocus *n.* 1632, earlier *Hocas Pocas*, name of any magician or juggler (1624); perhaps originally sham Latin used by magicians in performing their tricks; very likely a perversion of the phrase from the Mass *Hoc est corpus meum* This is my body. The extended meaning of trickery or deception is first recorded in 1774.

hod *n.* 1573, perhaps an alteration (influenced by Middle Dutch *hodde* basket) of Middle English *hot*, *hott* pannier, (before 1300); basket, borrowed from Old French *hotte*, apparently from Frankish (compare dialectal German *Hotte* basket, Middle High German *hotze* cradle).

hodgepodge *n.* About 1390 *hochepot* disorderly mixture or jumble; earlier kind of stew, haphazard mixture (1381) and as a legal term in Anglo-French meaning the collecting of property in a common pot (about 1290); borrowing of Old French *hochepot* stew or soup *hocher* to shake, from Germanic; compare Middle High German *hotzen* shake + *pot* pot, also from Germanic; (compare Middle Low German *pot*).

hoe *n.* 1375 *howis* tool used to loosen soil and cut weeds; earlier *houwe* a mattock or pickax (1363); borrowed from Old French *houe*, from Frankish (compare Old High German *houwa* hoe, modern German *Hau*; related to *houwan* to HEW). —*v.* 1450 *houwen*, probably from the noun, though perhaps in some instances borrowed from Middle French *houer*, from *houe*, *n.*

hog *n.* Probably before 1300 *hog*, earlier, in the surname *Hog* (1174–80); found in Late Old English *hogg* young pig, also applied to young sheep and horses after passing their first year. It is doubtful that the word came from Celtic. The sense of a gluttonous, coarse, self-indulgent person, is first recorded about 1400. —*v.* 1884, from the noun.

hogan *n.* dwelling used by the Navaho Indians. 1871, Ameri-

can English; borrowed from Athapaskan (Navaho) *hōghan* dwelling, house.

hoi polloi the masses. 1837 *oi polloi*, borrowed from Greek *hoi polloi*, pl., the many (people). Dryden used the phrase in 1668 but wrote the words in Greek, as did Byron in 1821–22; both, curiously preceded the phrase with *the*, though *hoi* means *the*, and both writers had some familiarity with Greek.

hoist *v.* 1548 *hoihst*, alteration of earlier *hoise* (1509), perhaps a variant of Middle English *hyss*, a nautical term (1490), probably borrowed from Middle Dutch *hyssen* to hoist, related to Low German *hissen*, and Old Icelandic *hissa upp* raise. —*n.* 1654 *hoyst*; from the verb.

hoity-toity *adj.* 1690 *hoightly toightly* frolicsome, flighty; possibly an alteration and reduplication of earlier dialectal *hoiting* acting the hoyden, romping (1594); perhaps a further alteration of, or related to, HOYDEN. An earlier noun use is recorded in 1668. The sense of haughty is recorded in the late 1800's.

hokum *n.* 1917, originally theatrical slang, probably formed after *bunkum*, possibly by influence of *hocus-pocus*. —**hoke** *v.* Often, **hoke up**. 1935, originally theatrical slang with the meaning of make melodramatic by exaggerated acting; probably a shortened form of HOKUM. —**hokey** *adj.* 1945, formed from *hoke* + *-y*¹.

hol- a form of *holo-* before vowels, as in *holistic*.

hold¹ *v.* take and keep. Probably about 1175 *holden*; developed from Old English, in Anglian *haldan* (before 855), and in West Saxon *healdan*; cognate with Old Frisian *halda* to hold, Old Saxon *haldan*, Middle Low German *halden* (modern Dutch *houden*), Old High German *haltan* (modern German *halten*), Old Icelandic *halda*, and Gothic *haldan* to keep, tend, watch over (cattle), which is considered to be the original sense in the Germanic languages, later developing the sense of "have," from Proto-Germanic **Haldanan*.

The Old English past tense *heold* yielded *held*, while the Middle English and early modern English past participle *holden* gave way to the new form in the 1500's. —*n.* About 1330 *hold*; earlier *hald* (before 1325), and *hold* a place of refuge, haven (probably before 1200); developed from Old English (1042) *hald*, *heald* that which holds or is held, from the verbs. —**holdup** *n.* 1 a stoppage. 1837, in American English. 2 the act of stopping by force and robbing. 1878, in American English.

hold² *n.* space for cargo below the deck of a ship. 1591 *hold*, alteration of earlier *hole* (1440, by influence of *hold*¹, *n.* and *holl*, 1333–52), both with the meaning of hold of a ship, and developed in part from Old English *hol* HOLE. Middle English *holl* hold of a ship, was probably also influenced by Middle Dutch *hol* hold of a ship, and probably replaced, by differentiation of meaning, earlier Middle English *hul*, which had meant both the hold and the hull of a ship (before 1400), developed from Old English *hulu* shell, husk.

hole *n.* Probably before 1200 *hole*, developed from Old English (about 700) *hol* hole, hollow place; cognate with Old

Frisian and Old Saxon *hol* hollow, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *hol*, Old High German *hol* (modern German *hohl*), and Old Icelandic *holr*, from Proto-Germanic **Hulaz*. —**v.** Probably before 1300 *hollen*, earlier *holien* (probably before 1200); developed from Old English (about 1000) *holian*, from *hol*, *n.*

-holic variant form of -AHOLIC, as in *carboholic* (carbohydrate + *-holic*), *chocoholic* (chocolate + *-holic*), *colaholic*, etc.

holiday *n.* 1500's *holiday*, replacing earlier *haliday* (recorded probably before 1200); developed from Old English *hāligdæg* (about 950, a compound of *hālig* HOLY + *dæg* DAY).

Old English had a concurrent open compound *hālig dæg*, found later in Middle English *holý day* which became modern English *holiday*, meaning both a religious festival and a day of recreation. This eventually replaced the earlier form *haliday* leaving two forms *holiday* and *holý day*.

holiness *n.* Probably before 1200 *holinesse*, variant (influenced by *holi* holy) of *halinesse* (also probably before 1200); developed from Old English *hālignis* (before 830), from *hālig* HOLY + *-nes* -ness.

holistic *adj.* 1926, from *holism* theory that in nature produces whole organisms from small units; on the analogy of such pairs of words as *optimism*, *optimistic*. The terms *holism* and *holistic* were coined from Greek *hólos* whole + English suffix *-ism*.

holler *v.* 1699, American English, variant spelling and pronunciation of *hollo* (1542), from or related to the earlier *holla*, interj. (1523); see HELLO. —**n.** 1896, American English, from earlier dialectal English *hollar* (1825), *holler* (1886) a cry to attract attention, variant of *holla* (1592), from *holla*, interj.

hollow *adj.* About 1330 *holwe*; earlier *holeh* (before 1300); developed from the Old English noun *holh* hollow place, hole, obscurely related to *hol* HOLE. Adjective use in Middle English of the Old English noun developed through influence of Old English *hol* hollow, *adj.*; see HOLE. —**n.** About 1550; also, low land, valley, basin (1553); from the adjective in modern English, but found in Old English (about 897) *holh*. The noun is not recorded in Middle English. —**v.** Before 1400 *holowen*, from the adjective. The spelling *hollow* begins to appear in Middle English in the late 1300's in early forms *holoug*, *holowe*, *holowh*.

holly *n.* 1440 *holý*, earlier *holin* (before 1200); developed from Old English *Holegn* (about 958, in the place name), *hollen* (about 1000); cognate with Old Saxon *hulis* holly, Middle Dutch *huls*, Dutch *hulst*, Old High German *huls* (modern German *Hulst*), from Proto-Germanic **Huli-*.

hollyhock *n.* Before 1300 *holihoc* (*holi* HOLY + *hokke* mallow, Old English *hoca*, before 800).

holmium *n.* 1879, New Latin, from (*Stock*)*holm*, Sweden, where it was first found + *-ium* (suffix of chemical elements).

holo- a combining form meaning whole, entire, totally, as in *holocaust*, *hologram*. Borrowed through French and Latin, from Greek *holo-* combining form of *hólos* whole, entire, complete.

holocaust *n.* 1671 *holocaust* massacre or destruction; earlier,

burnt offering or sacrifice (about 1250); borrowed, through Old French *holocauste*, from Latin *holocaustum*, from Greek *holókauston*, neuter of *holókaustos* burned whole (*hólos* whole + *kaustós*, verbal adjective of *kaiein* to burn). The phrase *the Holocaust*, the Nazi destruction of European Jewry in World War II, is first recorded in 1965.

hologram *n.* 1949, formed from Greek *hólos* whole (three-dimensional) + English combining form *-gram*. —**holography** *n.* 1964, from *hologram*, on the analogy of *telegraphy*, *telegram*, etc.

holograph *n.* 1623, borrowed from Late Latin *holographus* written wholly in one's own hand, from Greek *hológraphos* (*hólos* whole + *-graphos* written).

holster *n.* 1663, possibly found in *hulster* place of concealment, retreat (1310); developed from Old English *heolster*, earlier *helustr* concealment, hiding place; compare later Dutch *holster* or Swedish *hölster*, Danish and Norwegian *hylster* case, sheath; cognate with Icelandic *hulstr* sheath, Middle High German *hulst* cover, Old High German *hulsa* pod or hull (modern German *Hülse* pod), from Proto-Germanic **Helus-*, **Hulis-*.

holy *adj.* Probably before 1200 *holi*, *hali*; developed from Old English (about 725) *hālig* holy; cognate with Old Frisian *hēlich* holy, Old Saxon *hēlag*, Middle Dutch *hēlich* (modern Dutch *heilig*), Old High German *heilag* (modern German *heilig*), Old Icelandic *heilagr*, and Gothic *hailags*, from Proto-Germanic **Hailazás*. The primary meaning may have been "that must be preserved whole or intact, that cannot be transgressed or violated," which would support its relationship to Old English *hāl* whole; see WHOLE.

hom- a form of *homo-* before vowels, as in *homorganic* = produced by the same vocal organ.

homage *n.* Probably before 1300 *homage* allegiance or respect for one's feudal lord; earlier, a body of vassals owing allegiance (probably about 1225); borrowed from Old French *homage*, probably formed in Old French from *homme*, earlier *omne*, + Old French *-age*; for suffix see -AGE. The often-quoted source of Old French *homage* is Medieval Latin *hominaticum* state of being a vassal, the Medieval Latin form was probably borrowed from Old French.

home *n.* Probably before 1200 *hom* dwelling, house, village; developed from Old English (about 725) *hām* dwelling, house, estate or village; cognate with Old Frisian *hām* home or village, Old Saxon *hēm*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *heem* home, Old High German *heim* (modern German *Heim*), Old Icelandic *heimr* residence, world (Swedish *hem*, Norwegian *heim*, and Danish *hjem*), and Gothic *haims* village, from Proto-Germanic **Haim-*. —**adv.** Probably about 1225 *hom*; earlier *ham* (1100); developed from Old English *hām*, accusative form of *hām*, *n.* —**adj.** 1552; from the noun. —**v.** 1765, go home; from the noun. —**homecoming** *n.* (about 1385) —**home-made** *adj.* (before 1659) —**homestead** *n.* 972, Old English *hamstede*. —**v.** 1872, American English. —**homeward** *adj.* About 1250 *homward*, from Old English *hām weard* (855). —**adv.** (before 1200).

homely *adj.* Probably about 1378 *homely* of or belonging to home or household, domestic; earlier implied in *hamlynness* (before 1340); from *hom* home + *-li* *-ly*². The meaning of plain, unadorned, simple (about 1380) probably developed from association of home with plain practices of everyday living. Extension of this meaning to that of having a plain, or commonplace, appearance, evolved before 1400.

homeopathy *n.* 1826, borrowed from German *Homöopathie*, in Late Latin *homoeopathia*, from Greek *homoioπάθεια*, formed from *hómoios* like + *-pátheia* effect, from *páthos* suffering.

homicide¹ *n.* killing. About 1230, borrowed from Old French *homicide*, learned borrowing from Latin *homicidium* (*homō* man + *-cidium* act of killing).

homicide² *n.* person who kills. About 1375 *homycide*, borrowed from Old French *homicide*, learned borrowing from Latin *homicida* (*homō* man + *-cida* killer).

homiletic *adj.* 1644 *homilitick*; of or having to do with sermons or the art of preaching; borrowed from Late Latin *homilēticus*, from Greek *homilētikós* of conversation, affable, from *homilēin* associate with, from *hómilos* a crowd. —**n.** Also, **homiletics**. 1830; from the adjective.

homily *n.* Before 1387 *omelye*, borrowed from Old French *omēlie*, learned borrowing from Late Latin *homilia* a homily, sermon, from Greek *homilía* conversation, discourse (in New Testament Greek, a homily, sermon), from *hómilos* a crowd; for suffix see *-y*³. The spelling with *h* appeared in English in the 1500's through the influence of Late Latin.

hominid *n.* 1889, borrowed from New Latin *Hominidae* the family name, from Latin *homō* (genitive *hominis*) man; for suffix see *-id*¹. —**adj.** 1916, from the noun.

hominy *n.* 1629, American English, probably abstracted from *rockahominy*, borrowed from Algonquian (Powhatan) *rokēhāmēn* parched corn.

homo- a combining form meaning same, as in *homonym*, *homosexual*. Borrowed from Greek *homo-*, combining form of *homós* SAME.

homogeneous *adj.* 1641, borrowed from Medieval Latin *homogeneus*, from Greek *homogenēs* of the same kind (*homós* + *génos* kind, gender, race, stock); for suffix see *-ous*. *Homogeneous* gradually replaced earlier *homogeneal* (1603), formed from *homogene* (1607, borrowed perhaps through Middle French *homogène*, from Greek *homogenēs*) + *-al*¹. —**homogeneity** *n.* 1625, probably formed from English *homogene* + *-ity*. —**homogenize** *v.* 1886, make similar; formed from English *homogeneous* + *-ize*. The meaning of render (milk) uniform in consistency appeared in 1904.

homograph *n.* 1810, method of signaling; later, word having the same spelling as another, but a different origin and meaning (1873); probably formed from English *homo-* + *-graph*, modeled on Greek or borrowed from French *homographe*, from Greek *homógraphos* (*homós* + *graphḗ* writing, from *gráphein* write).

homologous *adj.* 1660, corresponding in position, value, etc.; borrowed, possibly by influence of French *homologue*, from Greek *homólogos* (*homós* + *lógos* relation, reasoning, computation, related to *légein* reckon, select, speak); for suffix see *-ous*.

homonym *n.* 1697, word having the same pronunciation as another, but a different meaning; borrowed perhaps through French *homonyme*, and directly from Latin *homonymum*, from Greek *homónymon*, from neuter of *homónymos* having the same name (*homós* + *ónyma*, dialectal form of *ónoma* NAME).

homophone *n.* 1843, letter or symbol representing the same sound as another, probably formed from English *homo-* + *-phone*, modeled on Greek or borrowed from French *homophone*, from Greek *homóphōnon*, from neuter of *homóphōnos* having the same sound (*homós* same + *phōnḗ* sound). —**homophony** *n.* 1776, borrowed, perhaps by influence of French *homophonie*, from Greek *homophōnía* unison, from *homóphōnos*; for suffix see *-y*³.

homopterous *adj.* 1826, borrowed from Greek *homópteros* (*homós* same + *pterón* wing).

Homo sapiens man, human being. 1802, New Latin, from Latin *homō sapiēns*, literally, man or human being having wisdom (*homō* man, and *sapiēns*, present participle of *sapere* be wise).

homosexual *adj.* 1892, formed from English *homo-* + *sexual*. —**n.** 1912, from the adjective, possibly by influence of earlier noun use in French (1907).

homunculus *n.* 1656, borrowed from Latin *homunculus*, diminutive of *homō* (genitive *hominis*) man or human being + diminutive ending *-culus*, source of English *-cle*.

honcho *n.* 1955, American English, officer in charge, originally U.S. Army use in Japan and Korea (1947–53); borrowed from Japanese *hanchō* group leader (*han* corps, squad + *chō* head, chief).

hone *n.* 1440 *hoone* whetstone; earlier, in the place name *Sutton atte hone* in reference to a stone used as a boundary marker (1240); developed from Old English (939) *hān* stone or rock; cognate with Old Icelandic *hein* whetstone (Danish *hen*), from Proto-Germanic **Hainō*. —**v.** sharpen. 1826 (implied in *honer*), from the noun.

honest *adj.* Probably before 1300 *honest* respectable or honorable; borrowed from Old French *honeste*, learned borrowing from Latin *honestus* honorable, respected, from *honōs* HONOR. The meaning of truthful, fair, is first recorded before 1325. —**honesty** *n.* Before 1338 *honeste* honor; later, honorable character or behavior (about 1386); borrowed from Old French *honesté*, from Latin *honestātem* (nominative *honestās*) honor or honesty, shortened form of earlier **honestitās*, from *honestus*.

honey *n.* Probably about 1200 *honi*; earlier *huni* (about 1150); developed from Old English *hunig* (before 830); earlier in *hunisige* honeysuckle (about 700); cognate with Old Frisian

hunig honey, Old Saxon *honey*, Middle Dutch *honich* (modern Dutch *honig*), Middle Low German *honnich*, Low German *honnig*, Old High German *honag* (modern German *Honig*), and Old Icelandic *hunang* (Swedish *honung*, Danish and Norwegian *honning*), from Proto-Germanic **Hunazǵ-*. —**v.** sweeten with or as with honey. Probably about 1350, implied in the past participle *honied*; from the noun. —**honeycomb** *n.* Before 1050, Old English *hunigcamb* (*hunig* honey + *camb* comb). —**honeymoon** *n.* 1546 *hony moone*. The sense of a period of good relations, is first found about 1580.

honk *n.* 1854, American English, of imitative origin. —**v.** 1854, The sense of sound a horn, especially an automobile horn, is first recorded in 1895, in American English.

honor *n.* Probably before 1300 *honour*, earlier *onur* (probably before 1200); borrowed through Anglo-French *honour*, *onour*, Old French *honor*, *onor*, from Latin *honōrem* (nominative *honōs*, later *honor*). The form *honor* was adopted in the U.S. through the influence of Noah Webster. —**v.** About 1250 *honuren*; borrowed from Old French *honorer*, from Latin *honōrāre*, from Latin *honor*, *n.* —**honorable** *adj.* Before 1338 *honorable*, earlier, in the surname *Honorable* (1256); borrowed from Old French *honorable*, from Latin *honōrābilis*, from *honōrāre* to honor; for suffix see *-ABLE*. —**honorary** *adj.* 1610, perhaps formed from English *honor* + *-ary* after Latin *honōrārius*. Possibly also influenced by French *honoraire*.

hood¹ *n.* covering. Probably before 1200 *hod*, earlier in the surname *Hode* (1181); developed from Old English (about 700) *hōd*; cognate with Old Frisian *hōd* hood, *hōde* protection, Old Saxon *hōd* hood, Middle Dutch *hoet* (modern Dutch *hoed* hat), Old High German *huot* hat, *huota* protection (modern German *Hut* hat, protection), Old Icelandic *hōtr*, *hatr* hat, hood, from Proto-Germanic **Hōdaz*. The modern spelling with *oo* from the early 1400's represents a so-called long vowel, no longer associated with this spelling. —**v.** Probably before 1200 *hoden*, from the noun. —**hooded** *adj.* About 1440 *hodyd*, from *hood*, *v.* —**hoodwink** *v.* 1562, blindfold; formed from English *hood*¹ + *wink*, *v.* The meaning of mislead, deceive, is first recorded in 1610, from conceal (before 1600).

hood² *n.* gangster. 1930, American English, shortened form of HOODLUM, related to *hood*¹ by folk etymology.

-hood a suffix meaning state or condition of being, as in *boyhood*, *likelihood*; character of, as in *sainthood*; group of, as in *priesthood*; instance of, as in *falsehood*. Middle English *-hode*, *-hade*; developed from Old English *-hād*, from *hād* condition, position; cognate with suffixes in Old Frisian and Old Saxon *-hēd* -hood, Old High German and modern German *-heit*, and with words in Old Saxon *hēd* condition, dignity, Old High German *heit* rank, condition, Old Icelandic *heidhr* honor, dignity, and Gothic *haidus* manner, way, from Proto-Germanic **Haidūs*. As a suffix *-hood* has generally replaced the earlier English *-head* (from Old English *-hād*) except in *godhead* and *maidenhead*.

hoodlum *n.* 1871, American English, a young street rowdy or loafer; later, a young delinquent or criminal, gangster (1877); of uncertain origin. The word originated in San Francisco in

1871 and by about 1877 had spread elsewhere in the United States. The commonest etymology advanced is that *hoodlum* was borrowed from dialectal German (Bavarian) *Huddellump* ragamuffin.

hoof *n.* Before 1200 *hof*; developed from Old English (about 1000) *hōf*; cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *hōf* hoof, Old High German *huof* (modern German *Huf*), Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *hoef*, and Old Icelandic *hōfr* (Swedish, Danish, and Norwegian *hov*), from Proto-Germanic **Hōfaz*. For the shift in spelling see HOOF¹. —**v.** to walk, especially in *to hoof it*. 1641, to walk; from the noun. The meaning of dance, originated in American English about 1923 (implied in *hoofbeat*). —**hoofbeat** *n.* 1847, American English.

hook *n.* Probably about 1200 *hok*; earlier, in the surname *Hoc* (1166) and *Hoke* (1167); developed from Old English (before 700) *-hōc*, in *wēodhōc* weed hook; corresponding to Old Frisian *hōk* corner, edge, Middle Low German *hōk*, Middle Dutch *hoec* (modern Dutch *hoek*); and perhaps related to Old English *haca* bolt, Old Saxon *haco* hook, Middle Dutch *hake* (modern Dutch *haak*), Old High German *hāko* (modern German *Haken*), and Old Icelandic *haka* chin, from Proto-Germanic **Hōkaz*, **Hakan-*, *Hēkan-*. The modern spelling is first recorded about 1440, and parallels HOOF. —**v.** Before 1300 *hoken* to furnish with a hook, and *hoked*, past participle, curved like a hook, crooked (probably about 1150); developed from Old English (about 1000), past participle *hōced* crooked. The meaning of to attach as with a hook is first recorded in 1597. —**hooked** *adj.* addicted. 1925, from the verb. —**hooker** *n.* 1567, thief or pickpocket; later, prostitute (1845); formed from *hook*, *v.* + *-er*¹.

hooky or **hookey** *n.* play hooky. 1848, American English, probably from *hook* it to make off, run away, originally depart, proceed (before 1400).

hooligan *n.* 1898, of uncertain origin, first appearing in British newspaper police-court reports; suggested as coming from the Irish surname *Hooligan*, possibly in allusion to a music-hall song of the 1890's about the doings of a rowdy family in which the name Hooligan figures. The word was adopted in Russian as *khuligan* and gained wide currency as a general term of opprobrium for scofflaws, criminals, political dissenters, etc. —**hooliganism** *n.* 1898, formed from *hooligan* + *-ism*.

hoop *n.* About 1175 *hop*; probably developed from Old English **hōp*, which would be cognate with Old Frisian *hōp* ring, hoop, and Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *hoep*, from Proto-Germanic **Hōpa-*. —**v.** 1440 *hoopen*, from the noun.

hoopla *n.* 1877 *hoop la*, in American English; earlier *houp-la* exclamation accompanying a quick movement (1870); of uncertain origin (perhaps borrowed from French *houp-là* upsy-daisy).

hoosier *n.* 1826, American English, of uncertain origin; perhaps related to the dialectal English (Cumberland) word *hoosier*, meaning anything unusually large.

hoot *v.* 1611 *hoot* to call out or shout in disapproval or scorn; an

alteration of *houten* to shout, call out (before 1325), *hūten* to call by shouting, shout at in derision (probably about 1200); perhaps of imitative origin. The first recorded use of *hoot* to represent the cry of some birds, especially the owl, is probably about 1450. —**n.** Before 1450 *houte* a shout; later, a shout of disapproval (1612); from the verb.

hop¹ *v.* spring on one foot. Probably about 1200 *hoppen*; developed from Old English (about 1000) *hoppian* to spring, dance, corresponding to Old Icelandic *hoppa*, modern Dutch *hoppen*, and Middle High German *hopen*, from Proto-Germanic **Hupnōjanan*; cognate also with Middle Low German *huppen* to hop, modern Dutch *huppelen*, Middle High German and modern German *hüpfen*, this last from **Hupjanan*. —**n.** 1508, from the verb.

hop² *n.* vine. About 1440 *hoppe* ripened cones of hop plant used to flavor malt drinks (usually *hops*); borrowing of Middle Dutch *hoppe*; cognate with Old Saxon *hoppo* in *feldhoppo* hop, Middle Low German *hoppe*, Old High German *hopfo* (modern German *Hopfen*), from Proto-Germanic **Hup-nán-*.

hope *v.* Probably before 1200 *hopen*, developed from Old English (971) *hopian* wish and expect, look forward to something; cognate with Old Frisian *hopia* to hope, Middle Low German, Middle Dutch, and modern Dutch *hopen*, Middle High German and modern German *hoffen*; of unknown origin. —**n.** Probably before 1200 *hope*; found in Old English (about 1000) *hopa* expectation, trust, hope; cognate with Old Frisian, Middle Low German, and Middle Dutch *hope* (modern Dutch *hoop*), and Middle High German *hoffe*. —**hopeful** *adj.* Probably before 1200, formed from Middle English *hope*, *n.* + *-ful*. —**hopeless** *adj.* 1566, formed from English *hope*, *n.* + *-less*.

hopper *n.* 1 container having a narrow opening at the bottom. 1277 *hoper* hopper of a mill. 2 person or animal that hops. About 1250 *oppere*, earlier, as a surname, perhaps of a dancer (1203); possibly developed from Old English **hoppere* a dancer (as found in the feminine *hoppestre*); also probably influenced by *-hoppe* in *gærs-hoppe* (Middle English *gras-hoppe*). Exactly how the two senses are related is not known, though the juggling of grain in a mill hopper is suggestive of hopping.

hopscotch *n.* 1801, earlier *hop-scot* (1789); formed from English *hop*¹ + *scotch* score, from the scoring of lines in the dirt to make the boxes for the game.

horde *n.* 1555 *horda* tribe of Tartar or Asiatic nomads, probably borrowed (or introduced) from Spanish, and possibly from Polish *horda* (the original spelling in English); also from French *horde* (the modern English spelling). These languages, including modern German with *Horde* (earlier *Horda*) borrowed the word from Western Turkic (compare Tartar *urda* horde, Turkish *ordu* camp, army). The *h* is a spelling device arbitrarily added in the European languages. —**v.** 1821, gather in a horde, from the noun.

horehound *n.* 1373 *horehound*; earlier *horhune* (probably about 1200); developed from Old English (about 1000) *hār hūne* (*hār* HOAR + *hūne* name of a plant). The original Middle English

spelling was probably altered to *horehound* by association with “hound” as in the earlier plant name *hound’s tongue* (Old English *hundes tunge*).

horizon *n.* About 1385 *orisonte*, also *orisoun* (probably before 1387); borrowed from Old French *orizante*, *orizon*, learned borrowing from Latin *horizontem* (nominative *horizōn*), from Greek *horizōn kýklos* bounding circle. In the 1600’s the spelling with *h* was adopted in imitation of the Latin. —**horizontal** *adj.* 1555, relating to or near the horizon; later, parallel to the horizon (1638); borrowed from French *horizontal*, from Latin *horizontem* horizon; for suffix see *-AL*¹.

hormone *n.* 1905, formed in English from Greek *hormōn* setting in motion, with the assimilation of the chemical suffix *-one* into the Greek verbal ending *-ōn*. Greek *hormōn* is the present participle of *hormān* impel.

horn *n.* Old English *horn* wind instrument (about 830), horn of an animal (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *horn*, modern Dutch *hoorn*, Old High German *horn* (modern German *Horn*), Old Icelandic *horn*, and Gothic *haiurn*; from Proto-Germanic **Hurna-*. —**hornpipe** *n.* About 1400 *hornepype* musical instrument; later, a dance associated with sailors (about 1485); formed from *home* + *pype* pipe.

hornet *n.* Before 1398 *harnet* large wasp; earlier, a beetle (1387); developed from Old English *hyrnet*, *hymnetu*; earlier *hirnit*, *hurnitu* (before 800); cognate with Old Saxon *hornut* hornet, Middle Dutch *horsel* (modern Dutch *horzel*), and Old High German *hornaz* (modern German *Hornisse*); probably from the base **Hurz-*. The spelling *hornet* appeared about 1500, probably by association with *horn*, and by the assumption of *-et* as a suffix.

horology *n.* 1819, probably formed from Greek *hōrā* hour + English *-logy*, but also perhaps, in part, modeled on earlier English *horology* a clock or clock dial (1509; borrowed from Latin *hōrologium* device for telling the hour). Also possibly influenced by *horologe* clock, sundial, hourglass, etc., found as early as 1266, learned borrowing from Latin *hōrologium*, from Greek *hōrológion*, from a lost adjective **hōrológos* hour-counting, from *hōrā* HOUR + *légein* to count.

The English spelling is an imitation of the Latin.

horoscope *n.* 1568, borrowed from Middle French *horoscope*, learned borrowing from Latin *hōroscopus*, from Greek *hōroskōpos* (*hōrā* HOUR + *-skōpos* watching).

Earlier use of *horoscope* is in the Latin form *horoscopus* (about 1050), or as a variant spelling with a Latin inflectional ending, *oruscupum* (about 1400).

horrendous *adj.* 1659, borrowed from Latin *horrendus* to be shuddered at, from *horrēre* to bristle with fear, shudder; Middle English *horrend* is found without the English suffix *-ous* (probably 1440).

horrible *adj.* Probably before 1300 *orible*, later *horrible* (about 1375); borrowed from Old French *horrible*, learned borrowing from Latin *horribilis*, from *horrēre* to bristle with fear, shudder; for suffix see *-IBLE*.

horrid *adj.* 1590 *horrid* bristling; later, terrible or dreadful (1601); developed from *horred* bristling (1410, past participle of *horren* to bristle, tremble, quake); borrowed from Latin *horrere* to bristle with fear, shudder. The later spelling *horrid* may have been influenced by Latin *horridus* bristling, terrible, from *horre*.

The weakened sense of unpleasant or offensive (as in *horrid weather*), is first recorded in 1666, though parallel adverbial use is recorded as early as 1615, with the Middle English spelling *horred*.

horror *n.* Before 1325 *horer*; later *orrou* (before 1382); borrowed from Old French *orror*, *horreur*, and directly from Latin *horror*, from *horre* to bristle with fear. The spelling with *h* is a replacement in imitation of the Latin form.

hors d'oeuvre 1742, earlier, used as an adverb (1714); borrowing of French *hors d'œuvre*, literally, apart from the main work, annex (*hors* outside, from Latin *foris* outside; *de* from; *œuvre* work, from Latin *opera* work).

horse *n.* About 1200 *horse*; earlier *hors* (before 1121); developed from Old English *hors* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); earlier in *horsthegn* horse servant or groom (about 700); cognate with Old Frisian *hors* horse, Old Saxon *hros*, Middle Low German *ros*, *ors*, Middle Dutch *ors* (modern Dutch *ros* steed), Old High German *hros* horse (modern German, in literary use, *Ross* horse, steed), and Old Icelandic *hross* horse, from Proto-Germanic **Húrsa-*. —*v.* provide with a horse or horses. About 1330 *horsen*, developed from Old English (1013) *horsian*, from *hors*, *n.* The sense of make fun of, play jokes on, is first recorded in 1901. —**horseback** *n.* (especially on horseback; before 1393) —**horsefly** *n.* (before 1382) —**horsehide** *n.* (before 1325 *hors hide*) —**horseman** *n.* (probably before 1200 *horsman*) —**horseshoe** *n.* (before 1387; as a proper name, 1221)

hortatory *adj.* 1586, giving advice, exhorting; borrowed, possibly through Middle French *hortatoire*, and directly from Late Latin *hortātorius* encouraging, cheering, from *hortātus*, past participle of Latin *hortārī* exhort, encourage, an intensive form of *horārī* urge; for suffix see -ORY.

horticulture *n.* 1678, formed from Latin *hortus* garden + English *culture*; probably patterned on *agriculture*. —**horticulturist** *n.* 1818, formed from English *horticulture* + -ist.

hosanna *interj.* Before 1325, shout of praise to the Lord; developed from Old English *osanna* (before 1050); borrowed from Medieval Latin *osanna*, from Late Latin *hōsanna*, from Greek *hōsanná*, from Hebrew *hōsha 'nā*, probably a shortened form of *hōshī 'āh-nā* save, we pray. —*n.* a shout of "hosanna." 1641, from the interjection. The spelling with the initial *h* was adopted in the 1500's in imitation of the Latin, Greek, and Hebrew.

hose *n.* Probably before 1200 *hose*, developed from Late Old English (before 1100) *hosa* covering for the leg; cognate with Old Saxon, Old High German, and Old Icelandic *hosa* leg covering (modern German *Hose* trousers), and Middle Dutch *hose* leggings, waterspout, from Proto-Germanic **Húsan-*.

The meaning of a flexible rubber tube to carry liquid is first recorded in 1339 (too early to be influenced by Dutch *hoos* water pipe or spout, about 1600). —*v.* Before 1300, furnish with stockings, from *hosen*, *n.* The meaning of water with a hose is first recorded in 1889. —**hosier** *n.* 1381 *hosiery*; earlier, in the surname *Hosier* (1195); formed from English *hose*, *n.* + -ier. —**hosiery** *n.* 1789, business of a hosier; 1790, stockings; formed from English *hosier* + -y³.

hospice *n.* 1818, a rest house for travelers; borrowed from French *hospice*, learned borrowing from Latin *hospitium* guest house, hospitality, from *hospes* (genitive *hospitis*) guest, host.

In the 1890's the meaning was extended to a home for the destitute or the sick, and to an institution for the care of the terminally ill, in the 1970's.

hospitable *adj.* 1570, borrowed from Middle French *hospitable*, with a change of suffix from older *hospital* hospitable, as if from Medieval Latin **hospitabilis*, from Latin *hospitārī* be a guest, from *hospes* (genitive *hospitis*) guest; see HOST¹; for suffix see -ABLE.

hospital *n.* About 1300 *hospital*, guest house and shelter for the needy; earlier, in the place name *Ospitol* (1242–43); borrowed from Old French *hospital* hostel, learned borrowing from Medieval Latin *hospitale* guesthouse, inn, neuter form of Latin *hospitālis* of a guest or host, hospitable, from *hospes* (genitive *hospitis*) guest, host¹; for suffix see -AL¹. The meaning of an institution for sick people is found in 1549. —**hospitalize** *v.* 1901, formed from English *hospital* + -ize, possibly after earlier French *hospitaliser*.

hospitality *n.* friendly treatment of guests or strangers. About 1384 *hospitalite*, earlier, in Scottish, *hospitalyte* (about 1375); borrowed from Old French *hospitalité*, learned borrowing from Latin *hospitālītātē* (nominative *hospitālītās*) friendliness to guests, from *hospes* (genitive *hospitis*) guest, HOST¹.

host¹ *n.* person who receives another as a guest. About 1250 *oste*; also, in the surname *Host* (1254); borrowed from Old French *oste*, *hoste* guest, host, from Latin *hospitem* (nominative *hospes*), guest, host. —*v.* Probably 1421 *osten*; later *hosten* (about 1450); from the noun.

host² *n.* multitude. 1265 *host* multitude of armed men; borrowed from Old French *ost*, *host*, from Medieval Latin *hostis* army, warlike expedition, from Latin *hostis* enemy, stranger. The generalized meaning of a large number is first recorded in 1613.

Host *n.* bread or wafer regarded as the body of Christ. About 1303 *oste*, later *hoste* (about 1340); borrowed directly from Latin *hostia* sacrifice, the animal sacrificed.

hostage *n.* About 1300 *hostage*, earlier *ostage*; borrowed from Old French *ostage*, *hostage* person given as security or hostage (apparently originally, a lodger held by a landlord as security), from *oste*, *hoste* guest, host; for suffix see -AGE. The modern sense of a person seized by a political group, criminal, etc., to obtain money, safe passage, or achieve a political goal, is first recorded in the 1970's.

hostel *n.* About 1250 *hostel*, *ostel*; earlier, in the surname *Ostel* (1232); borrowed from Old French *hostel*, from Medieval Latin *hospitale* inn, large house; see HOSPITAL. —**hostelry** *n.* Before 1387–95 *hostelrye* inn, guesthouse; earlier, in the surname *Ostelrye* (1315); borrowed from Old French *hostelerie*, from *hostel* hostel; for suffix see -RY.

hostile *adj.* 1594, borrowed through Middle French *hostile* of or belonging to an enemy, or directly from Latin *hostilis*, from *hostis* enemy. —**hostility** *n.* Probably before 1425 *hostilite*; borrowed through Middle French *hostilité* enmity, or directly from Late Latin *hostilitatem* (nominative *hostilitās*) enmity, from *hostilis* hostile; for suffix see -ITY.

hostler *n.* Before 1376 *hostiler*, person who cares for horses at an inn or stable; earlier, innkeeper (1350); borrowed through Anglo-French *hostiler*, Old French *hostelier* (from Old French *hostel* inn + -ier -ier), and from Medieval Latin *hostilarius*, *hostellarius* the monk who entertained guests at a monastery, specialized form of *hospitalarius* one who entertains guests, from *hospitale* inn; see HOSPITAL.

hot *adj.* Probably before 1200 *hote*; earlier *hate* (about 1150); developed from Old English (971) *hāt* hot, fervent, fierce; cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *hēt* hot, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *heet*, Old High German *heiz* (modern German *heiss*), Old Icelandic *heitr* (Swedish and Norwegian *het*, Danish *hed*), Gothic *heito* fever; related to HEAT. The so-called short *o* in *hot* began to appear in the 1550's, possibly by influence of that sound in the comparative *hotter* in Middle English. The sense of exciting, remarkable, very good, is found in 1895, and that of something stolen, obtained illegally, in 1925. —**hotbed** *n.* 1626, bed of earth for forcing growing plants; 1768, place where anything develops rapidly. —**hot dog** (1900, in American English) —**hot rod** (1945, in American English). —**hot water** trouble (1537).

hotel *n.* 1765, earlier, a student residence at a university (1748); borrowed from French *hôtel*, from Old French *hostel* a lodging, from Medieval Latin *hospitale* inn; see HOSTEL. Doublet of HOSPITAL. —**hotelier** *n.* 1905, borrowing of French *hôtelier*, hotelkeeper, from Old French *hostelier*, from *hostel* inn; for suffix see -IER.

hound *n.* About 1250 *hound*; earlier *hund* (1127); developed from Old English *hund* dog (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *hund* dog, modern Dutch *hond*, Old High German *hunt* (modern German *Hund*), Old Icelandic *hundr*, and Gothic *hunds*; from Proto-Germanic **Hundās*.

The original meaning of hound was narrowed in Middle English, before 1127, to refer to a dog used for hunting. —*v.* 1528, to hunt with hounds; from the noun. The sense of urge on, incite, is first recorded in 1570, and pursue unrelentingly in 1605.

hour *n.* Before 1338 *houre*, earlier *our* (before 1300), *ure* (probably before 1200); borrowed from Old French *hore*, *ore*, *ure*, from Latin *hōra* hour, time, season, from Greek *hōrā*. The *h* is purely a spelling convention and has not represented a sound in this form since Roman times.

house *n.* About 1250 *house*; earlier *huse* (before 1121); developed from Old English *hūs* dwelling, shelter, house (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *hūs* house, Middle Dutch *huus* (modern Dutch *huis*), Old High German *hūs* (modern German *Haus*), Old Icelandic *hūs*, and Gothic -*hūs* in *gudhūs* temple, from Proto-Germanic **Hūsan*. —*v.* About 1300 *housen* give shelter; earlier *husen* (about 1125); developed from Old English (about 1000) *hūsan*, from *hūs*, *n.* —**household** *n.*, *adj.* (probably about 1380) —**House of Commons** (1621, from earlier *commons* the people, about 1330) —**House of Representatives** (1692, American English, in reference to the legislature of the Colony of Massachusetts).

housing¹ *n.* About 1350 *housinge* buildings or houses collectively, shelter, lodging; earlier *husing* (before 1325); developed from Middle English *huse*, *hous* + -ing¹.

housing² *n.* 1782, ornamental covering for a horse, American English; from earlier *housings*, pl., a covering or trappings, especially of cloth; derived from Middle English *houce* (1312–13), *house* (about 1475) a covering for the back and flanks of a horse; borrowed from Old French *houce* (modern French *housse*), from Medieval Latin *hultia* (earlier **hulftia*), from Frankish **Hulfti* (compare Middle Dutch *hulftie* pocket for bow and arrow, and Middle High German *hulft* covering). The sense of any case or enclosure for a machine or part is first recorded in 1882; perhaps the same word as *housing*¹ in later senses.

hovel *n.* 1358 *hovel* roofed passage or vent for smoke; later, a little cottage, hut (1440), and a shed for animals (1425); of uncertain origin. —*v.* lodge in a hovel. 1583, from the noun.

hover *v.* About 1400 *hoveren*, a frequentative form of earlier *hoven* hover, tarry, linger (1250); of uncertain origin; for suffix see -ER⁴. —*n.* act of hovering. 1513 *hovir*; from the verb.

how *adv.* Probably before 1200 *hou* as an adverb; later *how* in what way (probably before 1300); developed from Old English *hū* (about 725); cognate with Old Frisian *hū*, *hō* how, Old Saxon *huuo*, *hwō*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *hoe*, and Old High German *huuo*, from Proto-Germanic **Hwō-*. A parallel formation is represented by Middle Dutch *hū* how, Old High German *huio* (modern German *wie*), and Gothic *hwaiwa*. All forms are related to Old English *hwā* WHO. —**however** *conj.*, *adv.* 1392 *how euere* no matter how, to what extent; and *how ever* in whatever manner (before 1400); later, in any case (1591); formed from Middle English *hou*, *adv.* + *ever*, *adv.*

howitzer *n.* 1695 *hauwitzer*; also *howitz* (1687); borrowed from Dutch *houwitzer*, and from German *Haubitze*; earlier *Haubnitze* from early modern German *haufnütz* a catapult, from Czech *houfnice*; introduced during the Hussite wars.

howl *v.* Probably before 1300 *houlen*, earlier *hulen* (before 1250); probably of imitative origin, and parallel with Middle Dutch *hūlen* to howl (modern Dutch *huilen*), and Middle High German *hiulen*, *hiuweln* to howl, hoot like an owl (modern German *heulen*), possibly connected with Old High German

hūwila owl. —**n.** 1599, from the verb. —**howler** **n.** 1840, animal that howls; formed from English *howl*, *v.* + *-er*¹. The sense of a severe storm with much wind is first recorded in 1872, and that of a glaring blunder, ridiculous mistake, in 1890.

hoyden **n.** 1593, rude, boorish fellow; perhaps borrowed from Dutch *heiden* rustic, uncultivated man, from Middle Dutch *heiden* HEATHEN. The meaning of a rude, boisterous female, is first recorded in 1676.

hub **n.** 1649, probably a word earlier confined to wheelwrights' vocabulary and perhaps developing from *hubbe* the hob of a fireplace (1511), originally, mass, lump; or from the sense of peg or pin (1589); of unknown origin. Until the 1800's the record shows *hub* as a dialectal word, becoming generally known in connection with bicycles. The meaning of any center of interest, activity, importance, etc., is first recorded in 1858.

hubbub **n.** 1555 *whobub* confused noise, hue and cry; of uncertain origin (sometimes referred to as an Irish outcry, suggesting an interjection of Celtic origin such as Gaelic *ub!* *ub!* *ubub!* an expression of aversion or contempt).

hubris **n.** 1884, insolent pride, arrogance; possibly a back formation from earlier *hubristic*, or a borrowing from Greek *hybris* wanton violence, insolence, outrage; of unknown origin. —**hubristic** **adj.** 1831, borrowed from Greek *hybristikós* insolent, wanton, from *hybrizein* to insult, act outrageously, from *hybris*.

huckleberry **n.** 1670 *huckelberry*, probably an alteration of Middle English *hurtleberry* whortleberry (1452–54, *hurtle*-, probably diminutive of Old English *horte* whortleberry + *bery* berry).

huckster **n.** Probably about 1200 *huster* peddler, petty merchant; probably developed from *hukken* to sell or peddle (1181 in personal name); and later from *hucking* (probably before 1300), cognate with and perhaps influenced by Middle Dutch *hokester* peddler, from *hoken* to peddle, *HAWK*² sell. The derogatory sense of a person willing to profit in a petty way is first recorded in 1553, and the sense in American English of a person in the advertising industry, in 1946. —**v.** peddle, haggle. 1592, from the noun.

huddle **v.** 1579, crowd close; earlier, as an adverb *hudle* confusedly (1564); probably related to *hoderen* heap together or huddle (about 1300), and cognate with Low German *huden* to cover or shelter, Middle Low German *huden* to cover up, *HIDE*¹. —**n.** 1586, crowded mass or heap; apparently from the verb. An earlier sense of a miserly, old person is recorded in 1579, but may be a different word.

hue¹ **n.** color. Probably before 1200 *hewe*; later *heu* (about 1250); developed from Old English *hiw* color, form, appearance, beauty (before 899); earlier *hiow*, *hēow* (before 830), *hio* (before 800), and *hēo* (about 750). The Old English forms are cognate with Old Icelandic *hy* down or complexion (Swedish and Norwegian dialect *hy* complexion), and Gothic *hiwi* form or appearance, from Proto-Germanic **Hiwjan*.

hue² **n.** a shouting. Probably before 1200 *hiue* outcry, clamor; later *hue* (probably about 1380); borrowed from Old French *hue*, *hu* outcry, noise, war or hunting cry; probably of imitative origin.

The phrase *hue and cry* appeared in 1246 as an Anglo-French legal term with the meaning of outcry calling for the pursuit of a felon, and was extended to the general sense of cry of alarm or outcry by 1584.

huff **v.** 1583, to puff or blow; earlier, as an interjection *huf* (about 1450); apparently a word imitative of the sound of blowing or of a blast of air. The extended sense of to puff or swell with indignation, to storm, bluster, is first recorded in 1598. —**n.** 1599, a gust or sudden swell of anger or arrogance; from the verb. —**huffy** **adj.** 1677, blustering; 1680, arrogant, ready to take offense; from *huff*, **n.** + *-y*¹.

hug **v.** 1567 *hugge* to embrace; of uncertain origin (perhaps from a Scandinavian source; compare Old Icelandic *hugga* to comfort). —**n.** 1617, a hold in wrestling; from the verb.

huge **adj.** Probably about 1150 *huge* extremely large; borrowed apparently as a shortened form of Old French *ahuge* extremely large; of unknown origin.

Huguenot **n.** 1565, borrowed from Middle French *huguenot*, name in the early 1520's for the Genevan partisans who opposed the Duke of Savoy. *Huguenot*, earlier *eiguenot*, was probably an alteration of Swiss German *Eidgenoss* confederate (modern German *Eidgenosse*), from Middle High German *eigenōze* (*eit* OATH + *genōze* comrade). Middle French *Huguenot* was re-formed from *eiguenot* probably by association with the name *Hugues* Besançon, leader of the Genevan partisans.

hula or **hula-hula** **n.** About 1835, borrowed from Hawaiian *hula* or *hulahula*, a reduplication of *hula*. —**v.** 1952, American English; from the noun.

hulk **n.** 1338 *hulk* a trading ship, warship; developed from Old English (about 1050) *hulc* light, fast ship; probably borrowed from Old Dutch *hulke* and from Medieval Latin *hulcus*, from Greek *holkás* merchant ship. The meaning of a big, clumsy person, is found before 1400, and probably earlier as a surname *Hulkebon*, 1316. The meaning of body of an old or worn-out ship appears in 1671. —**v.** About 1793, to lounge about; later, loom bulkily (1880); from the noun. —**hulking** **adj.** big, clumsy. 1698, formed from English *hulk*, **n.** + *-ing*¹.

hull¹ **n.** seed covering. Before 1398 *hulle*, earlier *hoyle* (1373); developed from Old English (about 1000) *hulu*; from Proto-Germanic **Hulús*, yielding Old High German *hulla* covering (modern German *Hülle* covering, hull), and Old High German *hulsa* husk, pod (modern German *Hülse*) and Dutch *huls* hull. —**v.** Probably before 1425 *hullen*; earlier *holen* (before 1338); from the noun.

hull² **n.** body or frame of a ship. 1571, of uncertain origin (perhaps an extended use of *hull*¹) or the same as Middle English *hoole* a ship's keel or hull, about 1440, probably from the same source as *HOLD*² (interior of a ship).

hullabaloo *n.* 1762 *hollo-ballo* uproar, appearing at first chiefly in Scottish and Northern English sources; possibly a rhyming reduplication of *hollo*, *holla* HELLO.

hum *v.* About 1385 *hommen* make a murmuring sound to cover up embarrassment, later *hummen* to buzz, drone (probably 1440); probably of imitative origin and parallel to Middle High German *hummen* and Dutch *hommel* to hum.

The meaning of sing with closed lips, is first recorded in 1640, and that of be busy and active in 1884. —*n.* 1469, from the verb.

human *adj.* Probably about 1450 *humaigne*, *humayne* of or belonging to man; borrowed from Middle French *humain*, learned borrowing from Latin *hūmānus*, probably related to *homō* (genitive *hominis*) man, human being; cognate with Old English *guma* man (which did not survive into Middle English except in the form *bridegome* bridegroom, from Old English *brȳdguma*), Old High German *gomo*, Old Icelandic *gumi*, and Gothic *guma*, from Proto-Germanic **guman-*. —*n.* human being. Before 1533, from the adjective. For about 250 years *human* and *humane* shared the meaning “of or belonging to man,” but in the 1700’s the meanings differentiated in spelling and pronunciation so that *human* with its stress on the first syllable, retained the original sense and *humane* with its stress on the last syllable, became restricted to the sense of merciful, kind. The process of a differentiation of meaning, however, was gradual, beginning about 1500.

humane *adj.* kind, merciful. Probably about 1450 *humaigne*, *humayne* of or belonging to man; later, having qualities befitting human beings, gentle, friendly, courteous (about 1500); variant of HUMAN.

In the early 1700’s, this word became restricted in use to the meaning kind, merciful. See the note under HUMAN.

humanism *n.* 1812, the belief in the mere humanity of Christ, possibly borrowed from French *humanisme* (1763). However, *humanism* has been used in association with several systems of philosophical thought. In the sense of the Renaissance revival of interest in the classics, *humanism* appeared in 1832, patterned on the earlier (1589) *humanist* a classical scholar; borrowed from Middle French *humaniste*, from Latin *hūmānus* HUMAN. *Humanism*, as a pragmatic system of thought, was introduced in 1903 by C.S. Schiller, who wrote in 1907, “Humanism. . . is merely the perception that the philosophic problem concerns human beings striving to comprehend a world of human experience by the resources of human minds.” —**humanistic** *adj.* (1845).

humanity *n.* About 1384 *humanite* kindness, graciousness; borrowed from Old French *humanité*, from Latin *hūmānitātem* (nominative *hūmānitās*) human nature, humanity, from *hūmānus* HUMAN; for suffix see -ITY. The meaning of mankind or the human race, is first recorded as *humanite* (about 1450). —**humanitarian** *n.* 1819, one who affirms the humanity of Christ; formed from English *humanity* + *-arian*, as in *unitarian*, *trinitarian*. The meaning of one devoted to human welfare, a philanthropist, is first recorded in 1844 and was originally disparaging, connoting one who goes to excess in humane principles.

humble *adj.* About 1275 *umble* modest, not proud; later *humble* (about 1375); borrowed from Old French *umble*, *humble*, earlier *humele*, learned borrowing from Latin *humilis* lowly, humble, from *humus* earth. The introduction of *b* in Old French is typical of the vowel loss between *m* and *l* in a borrowed word such as *humble* or *semblance*. —*v.* About 1380; from the adjective.

The expression *eat humble pie* (1830), derived from *humble pie* (recorded before 1648), variant of *umble pie* a pie made from the *umbles* or edible inner parts of an animal, considered a food of inferiors. Hence the expression arose as a fusion of *umble pie* and *humble*, *adj.* The word *umbles* (about 1450) variant of *numbles* (1333–34), and *noubles* (probably before 1300), was borrowed from Old French *nombres*, *numbles* loin or fillet.

humblebee *n.* Before 1475 *humbulbe* bumblebee, a compound of *humbul-* (cognate with Middle Low German *humelbe* humblebee, and Middle Dutch *hommelbij*, related to Dutch *hommel* to HUM) + *bee*. The formation in Middle English was probably influenced by *humblen* to hum or buzz (before 1384).

humbug *n.* 1751, a slang word among students meaning a hoax, jest, trick, or deception; of unknown origin. —*v.* to trick. 1751, from the noun.

humdinger *n.* 1905, American English slang; possibly from *hum* a murmur of approbation + *ding*, American English dialect or slang, something superlative (1809, from *ding* to beat, surpass, excel, 1724; from Middle English *dingen* to beat + *-er*).

humdrum *adj.* 1553, monotonous; dull, varied reduplication of HUM, *v.*, to make a continuous sound, possibly with the second element influenced by *drum*.

humerus *n.* 1706, originally, shoulder (1392); borrowed from Latin *umerus* (misspelled *humerus*) shoulder.

humid *adj.* Before 1400 *humide*, borrowed through Old French *humide*, *umide*, or directly from Latin *ūmidus* (with variant *hūmidus*, by influence of *humus* earth), from *ūmere* be moist. —**humidity** *n.* 1392 *humidite*; borrowed from Old French *humidité*, from Latin *hūmiditatem* (nominative *hūmiditās*), from *hūmidus* humid; for suffix see -ITY.

humiliate *v.* 1533–34, probably a back formation from *humiliation*, after Latin *humiliāre*, to humble, from *humilis* HUMBLE; for suffix see -ATE. —**humiliation** *n.* About 1390 *humyliaoun*, borrowed from Old French *humiliation*, from Late Latin *humiliatiōnem* (nominative *humiliatiō*), from Latin *humiliāre*; for suffix see -ATION. —**humility** *n.* Probably before 1300 *humilite*; borrowed from Old French *humilité*, *umilité*, from Latin *humilitatem* (nominative *humilitās*), from *humilis* humble; for suffix see -ITY.

hummock *n.* 1608; earlier *hoommocke* (1555); originally a nautical term for a conical hillock on the seacoast. The first element is of uncertain origin; the second element *-ock* is a diminutive suffix.

humongous *adj.* 1976, American English, apparently a fanciful coinage from *huge* and *monstrous* to reinforce *tremendous*.

humor *n.* 1340 *humour* moisture, body fluid; borrowed from Old French *humor*, *umor*, learned borrowing from Latin *umor* (also *humor* by fancied connection with *humus* earth) body fluid, related to *umēre* be wet, moist, and *ūvēscere* become wet.

In Middle English, *humor* referred to any liquid or moisture, and specifically to one of the four body fluids (blood, phlegm, choler, and melancholy or black bile), the relative proportions of which were thought to determine mental disposition. The meaning of mood, state of mind, which developed from this is first recorded in 1525. The sense of a funny or amusing quality, jocularly, is found in 1682, and developed probably by way of whim, caprice, recorded in 1565 (a meaning that was ridiculed by Shakespeare and Ben Jonson). —**v.** give in to the whims of (a person); indulge. 1588, from the noun. —**humorist** *n.* 1596, a whimsical person; 1599, a comical person or wag; probably formed from English *humor* + *-ist*, after Middle French *humoriste*. —**humorous** *adj.* Probably before 1425, relating to the body humors; borrowed from Middle French *humoreux* damp, from Old French *humor*, *umor* body fluid. The meaning of funny (formed from English *humor*, *n.* + *-ous*) is first recorded in 1705.

hump *n.* 1681, in *humpbacked*; taking the place of earlier *crump* (in Old English before 800) and corresponding to Dutch *homp* lump, Middle Low German *hump* bump, Norwegian *hump* bump, *hump*, *lump*, from Proto-Germanic **Hump-*. —**v.** 1835, exert (oneself) in great effort; from the noun. The meaning of raise into a hump is first recorded in 1840.

humus *n.* 1796, borrowed probably from French *humus* and directly from Latin *humus* earth, soil (very likely a back formation from *humī* on the ground).

hunch *v.* Probably before 1500, to push, thrust; of unknown origin.

The meaning of raise or bend into a hump, arch (one's back), is first recorded in 1678; the same meaning, however, is found in *hunchbacked* as early as 1598. —**n.** 1630, a push, thrust; from the verb. The meaning of a hump, protuberance, is found in 1804. The literal meaning of push or thrust, gave rise to the figurative sense of a hint or tip (1849), followed by premonition or presentiment (1904). —**hunchback** *n.* person with a hunched back. 1712, back formation from *hunchbacked* (1598).

hundred *n.* In Old English (about 950) *hundred* the count of 100 (*hund* 100 + *-red* count, reckoning), corresponding to Old Frisian *hundred*, *hunderd*, Old Saxon *hunderod*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *honderd*, Old High German *hundert*, modern German *Hundert*, (from Proto-West-Germanic **Hūndrad*), and Old Icelandic *hundrað* one hundred twenty, equivalent to English *great hundred*.

Cognates of *hund*, the common Old English word for 100, are found throughout the Indo-European languages: in Old Saxon *hund*; all basically meaning "ten times ten" or "ten tens," see **TEN** and **CENT**. Cognates of Old English *-red* appear in Old Icelandic *-ræðhr* (in *ni-ræðhr* 90) and Gothic *-rathjan* to count or reckon; see **REASON**. —**hundredth** *adj.* Before

1325, formed from Middle English *hundred* + *-th*, possibly by influence of Old Icelandic *hundraðhr* in confusion with Old English variants *hundrath*, *hundreth* hundred.

hunger *n.* Old English *hungor* pain caused by lack of food, hunger (about 725); cognate with Old Frisian *hunger* hunger, Old Saxon *hungar* (modern Dutch *honger*), Old High German *hungar* (modern German *Hunger*), Old Icelandic *hungri*, from Proto-Germanic **Hungris*, and Gothic *hūhnus* (with loss of *ng* before *h*), from Proto-Germanic **HúnHruz*. —**v.** About 1250 *hungren*; earlier *hungeren* (probably before 1200); replacing Old English (recorded before 830) *hyngrian*, *hyngrian*; cognate with Old Frisian *hungera* to hunger, Old Saxon *gihungrian*, Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *hungeren* (modern Dutch *honger*), Old High German *hungaren* (modern German *hungern*), Old Icelandic *hungra*, and Gothic *huggrian* (in which *gg* represents *ng*). —**hungry** *adj.* About 1150 *hungri*, developed from Old English (about 950) *hungrig* (*hunger* hunger + *-ig* -y¹).

hunk *n.* Before 1813, possibly borrowed from Flemish *hunke*, which is perhaps related to Dutch *homp* lump, **HUMP**.

hunker *v.* 1720, Scottish, possibly from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *hūka* to crouch, *hoka*, *hokra* to crawl). The phrase *hunker down* was originally a southwestern U.S. dialectal use popularized about 1965. —**n.** **hunkers**, *pl.* haunches. 1785, derived from *hunker*.

hunky-dory *adj.* 1866, American English, all right, fine; perhaps an irregular reduplication of *hunkey* all right, satisfactory (1861), from earlier *hunk* in a safe position, all right (1847), adjective use of dialectal (New York) noun *hunk* goal or home (in children's games). *Hunk* was borrowed from Dutch *honk* goal or home, from Middle Dutch *honc* place of refuge or hiding place, probably originally Frisian (compare West Frisian *honcke*, *honck* house, place of refuge, East Frisian *hunk* corner, nook; also home, in a game).

hunt *v.* 1127 *hunten*; developed from Old English (about 1000) *huntian* chase game; related to *hentan* to seize. —**n.** Before 1131, one who hunts; later, act of hunting (about 1375); from the verb. —**hunter** *n.* About 1250 *huntere*; earlier, in the place name *Huntercumba* (about 1183); formed from English *hunt*, *v.* + *-er*¹. Hunter replaced earlier *hunte* (1127), developed from Old English (before 900) *hunta*.

hurdle *n.* Probably before 1300 *hirdle* frame or lattice; later *hurdle* (1356); developed from Old English (about 725) *hyrdel* frame of intertwined twigs (used as a temporary barrier), diminutive of *hyrd* door; cognate with Old Saxon *hurth* plaiting or netting (modern Dutch *horde* wickerwork), Old High German *hurd* (modern German *Hürde* hurdle), Old Icelandic *hurdh* door, and Gothic *haurds*, from Proto-Germanic **Hurdís*. The meaning of a barrier to jump over in a race is first recorded in 1833, and the figurative sense of an obstacle, difficulty, in 1924. —**v.** 1598, to construct like a hurdle; from the noun. The meaning of jump over is first recorded in 1896.

hurdy-gurdy *n.* 1749, instrument played by cranking a handle; perhaps imitative of its sound and influenced by earlier *hirdy-girdy* uproar, confusion (about 1500).

hurl *v.* Probably before 1200 *hurlen* to rush violently; later, to knock or throw forcibly (about 1300); of uncertain origin, but similar in form to Low German *hurreln* to throw or dash, and East Frisian *hurreln* to roar or bluster. —**n.** 1530 *hurtle* forcible throw; from the verb; first recorded in about 1380 in the sense of rushing water.

hurly-burly *n.* 1539, alteration of *hurling* and *burling* (about 1530), a varied reduplication of *hurling* commotion, tumult (about 1387).

hurrah *n.* 1686 *hurra*; later *hurray* (1694); *hurrah* (1841); alteration of (and substitute for) *HUZZA*. The forms *hurrah*, *hurray* are parallel to modern German *Hurra*, Danish and Swedish *hurra*, modern Dutch *hoera*, and similar shouts. —**interj.** 1716 *whurra*; later *hurree* (1773; *hurray* 1855; *hurrah* 1845). —**v.** 1798 *hurray*; later *hurrah* (1868); from the noun and interjection.

hurricane *n.* 1555 *furacane* violent tropical cyclone; borrowed from Spanish *huracán*, from Arawakan (West Indies) *huracán*. The earliest forms, such as *furacane*, *haurachana*, and *uracan*, are alterations of Spanish *huracán* and of Portuguese *furacão*. The present spelling was established by 1688.

hurry *v.* 1590, to move or act quickly; probably associated with *hurren* to vibrate rapidly, buzz (before 1398), Middle High German *hurren* to whirl, move fast, Icelandic *hurra* to hum, and Norwegian *hurra* to whirl, from Proto-Germanic **Hurzā*-. —**n.** 1600, commotion, agitation; possibly from the verb. The meaning of quick movement or action is first recorded in 1692.

hurt *v.* Probably before 1200 *hurten*; probably borrowed from Old French *hurter* to ram, strike, collide, perhaps from Frankish (compare Middle High German *hurten* run at, collide). —**n.** Probably before 1200 *hurt* wound, malady; probably from the verb.

hurtle *v.* Before 1338 *hurtlen*; earlier, as the gerund *hurtlinge* (about 1225); probably a frequentative form of *hurten*, *HURT*; for suffix see -LE³.

husband *n.* Probably before 1200 *husbonde*, later *housbonde* master of the house, married man; developed from Old English (before 1050) *hūsbonða*; probably borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *húsbōndi* master of the house, a compound of *hūs* HOUSE and *bōndi* householder, dweller). —**v.** manage thriftily. Probably before 1430 *housbonden*; later *husbonden* (1440); from *husbonde*, *housbonde* husband, *n.*

hush *v.* 1546, probably a back formation from *huscht*, adj., quiet, silent (about 1405); earlier *huisht* (about 1385), and *hust* (about 1380); probably of imitative origin. —**interj.** 1604, probably a back formation from *whist*, *whisht* be quiet! silence! (about 1382); earlier *hust* (about 1390); either of imitative origin or possibly from the verb. —**n.** 1689, from the verb. —**hush-hush** adj. 1916, reduplication of *hush*, *interj.*

husk *n.* About 1400 *husk*; earlier *huske* the foreskin (1392); perhaps borrowed from Middle Dutch *huuskyn* little house, core of a fruit, case, diminutive of *huus* HOUSE. —**v.** 1562, from the noun.

husky¹ *adj.* 1 hoarse. 1552, of, like, or having husks; formed from English *husk* + -y¹. The meaning of dry in the throat or hoarse is recorded before 1722, from dry as a husk, without natural moisture (1599). 2 tough and strong, stout, sturdy (like a corn husk). 1869, American English. A noun with the meaning of a strong or stout person is recorded in 1864.

husky² *n.* Eskimo dog. 1830 *Hoskey* an Eskimo, Canadian English, shortened variant of *Eskimo*, as in *Ehuskemay* (1743). *Husky* Eskimo dog, appeared as *huski* (1852), and *huskie* (1872).

hussar *n.* 1532, borrowed perhaps through German *husar*, from Hungarian *huszár* light horseman, (originally, free-booter); from Old Serbian *husar*, variant of *kursar* pirate, from Italian *corsaro* CORSAIR.

hussy *n.* 1530, mistress of a household, housewife; alteration (by shortening of the vowel and loss of *w*) of Middle English *housewif*; earlier *husewif* (probably before 1200), a compound of *huse*, HOUSE and *wif* WIFE; however, perhaps *hussy* is a clipping with shortening of the vowel in *huse*-, and an addition of the diminutive suffix -y². In some areas the meaning changed to any woman or girl, and by 1650 applied to a woman or girl who shows casual or improper behavior (as in *bold hussy*); by the 1800's *hussy* acquired a generally derogatory meaning.

hustings *n.pl. or sing.* Probably before 1200 *husting* a council or an assembly; developed from Old English *hūsting* meeting, court, tribunal, 1012; borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *hūsting* council, a compound of *hūs* house and *thing* assembly); so called as such a meeting was held among the members of a group or "household" of a nobleman or other leader. The shift from *th* to *t* represents a weakening of the stress on -*thing* that took place before the word was borrowed into Old English.

The plural form *hustings* (1463) gradually became the usual form of the word. The meaning of a temporary platform from which speeches are made in a political campaign, is first recorded in 1719.

hustle *v.* 1684, to shake to and fro; borrowed from Dutch *hutselen* or *husseln* to shake, a frequentative form of *hutsen*, variant of *hutsen* to shake; for suffix see -LE³. The meaning of push roughly, shove, is first recorded in 1751. The sense of hurry or move quickly is found in 1812, and that of to obtain in a hurried, rough, or illegal manner, developed in American English (1840). Also developed from the earlier notion of pushing and hurrying, is the sense of sell goods aggressively (1887). —**n.** 1715, a shaking together; later, a jostling (1803); from the verb. The meaning of illegal business activity, racket, swindle, is first recorded in 1963, in American English. —**hustler** *n.* (1825)

hut *n.* 1658, borrowed from French *hutte* cottage, from Old French, from either Middle High German *hütte* cottage or hut, or from Old High German *hutta* roughly built temporary dwelling, from Proto-Germanic **Hudjan*-.

hutch *n.* About 1200 *hucche* chest or coffer; borrowed from Old French *huche*, (also) *huge*, from Medieval Latin *hutica* chest, of uncertain origin. The meaning of a pen for animals, is

found before 1398 and that of a hut or small cabin, in 1607. The later sense of a cupboard for food or dishes, is first recorded in 1671.

hyacinth *n.* 1553, precious stone of a blue color, later, flowering plant (1578, replacing earlier *iactinct*, *jacinct* *jacinth*, recorded probably about 1200); borrowed from Latin *hyacinthus*, from Greek *hyákynthos* a purple or deep-red flower.

hybrid *n.* 1601, borrowed originally from Latin *hybrida*, variant of *ibrida* mongrel, (specifically) offspring of a tame sow and a wild boar, of uncertain origin, but probably from Greek **hybrída*, accusative of a lost noun **hybrís* mongrel. English *hybrid* was also borrowed in some instances from French *hybride*, also from Latin *hybrida*. —**adj.** Before 1716; from the noun. —**hybridize** *v.* 1845, formed from English *hybrid* + *-ize*. —**hybridization** *n.* 1851, formed from English *hybridize* + *-ation*.

hydr- a form of *hydro-* before vowels, as in *hydrate*, *hydraulic*.

hydra *n.* 1835–36, New Latin *Hydra*, the genus name of a freshwater polyp which can regenerate parts of its body, from Latin *Hydra*, *hydra* mythical many-headed water serpent whose heads grew back as fast as they were cut off, from Greek *Hýdrā*, from *hýdōr* (genitive *hýdatos*) WATER.

The mythical water serpent, *hydra* is first recorded in English as *idre* (about 1380); this form was borrowed through Old French *hydre*. The figurative meaning of a many-sided problem, hindrance, etc., is first recorded in 1494.

hydrangea *n.* 1753, New Latin *Hydrangea* a compound of Greek *hydr-*, stem coexisting with *hýdōr* (genitive *hýdatos*) WATER and *angēon* vessel or capsule, from *ángos* vessel; so called from the shrub's vessel-shaped seed capsule.

hydrant *n.* 1806; formed in American English from Greek *hydr-*, stem coexisting with *hýdōr* water + English *-ant*, as if from the present participle of a Latin verb.

hydrate *n.* 1802, borrowed from French *hydrate*, from Greek *hydr-*, stem coexisting with *hýdōr* (genitive *hýdatos*) WATER. —**v.** 1 combine with water to form a hydrate. 1850, from the noun. 2 to combine with water to restore moisture to (a food product, etc). 1947, an extension of def. 1.

hydraulic *adj.* 1606, borrowed, probably by influence of Middle French *hydraulique*, from Latin *hydraulicus*, from Greek *hydraulikós*, from *hýdraulis* water organ (*hydr-*, stem coexisting with *hýdōr*, genitive *hýdatos*, WATER + *aulós* musical instrument, hollow tube). *Hydraulic* is first recorded referring to a hydraulic organ using water pressure to compress the air, in 1626. —**hydraulics** *n.* 1671, formed from English *hydraulic* + *-s* on analogy with *mathematics*, etc.

hydro- a combining form meaning: 1 water, as in *hydrometer*, *hydroplane*. 2 containing hydrogen, as in *hydrocarbon*, containing hydrogen and carbon. Borrowed from Greek *hydro-*, combining form of *hýdōr* WATER.

hydrocarbon *n.* 1826, formed from English *hydro-* + *carbon*.

hydroelectric *adj.* 1827, formed from English *hydro* + *electric*.

hydrofoil *n.* 1920, formed from English *hydro* + *foil*.

hydrogen *n.* 1791, borrowed from French *hydrogène*, from Greek *hydr-*, stem coexisting with *hýdōr* (genitive *hýdatos*) WATER + French *-gène* *-gen*. The compound was formed in allusion to the combining of hydrogen with oxygen to produce water. —**hydrogenate** *v.* 1809, formed from English *hydrogen* + *-ate*¹.

hydrolysis *n.* 1880, chemical decomposition by water; earlier, implied in *hydrolytic* (1875); formed from English *hydro-* + Greek *lýsis* a loosening or dissolution, from *lýein* to loosen, dissolve.

hydrophobia *n.* 1392 *ydroforbia*, erroneous spelling in the borrowing from Late Latin *hydrophobia*, from Greek *hydrophobía*, from *hydrophóbos* dreading water (*hydr-*, stem coexisting with *hýdōr* water + *phóbos* dread; fear).

hydroplane *n.* 1904, American English, motorboat that glides on the surface of water; formed from English *hydro-* + *-plane*, as in *airplane*. —**v.** to travel in a hydroplane. 1909, from the noun. The verb meaning of automobile tires riding on a plane or a thin layer of water, is first recorded in 1962.

hydroponics *n.* 1937, formed from English *hydro-* + *-ponics* (from Greek *ponēin* to labor, toil, from *pónos* labor) + English *-ics*. This horticultural method was developed in 1929.

hydrozoan *n.* 1869, formed from New Latin *Hydrozoa* + English suffix *-an*. The class name *Hydrozoa* (coined in 1843), is from Greek *hydr-*, stem coexisting with *hýdōr* (genitive *hýdatos*) WATER and *zōion* animal, related to *zōē* life.

hyena *n.* 1340 *hyane*; later *hiena* (before 1398); borrowed from Old French *hiene*, *hyene*, and directly from Latin *hyaena*, from Greek *hýaina*, from *hýs* pig.

hygiene *n.* 1671, borrowed from French *hygiène*, from New Latin *ars hygieina* the healthful art, translation of Greek *hygieinē téchnē*, from *hygieia* health, from *hygiēs* healthy (literally, living well). —**hygienic** *adj.* 1833, probably borrowed from French *hygiénique*, from *hygiène*.

hygro- a combining form meaning wet, moist, moisture, as in *hygrometer*, *hygroscope*. Borrowed from Greek *hygro-*, combining form of *hygrós* wet, moist, fluid.

hymeneal *adj.* 1600 *hymniall*, formed in English from Latin *hymenaeus*, from Greek *hyménaios* belonging to wedding; wedding, wedding song (from *Hymén*, Greek god of marriage) + English suffix *-al*¹. —**hymen** *n.* 1543, borrowed from French *hymen*, and directly from Late Latin *hymén*, from Greek *hymén* (genitive *hyménos*) virginal membrane.

hymenopterous *adj.* 1813, New Latin *hymenopterus*, from Greek *hymenópteros* (*hymén*, genitive *hyménos*, membrane + *pterón* wing); for suffix see *-OUS*. The word is descriptive of the transparent, membranous wings of these insects.

hymn *n.* 1613, a song of praise to God, an alteration in spelling (by influence of Latin *hymnus*) of Middle English *ymne* (probably before 1200). These forms were in part borrowed from

Old French *ymne* (from Medieval Latin *ymnus*, from Latin *hymnus*), and also developed from Old English *ymen*, *hymen* (before 830); borrowed from Latin *hymnus* song of praise, from Greek *hýmnos* song or ode in praise of gods or heroes; earlier wedding hymn; possibly formed on *Hymén* Greek god of marriage). —**hymnal** *n.* Probably before 1500 *hymnale*, borrowed from Medieval Latin *hymnale*, *imnale*, from *ymnus* hymn; for suffix see -AL¹. —**hymnbook** *n.* About 900 *ymenbec*, later *hymn-book* (1779); re-formed from modern English *hymn* + *book*.

hyp- a form of the prefix *hypo-* before vowels, as in *hypabyssal* (below the abyssal plain, in geology).

hype¹ *n.* excessive or misleading publicity or advertising. 1967, American English, probably in part developed from *hyperbole* by back formation; and in part from underworld slang, a swindle by overcharging or short-changing (1926; apparently a back formation from *hyper* a short-change confidence man, 1914, probably from *hyper-* over, to excess; see HYPER-). —**v.** 1967, American English, to use hype; publicize, promote, or advertise excessively or deceptively; earlier, to deceive, trick, or con (about 1945); and in underworld slang, to swindle by overcharging or short-changing (1926); from the noun.

hype² *v.* Usually, **hype up**, stimulate, stir up, excite. 1938, American English (drug addicts' slang), stimulate or excite by or as if by the injection of a narcotic drug; from earlier *hype* a hypodermic injection or needle (1920's; a drug addict), short for HYPODERMIC.

hyper- a prefix meaning over, above, beyond, exceedingly, to excess, as in *hyperacidity*, *hypersensitive*, *hypertension*. Borrowed from Greek *hyper-*, from *hypér*, adv. and prep., beyond, over, OVER.

hyperbola *n.* 1668, New Latin *hyperbola*, from Greek *hyperbolē* extravagance (*hyper-* beyond + *bol-*, nominal stem of *ballein* to throw); so called from a geometric function of a cone such that any cross section of the cone from the base is at an angle greater than the angle of the sloping sides of the cone.

hyperbole *n.* Probably before 1425 *iperbole*, later *hyperbole* (1579); borrowing of Latin *hyperbolē* (possibly by influence of Middle French *hyperbole*), from Greek *hyperbolē* exaggeration or extravagance; see HYPERBOLA. —**hyperbolic** *adj.* 1646, formed from English *hyperbole* + *-ic*, influenced by French *hyperbolique* from Late Latin *hyperbolicus*, from Greek *hyperbolikós*, from *hyperbolē* hyperbole.

hyperglycemia *n.* New Latin *hyperglycemia* (*hyper-* over + *glycemia* presence or level of sugar in the blood, from Greek *glykys* sweet + New Latin *-aemia*, from Greek *haima*, genitive *haimatos*, blood).

hyperon *n.* 1953, formed from *hyper-* over + *-on* elementary particle, as in *proton*, *neutron*.

hyphen *n.* About 1620, borrowing of Late Latin *hyphen*, from Greek *hyphén* hyphen (mark joining two syllables or words and probably indicating that two notes were to be held or blended

together in music, similar to the tie). Greek *hyphén* is formed from *hyp*' (reduced form of *hypó*) under, and *hén*, neuter of *heís* one. —**v.** 1814, from the noun. —**hyphenation** *n.* 1886, formed from English *hyphen*, *v.* + *-ation*. —**hyphenate** *v.* 1892, possibly a back formation from *hyphenation* and a formation of English *hyphen*, *n.* + *-ate*.

hypno- (also *hypn-* before vowels). a combining form meaning sleep, as in *hypnology*; or hypnotism, as in *hypnotherapy*. Borrowed from Greek *hypno-* combining form of *hypnos* sleep.

hypnosis *n.* 1882; earlier, inducement of sleep (1876); New Latin *hypnosis*, formed from Greek *hypnos* sleep + *-ōsis* condition.

hypnotic *adj.* 1625, inducing sleep, borrowed from French *hypnotique* inclined to sleep, soporific, learned borrowing from Late Latin *hypnōticus*, from Greek *hypnōtikós* inclined to sleep, putting to sleep, sleepy, adjective to **hypnōsis* a putting to sleep, from *hypnoín* put to sleep; from *hypnos* sleep. The meaning "of hypnosis or hypnotism" is first recorded in English in 1843. —**n.** 1681; from the adjective. —**hypnotism** *n.* 1843, from English *hypnotic* + *-ism*; earlier in *neuro-hypnotism* (1842). —**hypnotist** *n.* 1843, formed from English *hypnotism* + *-ist*. —**hypnotize** *v.* 1843, formed from English *hypnotic* + *-ize*.

hypo- a prefix meaning: 1 under, beneath, below, less than, slightly, or somewhat, as in *hypodermic*, *hyposensitive*, *hypotension*. 2 *Chemistry*. indicating amount of oxidation less than that of a compound without the prefix, as in *hypochlorous* acid, which is less oxidized than chlorous acid. Borrowed from Greek *hypo-*, from *hypó*, prep. and adv., under.

hypochondria *n.* 1839, illness without a specific cause; earlier, depression or melancholy without a real cause (1668); used as a singular form of the earlier plural *hypochondria* (1563; earlier *ypocandria*, 1373) upper region of the abdomen; borrowed from Late Latin *hypochondria* the abdomen, from Greek (neuter plural) *hypochōndria* (*hypo-* under + *chōndros* cartilage of the breastbone). The plural sense arose from the belief that the viscera of the *hypochondria* were the seat of melancholy. Formation of *hypochondria* with the meaning of an imaginary illness, was also influenced by *hypochondriasis*, of the same meaning (1766). —**hypochondriac** *n.* 1639, person affected with melancholy; probably a shortened form of earlier *hypochondriacal* (1611), and in some instances borrowed from French *hypochondriaque*, originally as an adjective with the sense of affected with melancholy, from Greek *hypochondriakós* of the abdomen, from *hypochōndria*. The meaning of a person suffering from imaginary illness is first recorded in 1888.

hypocrisy *n.* Probably before 1200 *ypocresie* false appearance of virtue; pretense, in religious matters; borrowed from Old French *ypocrisie*, learned borrowing from Late Latin *hypocrisis*, from Greek *hypókrisis* acting on the stage, pretense, from *hypokrínesthai* play a part (*hypo-* under + *krínein* to sift, decide). The spelling with *h* was adopted in English (as in French) in the 1500's. —**hypocrite** *n.* Probably before 1200 *ypocrite* a person who pretends to virtue, religious belief; borrowed from Old French *ypocrite*, learned borrowing from Late (Ecclesiasti-

cal) Latin *hypocrita* hypocrite, from Greek *hypokritēs* actor on the stage, pretender, from *hypokrinesthai*; see HYPOCRISY. —**hypocritical** adj. 1561, formed from English *hypocrite* + *-ical*.

hypodermic adj. 1863, formed in English from New Latin *hypoderma* (*hypo-* under + Greek *dérma* skin) + English suffix *-ic*. —**n.** 1875, hypodermic treatment; later, hypodermic syringe or injection (1893); from the adjective.

hypoglycemia *n.* New Latin *hypoglycemia* (*hypo-* under + *glycemia* presence or level of sugar in the blood, from Greek *glykys* sweet + New Latin *-aemia*, from Greek *haíma*, genitive *haímato*, blood).

hypotenuse *n.* 1571 *hypothenus*, a long-popular but erroneous spelling borrowed possibly from Middle French *hypothénuse*, *ypothénuse*, from Late Latin *hypotēnūsa*, from Greek *hypotēnōsa* stretching under, subtending (the right angle), feminine present participle of *hypotēnein* (*hypo-* under + *teinēin* to stretch). The spelling *hypotenuse* is not recorded before 1834.

hypothalamus *n.* 1896, New Latin, from *hypo-* under + *thalamus* part of the brain where a nerve emerges.

hypothesis *n.* 1596, particular case of a general thesis; borrowed, possibly by influence of Middle French *hypothese*, from

Late Latin *hypothesis*, from Greek *hypóthesis*, base, basis of an argument, supposition (*hypo-* under + *thesis* a placing, proposition). The meaning of a theory, especially in the sciences, is not recorded before 1646. —**hypothesize** *v.* 1738; formed from English *hypothesis* + *-ize*. —**hypothetical** adj. 1615; formed in English from Greek *hypothetikós* supposed + English suffix *-ical*.

hyssop *n.* Before 1300 *ysope*; earlier in Biblical use, a plant of Palestine (about 1200); developed (by influence of Latin *hyssopus*, *hyssōpum*) from Old English *ysōpe* (before 830); learned borrowing from Irish Latin *hyssopus*, from Greek *hýssōpos*, *hýssōpon*, from a Semitic source (compare Hebrew *ʿēzōbh*).

hysterectomy *n.* 1886, formed in English from Greek *hystērā* uterus + English *-ectomy*.

hysteria *n.* 1801, New Latin, formed as an abstract noun to English *hysterical*, adj., of or characterized by hysteria (1657); borrowed from Middle French *hystérique*, from Latin *hystericus* of the womb, from Greek *hysterikós*, from *hystērā* womb; originally associated with disturbance of the uterus and its functions. —**hysterical** adj. 1615, characteristic of hysteria; formed in English from Latin *hystericus* of the womb + English suffix *-al*. —**hysterics** *n.* pl. 1727, formed from English *hysterical*, adj. + *-s*, plural suffix.

I

I *pron.* 1137 *i*; later *I* (about 1250); developed from the unstressed form of Old English (about 725) *ic* singular pronoun of the first person (nominative case). Modern and Middle English *I* developed from earlier *i* in the stressed position. *I* came to be written with a capital letter thereby making it a distinct word and avoiding misreading of handwritten manuscripts. In the northern and midland dialects of England the capitalized form *I* appeared about 1250. In the south of England, where Old English *ic* early shifted in pronunciation to *ich*, the form *I* did not become established until the 1700's (although it appears sporadically before that time).

Old English *ic* corresponds to Old Frisian, Middle Dutch, and modern Dutch *ik*, Old High German *ih* (modern German *ich*), Old Icelandic *ek* (Danish *jeg*, Norwegian *eg/jeg*, Swedish *jag*), and Gothic *ik*, from Proto-Germanic **ekan*.

-ial a variant form of the suffix *-al*, as in *adverbial*, *exponential*, *microbial*, *residential*.

iambic adj. 1581, borrowed from Latin *iambicus*, from Greek *iambikós*, from *iambos* a metrical foot of an unaccented and an

accented syllable, lampoon (so called perhaps because it was first used in satiric verse).

-ian a variant form of the suffix *-an*, as in *comedian*, *egalitarian*, *Bostonian*; borrowed from Latin in which it was attached to the root of nouns and developed into *-ian* (Latin *-iānus*) with a word having a vocalic stem ending in *-i-*, as in *Aemili-* + *-ānus* = *Aemiliānus*. In Middle English the form is more frequently *-ien*, in words borrowed from Old French.

-iana a variant form of the suffix *-ana*, as in *Jacksoniana*. See also *-ANA*.

ibex *n.* 1607, borrowing of Latin *ibex* (genitive *ibicis*), from a pre-Latin Alpine language (compare CHAMOIS).

ibid. 1663, abbreviation of Latin *ibidem* in the same place (*ibi* there + demonstrative suffix *-dem*).

ibis *n.* 1382 *ybyn* (singular), later *ibes* (plural, about 1400); borrowed from Latin *ibis*, from Greek *ibis* (genitive *ibios*), from Egyptian *hab* a sacred bird of Egypt.

-ible a suffix forming adjectives from verbs, and meaning "that can be _____ed, able to be _____ed," as in *collectible*, *reducible*, *perfectible*. Middle English, borrowed from Old French *-ible* and directly from Latin *-ibilis*, *-ibilis*, variants of the suffix *-ibilis* forming adjectives from verbs with infinitives in *-ere*, *-ere*, and *-ire*; see **-ABLE** for a discussion of these suffixes.

-ic a suffix forming adjectives from nouns, and meaning: 1 of or having to do with, as in *atmospheric*, *Icelandic*. 2 having the nature of, as in *heroic*. 3 constituting or being, as in *bombastic*. 4 containing or made up of, as in *metallic*. 5 made by or caused by, as in *volcanic*. 6 like, like that of, characteristic of, as in *meteoric*. 7 an art or system of thought, as in *stoic*, *logic*, *music*. 8 in chemical terms *-ic* indicates the presence of an element in a compound or ion that is of a higher valence than indicated by the suffix *-ous*, as in *boric* or *ferric*. Many words ending in *-ic* have two or more of the meanings in definitions 1 to 6, as *bombastic* = *constituting or being bombastic*, and *containing or made up of bombastic*, or *metallic* which has the meaning of almost all the definitions given above. Middle English, borrowed through French *-ique*, and directly from Latin *-icus*, from Greek *-ikós*.

-ical a suffix forming adjectives meaning roughly the same thing as *-ic* in most instances. 1 *-ic*, as in *historical*, *grammatical*, *cosmological*. 2 *-ic*, specialized or differentiated in meaning, as in *economical*. 3 sometimes with the sense of *-al*¹ added to nouns ending in *-ic* or *-ics*, as in *musical* = *music*, n. + *-al*¹, or *statistical* = *statistic(s)*, n. + *-al*¹. Middle English, borrowed from Late Latin *-icālis* (Latin *-icus* *-ic* + *-ālis* *-al*¹).

-ically a suffix forming adverbs from adjectives in *-ical* by simple addition of the suffix *-ly*¹, and from adjectives in *-ic* by addition of *-ally*, as in *historically* and *poetically* which are adverbs corresponding to either *historic* or *historical*, and to either *poetic* or *poetical*. Though sometimes heard as *artistically* and *alphabetically*, in writing English uses the forms *artistically* and *alphabetically*. The sole exception is *publicly*.

ice n. Before 1225 *is*; later *yce* (about 1395); found in Old English *ī* ice (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian, Old Saxon, Middle Low German, and Old High German *īs* ice (modern German *Eis*), Dutch *ijs*, and Old Icelandic *īss*, from Proto-Germanic **īsa-*. —v. Probably before 1400 *ysen* to cover with ice; from the noun. —**ice-cold** adj. (before 1000, in Old English *is-calde*) —**ice cream** (1744, earlier *iced cream*, 1688) —**ice skate** 1662 *skeates*, and earlier *schates* (1648). —**ice-skate** v. (1696) Though *ice skate* was used as a noun and verb in the latter part of the 1600's, *skate*, n. and v. was the usual term until the invention of roller skates in 1760 made differentiation necessary, and even more so with the spreading popularity of an improved roller skate in the U.S. after 1863 (though the effect of *Rollerblades* and *blades*, *blading* may make differentiation once more irrelevant). —**icing** n. 1769, confection put on pastry. —**icy** adj. About 1500; formed from English *ice*, n. + *-y*¹. This adjective is found as Old English *īsig* (about 725, in *Beowulf*), but was formed anew in Middle English. The figurative sense of without warm feeling is first recorded in 1594.

iceberg n. 1774, borrowed as a partial loan translation from Dutch *ijsberg*, literally, ice mountain (*ijs* ICE + *berg* mountain).

The figurative sense of anything that is only partly visible or known, is first recorded in 1957; the phrase *tip of the iceberg*, in the sense of a small or superficial part of something, is found in 1963.

ichneumon n. small, weasel-like animal of Egypt. 1572, borrowed from Latin *ichneumon*, from Greek *ichneumon*, literally, searcher, perhaps as for crocodile's eggs, from *ichneúein* hunt after or track, from *ichnos* a track; of uncertain origin. The word has been also applied since 1658 to a parasitic insect commonly called *ichneumon fly*.

ichthyology n. 1646, formed from Greek *ichthys* fish + English *-ology*.

ichthyosaur n. 1830, borrowed from New Latin *ichthyosaurus* (from Greek *ichthys* fish + *saitros* lizard).

icicle n. Before 1325 *hyssykil*; later *isykle* (*is* ice + *ikel* icicle); developed from Old English (before 1000) *gicel* (compare Old English *cylegicel* cold icicle, probably about 750), from Proto-Germanic **jekilaz*, and cognate with Old High German *ihilla* icicle, Old Icelandic *jökull* icicle, glacier, *jaki* piece of ice.

icky adj. 1935, American English, overly sweet, cloying, sickening, (originally among jazz musicians) but found earlier in *icky-boo* sickly, nauseated, (1920, in general slang); of unknown origin. The sense of nasty, unpleasant, disgusting, is first recorded about 1938.

icon or **ikon** n. 1550, borrowed from Late Latin *īcōn*, from Greek *eikōn* (genitive *eikōnos*), Cypriote accusative *weikōna*, likeness, image, portrait, related to *eikénai* be like, look like.

iconoclast n. 1641, earlier in a Scottish variant *Jconoclaste* (1596, where *J* stands for *I*) person who breaks or destroys religious figurines and images, in reference to those in the Eastern Church of the 700's and 800's whose followers raged in mobs destroying such religious objects. Also applied to Protestants of the 1500's and 1600's in the Netherlands, who similarly destroyed much of value. The term was borrowed through French *iconoclaste*, and directly from Medieval Latin *iconoclastes*, from Late Greek *eikonoklastēs* (*eikōn*, genitive *eikōnos* image + *klas-*, a past tense stem of *klán* to break).

The extended sense of one who attacks cherished beliefs and institutions appeared in 1842. —**iconoclasm** n. 1797, formed from *iconoclast*, on the pattern of *enthusiasm*, *enthusiasm*. The sense of an attack on cherished beliefs or institutions, is first recorded in 1858. —**iconoclastic** adj. 1640; formed from English *iconoclast* + *-ic*.

-ics a suffix meaning: facts, principles, science, as in *optics*, *aesthetics*, *metaphysics*, *genetics*; or method, practice, art, as in *athletics*, *gymnastics*, *politics*, *ceramics*. Originally *-ics* was the plural of nouns ending in *-ic* (as *arithmetic*), formed from Latin *-ica*, feminine singular or neuter plural suffix, from Greek *-iká*, neuter plural suffix meaning matters relating to or having to do with something.

id n. 1924, borrowed from Latin *id* it, as a translation of

German *es* IT, used to denote impersonal or instinctual forces in nature. Compare EGO.

-id¹ a suffix mostly identifying members of a group or class, in scientific terminology: **1a** in botany, a member of an order with the New Latin name in *-idaceae*, as in *amaryllid*. **b** in zoology, a member of a class with New Latin name *-ida*, as in *arachnid* (*Arachnida*), or of a family, New Latin name *-idae*, as in *araneid* (*Araneidae*). **c** a complex structure in biology, as in *capsid*, *plasmid*. **2** in astronomy, the naming of meteor showers, as in *Leonid*, *Perseid*, and variable stars, as in *Cepheid*. **3** the naming of dynastic lines, as in *Achaemenid*, *Seleucid*.

English *-id* was borrowed, sometimes through French *-ide*, and directly from Latin *-idēs*, a masculine patronymic suffix borrowed from Greek *-idēs*, or from Latin *-is* (genitive *-idis*), borrowed from *-is* (genitive *-idos*) a feminine patronymic suffix.

-id² a variant of the suffix *-ide*, now little used and virtually replaced by *-ide*.

-ide a suffix used to form names of simple compounds of an element with another element or radical, as in *amide*, *chloride*, *sulfide*. Abstracted as *-ide* from *oxide*, the first compound classified in this way.

idea *n.* Before 1398 *ydea* general or ideal form, or type, borrowed from Latin *idea* idea, archetype, from Greek *idéā* look, form, ideal prototype, from *ideîn* to see (earlier *idéēin*, *idéēn*). While the form in Middle English was borrowed from Latin, the Middle and Old French word *idee* was probably an influence in the borrowing.

The meaning of something imagined or fancied is first recorded in 1588, and the sense of any result of mental activity or understanding, about 1645.

ideal *adj.* 1410 *ydeall* pertaining to type or model of a thing; later, imaginary (1611); perfect (1613); borrowed from Late Latin *ideālis* existing in idea, from Latin *idea* IDEA. —**n.** 1796, a standard of perfection; from the adjective, probably by influence of French *idéel*, *n.* —**idealism** *n.* 1796, belief that reality is made up of ideas only; formed from English *ideal* + *-ism*, after French *idéisme*. The meaning of representing things in an ideal form is first recorded in 1829. —**idealist** *n.* 1701, formed from English *ideal* + *-ist*, after French *idéaliste*. —**idealistic** *adj.* 1829, formed from English *idealist* + *-ic*. —**idealize** *v.* 1786, probably formed from English *ideal*, *adj.* + *-ize*.

identical *adj.* 1620, expressing an identity (in logic); borrowed from Medieval Latin *identicus* the same, from Late Latin *identitās* IDENTITY. The sense of being the same or very similar, is first recorded before 1633.

The form in Modern English replaced earlier *idemptical* same, identical (recorded about 1475); borrowed from Medieval Latin *idemptitas* identity, from Latin *idem* the same.

identify *v.* 1644, regard as the same; borrowed from French *identifier*, from *identité* identity; for suffix see *-FY*. The meaning of recognize as being a particular person or thing, is first recorded in 1769. —**identification** *n.* 1644, borrowed from

French *identification*, probably from *identifier*, on the pattern of such pairs as *ratifier* to ratify, *ratification*; for suffix see *-ATION*.

identity *n.* 1603, sameness or oneness; borrowed from Middle French *identité*, learned borrowing from Late Latin *identitatem* (nominative *identitās*) sameness, from *ident-*, combining form of Latin *idem* (neuter) same (related to *id* it), extracted from the adverb *identidem* over and over again, from *idem et idem*; for suffix see *-TY*. Identity in modern English replaced the form *idemptitie* (1570), from earlier Medieval Latin *idemptitas*.

ideology *n.* 1796, the science of ideas; later, unpractical theorizing, visionary speculation (1813); borrowed from French *idéologie* the study or science of ideas, from *idéo-* of ideas, from Greek *idéā* IDEA; for suffix see *-LOGY*. The meaning of set of ideas, doctrines, or beliefs, is first recorded in English in 1909.

ides *n. pl.* in the ancient Roman calendar, the 15th day of March, May, July, and October, and the 13th day of the other months. Before 1338, earlier in the Latin form *idus* (1124); borrowed from Old French *ides*, and directly from Latin *idūs* (plural).

idiom *n.* 1588, form of speech of a people or country, own language or tongue; borrowed through Middle French *idiome*, and directly from Late Latin *idiōma* a peculiarity in language, from Greek *idíōma* peculiarity or peculiar phraseology, ultimately from *idios* one's own. The meaning of a phrase or expression peculiar to a language, was introduced in 1628.

—**idiomatic** *adj.* 1712, characteristic of a particular language; borrowed from Late Greek *idiōmatikós* peculiar or characteristic, from Greek *idíōma*.

idiosyncrasy *n.* 1604, peculiarity of physical constitution; 1665, personal peculiarity; borrowed, probably from French *idiosyncrasie*, and, from Greek *idiosynkrāsia* (*idios* one's own + *synkrāsis* temperament). —**idiosyncratic** *adj.* Before 1779, formed from English *idiosyncrasy* (*-crasy* taking the formative *-crat*) + *-ic*, modeled on Greek *synkrātikós*.

idiot *n.* Before 1325 *idiot* feeble-minded person, fool, later a simple, uneducated person (about 1378); borrowed from Old French *idiote* uneducated or ignorant person, from Latin *idiōta* ordinary person, layman, (in Late Latin, uneducated or ignorant person), from Greek *idíōtēs* layman, ignoramus, person without professional skill or knowledge, from *idios* one's own, earlier. —**idiocy** *n.* Before 1529, formed from *idiot*, on the model of Greek *idíōtēs*, and the pattern of pairs of words such as *prophet*, *prophecy*. —**idiotic** *adj.* 1713, borrowed from Latin *idiōticus* of an ordinary person (in Late Latin, uneducated, ignorant), from Greek *idíōtikós* unprofessional, unskilled, from *idíōtēs*.

idle *adj.* Old English *idel* empty, void, useless, (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *idel* empty, worthless, vain, Old Saxon *idal*, Old High German *ital* (modern German *eitel* bare, mere, pure, vain), Middle Dutch *idel* (modern Dutch *ijdel*) vain, of unknown origin. —**v.** Before 1460, make vain or worthless; from the adjective. The meaning of spend or waste (time) is first found in 1652. Reference to a motor, running slowly and evenly, is first recorded in 1916. —**idly** *adv.* (about 830, in Old English *idellice*)

idol *n.* About 1250 *idele*, later *ydol* (about 1340); borrowed from Old French *idole*, (earlier) *idele*, learned borrowing from Late Latin *idolum* image or form, from Greek *eidōlon* image, phantom, from *eidōs* form. The figurative sense of anything that is idolized is first recorded in 1562. —**idolize** *v.* 1598, formed from English *idol* + *-ize*.

idolatry *n.* About 1250 *ydolatry*; borrowed from Old French *idolatrie*, learned borrowing with contraction in the form from Late Latin *idōlōlatrīa*, from Greek *eidōlōlatreīā* (*eidōlon* image + *latreīā* worship, service); for suffix see *-TRY*. —**idolater** *n.* About 1415 *ydolatre*; earlier *ydolatrēr* (about 1384); borrowed from Old French *idolatre*, learned borrowing with contraction in the form from Late Latin *idōlōlatrēs*, from Greek *eidōlōlatrēs* (*eidōlon* image + *-latrēs*, worshiper); for suffix see *-ER*¹. —**idolatrōus** *adj.* 1550, formed from English *idolater* + *-ous*.

idyl or **idyll** *n.* 1601, picturesque pastoral poem; borrowed from Latin *īdyllium*, from Greek *eidyllion* short descriptive poem, diminutive of *eidōs* form. The word was probably also borrowed into English from Middle French *idylle*. —**idyllic** *adj.* 1856, formed in American English from *idyll* + *-ic*.

-ie a suffix meaning little, as in *dearie*; also used to show kind feeling or intimacy, as in *auntie*; variant of *-y*². The suffix is found in Middle English *-ie* and *-i*.

-ier a suffix meaning person occupied or concerned with, as in *financier*, *cashier*, *hosier*. Middle English, in part borrowed from Old French *-ier*.

The suffix varies with *-yer*. Most older formations from Old French became *-er* in Anglo-French, as in *butler* and *draper*; other formations such as *lawyer* and *clothier* have early coexisting forms, *lawer* and *clother*. Some words, such as *carrier*, *courtier*, and *quarrier* are actually formations in *-er*, the *-i-* belonging to the English or French verb stem.

In later words with *-ier*, some words have taken the place of earlier forms in *-er*; others occur with the spelling *-eer* producing words such as *auctioneer*.

if *conj.* Before 1250 *if*, developed from Old English *gif* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *jef*, *jof* *if*, Middle Low German *jof*, Old Saxon *of*, Old High German *oba* (modern German *ob*) *if*, whether, Old Danish *of*, and Gothic *ibái* *if*, probably coming down from Proto-Germanic **ja-ba*. Collaterally with these early Germanic conjunctions there were also Old High German *ibu* whether, Old Frisian *ef*, Old Saxon *ef*, Old Icelandic *ef*, the Gothic interrogative particle *ibái*, and Gothic *ibái* (*iba*) lest, in order that...not, probably coming from Proto-Germanic **e-ba*. —**n.** 1513, from the conjunction. —**iffy** *adj.* 1937, American English; formed from *if* + *-y*¹.

igloo *n.* 1824, Canadian English; borrowing of an Eskimo word for "house or dwelling"; compare Greenlandic *igdlu* house.

igneous *adj.* 1664, fiery; 1665, produced by fire; borrowed from Latin *igneus*, from *ignis* fire; for suffix see *-OUS*.

ignite *v.* 1666, in part, developed from *ignite*, *adj.*, intensely heated (probably before 1425, borrowed from Latin *ignitus*); and, in part, borrowed directly from Latin *ignitus*, past participle

of *ignire* set afire. —**ignition** *n.* 1612, act of heating; borrowed from French *ignition*, from Medieval or New Latin *ignitionem* (nominative *ignitio*) from Latin *ignire*; for suffix see *-TION*.

ignoble *adj.* 1447 *ynoble* of low birth; borrowed from Middle French *ignoble*, learned borrowing from Latin *ignobilis* (*i-*, variant of *in*¹ not + Classical Latin *nobilis* noble, influenced by Old Latin *gnobilis*).

ignominy *n.* 1540, back formation from *ignominious*, probably influenced by Middle French *ignominie*, and Latin *ignominia*. —**ignominious** *adj.* Probably before 1425 *ignominiose*, borrowed through Middle French *ignominieux*, or directly from Latin *ignōminiōsus*, from *ignōminia* loss of (good) name (*i-*, variant of *in*¹ not + *nōmen*, genitive *nōminis* name, influenced by Old Latin *gnōscere* come to know).

ignoramus *n.* Before 1616, from earlier (before 1577) *ignoramus*, a legal term borrowed from New Latin, from Latin *ignōrāmus* we do not know, first person plural present indicative of *ignōrāre* not to know; see *IGNORE*.

As a legal term it referred to a grand jury that considered evidence insufficient. The meaning "ignorant person" comes from the title of a play (1615) intended to expose the ignorance of lawyers.

ignore *v.* 1801, pay no attention to; earlier, be ignorant of (1611); probably a dictionary word borrowed from French *ignorer*, but influenced by earlier English *ignorance* and *ignorant*. French *ignorer* was borrowed from Latin *ignōrāre* not to know, disregard, from *ignārus* not knowing, unaware (*i-* not, variant of *in*¹ + Old Latin *gnārus* aware, acquainted with; related to *gnōscere*, Classical Latin *nōscere* come to know); the form of the Latin verb was influenced by *ignōtus* unknown. —**ignorance** *n.* Probably before 1200, borrowed from Old French *ignorance*, from Latin *ignōrantia*, from *ignōrantem* (nominative *ignōrāns*), present participle of *ignōrāre*; for suffix see *-ANCE*. —**ignorant** *adj.* About 1380 *ignoraunt*, borrowed from Old French *ignorant*, from Latin *ignōrantem* (nominative *ignōrāns*), present participle of *ignōrāre*; for suffix see *-ANT*.

iguana *n.* 1555, borrowing of Spanish *iguana*, from Arawakan *iguana* or *iwana*.

ikon *n.* See *ICON*.

il¹ a form of the prefix *in*¹ not, opposite of; found before *l*, as in *illegal*, *illegitimate*, *illegible*, *illiterate*. In words from Latin the form developed from the assimilation of *n* to the following consonant (*l*).

il² a form of the prefix *in*² in, within; found before *l*, as in *illuminate*. In words from Latin the form developed from the assimilation of *n* to the following consonant (*l*). The prefix is also less frequently found in borrowings from Old French with *il-*.

ileum *n.* *Anatomy.* lowest part of the small intestine. 1682, New Latin, from Latin *īlia* groin, flank. The modern English borrowing replaced Middle English *ylioun* (1392), borrowed from Medieval Latin *ileon*, from Greek *eileōn*, a form of *eileōs*

intestinal obstruction; erroneously blended with Latin *ilia*. —**ileitis** 1855, formed from English *ileum* + *-itis*.

ilium *n.* *Anatomy.* upper portion of the hipbone. 1706, New Latin, from Latin *ilia* groin, flank; probably influenced by earlier English *iliac*. —**iliac** *adj.* 1541, probably formed from Latin *ilia* + *-acus*, adjective suffix. The modern English borrowing replaced Middle English *ylia* of the *ilium* (recorded before 1398), found in *ylia* *passioun*, from Late Latin *passio ilia*.

ilk *n.* 1117 *ylce* (pronoun used as a noun); later *ilke* (probably before 1200); developed from Old English *ilca* same (*n.*, about 725, in *Beowulf*); also same, identical, aforementioned (*adj.*, about 750). The Old English *ilca* was probably formed from the particle *ī* + *-lic*, root of Old English *gelic* LIKE¹.

The meanings of the Old English word survive in the phrase of *that ilk* of the same place or name and of the same kind or sort.

ill *adj.* Probably about 1150 *ille* morally evil, malicious; borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *ill* ill, bad). The meaning of sick or diseased is found before 1460. —**adv.** Probably about 1150 *ille* harshly or bitterly; from the adjective. —**n.** About 1250, evil or wicked people; from the adjective.

illegal *adj.* 1626, borrowed through French *illégal*, or directly from Medieval Latin *illegalis* (Latin *il*-¹ not + *lēgālis* LEGAL).

illegitimate *adj.* 1536, formed from English *il*-¹ + *legitimate*, *adj.*, modeled on Latin *illegitimus* not legitimate, and replacing earlier *illegitime*.

illicit *adj.* Before 1506, borrowed from French *illicite*, learned borrowing from Latin *illicitus* (*il*-¹ not + *licitus* lawful, LICIT).

illiterate *adj.* Probably before 1425, borrowed from Latin *illiterātus*, *illiterātus* unlettered (*il*-¹ not + *litterātus*, *litterātus* furnished with letters); for suffix see *-ATE*¹. —**n.** 1628; from the adjective.

illuminate *v.* Probably before 1425 *illuminaten*, probably a back formation from *illumination*; for suffix see *-ATE*¹.

This later Middle English form replaced *enlumen* enlighten (1370) and became the usual spelling for decorate (a letter, etc.) with gold, silver, and brilliant colors (recorded probably before 1439). While *illuminate* is ultimately a Latinate form, Middle English *enlumen* was borrowed from Old French *enluminer*, from Late Latin *inlūmināre*, variant of Latin *illūmināre*. —**illumination** *n.* Before 1396 *illumination* enlightenment; borrowed through Old French *illumination*, and directly from Latin *illūminātiōnem* (nominative *illūminātiō*), from *illūmināre* (*il*-² in + *lūmen*, genitive *lūminis* light); for suffix see *-ATION*. The meaning of lighting up, is first recorded in 1563. —**illumine** *v.* Probably 1348 *illumynen* enlighten spiritually, borrowed from Old French *illuminer*, learned borrowing from Latin *illūmināre* illuminate.

illusion *n.* About 1350 *illusioun* mockery; later, deceptive appearance (about 1380); borrowed from Old French *illusion* a mocking, learned borrowing from Latin *illūsio* (nomina-

tive *illūsio*) a mocking, jesting, irony, from *illudere* mock at (*il*-² at + *ludere* to play); for suffix see *-ION*. —**illusive** *adj.* 1679; formed from English *illus* (*ion*) + *-ive*. —**illusory** *adj.* Before 1631, borrowed perhaps through French *illusoire*, or directly from Late Latin *illūsorius* of a mocking character, ironical, from Latin *illudere*; for suffix see *-ORY*.

illustrate *v.* 1526, light up, shed light on; back formation from *illustration*; for suffix see *-ATE*¹. The meaning of make clear by examples, is first recorded in 1612, and that of provide with pictures that explain or decorate, in 1638. —**illustration** *n.* About 1375, borrowed through Old French *illustration*, and directly from Latin *illūstrātiōnem* (nominative *illūstrātiō*) vivid representation (in writing), from *illūstrāre* light up, embellish, distinguish (*il*-² in + *lūstrāre* make bright, illuminate); for suffix see *-ATION*. —**illustrative** *adj.* 1643; formed from English *illustrate* + *-ive*. —**illustrator** *n.* 1598, formed by influence of Middle French *illustrateur*, from English *illustrate* + *-or*², modeled on Late Latin *illūstrātor* one who enlightens. The sense of one who draws pictures, is first recorded in 1689.

illustrious *adj.* About 1566, borrowed from Latin *illūstris* bright, distinguished, famous, from *illūstrāre* embellish, distinguish, make famous; for suffix see *-OUS*. The modern English form replaced *illustre* (recorded before 1460); borrowed from Middle French *illustre* illustrious, from Latin *illūstris* illustrious.

im-¹ a form of the prefix *in*-¹ not, opposite of, before *b*, *m*, and *p*, as in *imbalance*, *immoral*, *impossible*. Borrowed in many words from French and Latin, and formed in Latin by assimilation of *n* to a following consonant.

im-² a form of the prefix *in*-² in, within, before *b*, *m*, and *p*, as in *imbibe*, *immure*, *impart*. Borrowed in many words from French and Latin, and formed in Latin by assimilation of *n* to a following consonant.

image *n.* Probably about 1200 *ymage* statue, effigy; borrowing of Old French *image*, from Latin *imāgō* (genitive *imāginis*) copy, statue, picture, idea, appearance, related to *imitārī* copy, IMITATE.

Various meanings in Latin began to appear gradually in English, especially that of a mental picture or impression, idea, (about 1380), and from that the later meaning of an impression that a person, institution, product, etc., presents to the public, as in the phrase *public image* (1908). —**imagery** *n.* About 1350 *ymagerie* carved figures; borrowing of Old French *imagerie*, from *image* image, from Latin *imāgō*; for suffix see *-ERY*. The meaning of ornate description, as in poetry, is first recorded in 1589.

imagine *v.* About 1340 *ymagynen* form an image of, picture in one's mind; borrowed from Old French *imaginer*, learned borrowing from Latin *imāginārī* to picture oneself, imagine (also in Latin *imāgināre* to form an image of, represent), from *imāgō* (genitive *imāginis*) IMAGE. The meaning of suppose, fancy, is first recorded about 1380. —**imaginable** *adj.* About 1380 *ymaginable*, borrowed probably from Old French *imaginable*, and directly from Late Latin *imāginābilis*, from Latin *imāginārī* imagine. —**imaginary** *adj.* About 1395 *ymaginaire*, borrowed from Latin *imāginārius*, from *imāginārī* imagine; for suffix see

—**ARY**. —**imagination** n. 1340 *ymaginacion*; borrowed from Old French *imagination*, learned borrowing from Latin *imāginātiōnem* (nominative *imāginātiō*) *imagination*, probably from *imāginārī* *imagine*; for suffix see **-ATION**. —**imaginative** adj. About 1380 *ymaginatyf*, borrowed from Old French *imaginatif*, and directly from Medieval Latin *imaginativus*, from Latin *imāginārī*; for suffix see **-ATIVE**.

imbecile n. 1802, feeble-minded person, developed from earlier adjective *imbecille* weak or feeble, especially in reference to the body (1549); borrowed from Middle French *imbecile*, *imbécille*, learned borrowing from Latin *imbēcillus* weak or feeble; of unknown origin. —**imbecility** n. Probably before 1425 *imbecillite* physical weakness; borrowing of Middle French *imbēcillité*, and borrowed directly from Latin *imbēcillitatem* (nominative *imbēcillitās*) weakness, feebleness, from *imbēcillus*; for suffix see **-ITY**. The sense of mental weakness is not recorded in English before 1624.

imbibe v. About 1395 *embiben* absorb (fluid), borrowed from Old French *embiber* to soak into, and directly from Latin *imbibere* absorb, drink in, inhale (*im-*² + *bibere* to drink, related to *pōtāre* to drink).

imbrication n. 1650, borrowing of French *imbrication*, as if from Latin **imbricatiōnem* (nominative **imbricatiō*), from *imbricare* to cover with tiles, from *imbrex* (genitive *imbris*) curved roof tile used to lead off rain, from *imber* (genitive *imbris*) rain.

imbroglio n. 1750, confused heap; 1818, complicated or difficult situation; borrowing of Italian *imbroglio*, from *imbrogliare* confuse or tangle (*im-*² + *brogliare* embroil, probably from Middle French *brouiller* confuse); see **BROIL** turmoil.

imbue v. Probably before 1425, as a past participle of *imbute*, enbeued initiated in, absorbed in; probably, in part, borrowed from Middle French *imbu*, *imbue* steeped in, full of, a form remade, under the influence of Latin *imbūtus* (past participle of *imbuiere* moisten, stain), from earlier *embu*, past participle of *emboire*, from Latin *imbibere* drink in, soak in. Also as a verb in English with the meaning of fill, inspire (1555), borrowed in part from Latin *imbuiere* moisten, tinge, stain, taint.

imitate v. 1534, back formation from *imitation* or *imitator*; for suffix see **-ATE**¹. —**imitation** n. Before 1400 *ymytacyoun*; borrowed from Old French *imitacion*, from Latin *imitatiōnem* (nominative *imitatiō*) *imitation*, from *imitārī* to copy, portray, imitate; related to *imāgō* **IMAGE**. —**imitative** adj. 1584, probably formed from English *imitate* + **-ive**, perhaps modeled on Middle French *imitatif*. —**imitator** n. 1523; probably a back formation from *imitation*; for suffix see **-OR**².

immaculate adj. 1441, borrowed from Latin *immaculātus* (*im-*¹ + *maculātus* spotted, defiled, past participle of *maculāre* to spot, from *macula* spot, blemish; for suffix see **-ATE**¹). The term *Immaculate Conception* is first recorded in 1687, borrowed from Middle French *immaculée conception*, (earlier) *conception immaculée* (1497).

immaterial adj. 1410 *inmaterial* not material, spiritual;

learned borrowing from Medieval Latin *immaterialis*, from Late Latin *immāteriālis* (*im-*¹ + Late Latin *māteriālis* **MATERIAL**).

The sense of unimportant, of no consequence, is first recorded in 1698, but fifty years later Johnson was commenting, "This sense has crept into the conversation and writings of barbarians; but ought to be utterly rejected," not realizing perhaps that *material* in the sense of important, had been in use at least since 1529.

immature adj. 1548, untimely, premature, usually in reference to death; borrowed from Latin *immātūrus* untimely or unripe (*im-*¹ + *mātūrus* **MATURE**). The meaning of unripe, in reference to fruit, is first recorded in 1599, and that of not full-grown or developed, in 1641. —**immaturity** n. About 1540, untimeliness; borrowed from Latin *immātūritatem* (nominative *immātūritās*) unripeness, from *immātūrus* unripe; for suffix see **-ITY**. The meaning of lack of maturity, is first recorded in 1606.

immediate adj. 1392 *immediat* intervening, interposed; later *immediate* absolute, conclusive (1410), and existing with nothing between, direct (probably before 1425); borrowed from Old French *immediat*, and Medieval Latin *immediatus*, from Late Latin *immediātus* (*im-*¹ + *mediātus*, past participle of *mediāre* to halve; later, be in the middle, from Latin *medius* middle; see **MID**); for suffix see **-ATE**¹.

With reference to time, the meaning of coming at once, done without delay, is found in 1568 and in an earlier adverbial form in 1420; the sense of current, is first recorded in 1605.

—**immediacy** n. 1605, formed from English *immediate* + **-cy**. —**immediately** adv. Before 1400, from *immediate*, adj.

immemorial adj. 1602, probably borrowed from French *immémorial* old beyond memory or record (*im-*¹ + French *mémorial* of memory, **MEMORIAL**).

immense adj. About 1426 *immens*, borrowed from Middle French *immense*, learned borrowing from Latin *immēnsus* immeasurable, boundless (*im-*¹ + *mēnsus*, past participle of *mētīrī* to **MEASURE**).

immerse v. 1605, earlier found in the participial form *immersed* stuck, imbedded (probably before 1425); borrowed from Latin *immersus*, past participle of *immergere* to plunge in, dip into (*im-*² + *mergere* to plunge, dip; see **MERGE**). —**immersion** n. Before 1500 *immersionne*, borrowed from French *immersion* and directly from Late Latin *immersiōnem*, *immersiōnem* (nominative *immersiō*, *immersiō*), from Latin *immergere*; for suffix see **-SION**.

immigrate v. 1623, borrowed from Latin *immigrātum*, past participle of *immigrāre* to remove, go into, move in (*im-*² + *migrāre* to move, **MIGRATE**); for suffix see **-ATE**¹. —**immigrant** n. 1792, borrowed probably from French *immigrant*, from Latin *immigrantem* (nominative *immigrāns*), present participle of *immigrāre* *immigrate*; for suffix see **-ANT**. —**immigration** n. 1658, formed from English *immigrate* + **-ion**.

imminent adj. 1436 *ymynent*; borrowed from Middle French *imminent*, and directly from Latin *imminentem* (nominative

imminēns), present participle of *imminēre* to overhang, impend, be near (*im*-² + **minēre* to hang, jut; related to *mōns*, genitive *montis*, hill, MOUNT²); for suffix see -ENT. —**imminence** n. 1606, probably formed from English *immin* (*ent*) + *-ence*; also influenced by Late Latin *imminentia*, from Latin *imminentem* (nominative *imminēns*), present participle of *imminēre*.

immobile *adj.* Before 1349 *immoill* not moving, motionless; borrowed from Old French *immobile*, learned borrowing from Latin *immobilis* (*im*-¹ + *mobilis* MOBILE). —**immobilize** v. 1871, formed from English *immobile* + *-ize*, possibly by influence of French *immobiliser*, from Old French *immobile* *immo-* *bile*.

immoderate *adj.* Before 1398; borrowed from Latin *immoderātus* unrestrained, excessive (*im*-¹ + *moderātus* restrained, MOD-ERATE); for suffix see -ATE¹.

immolate v. 1548, developed from *immolate* sacrificed, past participle used as an adjective (1534); borrowed from Latin *immolātus*, past participle of *immolāre* to sacrifice, originally, to sprinkle with sacrificial meal (*im*-² upon + *mola* sacrificial meal; related to *molere* to grind); for suffix see -ATE¹. Also, *immolate* may be a back formation from *immolation*. —**immolation** n. Probably about 1425 *immolacion*, borrowed, perhaps from Middle French *immolation*, or directly from Latin *immolatiōnem* (nominative *immolatiō*), from *immolāre*.

immorality n. About 1566; formed from English *im*-¹ + *mortality*. —**immoral** *adj.* 1660, back formation from *immorality*.

immortal *adj.* About 1380, borrowed, probably by influence of Old French *immortel*, from Latin *immortālis* living forever, deathless (*im*-¹ + *mortālis* MORTAL); for suffix see -AL¹. —**immortality** n. About 1340 *immortalite*, borrowed from Old French *immortalité*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *immortalitatem* (nominative *immortalitās*) deathlessness, from *immortālis* immortal; for suffix see -ITY. —**immortalize** v. About 1566, formed from English *immortal* + *-ize*, perhaps by influence of Middle French *immortaliser*.

immovable *adj.* About 1385 *immovable*; 1380 *inmoecueable*; formed from Middle English *im*-¹ + *moevable*, *mevable*; for suffix see -ABLE.

immunity n. About 1384 *ynmunite* exemption from taxation, service, laws, etc., freedom from prosecution; borrowed from Old French *immunité*, and directly from Latin *immunitatem* (nominative *immunitās*) exemption from performing public service or charges, from *immūnis* exempt, free (*im*-¹ + *mūnis* performing services); for suffix see -ITY. The medical sense of protection from disease (1879), was borrowed from French *immunité*. —**immune** *adj.* Probably 1440, free, exempt; back formation from *immunity*; also borrowed from Latin *immūnis* having immunity. —**immunization** n. 1893, formed from English *immunize* + *-ation*. —**immunize** v. 1892; formed from English *immune* + *-ize*.

immuno- a combining form made from *immune*, and meaning immunity or immunization, as in *immunobiology*, *immunogenic*.

immure v. 1583; borrowed possibly through Middle French *emmurer*, and directly from Medieval Latin *immurare* (Latin *im*-² + *mūrus* wall). The meaning of imprison, is first recorded in 1588.

immutable *adj.* Probably before 1422, borrowed from Old French *immutable*, and directly from Latin *immūtabilis* unchangeable (*im*-¹ + *mūtabilis* changeable; see MUTABLE).

imp n. Probably before 1200 *impe* seedling; developed from Old English *impa* young shoot, graft (before 899), from *impian* to graft; borrowed from a Germanic source (compare Old High German *impfōn* to graft), from Vulgar Latin **imputus*, variant of Late Latin *impotus* implanted, from Greek *ēmphtōs*, verbal adjective of *ēmphtēin* implant (*em*-² + *phēin* to plant).

The meaning of a child or offspring is found in 1377.

impact v. 1601, to press closely into something (usually in the form *impacted*); developed from earlier *impact*, past participle and adjective (1563), borrowed from Latin *impāctus*, past participle of *impingere* to push into, strike against; see IMPINGE. The meaning of strike against something with force, is first recorded in 1916, and the figurative sense of have a forceful effect on, in 1935. —n. 1781, collision; from the verb. The figurative sense of forceful impression, was introduced in 1817.

impair v. About 1380 *empeyren*; 1390 *empeyren*; borrowed from Old French *empeirier*, *empeirer*, from Vulgar Latin **impejōrāre* make worse (Latin *im*-² + Late Latin *pejōrāre* make worse). —**impairment** n. 1340 *emparement*, borrowed from Old French *empeirement*, from *empeirier*, *empeirer* impair; for suffix see -MENT. The modern spelling is first recorded in 1611 modeled on the Latin form.

impala n. 1875, borrowed from Zulu *im-pala*, related to Setswana *phala* and Swahili *p'aa* gazelle.

impale v. 1530, enclose with pales or stakes, fence in, borrowed from Medieval Latin *impalare* (Latin *im*-² + *pālus* stake, POLE¹). The variant *empale* (1553) was borrowed from Middle French *empaler* (*em*-² + *pal*, learned borrowing from Latin *pālus* stake). The meaning of pierce with a pointed stake, is first recorded in 1613.

impart v. Probably before 1430 *inparten*; later *imparten* (about 1471); borrowed from Middle French *impartir*, learned borrowing from Late Latin *impartire*, from Latin *impartire* share in or divide with (*im*-² + *partire* to divide, PART).

impartial *adj.* 1593, formed from English *im*-¹, + *partial*.

impasse n. 1851, borrowing of French *impasse* impassable road, blind alley, *impasse* (*im*-¹ + Middle French *passe* a passing, from *passer* to PASS¹).

impassion v. 1591 *empassion*, 1593 *impassion*, borrowed from Italian *impassionare* (*im*-² + *passione* passion, from Latin *passiōnem*, nominative *passiō* PASSION); for suffix see -SION.

—**impassioned** adj. 1603, from the verb. —**impassive** adj. 1605, formed from *im*⁻² + *passive*.

impatience *n.* Probably before 1200 *impatience*, also *impacience* (1340); borrowed from Old French *impacience*, and directly from Latin *impatientia* (*im*⁻¹ + *patientia*; see PATIENCE). —**impatient** adj. About 1378 *impacient*, borrowed from Old French *impacient*, *impatient*, from Latin *impatientem* (*im*⁻¹ + *patientem*, nominative *patiēns* suffering; see PATIENT).

impeach *v.* Probably 1383 *empechen* accuse or hinder, borrowed through Anglo-French *empecher*, from Old French *empechier* hinder, from Late Latin *impedicāre* to fetter (Latin *im*⁻² + *pedica* shackle, from *pēs*, genitive *pedis*, FOOT). The specific meaning of accuse a public officer of misconduct, is first recorded in 1568. —**impeachment** *n.* Before 1387 *enpechement* accusation or charge; borrowed from Old French *empechement*, from *empechier* hinder.

impeccable adj. 1531, not capable of sin; later, faultless (1620); borrowed probably through Middle French *impeccable*, from Latin *impeccābilis* (*im*⁻¹ + *peccāre* to sin; of uncertain origin).

impecunious adj. 1596, formed from English *im*⁻¹ + Latin *pecūniōsus* rich, from *pecūnia* money, property; for suffix see -OUS.

impede *v.* 1605, probably a back formation from *impediment*, influenced by Latin *impedire* to impede, and in some instances probably borrowed from the Latin. —**impediment** *n.* Before 1400 *impedyment* something which hinders or prevents, obstacle, difficulty; borrowed from Latin *impedimentum* hindrance, from *impedire* impede, literally, to shackle the feet (*im*⁻² + *pēs*, genitive *pedis*, FOOT).

impel *v.* Probably before 1425 *impellen*, borrowed from Latin *impellere* (*im*⁻² + *pellere* to push, drive). —**impeller** *n.* 1685, formed from English *impel* + *-er*¹.

impend *v.* 1599, hang threateningly, be about to fall or happen; either a back formation from *impending* (before 1592), or a borrowing from Latin *impendēre* (*im*⁻² + *pendēre* hang).

impenetrable adj. 1447, borrowed through Middle French *impénétrable*, from Latin *impenetrābilis* (*im*⁻¹ + *penetrābilis* PENE-TRABLE).

imperative *n.* About 1450 *imperatyf* the imperative mood in grammar; later, something imperative (1606); borrowed from Old French *imperatif*, and from Late Latin *imperātīvus* commanded, found in Latin *imperāt-*, past participle stem of *imperāre* to command, to requisition (grain, for example), from *im*⁻² + *parāre* to get, prepare, related to *parere* beget, bear; for suffix see -IVE. —**adj.** 1530, expressing a command or request; from the noun. The sense of not to be avoided, urgent, is first recorded in 1823.

imperfect adj. About 1378 *imparfit*, borrowed from Old French *imparfait*, from Latin *imperfectus* unfinished, incomplete (*im*⁻¹ + *perfectus* PERFECT). By the mid-1500's the Old French form was replaced by one modeled on Latin and influenced by

the spelling of *imperfect* in English. —**imperfect** *n.* 1390 *imperfecioun*, borrowed from Old French *imperfect*, and directly from Late Latin *imperfectiōnem* (nominative *imperfectiō*), from *imperfectus*, see IMPERFECT); for suffix see -TION.

imperial adj. About 1380, borrowed from Old French *imperial*, *emperial*, learned borrowings of Latin *imperialis* of the empire or emperor, from *imperium* EMPIRE; for suffix see -AL¹. —**imperialism** *n.* 1858, rule by an emperor; formed from English *imperial* + *-ism*, modeled on French *impérialisme* (1836). The meaning of policy of extending the rule of one country over another is first recorded before 1878. —**imperialist** *n.* 1603, adherent of the Emperor; later, advocate of imperialism (1899); formed from English *imperial* + *-ist*, modeled on French *impérialiste* (1525). —**imperialistic** adj. 1879, formed from English *imperialist* + *-ic*.

imperious adj. 1541, implied in earlier *imperiously*; borrowed, possibly by influence of Middle French *imperieux* (feminine *imperieuse*), from Latin *imperiosus* commanding, from *imperium* empire.

impersonal adj. 1520, formed from English *im*⁻¹ + *personal*, modeled on Late Latin *impersonālis*.

impersonate *v.* 1624, to represent in bodily form, personify, formed from English *im*⁻² + *person* + *-ate*¹. The meaning of act the part of, is first recorded in 1715, probably influenced by *personate* (1613), with the same meaning; formed from English *person* + *-ate*¹. —**impersonation** *n.* 1800, personification; 1825, an acting the part of a character; formed from English *impersonate* + *-ion*.

impertinent adj. About 1395 *inpartinent* irrelevant, later *impertinent* (before 1422); borrowed through Old French *impertinent*, or directly from Late Latin *impertinentem* (nominative *impertinēns*) not belonging (from Latin *im*⁻¹ + *pertinēns* PERTINENT). The meaning of inappropriate, is first recorded before 1415, and that of rudely bold, in 1681, probably from French (used by Molière in the sense of presumptuous). —**impertinence** *n.* 1603, something inappropriate, borrowing of French *impertinence*, from Medieval Latin *impertinentia*, from Late Latin *impertinentem* not belonging; see IMPERTINENT. The meaning of rude boldness, is first recorded in 1712.

imperturbable adj. Before 1500, borrowed through Middle French *imperturbable*, and Medieval Latin *imperturbabilis* that cannot be disturbed (from Latin *im*⁻¹ + **perturbābilis* PERTUR-BABLE).

impervious adj. 1650, not penetrable or permeable; borrowed from Latin *impervius* (*im*⁻¹ + *pervius* letting things through, PERVIOUS); for suffix see -OUS.

impetigo *n.* Before 1398; borrowing of Latin *impetigō* skin eruption, from *impetere* to attack; see IMPETUS.

impetus *n.* 1641 *impetus* driving force; momentum; earlier *impetous* rapid movement (probably before 1425); borrowed from Latin *impetus*, related to *impetere* to attack (*im*⁻² + *petere* aim for, rush at). —**impetuous** adj. Before 1398 *impetuous*, later *impetuous* (probably before 1425); borrowed from Late

Latin *impetuōsus*, from Latin *impetus* impetus; for suffix see -OUS.

impinge *v.* 1535, to thrust upon or fasten forcibly; borrowed from Latin *impingere* drive into, strike against (*im*-² + *pangere* to fix, fasten). The meaning of infringe or encroach upon, is first recorded about 1738.

implacable *adj.* Probably before 1425, borrowed from French *implacable*, from Latin *implacābilis* unappeasable (*im*-¹ + *placābilis* PLACABLE).

implant *v.* Probably before 1425, found in *implanted*; formed from English *im*-² + *planted*; patterned on Medieval Latin *implantatus*, past participle of *implantare* to install or invest, literally to insert or graft to (*im*-², + *plantare* to PLANT).

implausible *adj.* 1602, formed from English *im*-¹ + *plausible*.

implement *n.* 1445, supplementary payment; borrowed, probably by influence of Old French *emplement* act of filling, from Late Latin *implēmentum* a filling up, as with provisions, from Latin *implēre* to fill (*im*-² + *plēre* to fill). The meaning of tool, instrument, utensil (1538) derived from things which serve to supplement or complete some kind of work (1505). —*v.* 1806, to fulfill, complete, carry out; originally chiefly of Scottish use; from the noun in Scottish law with the sense of fulfillment (1754). —**implementation** *n.* 1926, formed from English *implement*, *v.* + *-ation*.

implicate *v.* 1600, involve as a consequence or inference; developed from earlier *implicate*, *adj.*, involved as a complicating factor, connected (probably before 1425); borrowed from Latin *implicātus*, past participle of *implicāre* involve, entangle, connect closely (*im*-² + *plīcare* to fold, earlier **plecare* see *PLY*² fold); for suffix see -ATE¹. The meaning of involve (in a charge or crime), is first recorded in 1797. —**implication** *n.* Probably before 1425 *implicacion* complication, action of entangling; later, something implied (about 1555); borrowed from Latin *implicātiōnem* (nominative *implicātiō*) entwining or entangling, from *implicāre*; for suffix see -ATION.

implicit *adj.* 1599, borrowed through Middle French *implicite*, and directly from Latin *implicītus*, variant of *implicātus*, past participle of *implicāre* IMPLICATE.

implore *v.* 1500–20, borrowed through Middle French *implorer*, or directly from Latin *implōrāre* call for help, beseech, originally, invoke with weeping (*im*-² + *plōrāre* to weep, cry out).

imply *v.* About 1380 *emplier* to enfold, involve, entangle, later *implien* (about 1400); borrowed from Old French *emplier*, from Latin *implicāre* involve, IMPLICATE. The meaning of involve as a consequence or inference (as in *friendship implies trust*), is first recorded about 1400 and that of express indirectly, hint at, in 1581.

impolite *adj.* 1612, borrowed from Latin *impolītus* unpolished, rough, unrefined (*im*-¹ + *polītus* polished, POLITE).

import *v.* Probably before 1425 *importen* convey information, express; borrowed from Latin *importāre* bring in, convey (*im*-²

+ *portāre* carry). The meaning of bring in from an external source, is first recorded in 1508. The meaning of imply, signify, mean, is first recorded in 1529, and was probably borrowed from Medieval Latin *importare*, with the same meaning. —*n.* 1588, importance or consequence, from the verb in the archaic sense of be of consequence or importance, a usage borrowed from Middle French *importer*. The meaning of a commodity imported from abroad, is first recorded in 1690.

important *adj.* 1444 *importante*, borrowed from Medieval Latin *importantem* (nominative *importantis*), present participle of *importare* be significant in, from Latin *importāre* bring in, IM-PORT; for suffix see -ANT. —**importance** *n.* 1508, borrowing of Middle French *importance*, probably learned borrowing from Medieval Latin *importantia*, from *importantem*, present participle of *importare*.

importune *v.* 1530, perhaps a back formation from *importunity*, or developed from *importune*, *adj.* (probably before 1400); and borrowed from Middle French *importuner*, from *importun* persistent, learned borrowing from Latin *importūnus* unfit; see IMPORTUNITY. —**importunate** *adj.* 1529, persistent, probably formed in English by influence of Latin *importūnus* unfit; for suffix see -ATE¹. —**importunity** *n.* About 1425 *importunyte* persistence; later *importunitie* (before 1500); borrowed from Middle French *importunité*, from Latin *importūnitatem* (nominative *importūnitās*) unsuitableness, from *importūnus* unfit, troublesome, originally having no harbor (*im*-¹ + *portus* harbor, PORT¹); for suffix see -ITY.

impose *v.* About 1380 *imposen* put an obligation on, borrowed from Old French *imposer* (*im*-² + *poser* put, place; see POSE¹). The meaning of lay (a tax or other burden) on, inflict, is first recorded in 1581, from the early meaning of English *imposition*. —**imposing** *adj.* 1651, exacting; 1786, impressive because of appearance or manner; formed from English *impose*, *v.* + *-ing*, after French *imposant*. —**imposition** *n.* About 1380 *imposicioun* tax or duty; borrowed through Old French *imposition*, from Latin *impositiōnem* (nominative *impositiō*), from *impōnere* to place upon; for suffix see -TION. The meaning of an act or instance of imposing on someone, is first recorded in 1632.

impossible *adj.* Before 1325 *impossibile* unbelievable; borrowed from Old French *impossible*, from Latin *impossibilis* not possible (*im*-¹ + *possibilis* POSSIBLE). —**impossibility** *n.* About 1385, formed from English *impossible* + *-ity*, after Old French *impossibilitē*.

impost *n.* 1568, borrowed from Middle French *impost*, from Medieval Latin *impostum*, from neuter of Latin *impositus*, contracted from *impositus*, past participle of *impōnere* to place upon, impose upon (*im*-² + *pōnere* to place, set; see POSE¹). —*v.* 1884, American English; from the noun.

impostor *n.* 1586 *impostur* deceiver or swindler; later *impostor* person who assumes a false name or character, 1624; developed from English *imposture* by confusion with Middle French *imposteur*, learned borrowing from Latin *impostor*, from *impositus*, contracted from *impositus*, past participle of *impōnere* place upon, impose. —**imposture** *n.* 1537, deception or

fraud; borrowed from Middle French *imposture*, from Latin *impostūra*, from *impostus*.

impotent *adj.* Before 1393, physically weak; borrowed from Old French *impotent* powerless, learned borrowing from Latin *impotentem* lacking control, powerless (*im*⁻¹ + *potentem*, nominative *potēs* POTENT). The meaning of sexually powerless, is first recorded before 1444. —**impotence** *n.* About 1412 *impotence* physical weakness; earlier, poverty (probably 1406); borrowed from Middle French *impotence*, learned borrowing from Latin *impotentia* lack of control or power, from *impotentem* (nominative *impotēns*); for suffix see -ENCE.

impound *v.* 1434 *inpounden* to shut up in a pen or pound; formed from English *im*⁻² in + *pound*³ enclosed place. The meaning of put in custody of the law, seize or hold by legal means, is first recorded in 1651.

impoverish *v.* Before 1420 *empoverischen* make poor; borrowed from Old French *empoveriss-*, stem of *empoverir* (*em*⁻¹ + *povre* POOR); for suffix see -ISH².

impracticable *adj.* 1653, impassable, as of a road; later, not practicable (before 1677); formed from English *im*⁻¹ + *practicable*.

impractical *adj.* 1865, formed from English *im*⁻¹ not + *practical*.

imprecation *n.* 1448, a curse, action of invoking evil; borrowed through Middle French *imprecation*, or directly from Latin *imprecātiōnem* (genitive *imprecātiō*), from *imprecārī* invoke, pray for (*im*⁻² + *precārī* to PRAY); for suffix see -ATION. —**imprecate** *v.* 1613 *imprecate* call down (curses, evil, etc.), probably a back formation from *imprecation*.

imprecise *adj.* 1805, formed from English *im*⁻¹ + *precise*. —**imprecision** *n.* 1803, formed from English *im*⁻¹ + *precision*.

impregnable *adj.* 1440 *impregnable*, alteration of earlier *imprenable* (before 1439); borrowed from Middle French *imprenable* (Old French *im*⁻¹ not, + *prenable* assailable, vulnerable, from the stem of *prendre* to take or grasp); for suffix see -ABLE.

impregnate *v.* 1646 *impregnate* make pregnant, fertilize; earlier, to fill, inspire (1605); back formation from *impregnation*; and, in some instances, probably developed from *impregnate*, *adj.*; borrowed from Late Latin *impraegnātus*, past participle of *impraegnāre*; for suffix see -ATE¹. The form *impregnate* is a replacement of *impregnēn* (recorded before 1425); borrowed from Late Latin *impraegnāre*. —**impregnation** *n.* Before 1398 *impregnacioun* the action of making or becoming pregnant; borrowed through Old French *impregnation*, and directly from Late Latin *impraegnātiōnem* (nominative *impraegnātiō*) fertilization, inspiration, from *impraegnāre* (*im*⁻² + *praegnāre* make pregnant); for suffix see -TION.

impresario *n.* 1746, organizer or manager of entertainment; borrowed from Italian *impresario*, from *impresa* undertaking, from feminine of *impreso*, past participle of *imprendere* undertake, from Vulgar Latin *imprēndere* (Latin *im*⁻² + *prehendere* to grasp).

impress¹ *v.* Probably about 1370 *enpressen* make a permanent image in something; later *impressen* have a strong effect on, fix in the mind or heart (about 1385); borrowed from Latin *impressus*, past participle of *imprimere* press into or upon, stamp (*im*⁻² + *primere* to PRESS¹). —**n.** impression, mark, stamp. 1590, from the verb. —**impression** *n.* About 1380, image produced on the mind, imprint; borrowed from Old French *impression* a pressing, crushing, or having a strong effect on the mind, learned borrowing from Latin *impressiōnem* (nominative *impressiō*) assault, emphasis, mental impression, from *imprimere*; see IMPRESS¹. —**impressionable** *adj.* 1836, formed from English *impression* + -able, probably after French *impressionable*, from *impressioner*. —**impressionism** *n.* 1839, formed from English *impress*¹ + -ion + -ism; later, theory or style of painting developed in France (1882); re-formed in English by influence of earlier *impressionist* (1876). —**impressionist** *n.* 1876, painter in the style of impressionism; borrowed from French *impressioniste*, coined in 1874 from *impression* impression + -iste -ist by Louis Leroy, a French critic, with reference to a painting by Claude Monet entitled *Impression, Soleil Levant*. —**impressive** *adj.* 1573, capable of being impressed, later, making a deep impression (1775); formed from English *impress*¹ + -ive.

impress² *v.* 1596, force (men) to serve in the armed forces, formed from English *im*⁻² + *press*² force; probably influenced by earlier *imprest* lend or advance a soldier's pay (1565); borrowed from Italian *imprestare* (*im*⁻² in, + *prestare* to lend).

imprimatur *n.* 1640, New Latin *imprimatur* let it be printed (3rd person singular present subjunctive passive of *imprimere* to print), from Latin *imprimere* to mark or engrave, IMPRESS¹. The sense of sanction or approval, is first recorded in 1672.

imprint *v.* About 1380 *emprienten*, *enprienten* to impress on or fix in the mind, memory, etc.; borrowed from Old French *empreinter* to stamp or engrave, from *empreint*, past participle of *empreindre* to press on, impress, imprint, from Latin *imprimere* to mark, IMPRESS¹. The original spelling with *em*- was altered to *im*- (by 1448) to conform to the Latin spelling. —**n.** Before 1449 *enprent* something imprinted; borrowed from Old French *empreinte*, from the feminine past participle of *empreindre* to print.

imprison *v.* About 1300 *enprisonen*; borrowed from Old French *emprisoner* imprison (*em*-, *en*- in + *prison* PRISON). —**imprisonment** *n.* 1386 *emprisonement*; probably borrowed from Old French *emprisonnement* (1433), from *emprisoner* + -ment.

improbable *adj.* 1598, probably formed from English *im*⁻¹ + *probable*, perhaps after Italian *improbabile*.

impromptu *adv., adj.* without previous thought or preparation. 1669 *adv.*; 1764 *adj.*; borrowing of French *impromptu*, from the Latin *in prōmptū* in readiness; *prōmptū*, ablative of *prōmptus* readiness, from *prōmere* to bring out.

improper *adj.* Before 1393, implied in *impropelich*, *adv.*, improperly; later *impropir* unsuitable, incorrect; borrowed from

Old French *impropre*, from Latin *improprius* (*im*-¹ + *proprius* one's own, particular, PROPER).

improve *v.* 1473 *improwen* to turn to profit, cultivate and make more valuable; borrowed in part through Anglo-French *emprouwer*, *emprover* turn to profit (from Old French *em*-¹ + *prou* profit, from Late Latin *prōde* profitable; see PROUD). The word also came through Anglo-Latin *improviāre*, and the spelling with *v* is very rare before the 1600's when it displaced the forms with *w*. The general sense of make better, is found in 1617. —**improvement** *n.* 1449 *enprovement* management of something for profit; later, good or profitable use (about 1611); borrowed from Anglo-French *emprovement*, from *emprouwer* turn to profit. The meaning of betterment or amelioration, is first recorded in 1647.

improvise *v.* 1826, back formation from *improvisation*, and probably borrowed from French *improviser*. —**improvisation** *n.* 1786, borrowed from French *improvisation*, from *improviser* compose or say extemporaneously, from Italian *improvvisare*, from *improvviso* unforeseen or unprepared, learned borrowing from Latin *imprōvisus* (*im*-¹ + *prōvisus* foreseen, past participle of *prōvidēre* foresee, PROVIDE); for suffix see -ATION.

impudent *adj.* About 1390, lacking modesty, shameless, borrowed from Latin *impudentis*, nominative *impudēns* (*im*-¹ + *pudēns*, nominative *pudēns*, present participle of *pudēre* to cause shame). —**impudence** *n.* About 1390, shamelessness, borrowed from Latin *impudentia*, from *impudentis* (nominative *impudēns*).

impugn *v.* About 1378 *inpugnen*; 1382 *impugnen*; borrowed from Old French *impugner*, from Latin *impugnāre* to assault or attack (*im*-² + *pugnāre* to fight).

impulse *n.* 1647, probably a back formation from *impulsive*, modeled on Latin *impulsus*, from past participle of *impellere* IMPEL. —**impulsive** *adj.* Probably before 1425 *impulsif* of medicine that has the effect of reducing swelling or humors; later, impelling, driving to action (about 1555); borrowed probably from Middle French *impulsif*, and Medieval Latin *impulsivus*, from Latin *impulsus*, past participle of *impellere* IMPEL. The meaning of acting on impulse, easily moved, is first recorded in 1847.

impunity *n.* 1532, borrowed through Middle French *impunité*, and directly from Latin *impūnitātem* (nominative *impūnitās*) omission of punishment, from *impūnis* unpunished (*im*-¹ + *poena* punishment); for suffix see -ITY.

impure *adj.* Probably 1440, probably borrowed from Middle French *impur*, *impure*, from Latin *impūrus* (*im*-¹ + *pūrus* pure); and also formed from Middle English *im*-¹ not + *pure*. —**impurity** *n.* Before 1500, formed from Middle English *impure* + *-ity*, perhaps after Middle French *impurité*.

impute *v.* About 1375 *inputen* blame; later *imputen* (probably before 1425); borrowed through Old French *imputer*, and directly from Latin *imputāre* (*im*-² + *putāre* reckon, think). —**imputation** *n.* 1545, formed in English from *impute* + *-ation*, on the model of Middle French *imputation* and Late

Latin *imputātiōnem* (nominative *imputātiō*), from Latin *imputāre* impute.

in prep. Old English (before 700) *in* in. The Old English forms *in* in, and *inne* in, within, merged in later Middle English under the simple form *in*, and a similar development took place in the adverbial use of *in* and *inne*.

Cognates with Old English are found in Old Frisian, Old Saxon, and modern Dutch *in* in, Old High German and modern German *in*, Old Icelandic *ī*, and Gothic *in*.

In Old English and early Middle English the prepositional use of *in* was often interchangeable with *on*, which was used generally in Old English where *in* now appears; in later Middle English a distinction was restored. —**adv.** Old English *in* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); from the preposition. —**adj.** 1599, that is in, internal; from the adverb. The meaning of having power or influence (as in *the in party*) is first recorded in 1817; the sense of exclusive (as in *the in group*) in 1907 (see IN-⁵), and the extended sense of in style, fashionable, chic (as in *the in thing*) about 1960. —**n.** Before 1670, *ins* and *outs* turns and twists; from the adverb. The meaning of influence with or introduction to someone with power (as in *have an in with*) is first recorded in 1929 in American English.

in-¹ a prefix meaning not, opposite of, without, the absence of, as in *inaccessible*, *inexpensive*, *inability*, *inattention*. Also found in the form *il*- before words beginning with *l*; *im*- before words beginning with *b*, *m*, *p*; *ir*- before words beginning with *r*. Borrowed from Latin *in*- not; cognate with Greek *a*- not, and Old English *un*- not; see UN-¹.

in-² a prefix meaning in, into, on, upon, as in *incase* = (*put*) into a case, and *intrust* = (*give*) in trust. Borrowed from Latin *in*-, related to *in*, prep.; see IN. Also found in the form *il*- before words beginning with *l*; *im*- before words beginning with *b*, *m*, *p*; *ir*- before words beginning with *r*.

English words having the prefix *in*-² come from two sources. Some were borrowed directly from Latin *in*-, others were borrowed from Old French *en*- (regular phonetic development from Latin *in*-), but were later made over to conform to the Latin. Of this latter group, some English words retained the original *en*-; see EN-¹.

In also has the function of strengthening the meaning of a base form, as in *inweave* = *weave together*, also of changing an intransitive verb to transitive, generally with little alteration of meaning, as in *inearth*, v.t., to bury, and *earth*, v.i., hide; *indwell*, v.t., to inhabit, and *dwell*, v.i., to inhabit.

in-³ a prefix meaning in, within, into, toward, as in *indoors*, *inland*. Found in Middle English *in*- and Old English *in*-; from the adverb *in*.

in-⁴ a combining form meaning within (something), as in *in-house* (with the specialized meaning of house company or organization). Forms with *in*- developed from corresponding prepositional phrases, such as *in-depth interview* = *interview in depth*.

in-⁵ a combining form meaning exclusive, as in the *in-crowd*, *in-joke*. This form is an extended use of *in*, *adj.* and is also related to *in*-⁴.

-in¹ a combining form of the adverb *in*, formed from a verb + *-in* meaning: 1 a public protest or demonstration, as in *sit-in* (1960). The early form *sit-in* was probably influenced by *sit-down*, as in *sit-down strike*. 2 any kind of gathering, especially for socializing, as in *sing-in*.

-in² a chemical suffix usually denoting: 1 neutral substances such as fats and proteins, as in *olein*, *casein*. 2 an antibiotic substance, as in *penicillin*, *streptomycin*. 3 a vitamin, as in *niacin*. 4 a hormone, as in *insulin*. Variant form of *-ine²*.

inadvertence *n.* About 1440, borrowed from Middle French *inadvertence*. —**inadvertent** *adj.* 1653, formed from English *inadvertence*, with substitution of suffix *-ent*.

inane *adj.* 1662, empty or void; probably a back formation from *inanity*, modeled on Latin *inānis* empty, of unknown origin. The meaning of empty-headed or silly, is first recorded in 1819. —**inanity** *n.* 1603, emptiness, hollowness; later, silliness (1753); borrowed through French *inanité*, or directly from Latin *inānitatem* (nominative *inānitās*) emptiness, from *inānis* empty; for suffix see *-ity*.

A similar development is found in *vain* and *vanity* where the noun is recorded earlier than the adjective.

inanimate *adj.* Probably before 1425, borrowed from Late Latin *inanimātus* lifeless, from Latin *in-* not + *animātus* ANIMATE.

inaugurate *v.* 1606, a back formation from *inauguration*, and probably developed from earlier *inaugurate*, participial adjective (1600); borrowed from Latin *inaugurātus*, past participle of *inaugurāre* take omens from the flight of birds, consecrate or install when such omens or auguries are favorable (*in-* on, in + *augurāre* to act as an augur, predict, from *augur* fortuneteller, AUGUR); for suffix see *-ATE¹*. —**inauguration** *n.* 1569, borrowed through French *inauguration* installation, consecration, and directly from Latin *inaugurātiōnem* (nominative *inaugurātiō*) consecration or installment under good omens, from *inaugurāre*; for suffix see *-ATION*. —**inaugural** *adj.* 1689, possibly a back formation from *inaugurate* + *-al¹*, or borrowed from French *inaugural*, from *inaugurer* to inaugurate (learned borrowing from Latin *inaugurāre*); for suffix see *-AL¹*. —*n.* 1832, American English, from the adjective.

inborn *adj.* Probably before 1350, found in Old English *inboren* native to a place, from *in-* within + *boren* brought forth; see BORN.

incandescent *adj.* 1794, glowing with heat; borrowed through French *incandescent*, or directly from Latin *incandescens* (nominative *incandescens*), present participle of *incandescere* become warm, glow, kindle (*in-* within + *candescere* begin to glow, become white; see CANDESCENT); for suffix see *-ENT*.

incantation *n.* Before 1393 *incantacioun*, borrowed from Old French *incantation*, learned borrowing from Latin *incantātiōnem* (nominative *incantātiō*) art of enchanting, from *incantāre* bewitch or charm (literally, chant a magic formula against), see ENCHANT; for suffix see *-ATION*.

incapable *adj.* 1594, borrowing of Middle French *incapable*, from Medieval Latin *incapabilis* (*in-* not + *capabilis* CAPABLE).

incapacitate *v.* 1657, formed from English *incapacity* (1611, borrowed from French *incapacité*) + *-ATE¹*.

incarcerate *v.* 1560, probably a back formation from earlier *incarceration*, and developed from *incarcerate*, *adj.* 1528, imprisoned; borrowed from Medieval Latin *incarceratus*, past participle of *incarcerare* imprison (Latin *in-* in + *carcer* prison; of uncertain origin); for suffix see *-ATE¹*. —**incarceration** *n.* 1536, borrowed from Old French *incarceration*, from Medieval Latin *incarcerationem* (nominative *incarceratio*), from *incarcerare*; for suffix see *-ATION*.

incarnate *adj.* 1395; borrowed from Late Latin *incarnātus*, past participle of *incarnāre* to make flesh (Latin *in-* in + *carō*, genitive *carnis* flesh; see CARNAL); for suffix see *-ATE¹*. —*v.* 1533, probably developed from the adjective, except in instances where it may be a back formation from *incarnation*. —**incarnation** *n.* About 1300 *incarnation* embodiment of God in the person of Christ; borrowing of Old French *incarnation*, learned borrowing from Late Latin *incarnātiōnem* (nominative *incarnātiō*), from *incarnāre*.

incendiary *adj.* Before 1460, probably from the noun. —*n.* 1402, borrowed from Latin *incendiārius*, *n.*, from *incendium* fire, from *incendere* set on fire (*in-* in + **candere* to light; see CANDLE).

incense¹ *n.* sweet smelling substance. About 1280 *encens*; borrowed from Old French *encens*, from Late Latin *incēnsus* (genitive *incēnsūs*) burnt incense, from Latin *incendere* set on fire (*in-* in + **candere* to light; see CANDLE).

incense² *v.* make angry. About 1410 *encensen* set afire; later, to enrage (1494); borrowed from Middle French *incenser*, from Late Latin *incēnsāre*, a frequentative form of Latin *incendere* set on fire; see INCENSE¹.

incentive *n.* Probably before 1425 *incentiue*; borrowed from Late Latin *incentivum*, noun use of the neuter of Latin adjective *incentivus* setting the tune (in Late Latin, inciting), from *incen-*, stem of *incinere* strike up (*in-* in, into + *canere* sing; see CHANT); for suffix see *-IVE*.

inception *n.* Probably before 1425 *inception*; borrowed, perhaps through Middle French *inception*, and directly from Latin *inceptionem* (nominative *inceptiō*), from *incept-*, stem of *incipere* begin, take in hand (*in-* in, on + *-cipere*, combining form of *capere* take, seize; see CAPTIVE); for suffix see *-TION*.

incessant *adj.* 1461, borrowed from Old French *incessant*, from Late Latin *incessantem* (nominative *incessans*), from Latin *in-* not + *cessantem* (nominative *cessans*), present participle of *cessare* CEASE; for suffix see *-ANT*.

incest *n.* Probably before 1200, borrowed, perhaps from Old French *inceste*, and directly from Latin *incestum* unchastity, lewdness, incest, noun use of neuter adjective, from *incestus* unchaste or impure (*in-* not + *castus* pure; see CASTE). —**incestuous** *adj.* 1532, borrowed, perhaps by influence of Mid-

dle French *incestueux*, from Late Latin *incestuōsus*, from *incestus* (genitive *incestūs*) incest; for suffix see -OUS.

inch *n.* Probably before 1200 *unche*, 1/2 of a foot; later *inch* (about 1300); developed from Old English (about 1000) *ynce*; borrowed from Latin *uncia*, originally, a twelfth part, from pre-Latin **oinicia*, from the root of *unus* ONE. —*v.* move little by little. 1599, from the noun.

inchoate *adj.* 1534, possibly a back formation from *inchoation* commencement (1530); borrowed from Middle French *inchoation* (and earlier in Middle English, elements or elementary knowledge), probably before 1400; borrowed directly from Late Latin *inchoātiōnem*, nominative *inchoātiō*, from Latin *inchoāre*, wrongly altered from *incohāre* to begin; originally, to hitch up, from *in-* on + *cohūm* strap fastened to the oxen's yoke. In some instances, *inchoate* was probably borrowed directly from Latin *inchoātus*, past participle of *inchoāre* to begin; for suffix see -ATE¹.

incident *n.* Before 1420 *incydent*, borrowed from Middle French *incident*, from Old French *incident*, *adj.*, and directly from Latin *incidentem* (nominative *incidēns*), present participle of *incidere* happen or befall (*in-* on + *-cidere*, combining form of *cadere* to fall); for suffix see -ENT. —**adj.** Probably before 1425, borrowed from Middle French *incident*, *adj.*, from Old French *incident*, and directly from Latin *incidentem*, present participle of *incidere*. —**incidence** *n.* Probably before 1437, borrowed from Middle French *incidence*, from *incident*, see INCIDENT; for suffix see -ENCE. —**incidental** *adj.* 1616, formed from English *incident*, *n.* + *-al*¹, and probably also borrowed from French *incidental*. The meaning of casual or occasional, is first recorded in Milton's *Of Education* (1644); *n.* 1707, occasional circumstances, events, expenses; from the adjective.

incinerate *v.* 1555, developed from *incinerate*, *adj.*, reduced to ashes; borrowed, perhaps by influence of Middle French *incinérer*, from Medieval Latin *incineratus*, past participle of *incinerare* (Latin *in-* into + *cinis*, genitive *cineris* ashes); for suffix see -ATE¹. Also possibly in some instances, a back formation from *incineration*. —**incineration** *n.* Before 1529, borrowed from Middle French *incineration*, from Medieval Latin *incinerationem* (nominative *incineratio*), from *incinerare*; for suffix see -ATION. —**incinerator** *n.* 1883, device for burning substances to ashes; formed from English *incinerate* + *-or*².

incipient *adj.* 1669, possibly developed from earlier *incipient*, *n.* (1589); borrowed from Latin *incipientem* (nominative *incipiēns*), present participle of *incipere* begin, take up (*in-* on + *-cipere*, combining form of *capere* take); for suffix see -ENT.

incision *n.* 1392 *inciscioun*, formed in Middle English from a blend of Old French *incision* or Latin *incisiōnem* (nominative *incisiō*) a cutting into, and Latin *scissiōnem* (nominative *scissiō*) a cutting, tearing, from *scindere* to split, tear. Also recorded as *incision* (probably before 1422), re-borrowed from Middle French *incision* or Latin *incisiōnem* (nominative *incisiō*), from *incidere* to cut into (*in-* into + *-cidere*, combining form of *caedere* to cut); for suffix see -SION.

Recorded use of *incision* suggests that as an early technical term in medicine the spelling *inciscioun* was confused with

Latin *scissiōnem* and blended with Old French *incision*, but when the word was later adopted into common vocabulary, the French *incision* was adopted. —**incisive** *adj.* Probably before 1425 *incisive* cutting, piercing; probably formed in Middle English on the model or earlier *inciscioun* + *-ive* after Middle French *incisif* (feminine *incisive*); also recorded as *incisive* (1528), re-borrowed from Middle French *incisif* and probably from Medieval Latin *incisivus*, from Latin *incidere*; for suffix see -IVE. The figurative sense of mentally acute, keen, is first recorded in 1850 as a French word in an English text. —**incise** *v.* 1541, back formation, probably from *incised*, *adj.* (re-formed by influence of the modern spellings *incision*, *incisive*) from earlier *incised*, *adj.*, cut, slit (before 1425, formed in English with *-ed*² on a borrowing of Latin *incisus*, past participle of *incidere*, influenced by Latin *scissus*, past participle of *scindere* to divide, cut, tear). —**incisor** *n.* 1672, New Latin *incisor* cutter, from Latin *incidere*; for suffix see -OR².

incite *v.* 1447 *encyten*; borrowed from Middle French *enciter*, from Latin *incitare* (*in-* on + *citare* move, excite; see CITE).

inclement *adj.* 1667, either a back formation from *inclemency* (1559, borrowed from Middle French *inclemence*, from Latin *inclementia*, from *inclemēns*); or borrowed from French *inclement* and directly from Latin *inclementem* (nominative *inclemēns*) harsh, unmerciful (*in-* not + *clémentem* mild, placid); for suffix see -ENT.

incline *v.* Before 1325 *enclinen* be favorable, be willing; later, to slope, slant (about 1380); borrowed from Old French *encliner*, from Latin *inclīnāre* (*in-* in + *clīnāre* to bend). The spelling *incline* was influenced by the Latin form. —**n.** 1600, mental tendency; later, slant or slope (1846); from the verb. The noun is recorded in Middle English in an isolated instance (probably before 1400); borrowed from Old French *enclin* a bow. —**inclined** *adj.* About 1384, formed from English *incline* + *-ed*¹. —**inclination** *n.* About 1395 *inclinacioun* natural disposition; borrowed from Old French *inclination*, and directly from Latin *inclīnātiōnem* (nominative *inclīnātiō*) leaning, bending, from *inclīnāre* to incline.

include *v.* 1402 *includen* to conceal or hide; later, to comprise or contain (before 1420); borrowed from Latin *inclūdere* (*in-* in + *claudere* to shut, CLOSE¹). —**inclusion** *n.* 1600, probably formed from English *include* + *-sion*, on the model of Latin *inclūsiōnem* (nominative *inclūsiō*) a shutting up, from *inclūdere* include. It is also possible that inclusion was borrowed from French *inclusion*. —**inclusive** *adj.* 1594, probably re-formed from English *include* + *-ive*, on the model of Medieval Latin *inclusivus*, from Latin *inclūdere*. *Inclusive* is recorded earlier as an adverb meaning inclusively (1443); borrowed from Medieval Latin *inclusivus*.

incognito *adj.*, *adv.* 1649, both *adj.* and *adv.*; probably borrowed through French *incognito* (by virtue of the pronunciation of *g*, not heard in Italian) from Italian *incognito*, from Latin *incognitus* unknown (*in-* not + *cognitus*, past participle of *cognoscere* to get to know; see COGNIZANCE).

incoherence *n.* 1611, lack of consistency in thought or language; later, lack of connection of subjects (1665); formed

from English *in-* + *coherence*, after Italian *incoerenza*. —**incoherent** *adj.* 1626, formed from English *in-* + *coherent*, after earlier *incoherence*.

income *n.* Before 1325, advent, arrival; earlier *incomen* come in, enter (about 1125); developed from Old English *incuman* (before 971) and *incuma* (about 950), from *in*, adv. + *cuman* COME. The meaning of that which comes in through business, labor, etc., is first recorded in 1601. An income tax on such proceeds was first enacted in Great Britain in 1799.

incommunicado *adj.* 1844, American English; borrowing of Spanish *incomunicado*, from past participle of *incomunicar* deprive of communication (*in-* not + *comunicar* communicate, from Latin *commūnicāre* to share, impart, from *commūnis* COMMON).

incorporate *v.* Before 1398 *incorporaten* combine into one body, include; borrowed from Late Latin *incorporātus*, past participle of *incorporāre* unite into one body (Latin *in-* into + *corpus* [genitive *corporis*] body); for suffix see -ATE¹. The meaning of establish a legal corporation is first recorded in the *Rolls of Parliament* (1461). —**incorporation** *n.* 1398, borrowed from Late Latin *incorporātiōnem* (nominative *incorporātiō*) uniting, from *incorporāre* to incorporate.

incorrect *adj.* Probably before 1425; borrowed from Latin *incorectus* uncorrected, unimproved (*in-* not + *correctus* CORRECT).

increase *v.* Before 1333 *encressen* make greater in size or numbers; borrowed through Anglo-French *encress-*, variant of Old French *encreiss-*, stem of *encreistre*, from Latin *incrēscere* to increase (*in-* in + *crēscere* grow). —**n.** About 1380, from the verb in Middle English.

increment *n.* About 1425, borrowed from Latin *incrēmentum* growth, increase, from *incrē-*, stem of *incrēscere* to INCREASE; for suffix see -MENT.

incriminate *v.* 1730–36, either a back formation from *incrimination*; or borrowed from Late Latin *incrīmīnātus*, past participle of *incrīmīnāre* (Latin *in-* against + *crīmen*, genitive *crīmīnis* verdict, offense; see CRIME); for suffix see -ATE¹. —**incrimination** *n.* 1651, formed in English from Late Latin *incrīmīnāt-*, past participle stem of *incrīmīnāre* + English -ion.

incubate *v.* 1641, brood upon; later, to sit on eggs to hatch them (1721); borrowed from Latin *incubātus*, past participle of *incubāre* to lie on, hatch (*in-* on + *cubāre* lie); for suffix see -ATE¹. —**incubation** *n.* 1614, borrowed from Latin *incubātiōnem* (nominative *incubātiō*), from *incubāre*; for suffix see -ATION. —**incubator** *n.* 1857, formed from English *incubate* + -OR².

inculcate *v.* 1550, borrowed from Latin *incolcātus*, past participle of *incolcāre* force upon, stamp in (*in-* in + *calcāre* to tread, press in); for suffix see -ATE¹. —**inculcation** *n.* 1553, borrowed from Latin *incolcātiōnem* (nominative *incolcātiō*), from *incolcāre*.

incumbent *n.* About 1410, person holding a church position;

borrowed from Medieval Latin *incumbentem* (nominative *incumbēns*) hold a church position, present participle of *incumbere* to obtain or possess, from Latin *incumbere* recline on, apply oneself to (*in-* on + *-cumbere* lie down, related to *cubāre* lie); for suffix see -ENT. —**adj.** 1548, busy; probably from the noun; perhaps also borrowed from Latin *incumbentem* (nominative *incumbēns*).

incunabula *n.pl.* 1824, borrowing of Latin *incūnābula*, neuter plural, swaddling clothes, cradle, (hence) childhood, origin (*in-* in + *cūnābula* cradle, from *cūnae* cradle). The meaning of books printed before 1500 appeared in 1861, referring to *Incunabula Typographiae*, the first list of books printed before 1500, published 1688.

incur *v.* Probably about 1400 *incurren*; borrowed from Middle French *encourir* (also found in Anglo-French *encurir*), from Latin *incurrere* run into or against (*in-* upon + *currere* to run). —**incursion** *n.* Probably before 1425 *incursion*; borrowed through Middle French *incursion*, or directly from Latin *incursiōnem* (nominative *incursiō*) a running against, from *incurrere* INCUR.

indecent *adj.* 1563–87, borrowed through Middle French *indécet*, or directly from Latin *indecentem* (nominative *indecēns*), from *in-* not + *decentem*, *decēns* fitting or seemly, DECENT; for suffix see -ENT. The meaning of offensive, obscene, is first recorded in 1613. —**indecency** *n.* 1589, borrowed perhaps by influence of Middle French *indécence*, from Latin *indecentia*, from *indecentem* (nominative *indecēns*) unseemly; for suffix see -ENCY.

indeed *adv.* Before 1338 *in dede* in fact, in truth (*in* + *dede* deed, probably about 1175; developed from Old English *dæd* DEED). —**interj.** 1598, “really? is that so?”; later, as an expression of surprise, contempt, etc. (1834).

indefinite *adj.* Probably about 1425, implied in *indefinitely*, formed from Middle English *in-*¹ not + *definite*, modeled on Latin *indefīnītē*, *indefīnītus*.

indelible *adj.* 1529, borrowed from Latin *indēlēbilis* (*in-* not + *dēlēbilis* able to be destroyed, from *dēlēre* destroy, blot out; see DELETE); for suffix see -IBLE.

indemnity *n.* 1444 *indempnite* payment for loss; borrowed from Middle French *indempnité*, *indemnité*, learned borrowing from Late Latin *indemnitatē* (nominative *indemnitas*) security for damage, from Latin *indemnitas* unhurt, undamaged (*in-* not + *damnum* damage); for suffix see -ITY. —**indemnify** *v.* 1611 *indamnifie*, probably formed in English from French *indemniser* + English -fy.

indent *v.* Probably before 1400 *endenten* to notch or dent; later *indenten* (about 1400–25); borrowed from Old French *endenter*, from Late Latin *indentāre* to crunch (Latin *in-* in + *dēns*, genitive *dentis* TOOTH). —**n.** 1596, deep recess or notch; earlier, written agreement or indenture (1451); from the verb. —**indentation** *n.* Before 1728, formed from English *indent*, *v.* + -ation. —**indenture** *n.* Probably before 1335 *endenture* contract for services, formal agreement; later *indenture* (1440); borrowed through Anglo-French *endenture*, from Old French

endenteure indentation, from *endenter* to notch; see **INDENT**. Also probably borrowed from Anglo-Latin *indentura*, perhaps from the Old French; for suffix see **-URE**. An *indenture* was written in identical versions on a single sheet, then cut apart along a zigzag or notched line. By matching the notched edges it was possible to prove the genuineness of a document. —**v.** 1658, to contract; later, bind by contract (1676); from the noun in English.

independent *adj.* 1611, formed from English *in*-¹ not + *dependent*, probably by influence of Italian *indipendente* and French *independant*; for suffix see **-ENT**. —**independence** *n.* 1640, formed from English *independ(ent)* + *-ence*; or as a back formation from *independency* (1611 *independencie*); for suffix see **-ENCY**. Also, in part borrowed from French *independance* (1630).

index *n.* Before 1398 *index* forefinger (used for pointing); borrowed from Latin *index* (genitive *indicis*) forefinger, pointer, sign, list, literally, anything which points out, from *indicāre* point out, **INDICATE**.

The meaning of a list of the contents of a book (1580), is a borrowing from such Latin phrases as *Index Nominum* Index of Names, *Index Verborum* Index of Words.

During the 1800's *index* was first used in science in the sense of an indicator, a number, or formula; for example *refractive index* in optics (1871). In economics, *price index* appeared in 1886, *cost-of-living index* in 1913. —**v.** 1720, from the noun. The meaning of adjust income, interest rates, etc., to changes in the value, is found in 1972 (probably from *indexation*). —**indexation** *n.* 1960, formed from English *index*, *n.* + *-ation*.

Indian *n.* Probably before 1300 *Indien* person born or living in India, or the East Indies; borrowed from Old French *Indien*, from Medieval Latin *Indianus*, from Latin *India*, from Greek *Indiā* the region of the Indus river; later, the region beyond the Indus river, from *Indós* the Indus river, from Old Persian *Hindu* Indian province of Sind; for suffix see **-AN**. The name *India*, *Indea* was also known in Old English (before 899); borrowed directly from Latin. In Modern English *Indian* has been used at least since 1602 in reference to the original inhabitants of the European colonists and explorers found in America. —**adj.** About 1566 *Indian* of or having to do with India or the East Indies; from the noun. In modern English *Indian*, *adj.*, has been recorded since 1608 (*Indian town*) and was also used by DeSoto (found in a translation, 1544) to refer to the American Indian.

indication *n.* Probably before 1425 *indicacion* a sign, suggestion; borrowed from Latin *indicatiōnem* (nominative *indicatiō*) valuation, from *indicāre* point out, show (*in*- in + *dicāre* proclaim); for suffix see **-ATION**. —**indicative** *adj.*, *n.* About 1450 *indicatyf* a verb form in grammar; borrowed from Old French *indicatif* (feminine *indicative*), from Late Latin *indicativus*, from Latin *indicāre*; for suffix see **-IVE**. —**indicate** *v.* 1651, back formation from *indication*, *n.* —**indicator** *n.* 1666; formed from English *indicate* + *-or*², modeled on Late Latin *indicātor*, from Latin *indicāre*.

indict *v.* Before 1626 *indict* charge with an offense or crime; earlier *indyten* (about 1440); *endytten* (about 1303); borrowed through Anglo-French *enditer* indict, from Old French *enditer*, *enditier* to dictate or inform; see **INDITE**.

The alteration of spelling in *indict* reflects the influence of Medieval Latin *indictare* to indict. —**indictment** *n.* 1594 *indictment*; a spelling alteration by influence of Medieval Latin *indictare*, or earlier *indytemment* (1440); *endyttemment* (about 1303); borrowed through Anglo-French *enditement*, from *enditer* **INDICT**.

indifferent *adj.* 1380 (implied in *indifferently*), unbiased, impartial, neutral; borrowed through Old French *indifferent*, or directly from Latin *indifferentem* (nominative *indifferēns*) not differing, not particular (*in*- not + *differentem*, *differēns*, present participle of *differre* set apart, **DIFFER**); for suffix see **-ENT**.

The extended meaning of unmoved, apathetic, is first recorded in 1519 and of neither good nor bad (1532) and later not particularly good, as in an *indifferent* writer (1638). —**indifference** *n.* About 1445, impartiality; perhaps a learned borrowing from Middle French *indifférence*, or directly from Latin *indifferentia* lack of difference, from *indifferentem* making no difference; see **INDIFFERENT**. Also possibly formed from English *indifferent* + *-ence*.

indigenous *adj.* 1646; formed in English from Latin *indigena*, *adj.* and *n.*, (one) born in a country, native (*indu* in, within + *gen-*, root of *gignere* beget) + English suffix *-ous*.

indigent *adj.* Probably before 1400, borrowed from Old French *indigent*, learned borrowing from Latin *indigentem* (nominative *indigēns*), present participle of *indigēre* to need (*indu* in, within + *egēre* be in need, want); for suffix see **-ENT**. —**indigence** *n.* About 1385 *indigence* lack, lack of; borrowed from Old French *indigence*, learned borrowing from Latin *indigentia*, from *indigentem*; see **INDIGENT**.

indignation *n.* Probably before 1200 *indignatio* disdain, contempt; later *indignacioun* anger at something unworthy or wrongful (about 1350); borrowed through Old French *indignation*, or directly borrowed from Latin *indignatiōnem* (nominative *indignatiō*), from *indignārī* regard as unworthy, be angry or displeased at, from *indignus* unworthy (*in*- not + *dignus* worthy; see **INDIGNITY**); for suffix see **-ATION**. —**indignant** *adj.* 1590, probably a back formation from *indignation* with suffix *-ant*, modeled on Latin *indignantem* (nominative *indignāns*), present participle of *indignārī* be angry or displeased at. The sense of anger at something unworthy or wrongful, is first recorded about 1350, in the form *indignacioun*, borrowed from Old French *indignation*, from Latin *indignatiōnem*; see above. —**indignity** *n.* 1584 *indignitie*; probably borrowed from Middle French *indignité*, from Latin *indignitatem* (nominative *indignitās*), from *indignus* unworthy (*in*- not + *dignus* worthy; see **DIGNITY**). Also possibly formed from English *in*-¹ + *dignity*.

indigo *n.* 1555 *endego*; later *indigo* (1598) and *indico* (before 1599). The variety of forms is attributable to the variety of immediate sources: *indico* from Spanish; *endego* from Portuguese; *indigo* from Dutch by influence of Portuguese, and also directly from Portuguese, all borrowed from Latin *indi-*

cum, from Greek *indikón*, literally, Indian substance, from neuter of *indikós* Indian, from *Indós* Indus river; see INDIAN.

Indigo (and variants) replaced Middle English *ynde indigo* pigment (1296), borrowed from Old French *inde*, from Latin *indicum*. —**adj.** 1856, from the noun.

indirect *adj.* Probably before 1387, probably borrowed from Old French *indirect*, from Late Latin *indirectus* not direct (Latin *in-* not + *directus* direct).

indiscretion *n.* About 1340, imprudence; probably borrowed from Old French *indiscretion*, learned borrowing from Latin *indiscretiōnem* (nominative *indiscretiō*), from *in-* not + *discretiōnem*, *discretiō* DISCRETION, also possibly formed from English *in-* not + *discretion*.

indisposed *adj.* Before 1400, formed from English *in-* not + *disposed*.

indite *v.* About 1303 *endytten*, borrowed from Old French *enditer* dictate, inform, compose, from Vulgar Latin **indictāre* (formed from Latin *in-* in + *dictāre* declare or compose in words, DICTATE). *Indite* and *indict* came into English with the same spelling, but *indite* retained a Latin prefix and French root, while *indict* became a thoroughly Latinized form.

indium *n.* 1864, New Latin, an alteration of Latin *indicum* INDIGO with *-ium*, chemical suffix; so called from the blue lines in its spectrum.

individual *adj.* 1605 *individuall* peculiar to one person; borrowed probably from Middle French *individual*, and directly from Medieval Latin *individualis*, from Latin *individuus* indivisible (*in-* not + *dividuus* divisible, from *dividere* DIVIDE); for suffix see *-AL*¹. An isolated example appeared about 1425. —**n.** 1605, from the adjective. —**individualism** *n.* 1827, formed from English *individual* + *-ism*; also borrowed from French *individualisme*, in a translation of De Tocqueville's *Democracy in America*; the French word is from Medieval Latin *individualis* individual. —**individualist** *n.* 1840, formed from English *individual* + *-ist*; also possibly borrowed from French *individualiste*, from Medieval Latin *individualis* individual. —**individuality** *n.* 1614, individual character, formed from English *individual* + *-ity*.

indivisible *adj.* Before 1425, borrowed from Middle French *indivisible*, and directly from Late Latin *indivisibilis* (*in-* not + *divisibilis* DIVISIBLE).

Indo- a combining form meaning India or Indian, as in *Indo-Aryan*; also meaning India and —, or Indian and —, as in *Indo-European*. Borrowed from *Indo-*, combining form of Greek *Indós* Indian.

indoctrinate *v.* 1626, teach or instruct; probably reformed to the pattern of English verbs in *-ate* from earlier *indoctrin* teach or instruct (1509), found in Middle English *endoctrinen* (probably about 1450); borrowed from Middle French *endoctriner* (Old French *en-* put in + *doctrine* DOCTRINE); for suffix see *-ATE*¹. —**indoctrination** *n.* 1646, formed from English *indoctrinate* + *-ion*.

Indo-European *adj.* 1814, referring to a particular group of languages spoken in India, Western Asia, and Europe (compare an earlier name *Aryan*). The term as used by early scholars, such as Klaproth, Meyer, and Bopp is borrowed probably from German *indoeuropäisch*, translated as *Indo-European* in English.

indolent *adj.* 1710, borrowed from French *indolent*, from Middle French, insensitive, from Late Latin *indolentem* (nominative *indolens*) insensitive to pain (Latin *in-* not + *dolentem*, nominative *dolens* grieving, present participle of *dolere* suffer pain); for suffix see *-ENT*. Latin *indolentem* was coined by Jerome to render Greek *apēlgēkós* (found in *Ephesians*).

An earlier use of *indolent*, in the medical sense of causing no pain, painless, is first recorded in 1663; borrowed directly from Late Latin *indolentem*. —**indolence** *n.* 1710, borrowed from French *indolence*, from Middle French, ease of living, from Latin *indolentia* insensibility (*in-* not + *dolentem*, present participle); for suffix see *-ENCE*.

indomitable *adj.* 1634, that cannot be tamed; borrowed from Late Latin *indomitābilis* untameable, from *in-* not + **domitābilis* tameable, from Latin *domitāre* to tame, frequentative form of *domāre* to tame). *Indomitable* replaced earlier form *indomable* untamable (before 1500); borrowed probably from Old French *indomable*, and directly from Latin *indomābilis* (*in-* not + *domābilis* tameable, from *domāre* to tame); for suffix see *-ABLE*.

indoors *adv.* 1799, in Washington's writings, used as an adjective, from the earlier phrase *within doors* (1581).

indubitable *adj.* 1624, implied in *indubitably*; borrowed from French *indubitable*, or directly from Latin *indubitābilis* (*in-* not + *dubitābilis* doubtful, from *dubitāre* hesitate, DOUBT); for suffix see *-ABLE*. An isolated example of *indubitabyll* (about 1461) is also borrowed from Latin *indubitābilis*.

induce *v.* About 1385 *enducen* lead on, persuade; later *inducen* (1402, possibly influenced by Middle French *inducer*); borrowed from Latin *inducere* lead into, persuade (*in-* in + *ducere* to lead; see *TOW*¹ pull). —**inducement** *n.* 1594, formed from English *induce* + *-ment*.

induct *v.* Probably about 1378 *inducten* introduce into a church office; borrowed from Latin *inductus*, past participle of *inducere* lead into; see *INDUCE*. The meaning of introduce to knowledge, initiate, is found in 1603, and bring into military service, in American English (1934). —**induction** *n.* Before 1398 *induccioun* introduction to the grace of God; borrowed through Old French *induction* introduction, induction, or directly from Latin *inductiōnem* (nominative *inductiō*) introduction, from *induc-*, stem of *inducere* lead into; for suffix see *-TION*. The meaning of a conclusion in logic is recorded probably before 1425. The scientific meaning related to magnetic or electrical properties in a nearby object is first recorded in 1801. —**inductive** *adj.* Probably before 1425, borrowed through Old French *inductif* (feminine *inductive*) inducing, or directly from Late Latin *inductivus* relating to an assumption, from Latin *induc-*, stem of *inducere*; for suffix see *-IVE*.

indulge *v.* 1623, probably a back formation from *indulgent*,

indulgence; and, in part, borrowed from Latin *indulgere* be kind, yield; of uncertain origin. —**indulgence** n. Before 1376 *indulgence* a freeing from temporal punishment for sin; later, mercy or leniency (before 1382); borrowed through Old French *indulgence*, or directly from Latin *indulgentia* complaisance, fondness, remission, from *indulgentem* (nominative *indulgens*), present participle of *indulgere* indulge; for suffix see -ENCE. —**indulgent** adj. 1509, probably a back formation from *indulgence*, and borrowed from Latin *indulgentem* (nominative *indulgens*), present participle of *indulgere*; for suffix see -ENT.

industry n. About 1477 *industrie* cleverness, skill, later, diligence, industriousness, effort (1531); borrowed from Old French *industrie*, learned borrowing from Latin *industria* diligence, earlier **industria*, formed from early Latin *indostruus* diligent (*indu* in, within + the stem of *struere* to build); for suffix see -Y³.

The meaning of a trade or manufacture, is first recorded about 1566, and that of systematic work in 1611. —**industrial** adj. 1590 *industriall* resulting from labor; formed in English from Latin *industria* diligence + English -al¹. No recorded use appears after the 1600's, until the word was probably reintroduced (1774) from French *industriel* (industrie industry, from Latin *industria* diligence + -el -al¹). —**industrialize** v. 1882, formed in English from *industrial* + -ize, on the model of French *industrialiser* (1842). —**industrious** adj. 1523, implied in earlier *industriously* skillful, clever; borrowed possibly through Middle French *industrieux*, and directly from Late Latin *industriōsus* diligent, from Latin *industria*; see INDUSTRY.

-ine¹ a suffix forming adjectives from nouns, and meaning of, like, being, as in *crystalline*, *elephantine*. Borrowed through French -ine, feminine form of -in, or directly from Latin -inus, -inus of, like. Related to -EN².

-ine² a suffix forming nouns, and used in the names of chemical elements, as in *chlorine*, *fluorine*, and in the names of basic substances, as in *cocaine*, *amine*. Borrowed from French -ine (from Latin -ina), or directly from Latin -ina, feminine suffix of abstract nouns.

inebriate v. 1497, developed from earlier *inebriate*, adj., drunk (1447); borrowed from Latin *inebriatus*, past participle of *inebriare* (in- + *ēbriare* make drunk, from *ēbrius* drunk, of uncertain origin); for suffix see -ATE¹.

ineffable adj. Before 1398 *ineffabile* unexpressible, borrowed through Old French *ineffable* unspeakable, or directly from Latin *ineffabilis* unutterable (in- not + *effabilis* speakable, from *effari* utter, ef- out, variant of ex- before f + *fari* speak); see FATE; for suffix see -ABLE.

inept adj. 1603, without aptitude; 1604, absurd, foolish; borrowed from French *inepte*, from Latin *ineptus* (in- not + *aptus* APT). —**ineptitude** n. 1615, borrowed from now obsolete French *ineptitude*, from Latin *ineptitūdō*, from *ineptus* unsuitable, absurd; or formed from English *inept* + connective i + -tude, on the model of *plenitude*, etc.

inequality n. Probably before 1425, borrowed from Old

French *inequalité*, learned borrowing from Medieval Latin, and directly from Medieval Latin *inaequalitas*, from Latin *inaequalis* unequal (in- not + *aequalis* EQUAL).

inert adj. 1647 *inert* inactive, borrowed from French *inerte*, and directly from Latin *inertem* (nominative *iners*) unskilled, inactive, (in- without + *ars*, genitive *artis* skill, ART).

inertia n. 1713, New Latin, a specialized use of Latin *inertia* unskillfulness or inactivity, from *iners* (genitive *inertis*) unskilled or inactive. The term as a form in New Latin was introduced into physics by the German astronomer Kepler; it is also recorded in Newton's *Principia* (1687). Early examples show *inertia* used as Latin *inertia*, or as *vis inertiae* until the early 1700's. The meaning of inactivity, apathy, is first recorded in 1822.

inestimable adj. About 1380 *inestimable* that cannot be computed; borrowed through Old French *inestimable*, or directly from Latin *inaestimabilis* (in- not + *aestimabilis* ESTIMABLE).

inevitable adj. About 1443, borrowed from Latin *inevitabilis* unavoidable; from in- not + *evitabilis* avoidable, from *evitare* to avoid, from ē- out, variant of ex- + *vitare* shun (originally, go out of the way).

inexorable adj. 1553, borrowed from Middle French *inexorable*, and directly from Latin *inexorabilis* (in- not + *exorabilis* easily entreated, from *exorare* to prevail upon, from ex- out + *orare* pray); for suffix see -ABLE.

infallible adj. Before 1420, borrowed from Medieval Latin *infallibilis* (in- not + *fallibilis* FALLIBLE).

infamous adj. About 1378 *infamis* wicked, notorious; borrowed possibly by influence of Old French *infameux*, from Medieval Latin *infamosus*, with the meaning influenced by Latin *infamis* of ill fame (in- not, without + *fama* reputation); for suffix see -OUS. The Medieval Latin *infamosus* was formed on Latin in- not + *famosus* celebrated. —**infamy** n. Probably before 1425, borrowed from Middle French *infamie*, learned borrowing from Latin, and directly from Latin *infamia*, from *infamis* of ill fame.

infant n. About 1384 *infant* baby or young child; borrowed from Old French *enfant*, or directly from Latin *infantem* (nominative *infans*), noun use of adjective with the meaning of not able to speak, young (in- not + *fantem*, *fans*, present participle of *fari* speak); for suffix see -ANT. —**adj.** About 1586, from the noun. —**infancy** n. Before 1398 *infancia* infancy; later *enfance* (probably before 1400), and *infancy* (probably before 1425); borrowed through Anglo-French *enfance*, and directly from Latin *infantia* babyhood, inability to speak, from *infantem* (nominative *infans*) infant; for suffix see -CY. —**infantile** adj. 1443, borrowed from Latin *infantilis*, from *infantem* (nominative *infans*) infant.

infantry n. 1579, borrowed from French *infanterie*, from older Italian and Spanish *infanteria* foot soldiers, from *infante* foot soldier, originally, a youth, from Latin *infantem* INFANT.

infatuate v. 1533, to make foolish; later, to inspire with a

foolish passion (1567); developed from earlier *infatuate*, adj. (1471); borrowed from Latin *infatuatus*, past participle of *infatuare* make a fool of or infatuate (*in-* in + *fatuus* foolish); for suffix see -ATE¹. —**infatuation** n. 1649, formed from English *infatuate* + *-ion*, and borrowed from French *infatuation*, from Late Latin *infatuatiōnem* (nominative *infatuatiō*), from Latin *infatuare*; for suffix see -TION.

infect *v.* A blend of two words, both with the meaning contaminate, afflict with disease: *infecten*, probably about 1378; borrowed from Latin *infectus*, past participle of *infectere* to spoil, stain, literally, put in (*in-* in + *facere* perform); and *enfecten*, about 1380; borrowed from Old French *enfait*, *infaict*, past participle forms of *infaire*, from Latin *in-* in + *facere* perform. —**infection** n. 1392 *infectioun* borrowed through Old French *infection*, and directly from Late Latin *infectiōnem* (nominative *infectiō*), from Latin *infect-*, stem of *infectere*; for suffix see -TION. —**infectious** adj. 1542, formed from English *infection* + *-ous*.

infer *v.* 1526 *enferre* bring in, bring forward; borrowed, perhaps in part by influence of Middle French *inferer*, from Latin *inferre* bring into, cause (*in-* in + *ferre* carry, BEAR²). The meaning of draw as a conclusion, is first recorded in 1529. —**inference** n. 1594, borrowed from Medieval Latin *inferentia*, from Latin *inferentem* (nominative *inferens*), present participle of *inferre* infer; for suffix see -ENCE.

inferior adj. Probably before 1425, situated below; later, lower in rank or importance (1531); borrowed from Latin *inferior* lower, a comparative form of *inferus*, adj., that is below or beneath. —**n.** Before 1425, from the adjective. —**inferiority** n. 1599 *inferioritie*, borrowed probably through Middle French *infériorité*, and directly from Medieval Latin *inferioritatem* (nominative *inferioritas*), from Latin *inferior*; for suffix see -ITY.

infernal adj. About 1385 *infernal* of hell; borrowed from Old French *infernal*, from Late Latin *infernalis* of the lower regions, from *infernus* hell; literally, the lower world, noun use of Latin *infernus* situated below, lower, related to *infernus* below.

infest *v.* Probably before 1425 *infesten* give pain, distress, hurt; later, harass, annoy, trouble (1533); borrowed from Middle French *infester*, learned borrowing from Latin *infestare* to attack, from *infestus* hostile, dangerous; originally, inexorable.

The meaning of visit in large numbers, especially for destruction, is first recorded in 1602. —**infestation** n. Probably before 1425 *infestation*; borrowed from Old French *infestation*, from Late Latin *infestatiōnem* (nominative *infestatiō*) a molesting, from Latin *infestare* to attack; for suffix see -ATION.

infidel n. 1470–85, a non-Christian; later, a person who does not believe in religion (1526); borrowed from Middle French *infidèle*, learned borrowing from Latin *infidelis* unfaithful; later, unbelieving (*in-* not + *fidēlis* faithful; see FIDELITY). —**adj.** Before 1470 *infidel* unbelieving, heathen; borrowed from Middle French *infidèle*, adj. and n. —**infidelity** n. Before 1400 *infidelite* lack of faith; borrowed from Middle French *infidélité*, from Latin *infidelitatem* (nominative *infidelitās*) unfaithfulness, from *infidelis* unfaithful.

infinite adj. About 1380 *infinif*, borrowed probably from Old French *infinif*, learned borrowing from Latin, also borrowed directly from Latin *infinitus* (*in-* not + *finitus* bounded, FINITE). —**n.** 1563, from the adjective. —**infinity** n. About 1378 *infinite* something unlimited, infinite time; about 1380, boundlessness, infinite quality; borrowed from Old French *infinité*, from Latin *infinitatem* (nominative *infinitās*) boundlessness, from *in-* not + *finis* end.

infinitesimal adj. 1710, infinitely small; possibly developed from the noun (1655); or formed in English from New Latin *infinitesimus* an infinitely small part or quantity (originally, adjective *nth* in rank, from Latin *infinitus* INFINITE + *-esimus*, as in *centēsimus* hundredth, CENTESIMAL) + English *-al*.

infinitive n. 1530, borrowed, perhaps by influence of Middle French *infinitif*, from Late Latin *infinitivus* unlimited, indefinite; also, the infinitive form of a verb, from Latin *infinitus* INFINITE; for suffix see -IVE. —**adj.** 1450 *infinitif*, borrowed through Middle French *infinitif*, or directly from Late Latin *infinitivus* unlimited, indefinite.

infirm adj. About 1380 *infirm* (of things) not firm or strong, weak; borrowed through Old French *infirm*, and directly from Latin *infirmus* (*in-* not + *firmus* FIRM¹). —**infirmity** n. Probably about 1350 *enfermete* an instance of disease; later *infirmite* inability or weakness (before 1382); borrowed from Old French *enfermeté* and directly from Latin *infirmi-tatem* (nominative *infirmi-tās*), from *infirmus* infirm; for suffix see -ITY.

infirmary n. 1451 *infirmarie*; borrowed from Medieval Latin *infirmarium*, *infirmaria* an infirmary or hospital, from Latin *infirmus* INFIRM; for suffix see -ARY.

inflame *v.* About 1340 *enflaumen* kindle, make ardent, set on fire; later *inflamen* (probably before 1425); borrowed from Old French *enflamer*, from Latin *inflammare* (*in-* in + *flamma* FLAME).

inflammation n. Probably before 1425 *inflammacioun*; borrowed through Middle French *inflammation*, and directly from Latin *inflammatiōnem* (nominative *inflammatiō*), from *inflammare* INFLAME; for suffix see -ATION. —**inflammable** adj. Probably before 1425, borrowed through Middle French *inflammable*, and directly from Medieval Latin *inflammabilis*, from Latin *inflammare* inflame; for suffix see -ABLE.

inflate *v.* Probably before 1425 *inflaten* cause to swell; developed from *inflate*, adj. (probably about 1350); borrowed from Latin *inflatus*, past participle of *inflare* blow into, puff up (*in-* into + *flare* to BLOW²); for suffix see -ATE¹. Inflate is also a back formation from *inflation*. The sense of increase (prices or currency), is first recorded in 1844. —**inflation** n. About 1340 *inflacioun*, borrowed from Latin *inflatiōnem* (nominative *inflatiō*) a blowing into, from *inflare* INFLATE. The meaning of increase in prices or currency is first recorded in 1838. —**inflationary** adj. 1920, of or involving monetary inflation; formed from English *inflation* + *-ary*.

inflect *v.* About 1425 *inflecten* bend downward, curve; borrowed from Latin *inflectere* to bend in, change (*in-* in + *flectere*

to bend). The meaning of vary a word's form to show grammatical relationship is found in 1668; and that of modulate the voice, in 1828 in American English, as a back formation from the earlier *inflection*. —**inflection** *n.* Probably before 1425 *inflexion* action of bending; later *inflection* (1597); borrowed, through Middle French *inflexion*, and directly from Latin *inflexiōnem*, nominative *inflexiō* (in Late Latin *inflexiōnem*, nominative *inflexiō*), from *inflexere* inflect. The meaning of modulation of the voice, appears before 1600, and the grammatical meaning of variation in the form in 1668.

inflexible *adj.* Probably before 1425, borrowed through Middle French *inflexible*, and directly from Latin *inflexibilis* (*in-* not + *flexibilis* FLEXIBLE).

inflict *v.* 1566, developed from *inflict*, *adj.* (1526); borrowed from Latin *infectus*, past participle of *infigere* (*in-* on, against + *figere* to dash, strike; see CONFLICT); and as a back formation from *infliction*. —**infliction** *n.* 1534, borrowed from Late Latin *infectiōnem* (nominative *infectiō*) a striking against, from Latin *infigere*; for suffix see -TION.

inflorescence *n.* 1760, arrangement of flowers on a plant; later, flowering process (1800); borrowed from New Latin *inflorescentia* (coined by Linnaeus), from Late Latin *infrōrescentem* (nominative *infrōrescens*) flowering, present participle of *infrōrescere* come into flower; see FLORESCENCE; for suffix see -ENCE.

influence *n.* About 1385, a flowing from the stars that acts upon the character and destiny of people; borrowed from Old French *influence* emanation from the stars, learned borrowing from Medieval Latin *influentia* a flowing in, from Latin *influentem* (nominative *influens*), present participle of *influer* to flow into (*in-* in + *fluere* to flow); for suffix see -ENCE. The original astrological meaning gradually evolved into the meaning of power of persons to act on others (1588). —**v.** 1658, from the noun. —**influential** *adj.* 1570, having astral influence; later, having power, effective (1655); formed in English from Medieval Latin *influentia* influence + English -al; or from Middle English *influent* (probably before 1439, flowing; 1449, abundant, influential; borrowed from Middle French *influent*, from Latin *influentem*, *influens* flowing) + English -ial.

influenza *n.* 1743, borrowed during an outbreak of this disease that spread over Europe at the time; from Italian *influenza* influenza or epidemic; originally, visitation, influence (of the stars); learned borrowing from Medieval Latin *influentia*; see INFLUENCE. The use in Italian for flulike diseases, such as scarlet fever (*influenza di febbre scarlattina*) is known as early as 1504.

influx *n.* 1626, formed from English *in-* in + Latin *fluxus* a flowing, FLUX.

inform *v.* Probably before 1425 *informen*, learned borrowing from Latin *informare* to shape, form, train, instruct, educate (*in-* into + *forma* FORM), replacing earlier Middle English *enformen*, *enfourmen* to mold, train, educate, or instruct (recorded probably before 1325); borrowed from Old French *enformer*,

enfourmer from Latin *informare*. The meaning of provide with facts or news, to report, tell, is first recorded in 1384. —**informant** *n.* 1693, borrowed from Latin *informantem* (nominative *informans*), present participle of *informare* to instruct; for suffix see -ANT. —**information** *n.* Before 1387 *informacioun* instruction, direction, teaching, learned borrowing from Medieval Latin *informationem*, from Latin *informatiōnem* (nominative *informatiō*) outline, concept, form of an idea, from *informare* replacing Middle English *enformacioun* (about 1380); borrowed from Old French *enformacion*, from Medieval Latin *informationem*; for suffix see -ATION. —**informative** *adj.* Before 1398 *informative*, borrowed from Medieval Latin *informativus*, from Latin *informāt-*, past participle stem of *informare*; for suffix see -IVE. —**informer** *n.* Probably before 1425, reformed in English from *inform*, *v.* -er¹, and replacing earlier Middle English *enfourmer* (about 1385); from the verb in English + -er¹, and borrowed from Old French *enformer*, from the verb in Old French; for suffix see -ER¹.

informal *adj.* Before 1460, formed from English *in-* not + *formal*.

infra- a prefix meaning below, beneath, beyond, as in *infrastructure*, *infrared*, *infrasonic*. Borrowed from Medieval Latin *infra-*, from Latin *infra* below, UNDER.

infraction *n.* 1461, a breaking of a law, obligation, right, etc., violation, borrowed from Middle French *infraction*, and directly from Latin *infractiōnem* (nominative *infractiō*) a breaking, from *infrag-*, stem of *infringere* INFRINGE.

infringe *v.* About 1467 *enfrangen* violate a law; formed in English from *en-*, variant of *in-* + Latin *frangere*. The later form *infringe* (1553) was influenced by, or borrowed from Latin *infringere* to damage, break (*in-* in + *frangere* to BREAK). The meaning of encroach upon, is first recorded in English in 1760–72. —**infringement** *n.* 1593, contradiction or refutation; later, violation (1628), and encroachment or intrusion (1673); formed from English *infringe* + -ment.

infuriate *v.* 1667, borrowed from Medieval Latin *infuriatus*, past participle of *infuriare* (Latin *in-* into + *furia* FURY); for suffix see -ATE¹.

infuse *v.* Probably before 1425, pour (a liquid) into something; borrowed through Middle French *infuser*, or directly from Latin *infusus*, past participle of *infundere* (*in-* in + *fundere* pour, spread). The sense of instill, inspire, is first recorded in 1526. —**infusion** *n.* Before 1400, something poured in; later, the steeping of a substance in water (1573); borrowed through Middle French, or directly from Latin *infusiōnem* (nominative *infusiō*), from *infūd-*, stem of *infundere*; for suffix see -SION.

-ing¹ a suffix meaning action, result, product, materials, etc., of verbs, as in *thinking*, *painting*. Middle English -ing, earlier -ung; developed from Old English -ing, -ung; cognate with Old Frisian -inge, -unge, Old Saxon -unga, Middle Low German -inge (modern Dutch -ing), Old High German -unga (modern German -ung), and Old Icelandic -ing, -ung. The earliest function of this suffix in Old English was to form nouns from corresponding verbs, as in *asking*, *feeding*, and to denote com-

pleted action or habit, as in *blessing*, occasionally with a plural, as in later *tidings*; there were also concrete nouns such as *bedding*, *offering*. Later, words ending in *-ing* were formed from nouns without a corresponding verb, as in *railing*, *evening*, *morning*.

The form also developed a particular noun use with verbal functions that are qualified by adverbs rather than adjectives, as in *practicing regularly*, and that govern objects as a verb does, as in *writing letters*. Other functions that are productive in English include *-ing* as the ending of a second element in a compound, such as *on-going*, *far-reaching*, *childbearing*, *uprising*, *handwriting*, or with an adjective function in *carving knife*, *laughingstock*, *meetinghouse*.

-ing² a suffix forming the present participle of verbs, as in *walking*, *seeing*, *loving*. Middle English, alteration of *-ind*, *-end*; developed from Old English *-ende*.

ingenious *adj.* Probably before 1425, intelligent or talented; borrowed from Middle French *ingénieux* and replacing earlier Middle English *enginous* (recorded before 1393; borrowed from Old French *engignos*), learned borrowing from Latin *ingeniosus*, from *ingenium* inborn qualities or talent; for suffix see *-OUS*. The meaning of clever at contriving things, is first recorded in 1548. — **ingenuity** *n.* 1599, intelligence or talent; borrowed possibly from Middle French *ingénuité*, and directly from Latin *ingenuitatem* (nominative *ingenuitās*) frankness, from *ingenuus* of noble character, originally, freeborn; see *INGENUOUS*; for suffix see *-ITY*. The meaning of skill in contriving or inventing, is first recorded in 1649.

ingenuous *adj.* 1598 (implied in *ingenuously*), frank or candid; borrowed from Latin *ingenuus* with the virtues of freeborn people, of noble character, frank; originally, native, freeborn (*in-* in + *gen-*, root of *gignere* beget, produce); for suffix see *-OUS*. The sense of artless, guileless, is first recorded in 1673.

ingest *v.* 1620, take (food, etc.) into the body; also, to put in, push in (1617); borrowed from Latin *ingestus*, past participle of *ingerere* put or push in, carry in (*in*² + *gerere* carry). — **ingestion** *n.* 1620, borrowed from Late Latin *ingestio* (nominative *ingestio*) a pouring in, from Latin *inges-*, stem of *ingerere*; for suffix see *-TION*.

ingot *n.* About 1395, mold in which metal is cast; probably formed from *in*² in + Old English *goten*, past participle of *gēotan* to pour. *Ingot* reappeared in 1583 in the sense of mass of cast metal.

ingrati *v.* 1622, possibly borrowed through Italian *ingratiare*, *ingraziare*, developed from *in grazia* into favor, from Latin *in grātiā*, from *grātus* pleasing, thankful; see *GRACE*; for suffix see *-ATE*¹.

ingredient *n.* Probably before 1425; borrowed from Latin *ingredientem* (nominative *ingrediens*), present participle of *ingredi* go in, enter (*in*² in + *gradī* to step, go); for suffix see *-ENT*.

ingress *n.* Probably 1440, means of going in, entrance; borrowed from Latin *ingressus* entrance, from *ingred-*, stem of *ingredi* enter; see *INGREDIENT*.

inhabit *v.* About 1350 *inhabiten*, *enhabiten*; borrowed from Old French *enhabiter* dwell in, learned borrowing from Latin *inhabitāre* dwell in (*in*² + *habitāre* dwell, a frequentative form of *habēre* hold, have).

inhale *v.* 1725, probably a back formation from *inhalation*, after Latin *inhālāre* breathe upon (*in*² + *hālāre* breathe). The meaning in English developed from the contrasting verb *exhale*. — **inhalation** *n.* 1623, formed from Latin *inhālāre* + English *-ation*, on the analogy of *exhalation*.

inherent *adj.* 1578, fixed or situated in; 1588, intrinsic or essential; borrowed probably from Middle French *inhérent*, and directly from Latin *inhaerentem* (nominative *inhaerēns*), present participle of *inhaerere* be closely connected with, adhere to (*in*² + *haerere* to stick); for suffix see *-ENT*.

inherit *v.* About 1350 *inheriten*, *enheriten* receive as an heir, make (someone) heir; borrowed from Old French *enheriter* make heir, appoint as an heir, from Late Latin *inhērēditāre* (*in*² + *hērēditāre*, from Latin *hērēs*, genitive *hērēdis*, *HEIR*). — **inheritance** *n.* Before 1393 *inheritance*, *enheritaunce*, borrowed from Old French *enheritaunce*, from *enheriter* to inherit. — **inheritor** *n.* Probably before 1430 *inheriter*, *enheritour*; probably formed in English or Anglo-French after Middle French (*enheritier*, from *en-* + *heriter*).

inhibit *v.* Probably before 1425, to forbid; later, to hinder or restrain (1535); apparently a back formation from *inhibition*, and also borrowed from Latin *inhibitus*, past participle of *inhibere*. — **inhibition** *n.* Before 1387 *inhibicioun* formal prohibition; borrowed from Old French *inibicion*, learned borrowing from Latin *inhibitionem* (nominative *inhibitio*), from *inhibi-*, stem of *inhibere* hold in, restrain, hinder (*in*² + *habere* hold; see *HABIT*); for suffix see *-TION*. The specific sense of idea, emotion, or other inner force holding back one's impulses, is not found until 1916.

inimical *adj.* 1643, borrowed from Late Latin *inimicālis*, from Latin *inimicus* unfriendly, *ENEMY* (*in*¹ + *amicus* friendly, friend); for suffix see *-AL*¹.

iniquity *n.* Probably before 1300 *inequite*; borrowed from Old French *iniquité*, learned borrowing from Latin *iniquitatem* (nominative *iniquitās*) unequalness, injustice, from *iniquus* unjust, unequal (*in*¹ + *aequus* just, *EQUAL*); for suffix see *-ITY*.

initial *adj.* 1526, borrowed from Latin *initialis*, from *initium* beginning, from a lost noun **ines* (genitive *initis*) an entrant, from *inire* go into, begin (*in*² + *ire* go); for suffix see *-AL*¹. — **n.** 1627, from the adjective. — **v.** 1864, in American English; from the noun.

initiate *v.* 1603, introduce into some knowledge or practice, induct; 1604, begin, set going; borrowed from Latin *initiātus*, past participle of *initiāre* begin, originate, from *initium* beginning, see *INITIAL*; for suffix see *-ATE*¹. In some instances *initiate* is a back formation from *initiation*. — **n.** 1811, from the verb. An earlier meaning of something initiated, is recorded in 1603. — **initiation** *n.* 1583, borrowed probably from Middle French *initiation*, and directly from Latin *initiatiōnem* (nominative *initiatio*) participation in secret rites, from *initiāre*; for suffix

see -ATION. —**initiative** *n.* 1793, borrowed from French *initiative*, formed from *initier* + *-ive*.

inject *v.* 1601, borrowed from Latin *injectus*, past participle of *inicare* throw in or on (*in-*² + *-icere, -jicare*, combining forms of *jacere* to throw). Also probably a back formation from *injection*. —**injection** *n.* Probably before 1425 *injection* borrowed probably from Middle French *injection*, and directly from Latin *injectionem* (nominative *injectionē*) a throwing in, from *injec-*, stem of *inicare*; for suffix see -TION.

injunction *n.* Probably about 1425 *injunction*, borrowed from Late Latin *injunctionem* (nominative *injunctionē*) a command, from Latin *injūnc-*, stem of *inungere* impose, ENJOIN; for suffix see -TION. Formation of *injunction* in English was probably also influenced by Middle French *injonction*.

injury *n.* About 1384 *injurie*, borrowed through Anglo-French *injurie*, from Latin *injūria* wrong, hurt, noun use of the feminine of *injūrius*, *injūrus* wrongful, injurious (*in-*¹ + *jūs*, genitive *jūris* right, law); for suffix see -Y³. —**injure** *v.* About 1450 *injurere* to treat unjustly; borrowed from Middle French *injurier*, *injurier* to harm, offend, from Latin *injūriāre*, from *injūria*. Also a back formation from *injury*. —**injurious** *adj.* About 1425 *injuryos* abusive, borrowed from Middle French *injūrios*, and directly from Latin *injūriōsus*, from *injūria* hurt, injury; for suffix see -OUS.

ink *n.* About 1250 *enke*; later *inke* (before 1349); borrowed from Old French *enque*, from Late Latin *encautum*, from Greek **énkauston* (used alongside *énkauston*) reddish-blue ink used by the Roman emperors; originally a neuter adjective, burnt in, from the stem of *enkalein* to burn in (*en-*² + *kalein* to burn). —**v.** 1562, from the noun, possibly after Middle French *encreur* to ink.

inkling *n.* 1513, apparently from gerund of *inclen* utter in an undertone (about 1350), related to Old English *inca* doubt, suspicion.

in-law *n.* 1894, abstracted from *father-in-law*, *mother-in-law*, etc. The earliest such phrase is *brother-in-law* (probably before 1300), indicating a relationship in Canon Law, and a degree of affinity within which marriage is prohibited.

inlet *n.* 1570–76, entrance, that which lets in (*in-*, adv. + *let*, *v.*, corresponding to *let in*); earlier *inlate* permission to enter (about 1300), from *inlaten*, variant of *inleten* to let in (probably about 1250).

inmate *n.* 1589, person living with others, especially as a lodger (*in*, *adj.*, that is inside + *mate*¹ companion). The sense of someone confined in a public institution appears in 1834.

inn *n.* 1123 *inne* temporary dwelling or lodging; developed from Old English *inn* lodging, dwelling, house (about 1000), probably from *inne*, adv., inside, within. The form in Old English is cognate with Old Icelandic *inni* dwelling. In Middle English, probably before 1200, the term is recorded with the meaning of a public house.

innards *n.pl.* 1825, dialectal variant of *inwards*, found in *in-*

wardes organs or inner parts of the body (before 1398), and *inward* (probably before 1300), from *inward*, *adj.*; for suffix see -WARD.

innate *adj.* About 1412, borrowed from Latin *innātus* (*in-* + *nātus*, past participle of *nāscī* be born, Old Latin *gnāscī*); for suffix see -ATE¹.

inner *adj.* Probably before 1200 *inre*, developed from Old English *innera*, *inra* (before 900); comparative forms of *inne*, adv., inside, within; and cognate with Old Frisian *inra* inner, Old High German *innaro*, *innere* (modern German *innere*, *innerer*), Old Icelandic *innri*, *idhri* (Swedish *inre*, Norwegian and Danish *indre*); for suffix see -ER².

inning *n.* Probably 1407 *ynnyng* act of getting or taking in; developed from Old English *innung* a taking in or a putting in (before 899), gerund of *innian* get within, put or bring in, from *in*, *inn*, adv., IN; for suffix see -ING¹. The meaning of a turn of a team in a game, is first recorded in 1738. The extended sense of an opportunity to do something in 1836.

innocent *adj.* 1340, not guilty; later, simple, naive (about 1385); borrowed from Old French *innocent*, learned borrowing from Latin *innocentem* (nominative *innocēns*) not guilty, harmless, blameless (*in-*¹ + *nocentem*, nominative *nocēns*, present participle of *nocēre* to harm); for suffix see -ENT. —**n.** About 1200, guiltless person; later, simple or naive person (about 1230); borrowed from Old French *innocent*, *n.* —**innocence** *n.* 1340 *innocence* guiltlessness, later, simplicity or lack of cunning (about 1385); borrowed from Old French *innocence*, learned borrowing from Latin *innocentia* harmlessness, blamelessness, from *innocentem*; for suffix see -ENCE.

innocuous *adj.* 1598, harmless, formed from Latin *innocuus* (*in-*¹ + *nocuus* hurtful, from *nocēre* to harm) + English -ous.

innovate *v.* 1548, introduce as new; borrowed probably from Middle French *innover*, and directly from Latin *innovātus*, past participle of *innovāre* to renew or change (*in-*² + *novus* NEW); for suffix see -ATE¹. —**innovation** *n.* 1548, new way of doing things; earlier *innovacyon* renewal (1440); borrowed probably from Middle French *innovation*, and directly from Latin *innovātiōnem* (nominative *innovātiō*) a renewing, from *innovāre*; for suffix see -ATION.

innuendo *n.* 1678, borrowed from Latin *innuendō* by intimating, meaning, pointing to (literally, by giving a nod to), ablative case of the gerund of *innuere* to mean, signify, nod to (*in-*³ + *nuere* to nod); originally in English (1564) in legal documents to introduce a parenthetical clarification and meaning “namely, that is to say;” later referring to the clarification itself, hence, “any indirect reference or suggestion.”

innumerable *adj.* About 1350 *innumerable* very great, numerous; borrowed from Latin *innumerābilis* (*in-*¹ + *numerābilis* capable of being counted, from *numerāre* to count, from *numerus* NUMBER); for suffix see -ABLE.

inoculate *v.* Probably 1440 *inoculate* insert a bud into (a plant); borrowed from Latin *inoculātus*, past participle of *inoculāre* graft in, implant (*in-*² + *oculus* bud, EYE); for suffix see -ATE¹. The

meaning of implant the germs of a disease to produce immunity, is first recorded in English in 1722, as a back formation of *inoculation*. —**inoculation** *n.* Probably 1440 *inoculacioun* insertion of a plant bud into another plant, grafting by budding; borrowed from Latin *inoculatiōnem* (nominative *inoculatiō*) a grafting in, from *inoculāre*; for suffix see -ATION. The meaning of a process of inoculating to prevent disease, is first recorded in English in 1714.

inordinate *adj.* Probably 1348, not kept within orderly limits, excessive; borrowed from Latin *inordinātus* disordered (*in*-¹ + *ordinātus*, past participle of *ordināre* to set in order); for suffix see -ATE¹.

inquest *n.* About 1300 *enqueste*, *anqueste* formal inquiry into a matter; borrowed from Old French *enqueste* inquiry, from Vulgar Latin **inquaesita* thing inquired into, alteration (influenced by **inquaere* inquire) of Latin *inquisita*, feminine past participle of *inquirere* INQUIRE.

inquire *v.* About 1300 *enqueren*; later *inqueren* (before 1398) and *enquiren* (probably before 1425); borrowed from Old French *enquerre*, from Vulgar Latin **inquaerere*, alteration (influenced by Latin *quaerere* ask) of Latin *inquirere* (*in*-³ + *quaerere* ask, seek). The spelling *inquire* was a replacement from the Latin form. —**inquiry** *n.* 1426 *enquere*, *enqueri*, *enquery*, from *enqueren* inquire + *-y* -y³.

inquisition *n.* 1384 *inquisicioun* interrogation, questioning; borrowed from Old French *inquisition*, *inquisicion*, from Latin *inquisitiōnem* (nominative *inquisitiō*) a searching into, legal examination, from *inquirere* INQUIRE; for suffix see -TION.

Reference to *The Inquisition*, ecclesiastical court appointed by the Roman Catholic Church in the 1200's to suppress heresy, is not found in English before 1502 referring to the Spanish Inquisition, 1478–83. —**inquisitive** *adj.* About 1390 *inquisitif*; borrowed from Old French *inquisitif*, from Late Latin *inquisitivus*, from Latin *inquisitus*, past participle of *inquirere*; for suffix see -IVE. —**inquisitor** *n.* 1402 *inquisitour*, borrowed from Latin *inquisitor* searcher, examiner, from *inquisitus*, past participle of *inquirere*; for suffix see -OR².

insane *adj.* 1560, borrowed from Latin *insānus* (*in*-¹ + *sānus* healthy, sound in body or in mind, SANE). —**insanity** *n.* 1590, possibly formed in English from *insane* + *-ity*, modeled on Latin *insānitās* unsoundness, unhealthiness, disease (*in*-¹ + *sānitās* health, soundness of body or of mind).

insatiable *adj.* About 1412 *insaciable*, borrowing of Old French *insaciable*, from Latin *insatiābilis* (*in*-¹ + *satiāre* SATIATE); for suffix see -ABLE.

inscription *n.* Before 1382 *inscripcioun* introductory statement of a book, heading, title, borrowed from Latin *inscriptiōnem* (nominative *inscriptiō*), from *inscribere* inscribe; for suffix see -TION. —**inscribe** *v.* 1552, replacement of earlier *inscriven* (1382, borrowed from Old French *inscrire* and from Latin). The form in modern English was borrowed from Latin *inscribere* (*in*-² + *scribere* write).

inscrutable *adj.* Before 1500, borrowed, perhaps through

Middle French *inscrutable*, from Late Latin *inscrūtābilis* (Latin *in*-¹ + *scrūtārī* examine, ransack); for suffix see -ABLE.

insect *n.* 1601, borrowed, possibly by influence of French *insecte*, from Latin *insectum* animal with a notched or divided body (literally, cut into), from neuter past participle of *insecare* cut into, cut up (*in*-² + *secare* to cut). The reference to notched or divided in the Latin word is to the segmented division of an insect's body; it is a loan translation of Greek *éntomon* insect. —**insecticide** *n.* 1865 (attributive use), formed from English *insect* + *-cide*².

inseminate *v.* 1623, to sow or implant; borrowed from Latin *insēminātus*, past participle of *insēmināre* (*in*-² + *sēmināre* to plant, propagate, beget, from *sēmen*, genitive *sēminis* seed, SEMEN); for suffix see -ATE¹. The meaning impregnate with semen, is first recorded in 1923, as a back formation from *insemination*, in the context of animal breeding. —**insemination** *n.* 1658, action of sowing or implanting of seed; formed from English *inseminate* + *-ion*. The meaning of introduction of semen, is first recorded in 1860.

insensible *adj.* About 1380, that cannot be perceived by bodily senses; borrowed from Old French *insensible*, and directly from Latin *insēnsibilis* (*in*- not + *sēnsibilis* SENSIBLE). The application to mental processes appeared about 1475.

insert *v.* 1529, developed from *insert* (recorded before 1400), past participle of *inseren*; borrowed from Latin *inserere* put in (*in*-² + *serere* join together). —**n. 1893, from the verb. —**insertion** *n.* 1578, place or manner of attachment of an organ, muscle, etc.; borrowed, probably through Middle French *insertion*, from Late Latin *insertiōnem* (nominative *insertiō*), from Latin *inserere*. The act of putting in is first recorded in 1598.**

inside *n.* 1392 *ynneside* interior of the body; later, inner side (1504); originally in Middle English, a compound of *inne*, adv., and *side*. —**adj.** 1611, from the noun. —**prep.** 1791, from the noun. —**adv.** 1803, from the noun. The phrase *inside out* is first recorded before 1600. —**insider** *n.* 1846, American English, a book carried in an inside coat pocket; 1848, someone who is a member of a group; formed from English *inside* + *-er*¹.

insidious *adj.* 1545, borrowed, perhaps by influence of Middle French *insidieux*, from Latin *insidiōsus* deceitful, from *insidiae*, pl., plot, snare, from *insidēre* sit on, occupy (*in*-² + *sedēre* SIT); for suffix see -OUS.

insight *n.* Probably before 1200 *insiht* inner sight, understanding (*in*, adv. and *siht* SIGHT).

insignia *n.pl.* 1648, borrowing of Latin *insignia*, neuter plural of *insigne* badge, mark (*in*-² + *signum* mark, SIGN). The earlier form *ensigne* (probably before 1400) became differentiated in meaning after *insignia* was introduced and today *ensign* usually has the sense of a flag or pennant. The singular form *insigne* appeared in English in 1774, at the same time as *insignia* began to be used as a singular, with *insignias* as its plural.

insinuate *v.* 1529, introduce, convey, or instill (an idea) indi-

rectly; borrowed from Latin *insinuātus*, past participle of *insinuāre* bring in by windings and curvings, wind one's way into (*in*-² + *sinus*, genitive *sinūs*, a curve, winding); for suffix see -ATE¹. —**insinuation** n. 1526, borrowed, possibly through Middle French *insinuation*, from Latin *insinuātiōnem* (nominative *insinuātiō*) an insinuating one's way into, from *insinuāre*; for suffix see -ATION.

insipid adj. 1620, without taste; borrowed, probably through French *insipide*, from Late Latin *insipidus* (Latin *in*-¹ + *sapidus* tasty, from *sapere* have a taste, be wise). The sense of uninteresting or dull, is first recorded in 1649, probably borrowed from Medieval Latin *insipidus* dull, from Late Latin *insipidus* tasteless.

insist v. 1586, persevere, persist in a course of action; probably a back formation from *insistence*, modeled on Latin *insistere* persist, dwell upon, stand upon (*in*-² + *sistere* take a stand, from *stāre* to STAND). —**insistence** n. 1436, formed in Middle English from Middle French *insister*, and from Latin *insistere* + English suffix -ence.

insolent adj. About 1390, borrowed from Latin *insolentem* (nominative *insolēns*) arrogant, immoderate, unusual (*in*-¹ + *solentem*, present participle of *solēre* be accustomed, possibly related to *sodālis* close companion, and *suāscere* become used to); for suffix see -ENT. —**insolence** n. About 1390, borrowed from Latin *insolentia* arrogance, excess, unusualness, from *insolentem*; for suffix see -ENCE.

insoluble adj. About 1384 *insoluble* that cannot be dissolved; probably before 1387, that cannot be solved; borrowed from Latin *insolūbilis* that cannot be loosened (*in*-¹ + *solūbilis* SOLUBLE).

insomnia n. 1758, borrowing of Latin *insomnia* (*in*-¹ + *somnus* sleep). An Anglicized form *insomnie* appeared in Cockeram's *Dictionary* (1623), probably borrowed from French *insomnie* (1555). —**insomniac** n. 1908; formed from English *insomnia* + -ac, as in *maniac*.

inspect v. 1623, borrowed from Latin *inspectus*, past participle of *inspicere*; see INSPECTION. —**inspection** n. Before 1393 *inspeccioun*, *inspeccioun* close examination; borrowed from Old French *inspection*, from Latin *inspectiōnem* (nominative *inspectiō*), from *inspec-*, stem of *inspicere* look into, inspect, examine (*in*-² + *specere* to look); for suffix see -TION. —**inspector** n. 1602, formed perhaps on the model of French *inspecteur*, and borrowed from Latin *inspector* (*inspec-*, stem of *inspicere* + -tor).

inspire v. About 1340 *inspiren*, *enspiren* possibly a back formation from *inspiration*; also a borrowing through Old French *inspirer*, *inspirer*, and directly from Latin *inspirāre* inspire, inflame, blow into (*in*-² in + *spirāre* breathe; see SPIRIT). —**inspiration** n. About 1303 *inspiracioun*, *enspiracioun*, borrowed through Old French *inspiration*, and directly from Late Latin *inspiratiōnem* (nominative *inspiratiō*), from Latin *inspirāre* inspire; for suffix see -ATION.

install v. About 1422, to place in office (originally, by seating in an official stall); borrowed from Middle French *installer*, or directly from Medieval Latin *installare* (Latin *in*-² in + Medieval Latin *stallum* stall, from Germanic; compare Old High

German *stal* standing place, STALL¹). —**installation** n. 1464 *installacion*; borrowed from Middle French *installation*, and directly from Medieval Latin *installatiōnem* (nominative *installatiō*), from *installare* install; for suffix see -ATION. Also in later uses, formed from English *install* + -ation.

installment¹ n. act of installing, establishment. 1589, formed from English *install* + -ment.

installment² n. part of a sum of money. 1732, alteration of earlier (1577–87) *estallment*; probably formed in English from Old French *estaler* to fix, place + English -ment. The alteration in spelling to *installment* is found in the verb *install* to pay by installments (1679).

instance n. About 1380, the present time or circumstances; later, example or case (probably before 1425); borrowed from Old French *instance* eagerness, anxiety, solicitation, from Medieval Latin *instantia* presence, urgency, objection, from Latin *instantia* presence, earnestness, urgency, from *instāntem* (nominative *instāns*) urgent, see INSTANT; for suffix see -ANCE.

instant n. Before 1398, particular moment; borrowed probably from Old French *instant*, and directly from Medieval Latin *instantem* (nominative *instans*), from Latin *instāntem* present, pressing, urgent, present participle of *instāre* to urge, stand near (*in*-² in + *stāre* to STAND); for suffix see -ANT. —**adj.** About 1443, developed from the noun in English, and probably, in part borrowed from Old French *instant* imminent, learned borrowing from Latin *instāntem* (nominative *instāns*). —**instantaneous** adj. 1644, implied in *instantaneously*; formed in English as if from Latin **instantāneus*, modeled on Latin *mōmentāneus* momentary; for suffix see -OUS.

instead adv. Probably before 1200 *i stude*, early dialect form; later (about 1300) found in *in stede* (of) in place (of), in lieu (of), a phrasal combination with *stede* STEAD.

The solid compound *instede* is first recorded before 1387, but it did not become the established form until about 1640.

instep n. About 1450 *instep*; of uncertain origin, perhaps from *in*- in + *step* mistakenly substituted for obsolete *stepe* steep, a declivity or slope.

instigate v. 1542, probably a back formation from *instigation*; also, borrowed from Latin *instigātus*, past participle of *instigare*; for suffix see -ATE¹. —**instigation** n. Before 1410 *instigacioun*, borrowed through Middle French *instigation*, and directly from Latin *instigatiōnem* (nominative *instigatiō*) an urging or incitement, from *instigare* urge on, incite; for suffix see -ATION.

instill or **instil** v. Probably before 1425 *instillen*, borrowed from Latin *insillāre* put in by drops (*in*-² + *stilla* a drop; see DISTILL).

instinct n. Before 1420, incitement or impulse, later, natural impulse, intuitive knowledge (about 1454); borrowed from Latin *instinctus*, from past participle of *instinguere* incite or impel; related to *instigare* INSTIGATE. —**adj.** 1538, innate; from the noun, and borrowed from Latin *instinctus*, past participle; see noun. A misunderstanding of the use impelled or

excited (1667) led to the meaning of filled or charged with, appearing in 1797–1803. —**instinctive** adj. 1610, implied in *instinctively*; formed from English *instinct*, n. + *-ive*.

institute v. About 1330, establish in office, appoint; later, set up, start, found (probably before 1425); borrowed from Latin *institūtus*, past participle of *instituere* set up (*in-*² in + *statuere* establish). —**n.** Before 1520, purpose, design; later, something instituted (1546); borrowed and through Middle French *institut*, from Latin *institutum* design or precept, noun use of the neuter past participle of *instituere* establish. The meaning of organization or society is first recorded in 1829; borrowed from French *institut*. —**institution** n. Before 1400 *institucioun* act of establishing; 1410, a set of established laws; borrowed from Old French *institution*, from Latin *institutiōnem* (nominative *institutiō*) custom, from *instituere*. The meaning of an organization instituted for a social purpose, is first recorded in 1707.

instruct v. Probably before 1425 *instruere* tell, inform; probably in some instances a back formation from *instruction*, and a borrowing of Latin *instructus*, past participle of *instruere* arrange, inform, teach (*in-*² on + *struere* to pile, build). —**instruction** n. Probably about 1400 *instrucioun* information, lesson, teaching; borrowed from Old French *instruction*, from Latin *instructiōnem* (nominative *instructiō*), from *instruere*; for suffix see *-TION*. —**instructive** adj. 1611, probably formed from English *instruct* + *-ive*, after French *instructif instructive*. —**instructor** n. Before 1464 *instruicour*, borrowed through Old French *instruicteur* and directly from Latin *instructor* preparer, from *instructus*, past participle of *instruere*; for suffix see *-OR*².

instrument n. About 1300, musical instrument; later, device or implement (probably before 1325); borrowed from Old French *instrument*, and from Latin *instrumentum* a tool, apparatus, furniture, dress, document, from *instruere* arrange, furnish, INSTRUCT. —**instrumental** adj. Before 1398, serving as a means to an end; borrowed from Old French *instrumental*, from *instrument* instrument, from Latin *instrumentum*; for suffix see *-AL*¹.

insular adj. 1611, of an island; borrowed by influence of French *insulaire*, from Late Latin *insulāris*, from Latin *insula* island; for suffix see *-AR*; replacement of earlier *insulan* living on an island (before 1444); borrowed from Latin *insulānus*, from *insula*. The figurative sense of isolated, narrow, prejudiced, is first recorded in 1775, probably as a back formation of *insularity* (1755).

insulate v. isolate. 1538, make into an island; formed from Latin *insula* island + English *-ate*¹; later, stand detached, isolate (1785); developed from *insulated* isolated (1727) and *insulate*, adj., detached, isolated (1712, borrowed from Latin *insulātus* made like an island, from **insulāre* make like an island; for suffix see *-ATE*¹). The meaning of keep from losing or transferring electricity, sound, heat, etc., is first recorded in 1742. —**insulation** n. 1767, formed from English *insulate* + *-ion*. —**insulator** n. 1801, formed from English *insulate* + *-or*².

insulin n. 1922, formed in English from Latin *insula* island +

English *-in*²; so called because this hormone is secreted by the islets of Langerhans in the pancreas.

insult v. 1570–76, to exult or brag insolently or scornfully; probably borrowed from Middle French *insulter*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *insultāre* to assail or insult, a frequentative form of *insilire* leap at or upon (*in-*² on, at + *salire* to leap; see SALLY). The sense of treat with scorn, offend, is first recorded in 1620. —**n.** 1603, assault or attack; later, insulting behavior (1671); borrowed through French *insulte*, and directly from Late Latin *insultus* (genitive *insultūs*) a scoffing, insult, from *insul-*, stem of Latin *insilire* leap at (*in-*² on, at + *salire* to leap).

insuperable adj. Before 1349, invincible; borrowed from Latin *insuperābilis* (*in-* not + *superābilis* that may be overcome, from *superāre* overcome, from *superus* one that is above, from *super* OVER). The meaning of insurmountable, is first recorded in 1657.

insure v. About 1412 *insuren* to give or exact a pledge, to assure, variant of *ensure*; see ENSURE. *Insure* was formerly used in all the senses of *ensure*; the specific meaning of make safe against loss by payment of premiums, is first recorded in 1635. —**insurance** n. 1651, system of insuring life or property; formed from English *insure* + *-ance*.

insurgent n. 1765, borrowed from Latin *insurgentem* (nominative *insurgēs*), present participle of *insurgere* rise up (*in-*³ against + *surgere* to rise); for suffix see *-ENT*. —**adj.** 1814, from the noun.

insurrection n. Probably before 1425 *insurreccion*, borrowed from Middle French *insurrection*, learned borrowing from Late Latin *insurrectiōnem* (nominative *insurrectiō*) a rising up, from Latin *insurreg-*, stem of *insurgere* to rise up; for suffix see *-TION*.

intact adj. Before 1500, unimpaired, whole, untouched; borrowed possibly through Middle French *intact*, and directly from Latin *intactus* (*in-* not + *tactus*, past participle of *tangere* to touch).

intangible adj. 1640, borrowed probably from French *intangible*, from Medieval Latin *intangibilis* (*in-*¹ not + *tangibilis* TANGIBLE).

integer n. 1571, borrowed from Latin *integer* whole (earlier **entagros*); literally, intact or untouched (*in-*¹ not + *tag-*, the root of *tangere* to touch).

integral adj. 1471, implied in *integrallie*, adv., necessary to make complete; borrowed probably through Middle French *intégral*, from Medieval Latin *integralis* forming a whole, from Latin *integer* whole; for suffix see *-AL*¹. The sense of not fractional, is first recorded in 1658. —**n.** 1620, something undivided; from the adjective.

integrate v. 1638, make complete; developed from *integrate*, adj., intact (about 1450); borrowed from Latin *integrātus*, past participle of *integrāre* make whole, from *integer* whole; for suffix see *-ATE*¹. The meaning of combine into a whole, is first recorded in 1802. The sense of desegregate, is first recorded in

1948. —**integration** *n.* 1620, borrowed probably from French *intégration*, and directly from Latin *integratiōnem* (nominative *integratiō*) restoration of the whole, from *integrare*. The meaning of desegregation, is first recorded in 1940.

integrity *n.* Before 1400 *integrité* soundness; borrowed from Old French *intégrité*, learned borrowing from Latin *integritatem* (nominative *integritas*) soundness, wholeness, from *integer* whole; for suffix see -ITY. The sense of uprightness is first recorded in 1548.

intellect *n.* About 1380, understanding; borrowed from Old French *intellecte*, and directly from Latin *intellēctus* (genitive *intellēctūs*) discernment or understanding, from *intelle-* (by assimilation of *g* to *c* before *t*), stem of *intelligere* to understand, discern. —**intellectual** *adj.* Before 1398, of the intellect; borrowed from Old French *intellectuel*, and directly from Late Latin *intellēctualis* pertaining to the understanding, from Latin *intellēctus* intellect. The meaning of inclined to pursuits which exercise the mind, is first found in 1819. —**n.** 1599, the mind; later, intellectual person (1652); from the adjective.

intelligent *adj.* 1509, probably a back formation from *intelligence* modeled on Latin *intelligentem*; for suffix see -ENT. —**intelligence** *n.* About 1380, borrowed from Old French *intelligence*, from Latin *intelligentia* understanding, from *intelligentem* (nominative *intelligens*) discerning, present participle of *intelligere*; earlier *intellegerē* understand, discern (*inter-* between + *legere* choose, pick out, read); for suffix see -ENCE. The sense of information or news, is first recorded before 1475. —**intelligible** *adj.* Before 1382, able to understand; borrowed from Old French *intelligible*, and directly from Latin *intelligibilis*, from *intelligere*. The sense of capable of being understood, is first recorded in 1509.

intend *v.* About 1300 *entenden* direct one's attention to; later *intenden* (about 1425); borrowed from Old French *intendre*, *entendre*, from Latin *intendere* turn one's attention, strain (*in-*³ toward + *tendere* to stretch). The meaning of have as a purpose, plan, is first recorded about 1385.

intense *adj.* Probably before 1425, very strong or acute; borrowed from Middle French *intense*, learned borrowing from Latin *intēnsus* stretched, strained, tight, intense; originally, past participle of *intendere* to stretch out, strain; see INTEND. —**intensify** *v.* 1817, make intense; formed from English *intense* + -ify, variant of -fy. —**intensity** *n.* 1665, extreme strength, force or energy; formed from English *intense* + -ity. The sense of extreme depth of feeling is first recorded in 1830. —**intensive** *adj.* About 1450, intense, vehement; probably borrowed from Middle French *intensif*, *intensive*, from Medieval Latin *intensivus*, from Latin *intēnsus* forceful; for suffix see -IVE. —**n.** something that intensifies, as a word or prefix. 1813, from the adjective.

intent¹ *n.* purpose. Probably before 1200 *entent*, *entente*; formed in English from a fusion of Old French *entent* application, and *entente* thought, desire, purpose; both forms being learned borrowings from Latin: *entent* from Late Latin *intentus* attention; and *entente* from Vulgar Latin **intenta*, *n.*, a stretching out, a straining; both forms from the past participle *intentus*

(feminine *intenta*) of *intendere* stretch out, lean toward, strain; see INTEND. —**intention** *n.* About 1380 *entencion* desire or feeling; later, purpose, aim (about 1390); borrowed from Old French *entention*, *intention*, from Latin *intentiōnem* (nominative *intentiō*) purpose, effort, straining, from *intendere*; for suffix see -TION.

intent² *adj.* very attentive. 1606, earnestly engaged, eager; 1610, very attentive; borrowed from Latin *intentus* attentive, eager, strained, past participle of *intendere* to strain, stretch; see INTEND.

inter *v.* 1303 *interen*, *enteren*; borrowed from Old French *enterer*, learned borrowing from Medieval Latin *intererare* put in the earth, bury (Latin *in-* in + *terra* earth). —**interment** *n.* Probably before 1300 *interment*, *enterement*; borrowed from Old French *enterement*, from *enterer* inter.

inter- a prefix meaning: together, one with the other, as in *intercommunicate*, *intermixture*; between, among, as in *interpose*.

Though abstracted from compounds in which it entered English *inter-* (from Latin *inter*, prep., adv., among, between, during), was not considered a living prefix in English until the 1400's. After that many words borrowed in *entre-*, *enter-* were respelled with Latin *inter-* (though vestiges of the older French borrowings are found in *entertain* and *enterprise*).

intercede *v.* 1578, intervene, come between; later, plead in another's behalf (1606); a back formation from *intercession*, and in part borrowed directly from Latin *intercedere* intervene, go between (*inter-* between + *cēdere* go). —**intercession** *n.* Probably before 1430 *intercession* the act of interceding; borrowed from Latin *intercessiōnem* (nominative *intercessiō*) intervention; from *intercedere* intervene; for suffix see -SION.

intercept *v.* 1391 *intercepten* to cut off or mark off (a segment of a line), later, take or seize on the way between two points (about 1540); borrowed from Latin *interceptus*, past participle of *intercipere* take or seize between, intercept (*inter-* between + *-cipere*, combining form of *capere* to catch, take). —**interception** *n.* Probably before 1425 *interceptioun* interruption of the flow of body fluids; later, act of intercepting (1599); borrowed from Latin *interceptiōnem* (nominative *interceptiō*) a taking away, from *intercep-*, stem of *intercipere*; for suffix see -TION.

intercourse *n.* 1449 *entercourse* trade or traffic in goods, commercial dealings, later, social communication between individuals (1547–64); borrowed from Middle French *entrecours*, from Old French, learned borrowing from Latin *intercurus* a running between or intervention, from the stem of the past participle of *intercurrere* to run between (*inter-* between + *currere* to run). The meaning of sexual relations is first recorded in 1798.

interdict *v.* Probably before 1425 *entrediten* to prohibit or forbid, earlier *entrediten* to cut off from the Church (about 1300); borrowed from Old French *entredit*, past participle of *entredire* forbid by decree, from Latin *interdicere* interpose by speech, prohibit (*inter-* between + *dicere* speak). —**n.** Before 1464 *interdict*; earlier *entredit* a decree of exclusion from the Church (about 1300); borrowed from Old French *entredit*,

from Latin *interdictum* prohibition; noun use of neuter past participle of *interdicere*. —**interdiction** *n.* 1464 *enterdicioun*; borrowed from Latin *interdictiōnem* (nominative *interdictiō*), from *interdic-*, stem of *interdicere* prohibit; for suffix see -TION. The military sense of interrupt by aerial bombing is first recorded in 1944.

interest *n.* Probably about 1425 *interest* concern, right, claim; borrowed from Latin *interest* it is of importance, it makes a difference, it concerns or matters, form of the third person singular present of *interesse* to concern, be of importance (*inter-* between + *esse* be).

Interest is a replacement of *interesse*, *intresse* concern, interest in anything (about 1390); borrowed from Anglo-French *interesse*, from Medieval Latin *interesse* compensation for loss, interest in money lent; noun use of Latin *interesse* to concern, be of importance.

The earliest occurrences of *interest* were in reference to legal and financial uses. The meaning of money paid for the use of money appeared in 1545. —**v.** 1608, from the noun, replacing earlier *interesse* (1570), also from the noun. —**interesting** *adj.* 1711, important; later, of interest (1768); from *interest*, *v.* + *-ing*².

interfere *v.* 1440 *entyferyn* to intermingle or mix; 1449 *enterferen* to meddle, mix in the affairs of others; borrowed from Middle French *enterferer*, *enterferir* to strike each other (*entre-* between + *ferir* to strike, from Latin *ferire* to knock, strike). The Latinate spelling *interfere* is first recorded in 1451. —**interference** *n.* 1783, act or fact of interfering; formed from English *interfere* + *-ence*.

interferon *n.* 1957, formed from English *interfere*, *v.* + *-on* chemical suffix; so called because it inhibits or interferes with replication of viruses.

interim *n.* 1548, borrowing of Latin *interim*, *adv.*, in the meantime; originally, in the midst of that (*inter* between, *INTER-* + *im*, ancient adverb from the stem of the pronoun *is* this, that). —**adj.** 1604, from the noun in English and a borrowing of Latin *interim*, *adv.*

interior *adj.* 1490, borrowed through Middle French *intérieur*, and directly from Latin *interior* inner, a contrastive adjective of *inter* within; see *INTER-*. —**n.** 1796, from the adjective.

interject *v.* 1578, come between; probably a back formation from *interjection*, modeled on Latin *intericere* to throw or cast between. —**interjection** *n.* Probably before 1430 *interjeccioun* exclamation or outcry; borrowed from Middle French *interjection*, from Latin *interjectionem* (nominative *interjectiō*) a throwing or placing between, from *interjec-*, stem of *intericere* (*inter-* between + *-icere*, combining form of *jacere* to throw); for suffix see -TION.

interlard *v.* Probably before 1425 *enterlarden* mix with alternate layers of fat; borrowed from Middle French *entrelerarder* (*entre-* between + *larder* to lard, from Old French *lard* bacon fat); for spelling see *INTER-*. The figurative sense of diversify with something intermixed, is first recorded in 1563–87 and the Latinized spelling in 1555.

interlinear *adj.* About 1378 *enterlinarie*; borrowed from Medieval Latin *interlinearis* (*inter-* between + *linea* LINE); for suffix see -AR.

interlocutor *n.* 1514, person who takes part in a conversation or dialogue; formed in English as if from Latin **interlocūtōr*, from *interlocū-*, stem of *interloquī* interrupt + *-tor*; for suffix see -OR².

interloper *n.* About 1590 *enterloper* an unauthorized trader; later *interloper* (1603–27), probably formed in English from *inter-*, *enter-* between + *-loper*, as in *landloper* a vagabond, adventurer; borrowed from Middle Dutch *landlōper* (*land* land + *lōper* runner, rover, from *lōpen* to run). The general meaning of intruder, is first recorded in 1632.

interlude *n.* About 1303 *enterlude* a short, humorous play introduced between parts of a long medieval mystery play; later *interlude* (1375, in Scottish); borrowed from Medieval Latin *interludium* (from Latin *inter-* between + *lūdus* a play). The meaning of an interval in the course of an action or event, is first recorded in 1751.

intermediate *adj.* Probably before 1425 *intermediate* intervening; borrowed through French *intermédiate*, or directly from Medieval Latin *intermediatus*, from Late Latin *intermedium* place coming between (from Latin *inter-* between + *medius* in the middle); for suffix see -ATE¹. —**n.** 1650, from the adjective.

intermission *n.* Before 1415 *intermissioun* a stopping for a time, interruption; borrowed from Latin *intermissiōnem* (nominative *intermissiō*) interruption, from *intermittere* to leave off; see *INTERMITTENT*; for suffix see -SION.

intermittent *adj.* 1603, possibly formed in English from *intermit* (1563–87; borrowed from Latin *intermittere*) + *-ent*, modeled on Latin *intermittentem*; or borrowed directly from Latin *intermittentem* (nominative *intermittēns*), present participle of *intermittere* to leave off (*inter-* between + *mittere* let go, send); for suffix see -ENT.

intern¹ *v.* 1866, confine within a place; borrowed from French *interner* send to the interior, confine, from Middle French *interne* inner or internal, learned borrowing from Latin *internus* within, *INTERNAL*. —**internment** *n.* 1870, formed from English *intern¹* + *-ment*, probably on the model of French *internement*.

intern² or **interne** *n.* doctor training in a hospital. 1879, American English; borrowed from French *interne* assistant doctor; literally, resident within a school, etc., from Middle French *interne* internal; see *INTERN¹*.

internal *adj.* Probably before 1425 *internalle* (of a sea) extending toward the interior of a continent; later, pertaining to the mind or soul (1509); borrowed from Middle French *internal*, or directly from Medieval Latin *internalis*, from Latin *internus* within, expanded from pre-Latin **interos*, from *inter*, see *INTER-*; for suffix see -AL¹. The meaning of on the inside, inner, is first recorded in English in 1590. —**internalize** *v.* 1884, in American English; formed from English *internal* + *-ize*.

internecine *adj.* destructive to both sides. 1663, deadly, destructive; borrowed from Latin *internecinus*, variant of *internecivus* murderous or destructive, from *internecare* kill or destroy (*inter-* each other, as in *inter se* + *ne-* kill; see NOXIOUS); for suffix see *-INE*¹. Considered as misinterpreted in Johnson's *Dictionary* (1755, defined as "mutually destructive," attributed to an association of *inter-* mutual).

interpolate *v.* 1612, to alter by adding new matter; re-borrowed from Latin *interpolatus*, past participle of *interpolare* alter, freshen up, falsify (*inter-* up + *-polare*, related to *polire* to smoothe, POLISH); for suffix see *-ATE*¹.

Also found in Middle English medical terminology *interpōlen* to interrupt (probably before 1425); borrowed from Medieval Latin and Latin *interpolare*, but disappearing from the record of English probably before 1449.

interpose *v.* 1599, borrowed from Middle French *interposer*, which supplanted Latin *interpōnere*; see *POSE*¹. —**interposition** *n.* 1392; borrowed from Old French *interposicion*, and directly from Latin *interpositiōnem* (nominative *interpositiō*), formed on the stem of *interpositus*, past participle of Latin *interpōnere* put between; for suffix see *-TION*.

interpret *v.* About 1384 *interpretēn*; possibly a back formation from *interpretation*, and a borrowing through Old French *interpréter*, and directly from Latin *interpretārī* explain, expound, understand. —**interpretation** *n.* Probably about 1350 *interpretacioun*; borrowed through Old French *interpretation*, and directly from Latin *interpretatiōnem* (nominative *interpretatiō*), from *interpretārī* interpret, from *interpretēn* (nominative *interpretēs*) interpreter, translator, agent, mediator; for suffix see *-ATION*. —**interpreter** *n.* About 1384 *interpretour*, borrowed through Old French *interpreteur*, *entrepeteur*, from Late Latin *interpretātor*, from Latin *interpretārī*.

interrogate *v.* 1483, probably a back formation of *interrogation*, and borrowed from Latin *interrogātus*, past participle of *interrogāre*; for suffix see *-ATE*¹. —**interrogation** *n.* About 1390 *interrogacion* a question; later, act of interrogating (1551); borrowed through Old French *interrogation*, or directly from Latin *interrogatiōnem* (nominative *interrogatiō*) a question or questioning, from *interrogāre* (*inter-* between + *rogāre* ask, question); for suffix see *-ATION*. —**interrogative** *adj.* Before 1500, (in grammar) used in asking a question; borrowed from Late Latin *interrogātīvus* of or pertaining to a question, from Latin *interrogātus*, past participle of *interrogāre*; for suffix see *-IVE*.

interrupt *v.* Probably before 1400, interfere with rights; later, break into a speech or tale (about 1412); probably borrowed from Latin *interruptus*, past participle of *interrumpere* break apart, break off (*inter-* between + *rumpere* to break, RUPTURE). —**n.** interruption of a computer program. 1957, from the verb. —**interruption** *n.* Before 1393 *interruption* a break; borrowed, possibly through Old French *interruption*, and directly from Latin *interruptionem* (nominative *interruptionē*), from *interrump-*, stem of *interrumpere*; for suffix see *-TION*.

intersect *v.* 1615, cut or divide by passing through or crossing; probably a back formation from *intersection*, after Latin *inter-*

sectus, past participle of *intersecāre* intersect. —**intersection** *n.* 1559, an intersecting or crossing, place where things intersect or cross; borrowed, probably through Middle French *intersection*, and directly from Latin *intersectionem* (nominative *intersectionē*), from *intersec-*, stem of *intersecāre* intersect, cut asunder (*inter-* between + *secāre* to cut); for suffix see *-TION*.

intersperse *v.* 1566, vary with things scattered or mingled at intervals; borrowed from Latin *interspersus* scattered, past participle of *interspergere* (*inter-* between + *spargere* to scatter).

interstice *n.* Probably before 1425 *interstice* intervening space (between stars); later, narrow intervening space (1603); borrowed from French *interstice*, from Latin *interstitium*, as if from the past participle stem of *intersistere* to pause (*inter-* between + *sistere* come to stand).

interval *n.* Before 1325, *intervalle*, *enterwal*; borrowed from Old French *intervalle*, *entreval*, from Latin *intervallum*, originally, space between palisades or ramparts (*inter-* between + *vallum* rampart).

intervene *v.* 1588, come between; a back formation from *intervention*, modeled on Latin *intervenire* (*inter-* between + *venire* COME). —**intervention** *n.* About 1425 *intervencioun* intercession, especially by prayer; borrowed, perhaps through Middle French *intervention*, or directly from Late Latin *interventiōnem* (nominative *interventiō*) an interposing, from Latin *interven-*, stem of *intervenire*; for suffix see *-TION*.

interview *n.* 1514 *enterview* meeting of persons face to face; borrowed from Middle French *entrevue*, from *s'entrevoir* to see each other (*entre-* between + Old French *voir* to see); for spelling see *INTER-*. —**v.** 1869, from the noun.

intestate *adj.* About 1378, not having made a will; borrowed, perhaps through Old French *intestat*, and directly from Latin *intestātus* (*in-* not + *testātus*, past participle of *testārī* make a will, bear witness); for suffix see *-ATE*¹.

intestine *n.* Probably before 1425 *intestine*; borrowed through Middle French *intestin*, or directly from Latin *intestina*, neuter plural of *intestinus*, *adj.*, internal, probably altered (by influence of *clandestinus* hidden) from earlier **entosfinos*, from *intus* within. —**intestinal** *adj.* Probably before 1425 *intestinale* of the intestines; borrowed from Medieval Latin *intestinalis*, from Latin *intestinum*, neuter of *intestinus*, *adj.*

intimate¹ *adj.* very familiar. 1632, deep-seated, most inward; borrowed from Late Latin *intimatus*, past participle of *intimare* make known, announce, impress, from Latin *intimus* inmost; (as noun) close friend, superlative of *in* IN; for suffix see *-ATE*¹. The meaning of closely acquainted, is first recorded in English in 1635, from the Latin sense. —**n.** person with whom one is intimate. 1659, from the adjective. —**intimacy** *n.* 1641, from *intimate* + *-acy*.

intimate² *v.* suggest indirectly, hint. 1538, to communicate or notify; later, suggest indirectly (1590); probably a back formation from *intimation*, modeled on Late Latin *intimatus*, past participle of *intimare* make known, announce, impress; see INTIMATE¹; for suffix see *-ATE*¹. —**intimation** *n.* 1442–43

(Scottish) *intimacion* act of making known; later, suggestion or hint (1531); borrowed from Middle French *intimation*, from Late Latin *intimatiōnem* (nominative *intimatiō*) an announcement, from *intimāre*; for suffix see -ATION.

intimidate *v.* 1646, frighten; borrowed from Medieval Latin *intimidatus*, past participle of *intimidare* (Latin *in-* in + *timidus* fearful, TIMID); for suffix see -ATE¹. —**intimidation** *n.* 1658, probably formed from English *intimidate* + *-ion*, on the model of French *intimidation*.

into *prep.* Old English *intō*, before 900, originally the two words *in*, adv. and *tō* to, prep., as in the similar collocations *out to*, *up to*, *off to*. The collocation *be into* be very involved or interested in (as in *He is into astrology*), is first recorded about 1969 in American English.

intone *v.* 1385 *entunen*; later *entonen* (before 1446); borrowed from Old French *entoner* sing, chant, from Medieval Latin *intonare* sing according to tone, from Latin *in-* in + *tonus* TONE. —**intonation** *n.* 1620, opening phrase of a plainsong melody; formed from English *intone*, *v.* + *-ation*, and probably borrowed through French *intonation*, from Medieval Latin *intonationem* (nominative *intonatio*) sounding, intoning, from *intonare*; for suffix see -ATION. The meaning of modulation of the voice, is first recorded in 1791.

intoxicate *v.* About 1450 *intoxicate* to poison; later, make drunk (1598); developed from *intoxicat*, adj., filled with poison; borrowed from Medieval Latin *intoxicatus*, past participle of *intoxicare*; for suffix see -ATE¹. Also probably a back formation from *intoxication*. —**intoxication** *n.* Probably about 1408 *intoxicacion* poisoning; later, drunkenness (1646); borrowed from Medieval Latin *intoxicacionem* (nominative *intoxicatio*) poisoning, from *intoxicare* to poison (Latin *in-* in + *toxicum* poison); for suffix see -ATION.

intra- a prefix meaning within, inside, on the inside, as in *intravenous* = *inside of or within a vein or veins*, *intradisciplinary* = *within a certain discipline, of a particular field of study*. Borrowed from Late Latin *intrā-*, from Latin *intrā*, adv., prep., inside of or within, related to *inter* between; see INTER-.

intractable *adj.* Before 1500, rough, stormy; later, not manageable, not easily treated or dealt with (1545); borrowed from Latin *intractābilis* (*in-*¹ not + *tractābilis* TRACTABLE).

intransigent *adj.* 1881, borrowed from French *intransigeant*, from Spanish *los intransigentes*, a name for various extreme political parties (*in-*¹ not + *transigente* compromising, from Latin *transigentem*, nominative *transigēns*, present participle of *transigere* come to an agreement, accomplish, TRANSACT); for suffix see -ENT.

intransitive *adj.* 1612, borrowed from Late Latin *intransitivus* not passing over (Latin *in-* not + *transire* to pass over).

intravenous *adj.* 1847–49, formed in English from *intra-* + Latin *venōsus*, from *vena* VEIN; for suffix see -OUS.

intrepid *adj.* 1697, borrowed through French *intrépide*, and directly from Latin *intrepidus* (*in-*¹ not + *trepidus* alarmed).

intricate *adj.* Probably before 1425 *intricate* entangled, complicated; borrowed from Latin *intricatus*, past participle of *intricare* entangle (*in-*² in + *trīcae*, pl., perplexities, hindrances; of unknown origin); for suffix see -ATE¹.

intrigue *n.* 1647, secret scheming or plotting; probably from the verb. —*v.* 1612, deceive or perplex; later, carry on plots (before 1714); borrowed from French *intriguer* to puzzle, plot, from Italian *intrigare* to plot or meddle, from Latin *intricare* entangle; see INTRICATE. The form *intrigue* in modern English replaced earlier *entriken* (recorded before 1393). The extended meaning of arouse interest, is first recorded in 1894.

intrinsic *adj.* 1490 *intrinsique* inner, later, essential (1642); borrowed from Middle French *intrinsèque* inner, learned borrowing from Medieval Latin *intrinsecus* interior or internal, from Latin *intrinsecus*, adv., inwardly; for suffix see -IC.

intro- a prefix meaning inward, internally, within, as in *introduce*, *introvert*. Borrowed from Latin *intrō-*, from *intrō* inward, within, into, in.

introduce *v.* Probably before 1425 *introducen* bring into being; possibly a back formation from *introduction*, modeled on Latin *intrōducere* originate, institute, bring in (*intrō-* inward + *ducere* to lead). The meaning of bring into notice, is first recorded in 1559, and bring into personal acquaintance, in 1659. —**introduction** *n.* About 1395 *introduccioun* a preliminary action or step; borrowed from Old French *introduction*, and directly from Latin *intrōductiōnem* (nominative *intrōductiō*) a leading in, from *intrōduc-*, stem of *intrōducere*; for suffix see -TION. The meaning of a preliminary statement is first recorded (probably before 1439). —**introductory** *adj.* Before 1400, borrowed from Old French *introductoire*, and directly from Late Latin *intrōductōrius*, from *intrōductor*, from *intrōducere*; for suffix see -ORY.

introspection *n.* Before 1677, borrowed from Latin *intrōspectus*, past participle of *intrōspicere* look into, observe closely (*intrō-* inward + *specere* to look at; see SPY); for suffix see -ION. —**introspective** *adj.* given to introspection. 1820, formed from Latin *intrōspectus*; for suffix see -IVE.

introvert *v.* 1669, formed as if from Latin **intrōvertere* (*intrō-* inward + *vertere* to turn). —*n.* 1918, borrowed from German *Introvert*, from Latin *intro-* inward + Latin *vertere* to turn. —**introverted** *adj.* 1781, directed inwards; later (1915) in psychology from German *introvertiert*; from *intro-* inward + *-vertiert* turned, from Latin *vertere* to turn; for suffix see -ED².

intrude *v.* About 1422, thrust oneself in; come unasked and unwanted; back formation from *intrusion*, modeled on Latin, and, in some instances, a borrowing from Latin *intrudere* (*in-*² in + *trudere* to thrust, push). —**intrusion** *n.* About 1385 *intrusioun* usurpation or trespass; borrowed from Old French *intrusion*, from Medieval Latin *intrusionem* (nominative *intrusio*) a thrusting in, from Latin *intrūs-*, stem of *intrudere* intrude; for suffix see -ION.

intuition *n.* About 1450 *intuicioun* spiritual perception, insight; borrowed through Middle French *intuition*, from Late Latin *intuitiōnem* (nominative *intuitiō*) a looking at, consideration, from Latin *intuērī* look at, consider (*in-* at, on + *tuērī* to

look, watch over); for suffix *-ition* see *-ATION*. —**intuitive** adj. 1594, perceived immediately, borrowed, possibly through Middle French *intuitif*, *intuitive*, from Medieval Latin *intuitivus*, from Latin *intuitus*, past participle of *intuēre*; for suffix see *-IVE*. Also possibly formed from English *intuition* + *-ive*.

inundate *v.* 1623, back formation from *inundation*, perhaps after Latin *inundāre*; for suffix see *-ATE*¹. —**inundation** *n.* Probably before 1425 *inundacioun* flood; borrowed, perhaps by influence of Middle French *inondation*, from Latin *inundātiōnem* (nominative *inundātiō*) an overflowing, from *inundāre* to overflow (*in*-² onto + *undāre* to flow, from *unda* wave); for suffix see *-ATION*.

inure *v.* About 1489 *enuren* to accustom by use or practice; formed from Middle English *en*-¹ + earlier *ure* work, practice, exercise, use (about 1420); probably borrowed from Old French *uevre*, *œuvre* work, from Latin *opera*. Also influenced by *inure*, adj., customary (about 1450), developed from the phrase *in ure* in or according to work or practice.

invade *v.* 1491, borrowed from Middle French *invader* to invade, and directly from Latin *invādere* go into, fall upon, attack, invade (*in*-² in + *vādere* go, walk). —**invasion** *n.* Probably before 1439 *invasioun* assault or attack; borrowed from Middle French *invasion*, learned borrowing from Late Latin *invāsiōnem* (nominative *invāsiō*) an attack, invasion, from Latin *invāsus*, past participle of *invādere* INVADE.

invalid¹ *adj.* not valid. 1635, borrowed from Latin *invalidus* not strong, infirm, weak, inadequate (*in*-¹ not + *validus* strong). —**invalidate** *v.* 1649, formed from English *invalid* + *-ate*¹, probably by influence of French *invalider*.

invalid² *n.* sick person. 1707, disabled soldier; 1709, sickly person; noun uses of the earlier adjective with the meaning of weak or disabled from illness or injury (1642); see *INVALID*¹.

invective *n.* 1523, developed from *invectif*, *adj.*, abusive (probably before 1439); borrowed through Middle French *invectif*, *invective*, and directly from Late Latin *invectivus* abusive, from Latin *invectus*, past participle of *invehī* to attack with words; for suffix see *-IVE*.

inveigh *v.* 1529, borrowed from Latin *invehī* to attack with words; originally, to carry oneself against, *invehere* bring in, carry in (*in*-² against + *vehere* carry). An earlier meaning of introduce, carry in, is recorded in 1486.

inveigle *v.* 1494, deceive, alteration of Middle French *aveugler* delude, make blind, from *aveugle* blind, from Vulgar Latin **aboculus* without sight, blind (Latin *ab-* without + *oculus* EYE); for suffix see *-LE*³.

invent *v.* About 1475, to find, discover; probably a back formation from *invention*, after Latin *inventus*, past participle of *invenire*; see *INVENTION*. The meaning of make up or think up, is first recorded in 1535, and that of create or produce by original thought, in 1538. —**invention** *n.* About 1400 *inven-cioun* scheme or plan; borrowed from Middle French *invention*, learned borrowing from Latin *inventiōnem* (nominative *inventiō*) a finding, discovery, from *inven-*, stem of *invenire* devise,

discover, find (*in*-² in, on + *venire* COME); for suffix see *-TION*. The meaning of a made-up story, is first recorded in 1500–20, and that of an original device or method, in 1531. —**inventive** *adj.* Before 1420 *inventif*, borrowed from Middle French *inventif*, *inventive*, from Latin *inventus*, past participle of *invenire*; for suffix see *-IVE*.

inventory *n.* 1415 *inventari* a detailed list of goods; borrowed from Middle French *inventaire*, from Late Latin *inventārium* list of what is found, inventory, from Latin *inventus*, past participle of *invenire* find; for suffix see *-ARY*, *-ORY*. The spelling with *-ory* is first recorded before 1425 and is a separate borrowing from Medieval Latin *inventorium*.

inverse *adj.* Probably 1440, inverted; borrowed from Latin *inversus*, past participle of *invertere* INVERT. The mathematical use of opposite in nature or effect, is first recorded in 1660. —**n.** inverted condition. 1681; from the adjective. —**inversion** *n.* 1551, borrowed through Middle French *inversion*, from Latin *inversiōnem* (nominative *inversiō*), from *invertere*; for suffix see *-SION*.

invert *v.* 1533, borrowed by influence of Middle French *invertir*, from Latin *invertere* turn upside down, turn about (*in*-² in, on + *vertere* to turn; see *VERTEX*).

invertebrate *adj.*, *n.* 1826, formed from New Latin *invertebratus* (from Latin *in*-¹ not + *vertebra* joint) + English suffix *-ate*¹.

invest *v.* 1533–34, to clothe in the insignia of an office, install in an office; borrowed from Latin *investire* to clothe, cover, surround (*in*-² in, into + *vestire* to dress, clothe), and probably influenced by earlier *investiture*.

The meaning of use (money) to produce profit or income, was originally found in letters and journals (1613–16) dealing with the East Indian trade and apparently borrowed from Italian *investire*, probably with the idea of giving one's capital a new form, from which it came into general use in English during the 1700's. —**investiture** *n.* Before 1387, borrowed from Medieval Latin *investitura*, from Latin *investire* to clothe + *-tura* -ture; for suffix see *-URE*. —**investment** *n.* 1597, formed from English *invest*, *v.* + *-ment*. The meaning of the investing of money or capital is first recorded in 1615. —**investor** *n.* 1586, formed from English *invest* + *-or*².

investigate *v.* About 1510, probably a back formation from *investigation*, after Latin *investigātus*, past participle of *investigāre* search into, investigate (*in*-² in, on + *vestigāre* to track, trace, from *vestigium* footstep, track, *VESTIGE*); for suffix see *-ATE*¹.

—**investigation** *n.* Apparently before 1425 *investigacioun*; borrowed from Middle French *investigation*, from Latin *investigātiōnem* (nominative *investigātiō*) a searching into, from *investigāre*; for suffix see *-ATION*. —**investigator** *n.* 1552, formed, probably by influence of Middle French *investigateur*, from English *investigate* + *-or*², after Latin *investigātor*.

inveterate *adj.* 1392 *inveterat* (of a disease) chronic; borrowed from Latin *inveterātus* of long standing, chronic, from past participle of *inveterāre* become old (*in*-² in, into + *vetus*,

genitive *veteris* old); for suffix see -ATE¹. The sense of a practice or habit, is first found in 1593.

invidious *adj.* 1606, borrowed from Latin *invidiosus* envious, from *invidia* ill will, ENVY; for suffix see -OUS.

invigorate *v.* 1646, probably an extended form of English *invigor* to encourage, invigorate (1611, *envigor*) with the suffix -ate¹. The earlier English *envigor* was borrowed from French *envigorer*, from Old French *envigourer* (*en-* in + *vigueur* VIGOR).

invincible *adj.* Before 1420, borrowed, possibly through Middle French *invincible*, from Latin *invincibilis* (*in-* not + *vincibilis* conquerable, VINCIBLE).

invisible *adj.* About 1340, borrowed from Old French *invisible* not visible, from Latin *invisibilis* (*in-* not + *visibilis* VISIBLE); for suffix see -IBLE.

invite *v.* 1533, probably a back formation from *invitation*, and borrowed from Middle French *inviter*, learned borrowing from Latin *invitare* invite, treat, entertain; originally, be pleasant toward (*in-* toward + a lost adjective **vītus* pleasant). —**invitation** *n.* About 1445 *ynvytioun*; borrowed from Latin *invitātiōnem* (nominative *invitātiō*), from *invitare* invite; for suffix see -ATION.

invoice *n.* 1560, spelling alteration of Middle French *envois* (in Old French also a nominative singular of *envoi*), plural of *envoi* sending, dispatch of goods, from *envoyer* to send. —**v.** 1698, from the noun.

invoke *v.* Before 1449 *envoken* to summon; borrowed from Middle French *envoquer*, *invoker*, learned borrowing from Latin *invocāre* call upon, implore (*in-* upon + *vocāre* to call, related to *vōx*, genitive *vōcis* VOICE). —**invocation** *n.* About 1380 *invocacion*, borrowed from Old French *invocation*, *invocacion*, learned borrowing from Latin *invocātiōnem* (nominative *invocātiō*), from *invocāre*.

involve *v.* Before 1382, envelop, surround; borrowed from Latin *involvere* entangle, envelop, roll into (*in-* in + *volvere* to roll). The meaning of take in or include, is first recorded in 1605.

inward *adj.* Probably about 1200 *in-ward*; developed from Old English *innanweard*, *inneweard* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); *innan* within, *inne* in + *-weard* -ward. The Old English forms are cognate with Old Icelandic *innanverdr*, *adj.*, inward, Old High German *inwart*, and Middle Dutch *inwaert*, *inwert*. —**adv.** Probably about 1200; developed from Old English *inneard* within, in, towards the inside (about 950; *in* in + *-weard* -ward). The Old English form is cognate with Old High German *inwert*, *adv.*, and Middle Dutch *inwaert*, *inwert*, *adv.*

iodine *n.* 1814, formed in English from French *iode* iodine + English -ine², and patterned after *chlorine* and *fluorine*. French *iode* was coined from Greek *ioeidēs* violet-colored (a compound of *ion* violet and *eidōs* appearance), from the violet color of the vapor given off when the iodine crystals are heated.

ion *n.* 1834, borrowing of Greek *ión*, neuter present participle

of *íēnai* go; so called because ions move toward the electrode of opposite charge. —**ionize** *v.* 1898, formed from English *ion* + -ize.

-ion a suffix forming nouns and meaning: 1 act or state of —ing, as in *attraction*. 2 condition or state of being —ed, as in *adoption*. 3 result of —ing, as in *abbreviation*. 4 thing that —s, as in *connection*. English -ion was borrowed from Latin -*ionem* (nominative -*io*) a suffix forming nouns of condition and action, as in *communio*, from Latin *communiōnem* (nominative *communiō*) sharing in common. See also -ATION.

Often -ion is a replacement of Middle English -ioun, borrowed from Old French -iun, -ion, from Latin -*ionem*, and forms words modeled on Latin and French (*rebel*, *rebellion*), but for some there is no underlying verb (*onion*, *union*).

ionosphere *n.* 1926, formed from English *ion* + connective -o- + -sphere, as in *stratosphere*.

iota *n.* 1636, bit, jot, a later, figurative use of *iota* ninth and smallest letter of the Greek alphabet (1607); borrowed from Latin *iōta*, from Greek *iōta*; see JOT.

-ious a suffix formed of -i- + -ous, meaning characterized by, or full of, and representing French -ieux, Latin -*iosus*; see -OUS. The suffix -ious is found in English *odious* from Latin *odiosus*; it is also found in adjectives ending in -*io*, -*ion*- such as English *ambitious* from Latin *ambitiōsus* and stem endings in -i- (*vari-* + -ous, confused with -ious); also confused with -itious in Latin -*icius* (*advent-* + -*icius*) forming English *adventitious*. In English pairs have been freely extended to *infectious*, *infection*; *rebellious*, *rebellion*; *cautious*, *caution*.

ipacac *n.* 1710, American English, shortening of *ipacacuanha* (1682); borrowed from Portuguese, from Tupi (Brazil) *ipacacua* a medicinal plant.

ir-1 a form of the prefix *in-*1, meaning not, opposite of, before *r*, as in *irrational*, *irregular*.

ir-2 a form of the prefix *in-*2, meaning in, within, before *r*, as in *irradiate*, *irrigate*.

irascible *adj.* Before 1398, part of the soul dealing with irrational nature, such as hate (noun use of the adjective); later, easily made angry, irritable (1530); borrowed from Middle French *irascible*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Late Latin *irascibilis*, from *irasci* grow angry, from *ira* anger, IRE; for suffix see -IBLE.

irate *adj.* 1838, borrowed from Latin *irātus*, past participle of *irasci* grow angry, from *ira* anger, IRE; for suffix see -ATE¹.

ire *n.* Probably before 1300 *ire* anger, wrath; borrowed from Old French *ire*, *yre*, from Latin *ira* anger, wrath, rage.

irenology *n.* 1974, the study of peace, formed from *iren(ic)* from Greek *eirēnikós*, from *eirēnē* peace + English -ology.

iridescent *adj.* 1796, formed from Latin *iris* (genitive *iridis*) rainbow, IRIS + English suffix -escent. —**iridescence** *n.* 1804, probably formed from English *iridescent* by replacement of the suffix -escent with -escence.

iridium *n.* 1804, New Latin, from Latin *īris* (genitive *īridis*) IRIS + New Latin *-ium*; so called from the iridescence of the element in solution.

iris *n.* 1373, brightly colored flower; later, colored part of the eye (probably before 1425); borrowed from Latin *īris* iris of the eye, iris plant, rainbow; from Greek *īris* (genitive *īridos*) a lily, iris of the eye; originally, messenger of the gods appearing as a rainbow.

Irish *adj.*, *n.* About 1205 *Irisce*, developed from *Ir-*, stem of Old English *īras* inhabitants of Ireland + *-isc* *-ish*. The Old English form was borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *īrar*, from Old Irish *Eriu* Erin). Also by influence of Old French *īrais*, *īrois* Irish.

irk *v.* About 1330 *irken* be weary of, disgusted with; of uncertain origin. —**irksome** *adj.* Probably about 1425 *irksome* formed from Middle English *irken* irk + *-som* *-some*¹.

iron *n.* 1137 *īren*, found in Old English *īren* the metal, (also) any iron weapon (before 830); earlier *īsaern* (about 700); borrowed from the same source as Old Frisian *īsern* iron, Old Saxon *īsam*, Middle Low German *īsern*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *ijzer*, Old High German *īsam* (modern German *Eisen*), Old Icelandic *īsam*, *jarn*, Gothic *eisarn*, from Proto-Germanic **īsarman*. —**v.** Before 1400 *īrenen* to make of iron; later, to furnish, cover, or arm with iron (1408); from the noun *īren* iron. The meaning of press or smooth cloth with an iron is first recorded before 1680, from earlier noun use (1613). —**adj.** Before 1200 *īrene*, found in Old English *īren* and *īsern* (about 725, in *Beowulf*).

irony *n.* 1502, borrowed probably through Middle French *ironie*, and directly from Latin *īrōnīa*, from Greek *eīrōnelā*, from *eīrōn* dissembler, perhaps related to *eīrein* speak (as if saying it without meaning it). —**ironic** *adj.* 1630, feigning ignorance; as a shortened form of *ironical* (1576); developed by influence of Middle French *ironique*, from Late Latin *īrōnicus*, from Greek *eīrōnikós*, from *eīrōnelā* dissimulation.

irradiate *v.* 1603, to direct rays of light upon; developed from *irradiate*, *adj.*, illuminated (before 1475); borrowed from Latin *irradiātus*, past participle of *irradiāre* shine forth (*ir*⁻² in, on + *radiāre* to shine, RADIATE); for suffix see *-ATE*¹. The meaning of subject to the action of radiation, is first recorded in 1901.

irrational *adj.* Before 1398 *irracional* quantity in mathematics that cannot be expressed as an integer; borrowed from Latin *irratiōnālis* not rational (*ir*⁻¹ not + *ratiōnālis* RATIONAL). The sense of unreasonable, absurd, is first recorded in 1641.

irregular *adj.* About 1390 *irreguler* not conforming to the rule of the church; borrowed from Old French *irreguler*, from Late Latin *irregulāris* (from Latin *ir*⁻¹ not + *regulāris* pertaining to rules, REGULAR).

irrigate *v.* 1615, to wet; developed from *irrigat*, *adj.*, watered, flooded (before 1449); borrowed from Latin *irrigātus*, past participle of *irrigāre* lead water to, refresh (*ir*⁻² in, + *rigāre* to water or moisten, of uncertain origin); for suffix see *-ATE*¹. The meaning of supply (land) with water is first recorded in 1623.

—**irrigation** *n.* 1612, possibly formed from English *irrigat* + *-ion*; or borrowed through Middle French *irrigation*, from Latin *irrigātiōnem* (nominative *irrigātiō*) a watering, from *irrigāre*. The reference to supplying water to land is first found in 1626.

irritate *v.* 1531, stimulate to action, rouse, incite; probably borrowed from Latin *irritātus*, past participle of *irritāre* excite, provoke. The meaning of annoy, make impatient or angry, is first recorded in 1598. —**irritable** *adj.* 1662, borrowed, perhaps through French *irritable*, and directly from Latin *irritābilis*, from *irritāre* irritate. —**irritation** *n.* 1425 *irritacion* stimulation of a sore to excessive sensitivity; later, excitement to activity, stimulation (1589); borrowed through Middle French *irritation*, *irritacion*, or directly from Latin *irritātiōnem* (nominative *irritātiō*), from *irritāre*. The meaning of annoyance or vexation is first recorded in 1703.

irruption *n.* 1577, borrowed probably through Middle French *irruption*, or directly from Latin *irruptiōnem* (nominative *irruptiō*), from *irrup*-, stem of *irrumper* break in (*ir*⁻² in + *rumper* to break, RUPTURE); for suffix see *-TION*.

is *v.* the third person singular present form of the verb *be*; found in Old English (before 725) *is*; developed from an earlier Germanic stem *es*-, whose form existed only in the present tense in Old English. Until the 1500's *is* rhymed with *sis* thereby retaining its association with the earlier Germanic stem through which it is cognate with Old Frisian, Old Saxon, and Dutch *is*, Old High German and German *ist*, Old Icelandic *es*, (later) *er*, and Gothic *ist*. Compare AM, ARE, BE.

-ish¹ a suffix forming adjectives from other adjectives and from nouns, and meaning: 1 somewhat —, as in *oldish*, *sweetish*. 2 like a —, as in *childish*. 3 like that of a —, as in *girlish*. 4 of or having to do with —, as in *English*. 5a tending to —, as in *bookish*. b inclined to be a —, as in *thievish*. 6 near, but usually somewhat past —, as in *fortyish*. Middle English *-ish*, *-iss*, *-isch*, developed from Old English *-isē*; cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *-isc*, Dutch *-isch*, Old High German *-isc*, German *-isch*, Old Icelandic *-iskr*, and Gothic *-isks*, from Proto-Germanic **-iskaz*.

-ish² Though not a living suffix in of modern English, *-ish* occurs in many verbs today: *abolish*, *banish*, *finish*, *nourish*, *polish*, *tarnish*, etc., coming from Middle and Old French verbs ending in *-ir* (e.g. Old French *banir* English *banish*) and originally written *-is*, *-iss*, *-ise*, *-isse* with the Middle English verb ending *-en* (paralleling the Old French stem ending *-iss-* of verbs ending in *-ir*). The ending *-iss-* originated in Latin *-isc-* as a part of verbs ending in *-ire* and *-ere* and during the 1400's, the Middle English endings were modified to *-isshe*, and then to *-ish*, in the latter 1500's and 1600's.

A few verbs in English did not complete this final spelling change and remain close to the Middle English form: *advertise*, *chastise*, *amortize*, *rejoice*. Another group looks as if it follows the process described above, but without the forms in Old French was simply influenced in their formation by those words: *admonish*, *diminish*, *lavish*, *publish*, etc.

Islam *n.* 1818, religion of the Muslims, earlier, an orthodox

Muslim (1613); borrowed from Arabic *islām*, literally, resignation, surrender, submission (to the will of God), from the root of *aslama* he resigned or surrendered, related to *salima* he was safe, and *salām* peace, SALAAM. — **Islamic** adj. 1791, formed from English *Islam* + *-ic*, after French *islamique*.

island *n.* 1598, alteration of earlier *isle land* (1546), *ile land* (1494), *yland* (apparently before 1300); developed from Old English *īgland* island (before 899); cognate with Old Frisian *eiland* island, and Old Icelandic *eyland*, and formed from *īeg*, *īg* island + *land* LAND. Old English *īg* is cognate with Old Frisian *ey* island, Old High German *ouwa* island, damp meadow (German *Aue*), and Old Icelandic *ey* island, from Proto-Germanic **aujō*, earlier **ąwǫjō*, built on **ąHwō* water. By association with the nearly synonymous but etymologically unrelated *isle*, the spelling *yland*, *iland* was modified until *island* became established by the late 1600's.

isle *n.* Probably about 1225 *ile* island; borrowed from Old French *ile*, earlier *isle*, from Latin *insula*, of uncertain origin. The spelling with *s*, is first recorded in 1470, but is rare in English until the late 1500's, influenced by Middle French restoration of the Old French spelling with *s*.

-ism a suffix forming nouns and meaning: 1 act or practice of —, as in *baptism*. 2 quality or condition of being a —, as in *heroism*. 3 illustration or instance of being —, as in *witticism*. 4 an unhealthy condition caused by —, as in *alcoholism*. 5 doctrine, theory, system, or practice of —, as in *Darwinism*. Borrowed through French *-isme* or directly from Latin *-ismus*, *-isma*, from Greek *-ismós*, *-isma*, a suffix forming nouns of action from verbs in *-izein* — *ize*.

iso- a combining form meaning equal, alike, as in *isometric*, *isotope*, *isosceles*. Borrowed from Greek *iso-*, from *isos* equal.

isobar *n.* 1864, borrowed from Greek *isobarēs* of equal weight (*isos* equal + *báros* weight, from *barýs* heavy).

isolate *v.* 1807, to place apart, separate from others; back formation from earlier *isolated* placed apart, solitary (1763), formed in English from French *isolé* isolated + English suffix *-ate* (*-ated*). French *isolé* was derived from Italian *isolato*, from Latin *insulatus* made into an island, from *insula* island. — **isolation** *n.* 1833, probably in part formed from English *isolate*, *v.* + *-ion* and borrowed from French *isolation*, from *isoler* to isolate, from *isolé* isolated; for suffix see *-ATION*.

isomer *n.* 1866, back formation, probably by influence of French *isomère*, from *isomeric* (1838; formed in English from Greek *isomerēs*, from *isos* equal + *méros* part or share, + English suffix *-ic*). English *isomeric* was patterned after German *isomerisch* isomeric, from Greek *isomerēs* + German *-isch* — *ic*.

isometric *adj.* 1840, a method of using perspective in drawing to obtain equal inclination of the principal axes; formed in English from Greek *isómetros* of equal measure (*isos* equal + *métron* MEASURE) + English suffix *-ic*. Later use in physiology with the meaning of denoting muscular tension produced against resistance, has been recorded in English since 1891 as a borrowing of German *isometrisch*. — **isometrics** *n.* pl. 1962,

American English, formed from *isometric* + *-s*, on the analogy of *gymnastic*, *gymnastics*.

isosceles *adj.* 1551 *Isosceles*, used as a rendering of Greek *isoskeles* with equal sides (*isos* equal + *skélos* leg). Also found in Late Latin *isoscelēs* which was probably the model for first uses in English.

isotope *n.* 1913, formed in English from *iso-* same or equal + Greek *tópos* place; so called because the various forms of a particular chemical element occupy the same position in the periodic table.

issue *n.* Probably before 1300 *issue* exit, a place of exit, a going or flowing out; borrowed from Old French *issue*, earlier *eissue* (from Gallo-Romance **exūta*), from feminine past participle of *issir*, earlier *eissir* to go out, from Latin *exire* (*ex-* out + *ire* go).

The meaning of offspring, progeny, is first recorded (about 1378) and was probably adopted from Old French; that of outcome, result, appeared about 1380, and the meaning of a matter or point to be decided, is recorded before 1439. — **v.** Before 1338 *issuen* to come or go out; borrowed from Old French *issu*, past participle of *issir* to go out.

-ist a suffix forming nouns and meaning: 1 person who does or makes, as in *theorist*, *tourist*. 2 an expert in an art or science, as in *botanist*. 3 person who plays a musical instrument, as in *organist*. 4 person connected with, as in *artist*. Borrowed through French *-iste*, or directly from Latin *-ista*, from Greek *-istēs*, noun suffix for verbs in *-izein* — *ize*. Its extension became so wide that its use, if not its meaning, approaches the suffix *-er* for agent nouns.

isthmus *n.* 1555, borrowed from Latin *isthmus*, from Greek *isthmós* isthmus, strip of land, narrow passage.

it *pron.* 1128 *it*; earlier *hit* (1104); developed from Old English *hit* (about 725, in *Beowulf*), neuter nominative and accusative of the third person singular (originally used as the substitute for any neuter noun). It was this relatively unspecialized use in Old English that gave rise to a Middle English use of *it*, with the meaning of a thing or animal spoken about (before 1325).

The *h* in Old English *hit* and in its cognates, Old Frisian and Middle Dutch *hit* (modern Dutch *het*), was probably due to the influence of the Proto-Germanic demonstrative base **Hi-* this, represented by Old English and Old Frisian *hē* HE. Other cognates of *it* are Old Saxon and Middle Low German *it*, Low German *et*, Gothic *is* he, (neuter) *ita* it, Old High German *ēr* he, *it*, *ēz* it (modern German *er* he, *es* it), and Old Icelandic *es* this.

italic *adj.* 1571, italic handwriting; later, italic type (1612); borrowed, possibly by influence of Middle French *Italique*, *Ytalique*, from Latin *Italicus* Italian, of Italy, from Greek *Italikós*, from *Italiā* Italy, originally a region of southwest Italy. The slanting style is so called because it was introduced in 1501 by an Italian printer of Venice. — **n.** 1676 *italics* italic letters; from the adjective. — **italicize** *v.* print in italics. 1795, formed from English *italic* + *-ize*.

Italo- a combining form made from Italy or Italian and mean-

ing of Italy or the Italians, as in *Italophile*, and sometimes meaning Italian and —, as in *Italo-American*.

itch *n.* Before 1400 *iche*, *yiche*; developed from Old English (before 800) *gicce*, from *gican* to itch; cognate with Middle Dutch *joken* to itch (modern Dutch *jeuken*) and Old High German *jucchen* (modern German *jucken*). The sense of a restless desire, is first recorded in 1532. —**v.** 1440 *ichen*; earlier *ichen*, *yichen* (about 1390); developed from Old English (about 1000) *gican*.

-ite¹ a suffix meaning: 1 person or thing associated with, inhabitant of —, as in *Canaanite*, *Jerseyite*, *laborite*. 2 follower of —, as in *Trotskyite*. 3 mineral or fossil, as in *hematite*, *trilobite*. 4 organic chemical compound, explosive, or commercial product, as in *dynamite*, *cordite*, *lucite*. 5 segment of a body, as in *dendrite*. Borrowed through French *-ite*, or directly from Latin *-ita*, *-itēs*, from Greek *-itēs*, *-itis* pertaining to, connected with, member of.

-ite² a suffix meaning salt of, as in *phosphite*, *sulfite*, *nitrite*. Borrowed from French *-ite*, deliberate alteration of *-ate*² from Latin *-ātus* —*ATE*².

item *n.* 1578, separate thing or article; earlier, statement, suggestion, hint (1561); developed from *item*, adv., moreover, in addition (before 1398); borrowed, probably by influence of Old French *item*, from Latin *item* likewise, just so, probably related to *ita* thus, and *id* IT.

The Middle English adverb *item* was used before each article in a list, such as an inventory or bill and to introduce a new statement or fact, which later gave rise to the noun use with the meanings of a separate thing, individual article or a statement. —**itemize** *v.* 1864, formed from English *item* + *-ize*, replacing the earlier verb *item* (1601).

iterate *v.* 1533, repeat; developed from *iterate*, adj., done repeatedly (probably before 1425); borrowed from Latin *iterātus*, past participle of *iterāre* to do again, repeat, from *iterum* again; for suffix see *-ATE*¹. Also possibly a back formation from *iteration* (before 1425). —**iterative** *adj.* 1490, involving repetition; borrowed from Middle French *itératif*, *itérative*, from Late Latin *iterātīvus* serving to repeat, from Latin *iterāre*; for suffix see *-IVE*.

itinerant *adj.* 1570–76, traveling on a circuit (as a judge or preacher); borrowed from Late Latin *itinerantem*, present participle of *itinerārī* to travel, from Latin *iter* (genitive *itineris*) journey, from *īre* go; see *EXIT*; for suffix see *-ANT*. —**n.** 1641, from the adjective. —**itinerary** *n.* Probably before 1425, course of travel, route; borrowed, perhaps through Middle French *itinaire*, from Late Latin *itinerārium* account of a journey, from noun use of neuter of *itinerārius*, adj., of a journey, from Latin (genitive) *itineris*; for suffix see *-ARY*.

-itious a suffix meaning of, or having the nature of, and occurring in adjectives borrowed (directly or through French) from Latin, where they were formed by addition of a compound suffix *-icius* (*-īc* + *-ius*) to a participial stem, as seen in

English *adventitious*, *fictitious*, *surreptitious*, or to a noun stem, as in *cementitious*.

In another group of words in *-itious*, such as *ambitious* and *superstitious*, the *-it-* is part of the verbal stem and *-ious* is from Latin *-iōsus*; see *-IOUS*.

-itis a suffix meaning inflammation of; inflammatory disease of, as in *appendicitis*, *bronchitis*, *bursitis*. Borrowed from New Latin *-itis*, from Greek *-itis*, feminine of the adjective suffix *-itēs* of or pertaining to, used to qualify the feminine noun *nōsos* disease, as in *arthritīs nōsos* disease of the joints. Some words with *-itis*, such as *arthritis*, are among the original group of borrowings from which *-itis* was abstracted in English.

-ity a suffix forming nouns from adjectives and meaning condition or quality of being —, as in *absurdity*, *brutality*, *cordiality*, *activity*, *hostility*, *sincerity*. Middle English *-ite*, borrowed through Old French *-ité*, or directly from Latin *-itatem* (nominative *-itās*, formed from *-i-*, as a connective vowel + *-tās* —*TY*²).

-ium a suffix of chemical elements or radicals, as in *ammonium*, *curium*, *sodium*. Borrowed from New Latin, from Latin *-ium*, a neuter suffix.

-ive a suffix forming adjectives from verbs and meaning: 1 of or pertaining to, as in *interrogative*, *inductive*. 2 tending to, likely to, as in *active*, *appreciative*. Middle English, borrowed occasionally through Old French *-if*, *-ive* but usually directly from Latin *-ivus*.

The majority of English words incorporating this suffix end in *-sive*, *-tive*, and *-ative* (see *-ATIVE*). A few add *-ive* directly to the verb stem, especially where the stem ends in *s*, *c*, or *t*, as in *abusive*, *conductive*, *adaptive*. Another small group also adds this suffix to nouns, as in *massive*. There is also a special group in which the Old French ending *-if* was lost in borrowing or by development in Middle English, resulting in *-y*, as in *hasty* and *tardy*.

ivory *n.* 1263, earlier, as a surname (1181); borrowed through Anglo-French *ivorie*, from Old North French *ivurie*, from Latin *eboreus* of ivory, from *ebur* (genitive *eboris*) ivory. —**adj.** About 1330; from the noun.

ivy *n.* Probably about 1200 *ivi*; developed from Old English (about 700) *īfig*, *īfegn*; probably related to Middle Low German *iflōf* ivy, and Old High German *ebahewi*, *ebah* (modern German *Efeu*), of unknown origin.

-ization a suffix meaning the act of —izing or the condition of being —ized, as in *naturalization*, *Americanization*; formed from *-ize* + *-ation*. See also *-IZE*.

-ize a suffix added to adjectives and nouns to form verbs and meaning: 1 make —, as in *legalize*, *apologize*. 2 become —, as in *crystallize*. 3 engage in or use —, as in —, as in *crystallize*. 3 engage in or use —, as in *criticize*. 4 treat or combine with —, as in *oxidize*. 5 other meanings, as in *memorize*, *colonize*. Borrowed through French *-iser*, or directly from Latin *-izāre*, or from Greek *-tzein*.

J

jab *v.* 1825–80, Scottish variant of *job* to strike, pierce, thrust; found in Middle English *jobben* to jab, thrust, peck (before 1500); of uncertain origin. —**n.** 1825–80; from the verb.

jabber *v.* About 1405 *jablen*; later *javeren* (about 1440), *jaberen* (1499); of imitative origin. The spelling *jabber* is first recorded in 1655. —**n.** 1727, from the verb.

jack *n.* 1391 *jakke* a mechanical device; developed from earlier *Jacke*, *Jakke* a surname (1285); later, as a first name; also, any common fellow (about 1390); probably from *Jacque*, *Jacques*, borrowed from Old French *Jaques*, from Late Latin *Jacobus*, from Latin *Jacobus*, from Greek *Iakōb*, from Hebrew *Ya'akōbh*. —**v.** 1873, in the phrase *jack up* abandon, give up; later, hoist with a jack (1885), and in American English, to increase prices, etc. (1904); all from the noun.

jackal *n.* 1603, borrowed from Turkish *çakal*, from Persian *shaghāl*, from Sanskrit *śṛgālā-s*. The *j* in English is probably in part a phonetic misinterpretation of the initial sound in Turkish and Arabic (approximating the sound of *ch* in *chain*).

jacket *n.* 1451 *jaket*, borrowed from Middle French *jaquet*, diminutive of Old French *jaque* kind of tunic, possibly associated with *jaque* (*de mailles*) short tight-fitting coat; originally, coat of mail, from Spanish *jaco*, from Arabic *šakk* breastplate; for suffix see -ET. —**v.** 1861; from the noun.

jade¹ *n.* gemstone. 1721–41, earlier *iada* (1598); borrowed from French *le jade*; earlier *l'ejade*, from Spanish *piedra de (la) ijada* stone of colic, pain in the side (because jade was thought to cure this), from Vulgar Latin **īliāta*, from Latin *īlia*, pl., flanks, groin.

jade² *n.* inferior or worn-out horse. About 1390 *iade* cart horse, hack, perhaps a variant of *yaid*, *yald* whore; literally, mare; borrowed through Anglo-French **jaud*, from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *jalda* mare, borrowed from a Finno-Ugric word represented by Mordvin *äl'd'ä* mare). —**v.** to weary, tire, make or become dull, languid, etc. 1606, from the noun.

jag¹ *v.* cut or tear unevenly. 1373 *jaggid* jagged, from *jaggen* to notch or nick; of uncertain origin. —**n.** Before 1400, a slash or tear in a garment, of uncertain origin.

jag² *n.* 1597, a load, as of hay or wood; of unknown origin.

The meaning of a period of unrestrained activity (as in *a crying jag*) appeared first in American English, in 1913.

jaguar *n.* 1604, borrowed from Portuguese *jaguar*, from Tupi (Brazil) *jaguara* and Guarani *yaguará*.

jail *n.* Developed from two concurrent forms in Middle English: 1) *gaiol*, *gaole* (probably before 1300); borrowed from Old North French and Anglo-French *gaiole*, *gayolle*, *gaole*; and 2) *jaiole*, *jaile* (before 1325); borrowed from Old French *jaiole*, *jaole*, *geole*. All French forms had the meaning of cage or prison and were borrowed from Vulgar Latin **gaviōla*, from Latin **cavēola*, diminutive of *cavea* coop, CAGE. —**v.** 1604, from the noun.

jealousie *n.* 1766, borrowed from French *jealousie*, from Middle French, wooden latticework; literally, jealousy, from Old French; see JEALOUSY.

jam¹ *v.* press tightly. 1706, to stick or catch, become wedged; of unknown origin, perhaps imitative, but how it is imitative and of what, is uncertain. The meaning of press tightly or squeeze, as between two surfaces, is first recorded in 1719. —**n.** 1806–07, from the verb. The sense of a difficulty or tight spot, is first recorded in 1914 in American English.

The term *jam session* an improvised performance by a jazz group, (1933) is American English, from earlier use of *jam* a short, freely improvised jazz passage performed by the whole band (1929).

jam² *n.* fruit preserve. 1730–36, probably a special use of *jam*¹, in the sense of crush (fruit) by pressure.

jamb *n.* 1334 *jaumbe*, borrowed from Old French *jambe* joint for a window or doorway; originally, leg, from Late Latin *gamba*, *camba* leg or (horse's) hock; see GAMBOL.

jambalaya *n.* dish of rice cooked together with shrimp, ham, turkey, etc. 1872, American English, borrowed from Louisiana French *jambalaya*, from Provençal *jambalaia* stew composed of rice and fowl.

jamboree *n.* 1868, American English, a noisy party or spree; perhaps coined from *jam*¹, on the pattern of *shivaree*.

jangle *v.* About 1300, to chatter or gossip; borrowed from Old French *jangler* to chatter, perhaps from a Germanic source (compare Middle Dutch *jangelen* to whine, modern Dutch *jengelen*, and dialectal German *jangeln* speak with a whine).

The meaning of make a harsh or discordant noise, is first recorded in 1494. Also possibly from the noun. —**n.** harsh sound. About 1280, gossip or idle talk; borrowed from Old French *jangle*, from *jangler* to chatter. The meaning of discordant sound is first recorded in 1795.

janitor *n.* 1584, an usher; later, doorkeeper (about 1630); borrowed from Latin *jānitor* doorkeeper, from *jānuā* door, from *jānus* arched passageway; for suffix see -OR². The meaning of caretaker of a building is first recorded in 1708.

January *n.* 1391 *Januarie*, a Latinization of earlier *Jenever* (about 1300) and *Genever* (probably before 1300); borrowed from Old North French *Jenever*, *Genever*, from Latin *Jānuārius* first month of the ancient Roman year (dedicated to *Janus*, Roman god of gates and doors, and of beginnings and endings, from *jānus* arched passageway).

jar¹ *n.* container. 1421 (possibly) *jarre* liquid measure smaller than a barrel; borrowed probably from Middle French *jarre*, from Provençal *jarra*, and also Spanish *jarra* and Medieval Latin *jarra*, from Arabic *jarrah* earthen water vessel.

jar² *v.* to shake. 1526, make a harsh, grating sound; later, cause to vibrate or shake (1568); probably in some way imitative but not necessarily a part of its origin. The meaning of have a harsh or unpleasant effect on is first recorded in 1538. —**n.** 1546, discord, dissension; later, a harsh, grating sound (1553); probably from the verb.

jargon *n.* About 1350 *jargoun* unintelligible talk or chattering; borrowed from Old French *jargon*, probably of imitative origin like the French *gargoter* make noise with the throat, and probably related to Latin *garrere* to chatter, babble. The meaning of terminology of a special group, appeared in 1651.

jasmine or **jasmin** *n.* 1578, borrowed from French *jasmin*, in Middle French *jassemín*, *jessemín*, from Arabic *yāsāmīn*, from Persian *yāsmīn*.

jasper *n.* Probably about 1300, borrowed through Anglo-French *jaspre*, from Old French *jaspe*, from Latin *iaspidem* (nominative *iaspis*), from Greek *iaspis* jasper.

jaundice *n.* About 1303 *jaunes*, later *jandis* (1373), and *jaundys* (before 1387); borrowed from Old French *jaunisse*, *jaunice* yellowness, from *jaune*; earlier *jalne* yellow, from Latin *galbinus* greenish-yellow; of uncertain origin. The meaning of feeling in which views are colored or judgment is distorted is first recorded in 1629. —**v.** 1791 (figurative use); from the noun.

jaunt *n.* 1678, extended sense of the earlier meaning of a fatiguing or tiresome journey (1592). —**v.** 1647, extended sense of the earlier meaning of trot or trudge about (1575), and tire a horse by riding it back and forth (1570); of unknown origin.

jaunty *adj.* 1662, stylish or elegant; later, carefree (1672); borrowed from French *gentil* nice or pleasing, from Old French *gentil* noble. The form *jaunty* (earlier *janty*, *jantie*) represents a reborrowing from French, reflecting the French pronunciation of *gentil* (zhāNtē').

javelin *n.* About 1475 *gavelong*; borrowed from Middle French *javeline*, diminutive of Old French *javelot*, from Old Provençal *javelina*, possibly from a Celtic source (compare Old Irish *gabul* fork, and Welsh *gaflach* feathered lance). An earlier form *javelot* (about 1440), was borrowed directly from Middle French *javelot*, from Old French.

jaw *n.* About 1380 *joue*, *ioue*; before 1387 *jawe*; perhaps borrowed from Old French *joue* cheek. The Old French *joue* probably derives from pre-Latin (perhaps Gaulish) **gauta* cheek. —**v.** 1748, to gossip; later, to scold (1810); from the noun. An earlier meaning "use the jaws" is recorded in 1612. —**jawbone** *n.* (about 1489)

jay *n.* Probably before 1300 *jai*, borrowed from Old French *jay*, in Old North French *gai*, *gay*, perhaps from Late Latin *gāius*, from Latin *Gāius*, a proper name, following the practice of giving birds proper names (as *robin*, *martin*, etc.). Also applied to the American *blue jay*, found in *blew jawe* (1709).

The term *jaywalker* is first recorded in American English in 1917, from an earlier use of *jay* a bold, impudent, or stupid person. The verb *jaywalk* is a back formation of *jaywalker* (1919) in American English.

jazz *n.* 1913, American English, a kind of ragtime dance, perhaps related to earlier *jasm* energy, drive (1860); apparently of African origin (compare Tshiluba *jaja* cause to dance, Mandingo *jasi* and Wolof *yees* step out of character, Temne *yas* be extremely lively or energetic). The source of *jazz* in English is not known, and the connection with *jasm* cannot be fully demonstrated, but the form, sense, and chronology suggest a relationship may exist. The sense of meaningless talk, nonsense, rubbish, appeared in 1918. —**v.** 1917, speed or liven up; 1918, play jazz; probably from the noun.

jealous *adj.* Before 1200 *gelus* distrustful of the faithfulness of a spouse or lover; later *jelus* (before 1325); borrowed from Old French *jelous*, *gelos* from Old Provençal *gelos*, from Vulgar Latin **zēlōsus*, from Latin *zēlus* jealousy, ZEAL; for suffix see -OUS. —**jealousy** *n.* Before 1200 *gelusie*, borrowed from Old French *jelousie*, *jalousie*, from the adjective in Old French; for suffix see -Y³.

jeans *n.pl.* 1843, from the singular *jean* strong twilled cotton cloth (1567), from the earlier adjective *jene* Genoese (1436); borrowed from Middle French *Genes* Genoa, city in Italy where such cloth was made.

jeep *n.* 1941, American English, probably coined from the initials G.P. (*General Purpose*), the U.S. Army designation for this type of car; perhaps also influenced by the name of a cartoon character and his cry of "Jeep," a term also used briefly as the name of a commercial motor vehicle in 1937. Sometimes claimed to be a reduction of "Jeepers creepers!" the exclamation of a U.S. Army officer on the occasion of his first ride in the prototype of the vehicle in 1939.

jeepers *interj.* exclamation of surprise or mild oath. 1929, American English, euphemism for *Jesus*; perhaps an altered or extended form of earlier *Gee*, *Geez*, *Geeze*, also spelled *Jeez*, *Jeeze* (1923).

jeer *v.* 1553 *gyr* (implied in *gyrer*); 1577–87 *geer* call out in derision, mock or scoff; of uncertain origin, perhaps, by alteration of pronunciation from Dutch *gieren* to cry or roar, from Middle Dutch *ghieren* to cry or grunt. —**n.** 1625, from the verb.

Jehovah *n.* 1530 *Iehoua*, borrowing of New Latin, an erroneous transliteration of the Hebrew divine name YHWH (the “tetragrammaton”) using the vowel points of Hebrew *adhōnāi* my lord, often represented as *Yahweh*.

jeune *adj.* 1615, dull insipid (implied in *jejunely*); borrowed from Latin *jejunus* unproductive or meager; literally, hungry, fasting.

jell *v.* 1869, American English; probably a back formation from *jelly*. The figurative sense of crystallize, take definite shape, is first recorded in 1908.

Earlier *gelen* to congeal (before 1398); borrowed from Old French *geler*, disappeared in English by the 1500’s.

jelly *n.* 1381 *gelee*, *gely*, borrowed from Old French *gelée* jelly or frost, from the feminine past participle of *geler* to congeal, from Latin *gelāre* to freeze, from *gelū* frost. —**v.** 1601, from the noun.

jeopardy *n.* Probably before 1300 *juperti* a trick, stratagem; later *jeopardy* a chess problem (1369); borrowed from Old French *jeu parti* an even or divided game (*jeu* game, and *parti*, past participle of *partir* to divide, PART). The meaning of danger or risk is first recorded in 1385. —**jeopardize** *v.* 1646, formed from English *jeopardy* + *-ize*.

jerboa *n.* 1662 *jerbuah*, probably a phonetic transcription of Arabic *yarbū’*; later, replaced by *gerbo*, perhaps borrowed through French *gerbo*, or directly from New Latin *jerboa*, from Arabic *yarbū’*.

jerk¹ *v.* pull. 1550, to lash, strike with a whip; of uncertain origin, possibly imitative or otherwise suggestive of the sound or action of the blow. The meaning of pull or twist suddenly is first recorded in 1589. —**n.** 1555, a stroke with a whip; later, sudden sharp pull or twist (1575); of uncertain origin.

jerk² *v.* preserve. 1707, American English; borrowed from American Spanish *charquear*, from *charquí* jerked meat, from Quechua (Peru) *ch’arki*. —**n.** 1799, American English; from the verb. —**jerky** *n.* jerked meat. 1850, American English; borrowed from American Spanish *charquí*.

jerk³ *n.* stupid person. 1935, American English slang; perhaps from earlier *jerk*, *adj.*, insignificant, inferior (1890’s, as in *a jerk town*, short for *jerkwater*, in reference to a steam train or branch line that serves small towns where a locomotive had to jerk water from a water tower to fill its tender).

jerkin *n.* 1519, of unknown origin; perhaps related to Dutch *jurk* a frock, through Dutch *j* = English *y*.

jerry-built *adj.* 1869, English dialectal use, from *jerry* bad, defective, a pejorative application of *Jerry*, nickname.

jersey *n.* 1836–48, extended sense of the earlier reference to knitted cloth or worsted from the isle of *Jersey* (1583). The

breed of cattle also was in allusion to the Channel isle of Jersey, and is first recorded in 1842.

jest *n.* Probably about 1225, *geste* entertainment or amusement; borrowed from Old French *geste* action, exploit; learned borrowing from Latin *gesta* deeds, from neuter plural of *gestus*, past participle of *gerere* to carry, behave, act, perform. The sense of joke or witticism is found in 1551. —**v.** 1526, to taunt or jeer; later, to joke (1553); developed from Middle English *gesten* recite a tale (about 1390); from *geste*, *n.* —**jester** *n.* About 1510, developed from Middle English *gestour* a minstrel (before 1338); from *gesten* recite a tale + *-er*.

jet¹ *n.* stream sent with force. 1696, borrowed from French *jet*, from Old French *jet*, from *jeter* to throw, thrust, from Late Latin *jectāre*, abstracted from *dējectāre*, *prōjectāre*, etc., for Latin *jactāre* toss about, a frequentative form of *jacere* to throw, cast. *Jet* is first recorded as an airplane driven by jet propulsion in 1944. —**v.** 1692, borrowed from Middle French *jeter* to throw or thrust, from Old French; see noun.

jet² *n.* mineral. 1351 *gete*; later *jeet* (about 1390); borrowed from Anglo-French *geet*, corresponding to Old French *jaiet*, from Latin *gagātēs*, from Greek *gagātēs lithos* stone of Gagai, a town and river in Lycia, in southwest Asia Minor. —**adj.** 1444, attributive use of the noun.

jetsam *n.* 1570 *jottsome*; later *jetson* (1591) and *jetsam* (1678); developed by alteration (most notably in loss of the medial vowel) from Middle English *jetteson* the act of throwing of goods overboard to lighten a ship (1425); see JETTISON.

jettison *v.* 1848, developed from *jetteson* the act of throwing goods overboard to lighten a ship (1425); borrowed through Anglo-French *getteson*, from Old French *getaison*, from Vulgar Latin **jectatiōnem* (nominative **jectatiō*) act of throwing, from Late Latin *jectāre* toss about. The modern spelling of the verb was deliberately respelled as *jettison* in the noun to avoid the former confusion with *jetsam* through earlier *jetteson*.

jetty *n.* 1418 *juteye* projecting part; later *getti* a breakwater (before 1420), and *jettie* (1432); borrowed from Old French *jetee*, *geté* a jetty, from feminine past participle of *jeter* to throw; see JET¹ stream.

Jew *n.* Probably before 1200 *giw*, later *Jeu* (1241, as a surname); borrowed through Anglo-French *geu*, *jwe*, and from Old French *giu*, *juu*; from Latin *Jūdaeum* (nominative *Jūdaeus*), from Greek *Ioudaíos*, from Aramaic *yēhūdāi*, corresponding to Hebrew *yēhūdāi*, from *yēhūdāh* Judah, name of the fourth son of Jacob and the tribe descended from him.

The Old English equivalent was *Iudēas* the Jews, an early borrowing from Latin *Jūdaeus*. —**Jewish** *adj.* Before 1546, formed from English *Jew* + *-ish*. The Old English equivalent was *Iudēis*, from *Iudēas* Jews + *-is* *-ish*. —**Jewry** *n.* Probably before 1200 *giwerie* the Jewish people or their religion; borrowed through Anglo-French *jeuerie*, *gyuerie*, from Old French *juerie*, earlier *jueu* Jew + *-erie* *-ery*.

jewel *n.* Probably before 1300 *jeuel* valuable object or treasure; later *juel* precious stone (before 1325); borrowed, probably through Anglo-French *juel*, *jeual*, and from Old French *juel*,

joel ornament or jewel, from Medieval Latin *jocale*, from Latin *jocus* pastime or sport, see JOKE. — **jeweler** n. 1340 *Jueler*, as a surname; borrowed through Anglo-French *juellour*, from Old French *joelier*, *juelier*, from *juel* jewel. — **jewelry** n. Probably about 1380 *juelrye* precious ornaments; borrowed from Old French *juelerie*, from *juel* jewel.

jib n. 1661 *gibb*, of uncertain origin (perhaps related to *gibbet*, with reference to the sail's suspension from the masthead).

jibe¹ v. shift (a sail or boom). 1693 *gybe*, borrowed from Dutch *gijben*, *gijpen*, apparently related to *gijk*, *giek* boom or spar of a sailship. The later form *jibe* (1856) was probably influenced in its spelling by *jib*.

jibe² v. agree, fit. 1813 *gibe*, of uncertain origin; perhaps originally a figurative use of *jibe*¹.

jibe³ n. See GIBE (jeer).

jiffy adj. 1785, a very short space of time; of unknown origin.

jig¹ v. dance a jig. 1588, possibly borrowed from Middle French *giguer* to dance, and respelled in English by influence of earlier *jig*, n. — n. About 1560, of uncertain origin.

jig² n. 1858, device used to lure fishes; of uncertain origin, perhaps from *jig*¹, v., move up and down.

jigger n. 1781, alteration of CHIGGER.

jiggle v. 1836, formed from *jig*¹, v., with the frequentative suffix *-le*. — n. 1888, from the verb.

jihad n. 1869, holy war; borrowing of Arabic *jihād*, literally, struggle, contest, effort. The sense of any war or crusade for or against some doctrine, etc., is first recorded in 1880.

jilt v. 1673, be false or faithless, jilt or discard for another; apparently developed from *jilt*, n., a loose, unchaste woman, harlot (1672). Perhaps a contraction of earlier *jelot* (about 1550), *gillot* (1557) of the same meaning, and a diminutive form of *gille* a familiar or contemptuous term for a woman or girl (before 1425), originally a shortened form of the female name *Gillian*.

Jim Crow 1842, American English, in *Jim Crow* car segregated railroad car for blacks, from earlier *Jim Crow*, a derogatory name for a black man (1838). Originally *Jim Crow* (1835) was the name of a black minstrel character in a popular song and dance act. The song on which the performance was based appeared in 1828 with the title *Jim Crow*. The word *crow* was used earlier (1823) as a derogatory term for a black man.

jimmy n. 1848 *jimmy*, dialectal variant of *jemmy* crowbar much used by burglars (1811), apparently a special use of *Jimmy* or *Jemmy*, familiar forms of the proper name *James*. — v. 1893, from the noun.

jimson or **Jimson weed** 1812, American English, shortening and alteration of earlier *Jamestown-weed* (1687), from *Jamestown*, Virginia, where it was first found.

jingle v. About 1387–95 *ginglen*, of imitative origin. — n. 1599, from the verb.

jingo¹ interj. 1694 *by jingo*, apparently a euphemism for *by Jesus*, influenced by earlier *jingo* a magician's call for the appearance of something (1670, contrasting with *presto*), in the phrase *high jingo* or *hey jingo*; of uncertain origin.

jingo² n. chauvinist. 1897, from the earlier nickname *Jingo* (1878), in reference to a supporter of Disraeli's policy of sending a British fleet into Turkish waters to resist the advance of Russia in 1878; developed from the refrain *by Jingo* in a nationalistic music hall song which became the "theme song" of those ready to fight Russia; see JINGO¹.

jinn n. pl. 1822 *ginns*, misunderstood as a plural of *ginn*; earlier *dgen* (1684, borrowed from obsolete French *dgen*, from Arabic *jinn* spirits, plural of *jinnī*).

jinx n. 1911, American English, from earlier *jyng* a charm or spell (before 1643; originally a bird, the wryneck, used in witchcraft); borrowed from Latin *inyx* the wryneck, from Greek *inyx* (genitive *inygos*). — v. 1917, American English; from the noun.

jitney n. 1914, American English, from earlier *jitney* a nickel (spelled *gitney* in 1903), of uncertain origin; perhaps because the jitney buses charged a fare of five cents (a *gitney*).

jitterbug n. 1939, American English; probably developed from earlier *jitterbug* a swing music enthusiast (1937), from *Jitter bug*, title of a song (1934). — v. 1938, American English, from the same source as the noun.

jitters n. pl. 1929, American English, perhaps developed as an alteration of dialectal English *chitter*, v. and n., tremble or shiver, from Middle English *chiteren* to twitter, chatter (probably before 1200). — **jittery** adj. 1931, American English, formed from *jitter(s)* + *-y*¹.

jive v. 1928, American English, deceive, fool; originally Black English use, probably of African origin (compare Wolof *jeu*, *jeu* talk about someone absent, especially in a disparaging manner). — n. 1928, American English, misleading or deceptive talk; from the same source as the verb.

By the late 1930's *jive* was also the name of a type of fast, lively jazz music and dance, as well as the name of the slang used by blacks in New York City, especially black jazz musicians.

job n. 1557 *jobbe of worke* piece of work or task; perhaps a variant form of *gobbe* GOB¹ a mass or lump (about 1382).

Before 1627, *job* itself had come to mean a piece of work, and this meaning was extended to work done for pay or profit (1660).

jock n. 1963, American English, athlete, short for *jockstrap* athletic male, slang use of *jockstrap* a supporter of the male genital organs, used in sports (*jock*, genital organs 1790, of uncertain origin, + *strap*).

jockey n. Before 1529, boy or fellow, originally, a Scottish proper name, diminutive of *Jock*, Scottish variant of *Jack*. The meaning of a person who rides horses in races appeared in 1670. — v. 1708, trick, outwit; from the noun in the sense of crafty bargainer or horse trader (1683). The meaning of ride (a horse) in a race appeared in 1767.

jocose *adj.* 1673; earlier in *jocosity* (1646); borrowed from Latin *jocōsus* full of jesting, joking, from *jocus* pastime, sport, JOKE.

jocular *adj.* 1626, borrowed from Latin *joculāris* funny, comic, from *joculus*, diminutive of *jocus* JOKE.

jocund *adj.* About 1380, borrowed from Old French *jocond*, learned borrowing from Latin *jōcundus*, later variant (influenced by Latin *jocus* JOKE) of *jūcundus* pleasant; originally, helpful, from *juvāre* to please, benefit, help.

jodhpurs *n.pl.* 1913 *Jodpores*, abstracted from earlier *Jodhpur riding-breeches* (1899), in allusion to *Jodhpur*, a former state in northwestern India.

jog *v.* 1548, shake or move with a jerk; later, stir up by hint or reminder (1601); perhaps alteration of Middle English *shoggen* to shake, jolt, move with a jerk (about 1395); of uncertain origin (perhaps cognate with Middle Dutch *schocken* to shake; see SHOCK¹ jolt). The meaning of walk or ride with a jolting pace, to trot, is first recorded in 1565, and was later extended to running (1866). —**n.** 1611, act of jogging; later, a shake, push (1635); from the verb. —**jogger** *n.* Before 1700; formed from English *jog*, *v.* + *-er*¹.

jog *n.* part that sticks out. 1845, American English, variant of *jag*¹ a sharp or pointed projection (1519, earlier in Middle English *jagge* ornamental points on the edge of a garment, probably 1409).

joggle *v.* 1513, shake to and fro; probably formed from *jog*¹ + *-le*³ (*jog*¹ appears later than *joggle*, which suggests connection by alteration with Middle English *goglen* to shake, probably about 1400). —**n.** 1727, from the verb.

join *v.* Probably before 1300 *joinen* (earlier, implied in the surname *Joinur*, 1195–1215); borrowed from Old French *joindre*, *joindre* (also found in the stem forms *joign-*, *join-*), from Latin *jungere* to join, YOKE. —**joiner** *n.* About 1195–1215, in the surname *Joinur*; borrowed from Old French *joigneor*, through the stem *joign-*, from *joindre*.

joint *n.* About 1300, place where bones come together; borrowed from Old French *joint* (past participle of *joindre* JOIN), from Latin *jūctus*, past participle of *jungere* JOIN.

The slang meaning of any place, building, or establishment, is first recorded in 1877, originally as a place where swindlers and burglars congregated. The meaning of jail or prison is first found in 1953, but is probably much older. —**adj.** 1424, borrowed from Middle French *joint* (past participle of *joindre* join).

joist *n.* Before 1325 *giste*; borrowed from Old French *giste* beam, noun use of the feminine past participle of *gesir* to lie, from Latin *jacere* to lie, rest; related to *jacere* to throw.

joke *n.* 1670, borrowed from Latin *jocus* joke, sport, pastime. —**v.** make a joke. 1670, borrowed from Latin *jocārī* to jest, joke, from *jocus* joke. —**joker** *n.* 1729, one who jokes; later, the odd face card in a pack of playing cards (1885); formed from English *joke* + *-er*¹.

jolly *adj.* Probably before 1300 *jolif* merry, about 1303 *joly* amorous; borrowed from Old French *joli*, *jolif* festive, merry, amorous, pretty; perhaps from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *jól* a winter feast, YULE). The early loss of *f* in *jolif* is analogous to that in *tardy* and *hasty*. —**v.** 1890, American English, make feel good; from the adjective. Earlier use in *jolifen* be cheerful or cheering (about 1385) is not connected with the use in American English.

jolt *v.* 1599, perhaps alteration of *jollen* to knock or batter (before 1450; earlier to stagger, about 1410). Alteration of *jollen* to *jolt* and association with *jolt-head* clumsy, stupid person (1533) are unexplained. —**n.** 1599, a knock; probably from the verb. The meaning of a jarring shock or jerk is first recorded in 1632.

Jones *n.* The expression *keep up with the Joneses* strive not to be outdone by one's neighbors or associates, is first recorded in 1913 in American English; coined from the title of a comic strip.

jonquil *n.* 1664 *junquill*, borrowed from French *jonquille*, from Spanish *junquillo*, diminutive of *junco* rush, reed, from Latin *juncus* rush (in reference to the rushlike leaves), as in JUNIPER.

josh *v.* 1845 *Josh*, American English, perhaps from the name *Josh*, short for *Joshua*, but the connection is obscure.

joss *n.* Chinese idol. 1711, from a Chinese Pidgin English form of Javanese *dejos*, from Portuguese *deus* god, from Latin *deus*; see DEITY. The term *joss stick*, meaning a stick of fragrant paste burned as incense, is first recorded in 1883.

jostle *v.* 1678 *jostle*, alteration of earlier *justle* (1580) and *iustle* (1546); formed from *jousten*, *justen* to JOUST + suffix *-le*³. —**n.** 1607 *justle* struggle or joust; 1611, push or knock; from the verb.

jot *n.* 1526 *iott* (pronounced as one syllable); earlier *ioote* something of no value or importance (before 1500); borrowed from Latin *jōta*, *iōta*, from Greek *iōta* IOTA. —**v.** write briefly or in haste. 1721, originally Scottish.

joul *n.* 1962, borrowed from Canadian French, from the joul pronunciation of French *cheval* horse.

joule *n.* 1882, unit of work or energy, in allusion to James P. Joule, British physicist.

jounce *v.* 1440, implied in *jouncing* jolting movement; possibly an alteration (influenced by *jog* and *jump*) of *bounce*. —**n.** 1787, from the verb.

journal *n.* 1355–56, book of church services; borrowed through Anglo-French *jurnal*, *jurnale* a day, and directly from Old French *journal*, originally adjective, daily, from Late Latin *diurnālis* daily, DIURNAL. The meaning of a daily record of public transactions, is first recorded in 1565, and that of a daily personal record, diary, in 1610, from French *journal*. The connection with *journal* part of a shaft or axle that turns on a bearing (1814) is unknown, except that it comes from Scottish use probably related to its movement. —**journalism** *n.* 1833,

borrowed from French *journalisme*, from French *journal* *journal*. —**journalist** *n.* 1693, formed from English *journal* + *-ist*.

journey *n.* Apparently before 1200 *urnee* passage through life; borrowed from Old French *ournée*, *urnee*, *urnee* day's work or travel, from Vulgar Latin **diurnāta* events of a day, from *diurnum* day, noun use of neuter of Latin *diurnus* of one day, from *diēs* day. —**v.** Before 1338 *journeyen*, borrowed from Anglo-French *journeyer* from Old French *journoier*, from *ournée*. —**journeyman** *n.* 1414 *journeuman* workman qualified in his trade; formed from English *journey* + *man*.

joust *v.* Apparently about 1300 *justen*; later *jousten* (about 1378); borrowed from Old French *joster*, *jouster*, *juster*, from Vulgar Latin **juxtāre* be next to, from Latin *juxtā* beside, near; related to *ungere* join. An earlier sense of join or ally oneself, is first recorded in about 1250. —**n.** Probably before 1300 (usually in the plural) *justes*; about 1300 (also in the plural) *joustes*; borrowed from Old French *joustes*, *justes*, from *jouster*, *juster* to joust.

jovial *adj.* 1590, under the influence of the planet Jupiter; borrowed through Middle French *jovial*, and directly from Latin *Jovialis* of Jupiter, from *Jovius*, from *Jovis* (genitive of *Juppiter*) Jupiter, Roman god of the sky. The meaning of good-humored and merry derives from the belief that those born under the sign of the planet Jupiter are of a cheerful disposition.

jowl¹ *n.* jaw. 1577 *jole*, in the phrase *cheek by jowl*, alteration (possibly by association with *JOWL*²) of Middle English *chawl* (probably about 1380); earlier *chavel* (before 1250); developed from Old English (about 750) *ceafst*; cognate with Old Saxon *kaflos*, pl., jaws, Middle High German *kiver*, *kivel* jowl (modern German *Kiefer*), from Proto-Germanic **kaflaz*, *kefraz*, *keflaz*. The forms with *j* in *jowl*¹ and *jowl*² began to appear in the late 1500's, but the shift from *ch-* to *j-* is not satisfactorily accounted for; perhaps influenced by *jol* head (1371, found in *jolrap* head rope, as for a cow).

jowl² *n.* fold of flesh hanging from the jaw. 1591 *joule*, alteration of Middle English *cholle* (probably about 1300); perhaps related to Old English *ceole* throat, cognate with Old High German *kela* throat, Proto-Germanic **kelōn-*; see note at *JOWL*¹.

joy *n.* Probably before 1200 *joie* gladness, delight, joy; borrowed from Old French *joie*, from Latin *gaudia*, plural of *gaudium* joy, from *gaudēre* rejoice. —**joyful** *adj.* About 1250 *joiful*; formed from Middle English *joie* + *-ful*. —**joyous** *adj.* Probably before 1300 *joious*, borrowed through Anglo-French *joyous*, from Old French *joios*, from *joie* joy; for suffix see *-OUS*.

joyant *adj.* 1667, probably borrowed from Latin *jubilantem* (nominative *jubilans*), present participle of *jubilāre* to shout for joy, related to *jubilum* wild shout. Cognates are found in Middle High German *jū*, *jūch* shout of joy, *jūchezen* to shout with joy (modern German *jauchzen*), and Middle Low German *jōlen* to rejoice, jubilate. —**jubilation** *n.* Probably before 1375 *jubylacion*; borrowed through Old French *jubilacion* and

from Latin *jubilatiōnem* (nominative *jubilatiō*), from *jubilāre*; for suffix see *-ATION*.

jubilee *n.* Before 1382, borrowed from Old French *jubilé*, from Late Latin *jubilaeus* the jubilee year; originally, of the *jubilee*, alteration (by association with Latin *jubilāre* to shout with joy) of Greek *iōbēlaos*, from *iōbēlos*, from Hebrew *yōbhēl* a shout of joy; originally, trumpet or ram's horn. The original reference of *jubilee* was the year of emancipation of slaves and restoration of lands to be celebrated according to the Bible (Leviticus 25) every fiftieth year. The jubilee was proclaimed by the sound of a ram's horn on the Day of Atonement.

The transferred sense of a time or season of rejoicing, is first recorded about 1450.

Judaism *n.* Before 1400 *Judaisme* religion of the Jews; borrowed, probably through Old French *Judaisme*, and directly from Late Latin *Judaismus*, from Greek *Ioudaismós*, from *Ioudaios* JEW; for suffix see *-ISM*. —**Judaic** *adj.* 1611, borrowed probably through Middle French *judaïque*, and directly from Latin *Judaicus*, from Greek *Ioudaïkós*, from *Ioudaios* Jew; for suffix see *-IC*. Also a shortened form of earlier *Judaical* (1464).

judge *n.* About 1303 *juge*, possibly from the verb in English, and borrowed from Old French *juge*, from Latin *jūdicem* (nominative *jūdex*), a compound of *jūs* right or law, and the root of *dicere* say. The general meaning of one who decides a question, an expert or umpire, is first recorded about 1380, and the specific meaning of umpire in a contest about 1385. —**v.** Probably before 1200 *jugen*, *juggen* form an opinion or estimate, interpret, decide; borrowed through Anglo-French *juger*, from Old French *jugier* to judge, from Latin *jūdicāre* to judge, from *jūdicem* judge.

The spelling with *-dg-* is not found in English before 1469 and follows the spelling pattern representing the sound changes in late Middle English as found in *-gg-* to *-dge-*; see note at *DRUDGE*. —**judgment** *n.* Before 1250 *jugement*, *juggement* capacity for making decisions, act of judging, decision; borrowed from Old French *jugement*, from *jugier* to judge.

judicatory *adj.* 1603, borrowed from French *judicatoire*, from Late Latin *jūdicatōrius* judicial, from Latin *jūdicāre* to JUDGE; for suffix see *-ORY*.

judicial *adj.* Before 1382, borrowed from Latin *jūdicālis* of or belonging to a court of justice, from *jūdicium* judgment or decision, from *jūdicem* (nominative *jūdex*) JUDGE; for suffix see *-IAL*.

judiciary *adj.* 1604, forming a judgment, especially in reference to astrology, discerning; 1611, relating to the courts or the administration of justice; reborrowed, perhaps through French *judiciare*, from Latin *jūdicārius* of or belonging to a court of justice, from *jūdicium* judgment. An earlier use of *judiciary*, *adj.* (borrowed directly from Latin), is found before 1415, but the word does not appear again for almost 200 years. —**n.** 1802, branch of government that administers justice; earlier, art of divination (1587); borrowed from Medieval Latin *judiciarius* judge, justice, from Latin *jūdicārius*; see the adjective above.

judicious *adj.* 1598; borrowed from Middle French *judicieux*,

judicieux, from Latin *judicium* judgment, from *judicem* (nominative *judex*) JUDGE; for suffix see -IOUS.

judo *n.* 1889, borrowing of Japanese *jūdō* (*jū* softness, gentleness + *dō* way, art, from Chinese *tao* way).

jug *n.* Before 1477 *jugge*, variant of *jubbe*, of uncertain origin (sometimes proposed as a use of the proper name *Jug*, a familiar alteration of the female name *Judith* or of *Joan*).

jugate *adj.* 1887, borrowed from Latin *jugātus*, past participle of *jugāre* join together, from *jugum* YOKE; for suffix see -ATE¹. —**n.** 1974, American English; from the adjective.

juggernaut *n.* 1865, relentless, crushing force or object, figurative use of earlier *Juggernaut* a huge wagon bearing an image of the Hindu god Krishna (1814). The cart was drawn annually in a procession, it is said, in which many devotees allowed themselves to be crushed under its wheels as a sacrifice. *Juggernaut*, is an altered form of earlier *Jaggarnat* a title of Krishna (1638); borrowed from Hindi *Jagannāth*, literally, lord of the world, from Sanskrit *Jagannātha-s* (*jāgat* world + *nāthā-s* lord, master).

juggle *v.* About 1378 *jogelen* entertain by clowning or performing tricks; probably, in part a back formation from *juggler*, and also a borrowing from Old French *jogler*, from Latin *joculari* to joke, from *joculus*, diminutive of *jocus* JOKE.

—**juggler** *n.* Probably before 1200 *juglur* an entertainer; developed from Late Old English *gēogelere* magician, conjuror (before 1100); borrowed through Anglo-French *jugelur*, *jogelour*, from Old French (accusative) *jogleor*, from Latin *joculātorem* (nominative *joculātor*) joker, from *joculārī* to joke; for suffix see -OR².

jugular *adj.* 1597, borrowed, perhaps through Middle French *jugulaire*, and directly from New Latin *jugularis*, from Latin *jugulum* collarbone, throat, neck, diminutive formation of *jugum* yoke; related to *jungere* to JOIN. —**n.** 1615, from the adjective.

juice *n.* About 1300 *jus*; borrowing of Old French *jus*, from Latin *jūs* broth, sauce, juice. The spelling *juyce* (*iuyce*) is first recorded in 1533, and *juice* (*iuiice*) in 1553. —**juicy** *adj.* Before 1420 *jousy* full of juice; from *jus* juice. The meaning of full of interest, lively, is first recorded in 1838.

jujitsu *n.* 1875 *jiu-jitsu*, from Japanese *jūjutsu* (*jū* softness, gentleness, from Chinese *jou* soft, gentle + *jutsu* art, science, from Chinese *shu*, *shut*).

jujube *n.* Before 1400, datelike fruit of an Asiatic tree; borrowed through Middle French *jujube*, or directly from Medieval Latin *jujuba*, from the plural of Vulgar Latin **zizupum*, from Latin *zizyphum* the jujube tree, from Greek *zīzyphos*, from Persian *zayzafūn*. The small gummy candy with datelike flavor is first recorded in 1835 and pronounced *jū'jū bē'*.

julep *n.* Before 1400, syrup, sweet drink in which medicine was given; borrowed from Old French *julep*, from Spanish *julepe*; and Medieval Latin *julapium*; both the Spanish and Medieval Latin from Arabic *julab*, from Persian *gulāb* rose

water (*gul* rose + *āb* water). The alcoholic drink, flavored with mint, is first recorded in 1787.

July *n.* Before 1121 *Julie*; borrowed through Anglo-French *Julie*, from Old French *Jule*, *Juil*, from Latin *Jūlius*, from the name of Gaius *Jūlius* Caesar, Roman general born in this month, then called *Quintilis* (fifth month, March at the time of Caesar's birth being the first month).

jumble *v.* Before 1529, to move about in disorder and confusion, perhaps a coinage on the pattern of *stumble*, *tumble*, *fumble*, etc. The meaning of mix or confuse, is first recorded in 1542.

An earlier form *jumbeled* made double (about 1460) is related to *gemelled* paired or doubled and without any seeming connection to *jumble*. —**n.** confused mixture. 1661, from the verb.

jumbo *n.* big, 1883, American English, from the name of *Jumbo*, a huge elephant owned by the American showman P.T. Barnum. The name was probably taken from earlier English *Jumbo* a clumsy or unwieldy fellow (1823); possibly abstracted from *Mumbo-Jumbo* grotesque bogey or idol (1738). —**adj.** 1897, American English; from the noun.

jump *v.* Before 1460 *jumpen* (probably with the meaning of walk quickly or jump); probably borrowed from the Gallo-Romance dialects of southwestern France during the English occupation of that region (compare *jumbá* to rock, balance, swing; *yumpá* to rock; also surviving in Sardinian *iumpare* to jump). The word *jump* may also have acquired an onomatopoeic flavor which was instrumental in its borrowing into English. If *jump* is of imitative origin, parallel forms may be found in Middle High German and Low German *gumpen* to jump or hop, and possibly Swedish *guppa* to jump. —**n.** 1552, from the verb.

juniper *n.* 1853, apparently derived from earlier *jump* short coat (1653), also kind of woman's under bodice (1666); of uncertain origin. The application of *juniper* to a sleeveless dress worn over a blouse is first recorded in 1939 in American English.

junco *n.* 1706, borrowed from Spanish *junco* rush or reed, as in *junco ave* a bird of the Indies, and *rabo de junco* a bird of New Guinea; see JONQUIL.

junction *n.* 1711, a joining, union, combination; borrowed, perhaps by influence of French *jonction*, from Latin *junctiōnem* (nominative *junctiō*), from *jungere* to JOIN; for suffix see -TION. The sense of a place of joining, as where railroad lines or highways meet, is first recorded in 1841, apparently from proper names of canals and railways, such as *Grand Junction Canal* and *South Western Junction Railway*.

juncture *n.* Before 1382, a joining, joint; borrowed from Latin *junctūra*, from *jungere* to JOIN; for suffix see -URE. The meaning of a point of time, made critical by a concurrence of events, is first recorded in 1656.

June *n.* 1110 *Junie*; later *June* (probably before 1300); developed from Old English (about 1050) *Junius*; borrowed from Latin

Jūnius, probably a variant of *Jūnōnius*, sacred to the goddess *Jūnō*.

jungle *n.* 1776, borrowed from Hindi *jaṅgal* desert, forest, wasteland, from Middle Indic **jāṅgala-s* desert or dry ground, from Sanskrit *jāṅgala-s* arid or sparingly grown with trees and plants. The meaning of a wild, tangled mass (as in a *jungle of red tape*), is first recorded in 1850, and a place where the law of the jungle prevails in 1906. —**jungle gym** (1923, in American English as a trademark)

junior *adj.* 1296 *Junior* the younger (in a Latin context); later, in a list of names (1311–1423) and in an English context (1448); borrowed from Latin *jūnior* (from pre-Latin *juveniōs*), comparative of *juvenis* YOUNG. —**n.** 1526; from the adjective.

juniper *n.* About 1390; earlier, a desert shrub of Biblical times (before 1382); borrowed from Latin *jūniperus*, of uncertain origin. The first element *jūni-* is perhaps related to *juncus* reed, rush, as in JONQUIL.

junk¹ *n.* object of little value. 1338 *junke*, *jonke* an old cable or rope (a nautical use), of uncertain origin (possibly the same word as *junke*, *jonke* rush, a plant with hollow stems used for mats, baskets, etc.; borrowed from Old French *jonc*, *junc* rush, reed, from Latin *juncus*, as in JONQUIL; or borrowed from Portuguese *junco* cordage, rush, reed).

The original nautical meaning of *junk* was extended to any piece of old cable or rope cut up and used to make fenders, gaskets, etc. (1666), later extended to old refuse from boats and ships (1842), which produced such related compounds as *junk dealer* (1866) and *junkman* (1872), both originally meaning a dealer in marine stores. The meaning of old or discarded articles of any kind, appeared about 1880. —**v.** 1803, to cut off in lumps; later, to scrap (1916); from the noun. —**junkie** *n.* 1923, a drug addict; formed from English *junk*¹ narcotic drug + *-ie*. —**junky** *adj.* worthless; trashy. 1946, formed from English *junk*¹ + *-y*.

junk² *n.* Chinese sailing ship. 1613, borrowed from Dutch *jonk*, or directly from Portuguese *junco*, from Malay *jong*, *ajong*, probably from Javanese *jong*.

Junker or **junker** *n.* 1554, borrowing of German *Junker*, from Old High German *junchērro*, literally, young lord (*junc* YOUNG + *hērro* lord).

junket *n.* 1382 *ionkett*, *iunket* a basket made of rushes; probably borrowed from Medieval Latin *juncata* rush basket, also perhaps in Old North French *jonquette*, **jonquet*, **jonket* rush basket, perhaps from *jonc* a rush, from Latin *juncus* rush as in JONQUIL.

The meaning of a food made of curdled milk or cream, originally prepared on a rush basket, is first recorded in English about 1450. The meaning of a feast or banquet is first recorded before 1500, but is found earlier in the form *jonkrey* (1443), *junkery* (1449); borrowed from Old French *jonceroi*; the shift in form is obscure. The sense of a pleasure trip is first recorded in 1814 an extension of a feast or banquet, found in the compound *junket basket* picnic basket (1825).

junta *n.* 1623, Spanish council for deliberation or administra-

tion; borrowed from Spanish *junta* council, from Medieval Latin *juncta* joint, from Latin *jūncta*, feminine past participle of *jungere* to JOIN. The meaning of a political or military group in power is first recorded in 1714. An earlier form, *junto* faction, clique, cabal (1641) was probably formed by confusion with Spanish nouns ending in *-o*, as in *cargo*, from Spanish *carga*, and *bravado*, from Spanish *bravada*.

juridical *adj.* 1584, formed in English from Latin *jūridicus* (*jūs* right or law, genitive *jūris* + *dicere* say or speak) + English suffix *-al*¹; also possibly influenced by Middle French *juridique* paralleling English *typical* from French *typique*, and *hypothetical* from *hypothétique*.

jurisdiction *n.* Before 1325 *jureddiccion*, *jureddiccioun* legal power, authority; later *jurisdiccoun* (about 1390); borrowed from Old French *jurisdiction*, *jureddiccion*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *jūrisdictiōnem* (nominative *jūrisdictiō*), a compound of *jūs* (genitive *jūris*) right, law + *dictiōnem* (nominative *dictiō*) a saying. Appearance of medial *s* in later Middle English *jurisdiccoun* comes from the spelling in Latin.

jurisprudence *n.* 1628, borrowed, probably through French *jurisprudence*, and directly from Late Latin *jūrisprudentia* the science of law, (*jūris* right or law genitive of *jūs* + *prudentia* knowledge, from *prudentem* PRUDENT).

jurist *n.* 1481, borrowed from Middle French *juriste*, learned borrowing from Medieval Latin *jurista*, from Latin *jūs* (genitive *jūris*) law; for suffix see *-IST*.

jury¹ *n.* group of persons selected to hear evidence in a law court. 1398, in *jurybook*; probably before 1400 *jure* group of men sworn to deliver a verdict; later *jurie* (1436); borrowed through Anglo-French *juree*, Old French *jurée* oath or inquest, from *juror* to swear, from Latin *jūrāre* to swear, from *jūs* (genitive *jūris*) law; for suffix see *-y*⁴. The word is found earlier in Latin texts in England from 1188. —**juror** *n.* 1301 *jurour*; borrowed through Anglo-French *jurour*, Old French *jureor*, from Latin *jūrātōrem* (nominative *jūrātor*) swearer, from *jūrāre*; for suffix see *-OR*².

jury² *adj.* for temporary use on a ship. 1616, in *jurymast*; probably borrowed ultimately from Old French *ajurie* help or relief, from Latin *adjūtāre* to AID; for suffix see *-ERY*.

just *adj.* Before 1375, having proper dimensions, fitting; about 1380, accurate, exact (also) borrowed from Old French *juste*, learned borrowing from Latin *jūstus* upright or equitable, from *jūs* (genitive *jūris*) right or law. —**adv.** exactly, barely, only. Probably before 1400, from the adjective.

justice *n.* 1140, quality of being fair, just; borrowed from Old French *justise*, *justice*, learned borrowing from Latin *jūstitia* righteousness, equity, from *jūstus* upright, JUST.

justify *v.* About 1378 *justifien* govern, rule, have charge; before 1382, prove to be just or right; borrowed from Old French *justifier*, learned borrowing from Latin *jūstificāre* act justly toward, make just, from *jūstificus* dealing justly, righteous (*jūstus* JUST + the root of *facere* to DO¹ perform); for suffix see *-FY*. —**justification** *n.* About 1384 *justificacion* act of justifying,

correction, rectification; borrowed through Old French *justification*, and directly from Late Latin *jūstificātiōnem* (nominative *jūstificātiō*), from *jūstificāre* justify; for suffix see -ATION.

jut *v.* About 1450 *jutteyen* stick out, project; later *jutt* (1565–73). —**n.** 1786, from the verb (but compare earlier *jutei*, variant of Middle English *gete*, *n.*, a projection, jetty, overhang).

jute *n.* 1746, borrowed from Bengali *jhūṭo*, *jhōṭo*, from Sanskrit *jūṭa-s* twisted hair.

juvenile *adj.* 1625, borrowed through French *juvénile*, and directly from Latin *juvenilis* of or belonging to youth, from *juvenis* young person, from *juvenis* YOUNG. —**n.** 1733, from the adjective.

juxtapose *v.* 1851, borrowed from French *juxtaposer* Latin *juxtā* beside, near + Old French *poser* to place. —**juxtaposition** *n.* 1665 *juxta-position*, probably a borrowing of French *juxtaposition* (1664), formed from Latin *juxtā* near + French *position*; also formed from Latin *juxtā* near + English *position*.

K

Kabuki or **kabuki** *n.* 1899, borrowing of Japanese *kabuki* art of song and dance (*ka* song + *bu* dance + *ki* art).

Kaiser or **kaiser** *n.* 1858, borrowing of German *Kaiser*, from Old High German *keisar* emperor, an early borrowing from Latin *Caesar* CAESAR. Similar borrowings are found in Old Saxon *kēsar*, *kēsar* emperor, Old Frisian *keisar*, *keiser*, Old English *cāsere*, and Old Icelandic *keisari*. In the sense of a Roman emperor, a Caesar, or a ruler, the forms *keiser* and *kaiser* appeared in Middle English (probably before 1200), apparently as a borrowing of Middle High German *keisar*, and eventually replacing Middle English *kaser* (recorded about 1200) which developed from Old English *cāsere*.

kale *n.* Before 1300 *kale*; earlier *cawul* (probably about 1200), eventually becoming a variant (Scots) form of COLE.

kaleidoscope *n.* 1817, formed in English from Greek *kal-*, the root of *kalós* beautiful + *eido-*, the stem of *eidōs* shape + English *-scope*. The term was coined by its inventor, Sir David Brewster, 1781–1868. The figurative meaning of a constantly changing pattern is first recorded in 1819.

kamikaze *n.* 1945, American English, borrowing of Japanese *kamikaze* suicide corps; literally, divine or providential wind (*kami* god, providence, divine + *kaze* wind). *Kamikaze* was originally a name given in Japanese lore to a typhoon which in August 1281 saved Japan from invading Mongols by destroying their navy.

kangaroo *n.* 1770 *kangooroo*, *kanguru* recorded as the native name of the animal among the aborigines at Endeavour River (now Cooktown), in northeastern Queensland, Australia. *Kangaroo* may have been a localism, or it may have been a mistranscription of a local name.

The term *kangaroo court* originated in American English

and was first recorded in 1853, where it refers to an irregularly conducted court which was also called a “mustang” court.

kaolin or **kaoline** *n.* 1727–41, borrowing of French *kaolin*, in allusion to *Kao-ling*, transliteration of the name of a mountain in China (*kao* high + *ling* mountain, hill) near which this material was originally obtained.

kapok *n.* 1858; earlier *capoc* (1750); borrowed from Malay *kapok*.

kaput or **kaputt** *adj.* 1895, borrowing of German *kaputt*, probably abstracted from the earlier phrase *capot machen*, a partial translation by false interpretation of *faire* in the French *faire capot* be defeated; from its use in the game of piquet where the phrase refers to losing all the tricks in a game; ultimately from *capot* cover or bonnet, from Middle French *cape* cloak.

karat *n.* See CARAT.

karate *n.* 1955, borrowing in transliteration from Japanese *karate*, literally, empty hand or bare hand (*kara* empty + *te* hand).

karyotype *n.* 1929, American English; probably borrowed from French *caryotype* (*caryo-* cell nucleus, from Greek *káryon* nut or kernel + *type*, from Late Latin *typus* form, character, type). Apparently originally proposed by the Russian biologist G.A. Lewitsky in 1924.

katydid *n.* 1784, American English, formed in imitation of the sound made by the male when it rubs its front wings together. The sound was described in 1751 as *catedidist*.

kayak *n.* 1757 *kajak*, borrowed, possibly through Danish which may have had the first written form of the word (after Denmark exercised sovereignty over Greenland in 1721), from

Eskimo (as spoken in Greenland) *kajakka*, literally, small boat of skins. —v. 1875, from the noun.

kazoo *n.* 1884, American English, possibly alteration of earlier *bazoo* trumpet (1877); see BAZOOKA.

keel *n.* 1338 *kelle*; later *kele* (1410); borrowed probably from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *kjöl* keel, Norwegian *kjøl*, Danish *køl*, Swedish *köl*). The Scandinavian forms are cognate with Middle Low German *keil*, *kel* keel (modern German *Kiel*), Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *kiel*, from Proto-Germanic **keluz*, related to Old High German *kēla* throat, beak of a ship. —v. 1828, American English; from the noun.

keelson or **kelson** *n.* 1627 *keelson*, alteration (influenced by *keel*) of earlier *kelsine* (about 1611), and *kilson* (before 1618), from Middle English *kelsyng* (1402), earlier *kelswayn* (1296); probably borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Swedish *kölsvin* keelson, Danish and Norwegian *kjölsvin*, all derived from the root of Old Icelandic *kjöl* KEEL) + *swīn* SWINE, used for a timber, from Proto-Germanic **swīnaz*.

keen¹ *adj.* sharp, acute. Probably before 1200 *kene*, *kenne* bold, brave, daring, sharp-pointed, wise; developed from Old English (before 725) *cēne* bold, brave, clever, wise; cognate with Middle Dutch *coene* bold, daring (modern Dutch *koen*), Old High German *kuoni* (modern German *kuhn*), Old Icelandic *kœnn* wise, clever, able; related to *kan* know, from Proto-Germanic **kan-/kōn-*; see CAN¹ be able to, and KEN.

keen² *v.* to wail or lament. 1811, implied in *keener* one who keens; borrowed from Irish *caoinim* I weep, wail, lament, from Old Irish *coimim*, *caimim*. —*n.* 1830, borrowed from Irish *caoine*, from *caoinim*.

keep *v.* 1127 *kepen* watch for, observe, retain, hold, take, keep; developed from Old English (about 1000) *cēpan* (from Proto-Germanic **kōpijanan*), possibly related to *capian* to look; cognate with Old Saxon *capen* in *upcapen* stand out, be visible, Middle Low German *kapen* to gape, Old High German *kapfen* to look, and Old Icelandic *kōpa* to stare, gape, from Proto-Germanic **kap-/kōp-*. The original sense may have been “to lay hold” in the literal sense and was so extended figuratively to “keep an eye on, watch,” thereby used to render Latin *observare* to watch, take note of, and Latin *servare* to watch, observe. —*n.* About 1250 *kep* care or heed in watching, concern, charge; from *kepen* to keep. The meaning of sustenance, support, is recorded before 1825. The sense of a stronghold of a medieval castle is found before 1586. —**keeper** *n.* 1279, in the surname *Kepere*; from *keep*, *v.* + *-er*¹.

keg *n.* 1632, variant of earlier *kag* (1452); borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *kaggi* keg, cask, Swedish *kagge*, Norwegian *kagg*, *kagge*); origin uncertain.

kelp *n.* 1663, dialectal variation of earlier *kilpe* (1601); developed from *culp* or *culpe* (before 1387); of unknown origin.

kempt *adj.* Probably about 1378 *kempt* well-combed, neat; from past participle of *kemben* to comb; developed from Old English *cemban* (about 1000); cognate with Old Saxon *kem-*

bian, *kemmian* to comb, Old High German *kemben*, *chempen*, and Old Icelandic *kemba*, from Proto-Germanic **kamibjan*, from *kamb-* COMB, *n.* Though *kemben* was largely displaced by *comb*, *v.*, and *kemb* appears infrequently after the 1400's, its use has been stimulated lately as a quaint back formation from *unkempt*.

ken *v.* Scottish. to know, recognize, or understand. Probably before 1200 *kennen*; developed from Old English *cennan* make known, declare, acknowledge (about 725, in *Beowulf*). Introduction of the sense of know (in distinction to make known) found in Old English *cunnan* to know, was probably influenced by Old Icelandic *kenna* to know, which is cognate with Old Frisian *kanna*, *kenna* to know, Old Saxon *kennian*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *kennen*, Old High German *chennan*, *kennen*, Middle High German and modern German *kennen*, and Gothic *kannjan* make known; see KEEN. —*n.* 1545, distance one can see, especially at sea; earlier found in *kenning* sight or view (probably before 1400).

kennel *n.* 1301 *kenill*, 1302 *kennel*; borrowed probably from Anglo-French **kenil*, from Old French *chenil*, from Vulgar Latin **canile*, from Latin *canis* dog; see HOUND. —*v.* 1552, to lie in a kennel; from the noun. The meaning of put or keep in a kennel is first recorded in 1592.

keratin *n.* 1847–49, formed in English from Greek *kéras* (genitive *kératos*) HORN + English *-in*².

kerchief *n.* 1223 *kovrechief*; later *curchief* (before 1325) and *kerchief* (before 1387); borrowed through Anglo-French *courchief*, and directly from Old French *couvrechief* a kerchief; literally, cover-head (*couvrir*, *covrir* to COVER + *chief* head). The compounds *neckerchief* (neck + *kerchief*) and *handkerchief* appeared in 1384 and 1530, respectively.

kernel *n.* Probably before 1200 *curnel* kernel of grain; later, any seed (about 1300), and *kernel* (1381); developed from Old English *cyrnel* (about 1000), formed from *corn* seed, grain + *-el* (diminutive suffix); see CORN.

kerosene *n.* 1852, Canadian English; formed from Greek *kēros* wax + English *-ene* (suffix used in names of pure hydrocarbons). Reference to the Greek word for wax comes from the fact that kerosene contains paraffin (in British English kerosene is called *paraffin oil*). Its other name *coal oil* is associated with its original distillation from albertite (a bituminous mineral resembling coal) by Abraham Gesner, who discovered the process about 1846.

kestrel *n.* 1602, variant of earlier *castrell* (before 1500 with development of *t* between *s* and *n*); borrowed probably from Middle French *cresserelle*, *cresselle*, *quercelle*, apparently related to *crecelle*, *crecelle* rattle, from Gallo-Romance **crepicella*, from Latin *crepitācillum* small rattle, diminutive of *crepitaculum* rattle, from *crepitare* to crackle, rattle.

ketch *n.* 1655, variant of earlier *catch* (1443–46), *cacche* (1422), and *cache* (1371–72), probably from *cacchen* to capture, ensnare, chase; see CATCH. For sense development compare YACHT.

ketchup *n.* 1711, borrowed from Malay *kěchap*, perhaps by influence of earlier CATCHUP.

kettle *n.* 1338 *ketil*, *ketel*; developed from Old English *cetil* (before 700, in Mercian dialect); borrowed probably directly from Latin *catillus* small bowl, dish, or plate, diminutive of *catinus* bowl, dish, pot. If the word was borrowed from Latin, it was an early borrowing also found in Old Saxon and Middle Dutch *ketel*, Old High German *kezzil* (modern German *Kessel*), Old Icelandic *ketill* and Gothic *katilē*, pl.

kewpie *n.* 1913, American English; *Kewpie*, an altered and diminutive form of *Cupid*. The name was coined according to their American illustrator "because they look like little Cupids" (Rose C. O'Neill, 1909).

key¹ *n.* small metal piece that operates a lock. Before 1200 *kei*, *keie*; developed from Old English (before 725) *cæg*; cognate with Old Frisian *kēi*, *kāi*, and perhaps with Middle Low German *keie*, *keige* lance, spear, of unknown origin. The figurative meaning of something that unlocks and discloses, solution or explanation, is found in Old English (about 897).

The musical sense of a note, a tone appeared before 1450, but the sense of a scale is not recorded before 1590; originally, perhaps a translation of Latin *clāvis* (or French *clef*), after the solmization system of Guido d'Arezzo, in which *clāvis* meant a note or tone, especially the keynote or tonic.

key² *n.* low island, reef. 1697, borrowed from Spanish *cayo*, from Taino *cayo* or *caya* small island. Both the spelling in English and the borrowing from Spanish were influenced by an association with earlier *key* wharf (about 1200 from Old French *cai*, *kai*).

khaki *n.* 1857, the color khaki or a fabric of this color; borrowed from Urdu *khākī*, literally, dusty, from *khāk* dust, from Persian. Khaki was introduced first in uniforms of a British cavalry force in India (the Guide Corps, 1846). —**adj.** 1863, borrowed from Urdu *khākī*.

kibbutz *n.* 1931, borrowed from modern Hebrew *qibbiṣ*, from Hebrew, a gathering together, from the root of *qibbēš* he gathered together.

kibitz *v.* 1927, American English; borrowed from Yiddish *kibitsen*, from German *kiebitzen* to look on at cards, to kibitz; originally in thieves' cant, to visit, from *Kiebitz* the European pewee (a shore bird), meddler; later, onlooker at cards, from Middle High German *gībitz*, *gīwiz* pewee, of imitative origin.

kibosh *n.* *Slang.* put the kibosh on, dispose of finally; finish off; do in. 1836 *kye-bosk*; of unknown origin.

kick *v.* About 1384 *kiken* strike out with the foot, in the phrase *kiken ayens the pricke* kick against the pricks, with the sense of show disobedience or defiance to one's own hurt; borrowed perhaps from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *kikna* bend backwards, sink at the knees, Norwegian *keike* bend backwards, wrangle; the sense of kick backwards, perhaps appearing in Middle English and thereby making a possible semantic connection). —**n.** 1530, a knock or blow with the foot; from the verb.

kid¹ *n.* young goat. Probably before 1200 *kide*; borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *kidh* young goat, Swedish, Danish, Norwegian *kid*, and Shetland *kid*). The Scandinavian forms are cognate with Middle High German and East Frisian *kitze* young goat, Old High German *kizzī* (modern German *Kitz*, *Kitze*).

The extended meaning of a child, especially a young child, is first recorded as slang usage in 1599; it became established in informal use by 1841.

kid² *v.* 1839, tease playfully, talk jokingly; earlier in thieves' slang, to coax, wheedle, hoax, or humbug (1811); probably from *kid*¹ in the sense of treat as a child; amuse.

kidnap *v.* 1682, probably a compound of *kid*¹ child and *nap* snatch away, an earlier (1673) variant of *nab*. It is also possible that *kidnap* is a back formation from *kidnapper*. Originally, *kidnap* referred to stealing children or carrying off others in order to provide servants or laborers in the American colonies. —**kidnapper** *n.* 1678, formed from *kid*¹ child + *nap* snatch away + *-er*¹.

kidney *n.* Before 1325 *kidenere*; later *kydeneye* (1392); of uncertain origin, but perhaps developed from an unrecorded Old English compound **cydenēore*: the first element of the compound being represented by dialectal English *kid* a pod (related to Old English *cod* a bag, in the form **cyde*, **cydde* belly), from Proto-Germanic **kudjās*; the second element of the compound being Old English **nēora*, found in Middle English *nere* kidney (before 1325). The modern spelling *kidney* developed from Middle English *kideneye* (1392), apparently an alteration of earlier *kidenere*, by association with *ey*, *ei* EGG (from the resemblance of the kidney's shape to an egg).

kill¹ *v.* put to death. Probably before 1200 *cullen* to strike or hit; later, put to death, slay (about 1300); perhaps developed from Old English **cyllan*, related to *cwellan* to kill; see QUELL. —**killer** *n.* 1288, in the surname *Kyller*. —**killjoy** *n.* (1776)

kill² *n.* stream, creek. 1669, American English; earlier, used as the name of a strait (1639); borrowed from Dutch *kil*, from Middle Dutch *kille* riverbed, channel.

killdeer *n.* 1731 *kildeer*, American English; probably imitative of the bird's call.

kiln *n.* Before 1325 *kilne*; developed from Old English (before 800) *cyln*, *cylen*, borrowed from Latin *culīna* kitchen, cooking stove; see CULINARY.

kilo *n.* 1870, short for KILOGRAM.

kilo- a prefix meaning one thousand, as in *kilogram*, *kilometer*, *kilowatt*. Borrowed from French *kilo-*, arbitrary alteration of *khilioi*, French transliteration of Greek *chilioi* (Aeolic *chéllioi*) a thousand.

This prefix was introduced into French in 1795, when the metric system was officially adopted by France. The words *kilogramme* kilogram, and *kilomètre* kilometer, were introduced in French at the same time.

Kilroy *n.* a mythical character of graffiti, developed by U.S.

servicemen during World War II. 1945, especially in the phrase *Kilroy was here*, variously explained as: 1) the name of Sergeant Francis J. Kilroy, Jr. of the U.S. Army Air Transport Command, whose friend or friends kept writing Kilroy's name wherever they went; or 2) the name of James J. Kilroy, an inspector of war materials who wrote his name on equipment he inspected.

kilt *n.* 1746, from the earlier verb *kilt* to tuck up (the skirts), gird up (1513); developed from Middle English *kilten* to tuck up (about 1340); borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Danish *kilte* (*op*) to tuck up, Swedish dialect *kilta* to swathe, Old Icelandic *kjalta* fold made by gathering up a dress, *kilting* billowing fold of a dress, and Old Swedish *kilta* lap).

kilter *n.* Before 1657, variant of earlier *kelter* (1643); of unknown origin.

kimono *n.* 1886, borrowed from Japanese *kimono* (*ki* wear + *mono* thing).

kin *n.* Probably about 1200 *kinn*, *kin* race, people, family, descendants, sex; in the surname *Kinne* (1180), and as found in *cinnes men* (1129); developed from Old English (before 725) *cyn* family, race, kind, nature; cognate with Old Frisian *kenn* kin, Old Saxon *kunni*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *kunne* sex or gender, Old High German *chunni* kin or race, *kind* child (modern German *Kind*), Old Icelandic *kyn* family or race, and Gothic *kuni*, from Proto-Germanic **kunján*. —**kinsman** *n.* 1129 *cinnes man*, later *kinnessmann* (about 1200); formed from English *kin* + *man*. —**kinswoman** *n.* 1330; formed from English *kin* + *woman*.

—**kin** a suffix meaning little, as in *lambkin*, *pipkin*. Middle English *-kin*, probably borrowed from Middle Dutch *-keijn* and *-ken*; cognate with Old Saxon *-kin* diminutive suffix, Middle Low German *-kin*, Old High German *-chîn* (modern German *-chen*).

This suffix appeared in English probably originally in proper names (*Melekin*, 1181); it was also added to common nouns in late Middle English. Some words with *-kin* were borrowed from Dutch or Flemish, such as *bodkin* and *catkin*; others were formed in English, but the diminutive meaning is often no longer perceived, as in *napkin* (fundamentally, *nap*, nape cloth and *-kin*, *-kyn* diminutive; thus, little cloth).

kind¹ *adj.* friendly, doing good rather than harm. About 1250 *kind*, *kinde* natural, native, related by kinship; later, benevolent, kind (about 1325); developed from Old English *gecynde* natural, native, innate (about 725, in *Beowulf*) originally, with the feelings that relatives have, from Proto-Germanic **zakundijáz*, from *gecynd*, *cynd* nature, KIND². —**kindly** *adj.* Before 1325 *kyndli*; earlier *kuindeliche* (before 1275); developed from Old English *cyndelic* (before 899); formed from *cynd* nature + *-lic* -ly; —**adv.** Before 1325 *kindli*; earlier *kinde-like* (about 1250); developed from Old English *gecyndelice*, formed from *gecynde* kind² + *-lic* -ly².

kind² *n.* class, sort, variety. Probably about 1200 *kinde* nature, character, type, class; developed from Old English *gecynd*, *cynd*

kind, nature, race (before 899); related to *cynn* family, KIN, and developed from Proto-Germanic **[ga-]kundi*.

kindergarten *n.* 1852, borrowed from German *Kindergarten*, literally, children's garden (*Kinder* children, plural of *Kind* child + *Garten* GARDEN). A kindergarten was established in England in 1850 by Johannes Ronge, a German Roman Catholic priest.

kindle *v.* Probably about 1200 *kindelen*, *kindlen*; borrowed probably from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *kynda* kindle, *kyndill* a candle, torch, Old Swedish *quindla* kindle), of unknown origin; for suffix see -LE³. —**kindling** *n.* (1513)

kindred *n.* Probably before 1200 *kinrede*, *kinreden*; formed from *kin* KIN + *-rede*, *-reden*, from Old English *ræden* condition or rule, related to *rædan* to advise, rule, explain, READ.

The present spelling is infrequently recorded in Middle English, in which it was probably influenced by *kinde* KIND² class, sort; but the modern *kindred*, that became common in the 1600's, is probably the result of phonetic intrusion of *d* between *n* and *r*, as in *thunder*. —**adj.** 1530, from the noun.

kinesthetic *adj.* 1880 *kinaesthetic*; from New Latin *kinaesthesia* (from Greek *kinēin* to move and *alsthēsis* sensation) + *-ic*, on the pattern of *aesthetic*, *prosthetic*.

kinetic *adj.* 1864, borrowed from Greek *kinētikós* moving, from *kinēin* to move; for suffix see -IC. —**kinetic energy** (1870)

king *n.* Before 1121 *king* chief ruler, monarch; developed from Old English (before 725) *cyning*, also later contracted to *cyng*; cognate with Old Frisian *kening*, *kening* king, Old Saxon *kuning*, Middle Dutch *coninc* (modern Dutch *koning*), Old High German *kuning*, *kunig* (modern German *König*), Old Icelandic *konungr*, *kongr*, Old Danish *konung*, *konung* (modern Danish and Norwegian *konge*, and Swedish *konung*, *kung*). It is possible that in Old English the form for *king* is derived from *cynn* family, race, KIN + *-ing* one descended from (the literal meaning being descendant or scion of the race). Another view is that Old English *cyning* derived from Proto-Germanic **kuningaz* one who descended from noble birth. —**kingdom** *n.* About 1250, developed from Old English (about 725) *cyningdōm* (*cyning* king + *-dōm* -dom).

kinin *n.* substance that causes dilation of blood vessels and contraction of smooth muscles. 1954, apparently abstracted from *bradykinin* (1949, from Greek *bradys* slow + *kin-*, abstracted from Greek *kinētikós* KINETIC + English *-in*²). In botany, a substance that promotes cell division and regulates growth in plants (1956); also called *cytokinin* (1965).

kink *n.* 1678, originally a nautical term; borrowed from Dutch *kink* twist in a rope; cognate with Middle Low German *kinke* kink, and Old Icelandic *kikna* bend at the knees. The figurative sense of odd notion or mental twist is first recorded in American English, in 1803. —**v.** 1697, from the noun. —**kinky** *adj.* 1844, American English, twisted or curly; formed from English *kink* + *-y*¹. The meaning of morally

twisted or perverted is first recorded in 1959, as an extension of the sense eccentric or crotchety (1859).

kiosk *n.* 1625, borrowed from French *kiosque*, from Turkish *köşk* pavilion, palace, from Persian *gōše* corner.

kipper *n.* 1326 *kipre*, *kypre* cured fish; developed from Old English (before 1000) *cypera* male salmon, probably related to *coper* reddish-brown metal, COPPER¹, with reference to the color of the fish. —*v.* 1773, from the noun.

kirk *n.* About 1200 *kirke*; borrowed probably from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *kirkeja* church, Norwegian and Danish *kirke*, Swedish *kyrka*; see CHURCH).

kismet *n.* 1834, borrowed from Turkish *kismet*, from Arabic *qisma*, *qismat* portion, lot, fate, from the root of *qasama* he divided.

kiss *v.* About 1175 *cussen* (in Southwestern Dialect of England); about 1250 *kissen* (in Midland Dialect of England); developed from Old English (about 750) *cyssan* to kiss; cognate with Old Frisian *kessa* to kiss, Old Saxon *kussian*, Middle Dutch *cussen* (modern Dutch *kussen*), Old High German *kussen* (modern German *küssen*, probably from the noun), Old Icelandic and Swedish *kyssa*, Norwegian and Danish *kysses*; from Proto-Germanic **kussijanan*, from **kuss-*, the root of Old English *coss* kiss, Old Frisian *kos*, Old Saxon *kus*, Middle Dutch *cus*, *cuss*, Dutch *kus*, Old High German *kus*, *kuss* (modern German *Kuss*), and Old Icelandic *koss*. —*n.* Probably before 1400 *kiss*, alteration (by association with *kissen*, *v.*) of earlier *coss* (probably before 1200); found in Old English *coss* kiss (about 950).

kit *n.* 1275, in compound *kittewritt* kitwright or maker of kits (wooden tubs or buckets); later *kytt*, *kyt* (1362); borrowed probably from Middle Dutch *kitte* jug, tankard, wooden container; of uncertain origin. The meaning of soldier's supplies carried in a knapsack is first recorded in 1785. The meaning of parts of an article to be assembled by the buyer was known in the 1930's.

kitchen *n.* Probably before 1200 *kuchene* room where food is cooked; later *kichene* (about 1300); developed from Old English (about 1000) *cykene*; borrowed probably from Vulgar Latin **coquina*, variant of Latin *coquina* kitchen, from feminine of *coquūnus* of cooks, from *coquus* cook, from *coquere* to COOK.

It is also likely some Germanic languages borrowed a common West Germanic form **kokina*, providing the source for Middle Low German *kokene* kitchen, Middle Dutch *cokene* (modern Dutch *keuken*), and Old High German *chuhhina* (modern German *Küche*).

kite *n.* Probably before 1325 *kite* kind of hawk; earlier *kete* (probably before 1300); developed from Old English *cȳta* (before 800); cognate with Middle High German *kūze* owl (modern German *Kauz*), probably both named from the cries they make, and Middle Low German *kūten* to chatter (modern German *Köter* cur). The meaning of a light wooden frame covered with cloth, paper, or plastic, flown in the air by means of a long string, is first recorded in 1664.

The meaning of a fictitious check, bill of exchange, etc., is

first recorded in 1805 in the phrase *to fly a kite*, to raise money or credit by issuing commercial paper on nonexistent funds. —*v.* 1863, from the noun. The meaning of to issue bogus commercial paper is first recorded in 1839 in American English.

kith *n.* Probably before 1200 *cuththe* one's native land, countrymen, neighbors, friends; developed from Old English *cȳthth*, *cȳththu* native country, home, from *cūth* known, past participle of *cunnan* to know. Old English *cȳththu* is cognate with Old High German *chundida*, from Proto-Germanic **kunthithō*. The phrase *kith and kin* (originally with the meaning of country and kinsmen) is found about 1230.

kitten *n.* About 1378 *kitoun*, probably borrowed from an Anglo-French variant of Old French *chitoun*, *cheton*, from *chat* cat, from Late Latin *cattus* CAT.

kitty¹ *n.* kitten. 1719, formed from English *kitt(en)* + *-y²*, perhaps by influence of *kitty* a girl or young woman (1500–20), and a pet form of the name *Catherine*.

kitty² *n.* pool or fund of money. 1887, money pooled by players in a card game to defray expenses, probably formed from English *kit* a container or a collection of necessary supplies (1833) + *-y²*.

kiwi *n.* 1835, borrowed from Maori *kiwi*, of imitative origin. —**kiwi fruit** an edible fruit originally imported from China. The name is first recorded in American English in 1966, but probably originated in New Zealand, where it was known as *Chinese gooseberry* (1925).

kleptomania *n.* 1830, New Latin *kleptomania*, formed from Greek *kleptēs* thief (from *kleptein* to steal) + *manīa* madness, MANIA.

klutz *n.* 1967 (but known before 1965, as in *klutzy*, etc.), American English; borrowed from Yiddish *klots* clumsy, awkward person; literally, block or lump, from Middle High German *kloz*, *klotzes* lump or ball (modern German *Klotz* boor, clod).

knack *n.* 1369 *knakke* deception, stratagem, trick; of uncertain origin, though suggestive of German *knacken* to solve a puzzle or problem, to crack, etc. The meaning of a special skill or aptitude is first recorded in 1581.

knapsack *n.* 1603, borrowed from Low German *Knapsack* (probably from *knappen* to eat + *Sack* bag; compare Dutch *knapsak*).

knave *n.* Probably before 1200 *cnave* rogue, rascal, boy; later *knave* (probably about 1225); developed from Old English (about 1000) *cnafa* boy, male servant; cognate with Old High German *knabo* boy (modern German *Knabe*). —**knavery** *n.* 1528; formed from English *knave* + *-ery*. —**knavish** *adj.* About 1390; formed from English *knave* + *-ish*.

knead *v.* About 1150 *cneden*; later *knedden* (probably before 1300); developed from Old English *cnedan* (about 950); cognate with Old Saxon *knedan* to knead, Middle Dutch *cneden* (modern Dutch *kneeden*), Old High German *knetan* (modern

German *kneten*), Old Icelandic *knodha* to knead (from Proto-Germanic **kneðanan*, **kneðanan*), *knott* ball, sphere.

knee *n.* Probably before 1300 *knee*, *kne*; developed from Old English (about 725) *cnēo*, *cnēow*; cognate with Old Saxon *keuo*, *knio* knee, Old Frisian *kni*, *knē*, Middle Dutch *cnie* (modern Dutch *knie*), Old High German *kneo* (modern German *Knie*), Old Icelandic *knē*, and Gothic *knīu*, from Proto-Germanic **knewan*. —**v.** Before 1225 *knewen* bend the knee, kneel; developed from Old English (about 1000) *cnēowian*, from *cnēo(w)* knee.

kneel *v.* Probably before 1200 *cnelen*, *cnolen*; later *knelen* (probably before 1300); developed from Old English (before 1000) *cnēowlian*, from *cnēow* KNEE. Old English *cnēowlian* is cognate with Middle Low German *knēlen* kneel and Middle Dutch *cnelen* (modern Dutch *knien*).

knell *v.* About 1350 *knellen*, variant of *knullen* to knell, (also) to beat, knock (probably before 1325, in Southwest Midland dialect) and later *knyllen* (probably before 1400, in East Midland dialect); developed from Old English *cnyllan* to knell (about 950); cognate with Middle High German *erknellen* to toll, *knüllen* to beat, and Old Icelandic *knýlla* to beat, thrash. —**n.** Before 1325 *knell*, variant of *knell*, found in Old English (about 961) *cnyll* sound of a bell, from *cnyllan* to knell.

knickers *n. pl.* 1881, shortened from earlier *knickerbockers* (1859). These trousers are said to be so called for their resemblance to the knee breeches of the Dutchmen in illustrations to *History of New York* (1809), a book penned by Washington Irving under the name Diedrich Knickerbocker, in allusion to Irving's friend Herman Knickerbocker, of Schaghticoke, near Albany, New York.

The name *Knickerbocker* also came to be popularly applied in American English by 1831 to any New Yorker, especially one descended from the original Dutch settlers.

knickknack *n.* 1682, from earlier *knickknack* a petty trick, artifice (1580), varied reduplication of KNACK in the original sense of stratagem, trick.

knife *n.* About 1300 *knif*; developed from Late Old English *cnif* (before 1100); borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *knifr*, Norwegian, Swedish, and Danish *kniv*). Old English *cnif* is cognate with Middle Low German *knif* knife (modern German *Knife* pocket knife), Middle Dutch *knijf*, and obsolete Dutch *knijf* knife from Proto-Germanic **knīfaz*. —**v.** About 1865, from the noun.

knight *n.* Probably before 1150 *knicht* youth, attendant, military servant, knight; later *Knight* (1241, as a surname); developed from Old English (before 725) *cnicht* boy, youth, servant, (rarely) soldier; earlier *cēapneht* a purchased youth, a young slave (about 700). The Old English forms *cnicht* and *-neht* are cognate with Old Frisian *knecht*, *kniucht* boy, youth, servant, soldier, Old Saxon *kneht*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *Knecht* manservant, footman, and Old High German *kneht* boy, youth, page (modern German *Knecht* manservant, serf, slave). For shift in spelling see note at FIGHT. —**v.** Probably 1225 *knigheten*, from *knight*, *n.* —**knighthood** *n.* Probably

about 1225 *knighthod*; formed from Middle English *knigt* + *-hod* -hood, but also found in Old English *cnihthād* period between childhood and manhood.

knit *v.* About 1150 *cniten*; later *knutten* (probably before 1200), and *knyttan* (about 1300); developed from Old English *cnyttan* to tie with a knot, bind, fasten (about 1000); cognate with Middle Low German *knutten* knit, fasten, Middle High German *knützen* to press, and Old Icelandic *knyttja* bind together; related to *knútr* KNOT. The figurative sense of join closely together, is first recorded about 1375; that of make cloth by looping yarn together, in 1530.

knob *n.* 1373 *knobe*; cognate with Old Frisian *knopp*, *knapp* knob, Middle Low German *knobbe* knob, gnarl, bud, Middle Dutch *cnoppe* (modern Dutch *knop*), Old High German *knopf* (modern German *Knopf* button), Norwegian *knubb* block of wood, and Old Icelandic *knýfill* short horn.

knock *v.* Probably before 1300 *knoken* to strike or hit; developed from Old English (about 1000) *cnocian* and *cnucian*, possibly of imitative origin. —**n.** About 1333–52 *knocke*, from *knoken* to knock. —**knocker** *n.* Before 1382, formed from Middle English *knoken* + *-er*.

knoll *n.* Probably about 1250 *knol*; earlier as a surname *Knolle* (1203); developed from Old English *cnoll* hilltop, small hill, before 899; cognate with Middle High German *knolle* clod, lump, tuber (modern German *Knolle*, modern Dutch *knol* tuber, turnip), Old Icelandic *knollr* mountaintop, Norwegian *knoll* tuber, and Swedish *knöl* bump, knot, knoll.

knot *n.* Probably about 1200 *cnotte*; later *knotte* (about 1300); developed from Old English (about 1000) *cnotta*; cognate with Old Frisian *knotta* knot, Middle Low German *knutte* knot, knob, Dutch *knot* knot, and Middle High German *knotte* a knotty excrescence, from Proto-Germanic **knuttan*—earlier **knuðnan*—. The spelling *cnot* was known by 1154 in place names, such as *Cnotlinid* and that of *knotte* before 1200, in *Thorneknotte*. —**v.** Probably 1440 *knotten*; developed from *cnotted* having knots, full of knots; adjective (1137), from *cnotte*, *n.* + *-ed*. —**knotty** *adj.* Probably about 1200 *cnotti*, *knotti* puzzling, intricate, difficult (figurative use); formed from English *knot*, *n.* + *-y*.

know *v.* Probably before 1200 *cnowen*; later *knowen* (probably about 1225); developed from Old English *cnāwan*, past tense *cnēow* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old High German *chnān*, as in *bichnān*, *irchnān* to know, recognize, and Old Icelandic *knā* I can, from Proto-Germanic **knāwjan*. —**n.** in the know. having inside information. 1883, from earlier *know* fact of knowing, knowledge (1592); from the verb. —**knowledge** *n.* Before 1121 *cnawlece* acknowledgment; later *knowlych* (1303), *knoweche* (about 1330), and *knowledge* (probably before 1400); formed from *knowen* + *-lych*, *-leche*, *-lege* noun suffixes serving some functions of *-ness*, as found in forms with a variant ending, such as in *godleiche*, *godlece* goodness, kindness.

knuckle *n.* Probably 1388 *knokel* finger joint; earlier *knokil* fist; cognate with Old Frisian and Middle Low German *knokel*

knuckle, Middle Dutch *knökel* (modern Dutch *kneukel*), Middle High German *knöchel* (modern German *Knöchel*). All forms cited are diminutives probably derived from the same Germanic root as Middle Low German *knoke* bone, Middle High German *knoche* (modern German *Knochen*), Dutch *knook*, *knok* bone, knuckle, from Proto-Germanic **knuk-*; for suffix see -LE¹. —**v.** 1740, put the knuckles on the ground in playing marbles (in *knuckle down*); from the noun. The meaning of to apply oneself earnestly to (in *knuckle down to*) is first recorded in 1864 in American English. The meaning of give in, submit (in *knuckle under*) is first recorded in 1740.

knurl *n.* 1608, probably a diminutive of earlier *knur* knot (1545); developed from Middle English *knor* hard excrescence, swelling (probably about 1400); cognate with Middle Low German *knorre* hard swelling, knot, Middle Dutch *knorre* (modern Dutch *knor*), Middle High German *knorre* (modern German *Knorren*), and Old High German *chniurig* knotty, rough, rigid, from Proto-Germanic **knur-*.

koala *n.* 1808, borrowed from the aboriginal name of the animal, recorded at various times and in various places in Australia as *koola*, *kiilla*, and *kiilā*.

kohlrabi *n.* 1807, borrowing of German *Kohlrabi*, alteration of Italian *cavoli rape*, plural of *cavolo rapa* kohlrabi (*cavolo* cabbage, from Latin *caulis* cabbage, and *rapa* turnip, from Latin *rāpa*).

kola or **cola** *n.* 1830, variant of earlier *cola* (1795); of African origin (compare Temne *kola*, Mandingo *kolo*).

kook *n.* 1959, odd, cranky, or crazy person; American English; possibly a shortened and altered form of CUCKOO. —**kooky** *adj.* (1959)

Koran *n.* 1615 *Korran*, 1735 *Koran*; borrowed from Arabic *qur'ān*, *qur'ān* a reading, recitation, book, from the root of *qara'a* he read, recited.

kosher *adj.* 1851, borrowing of Yiddish *kosher*, from Hebrew *kāshēr* fit, proper, lawful. The informal meaning of legitimate, correct, proper, was first recorded in 1896, though perhaps earlier as this extended sense has been known in German student slang since 1737.

kowtow *n.* 1804 *koo-too* former Chinese custom of touching the ground with the forehead to show respect or submission, borrowing of Chinese *k'o-t'ou*, literally, knock the head. The meaning of an act of slavish submission is first recorded in 1834. —**v.** 1826, from the noun.

Kremlin *n.* 1662 *Cremelena*, borrowed from Old Russian *kremliñū*; later *Kremelin* (1796), borrowed from earlier German *Kremelin* (now *Kreml* after modern Russian *kremli'*). The Old Russian *kremliñū*, *adj.*, derived from *kremli* citadel, fortress, related to *krōma* slice, *kremén'* flint.

krill *n.* 1907, borrowed from Norwegian *kril* small fry of fish.

krypton *n.* 1898, borrowing of Greek *kryptōn*, neuter of *kryptós* hidden; so called from its being a rare gas, forming a minute part of the atmosphere.

kudos *n.* 1831 (implied earlier in *kudos'd* praised, used by Southey in 1799); borrowed from Greek *kýdos* glory, fame, renown. *Kudos* was originally a singular noun in English, as it was in Greek, but because of the final -s it came to be construed as a plural, which led to the appearance in 1941 of the singular form *kudo*, derived by back formation from *kudos*.

Ku Klux Klan 1867 *Kuklux Klan*, American English; formed in English supposedly from alteration of Greek *kýklos* circle + English *clan*.

kumquat *n.* 1699 *camquit*, from Chinese (Cantonese) *kamkwat* (*kam* golden + *kwat* orange).

kung fu 1966, borrowing of dialectal Chinese *kung fu*, literally, boxing method.



la *n.* Before 1300, borrowed, probably through Italian, from Medieval Latin *la*, from the initial syllable of Latin *labii* of the lip, the word sung to this note in the Hymn for St. John the Baptist's day; see GAMUT.

label *n.* Probably about 1300 *lable* narrow band with pendants on a coat of arms; borrowed from Old French *label* ribbon, fillet, fringe, possibly from Frankish (compare Old High German *lappa* flap; see LAP¹ flap). The meaning of a strip of

material attached to a document to hold an appended seal is first recorded before 1400; the more generalized meaning of a tag or sticker is found as early as 1679. —**v.** 1601, from the noun.

labial *adj.* 1594, borrowed from Medieval Latin *labialis* having to do with the lips, from Latin *labium* LIP.

labium *n.* 1597 (plural *labia*); borrowing of Latin *labium* LIP.

labor *n.* Before 1325 *labour* task, project; later, exertion, toil, work (before 1375); borrowed from Old French *labour*, learned borrowing from Latin *labor* toil, pain, possibly related to *lābī* to slip, glide, fall; see LAP¹. The sense of physical exertions of childbirth, was introduced from Latin (1595). —*v.* Before 1376 *labouren*; borrowed from Old French *labourer*, *laborer*, learned borrowing from Latin *labōrāre* to work, toil, suffer, be in distress, from *labor* toil, pain. —**laborer** *n.* (probably before 1350) —**laborious** *adj.* Before 1393, diligent or industrious; later, requiring hard work, burdensome (about 1415); borrowed through Old French *laborieux*, and directly from Latin *labōriōsus* full of labor, toilsome, from *labor* toil, pain; for suffix see -IOUS.

laboratory *n.* 1605, borrowed from Medieval Latin *laboratorium* a place for labor or work, from Latin *labōrāre* to work, LABOR; for suffix see -ORY.

labyrinth *n.* 1548, in the figurative sense of a confusing, complicated state of affairs; earlier *laberynth* maze (1408) and *laboryntus* (about 1380); both forms in allusion to the labyrinth of Greek mythology built to contain the Minotaur; borrowed from Latin *labyrinthus*, from Greek *labyrinthos*, a word of the pre-Greek culture designating a structure that was Egyptian, Cretan, or of Asia Minor. Some have compared the Greek word to Lydian (an Anatolian language related to Hittite) *lābrys*, meaning a double-edged axe, symbol of royal power; hence a labyrinth may have been a royal structure or palace.

lac *n.* 1618, perhaps borrowed from Middle French *lace*, but found also in Middle English as *lacca* (probably about 1425); borrowed from Hindi *lākh*, perhaps originally so called from the color of salmon. Related to LACQUER and LAKE². See also SHELLAC.

lace *n.* Before 1325 *lace* cord for tying; also *laas* (before 1382), developed from earlier *laz* (about 1230); borrowed from Old French *las*, *laz* a net, noose, string, from Latin *laqueus*, a trapping and hunting term meaning noose, snare.

The sense of a net in an ornamental pattern is first recorded in English in 1555. The earlier sense of a cord for tying is now retained chiefly in reference to shoe or boot laces. —*v.* Probably before 1200 *lacen* fasten with a lace; borrowed from Old French *lacier*, from Latin *laqueāre* ensnare, from *laqueus* noose or snare. —**lacy** *adj.* 1804, formed from English *lace* + -y¹.

lacerate *v.* Probably before 1425 *laceraten*; borrowed from Latin *lacerātus*, past participle of *lacerāre* tear to pieces, mangle, from *lacer* torn, mangled; for suffix see -ATE¹. —**laceration** *n.* 1597, borrowed perhaps through Middle French *laccération*, from Latin *lacerātiōnem* (nominative *lacerātiō*), from *lacerāre* lacerate; for suffix see -ATION.

laches *n.* Before 1376 *laches*, *lachesse* laziness, negligence; borrowed through Anglo-French *lachesse*, Old French *laschesse*, from *lasche* lax, lazy, from *laschier* let go, loosen; see LUSH¹, *adj.* The specific legal sense of negligence in performing a duty is first recorded in English in 1574.

lachrymal or **lacrimal** *adj.* Probably before 1425 *lacrimal*; borrowed from Medieval Latin *lacrimalis*, from Latin *lacrima*

tear (earlier *lacruma*); for suffix see -AL¹. The spelling *ch* arose from the practice of substituting it for *c* before *r* in Latin words, such as ANCHOR.

lachrymose *adj.* 1661, tearlike; later, tearful, sorrowful (1727); borrowed from Latin *lacrimōsus* tearful, doleful, from *lacrima* tear, see LACHRYMAL; for suffix see -OSE¹.

lack *n.* Before 1300 *lac*, *lakke*; later *lak* (about 1300); probably developed from an Old English **lac*; cognate with Middle Low German *lak* lack, fault, slack, loose, Old Frisian *lek* disadvantage, damage, *lakia* to oppose, dispute, and Old Icelandic *laker* lacking, from Proto-Germanic **laka-*. —*v.* Before 1225 *lacen*; later *laken* (about 1250), and *lacken* (about 1325); probably from the noun in Old English. —**lackluster** *adj.* 1600, formed from English *lack*, *v.* + *luster*.

lackadaisical *adj.* 1768, affectedly languishing; formed from English *lackadaisy*, interj., alas, *alack* (1748) + suffix -ical. *Lackadaisy* is an alteration of the earlier *lack-a-day* (1695), a shortened and altered form of the phrase *alack the day* (1592). Perhaps the shift in meaning to languid was influenced by *lax*.

lackey *n.* 1529, borrowed from Middle French *laquais*, probably from Old Provençal *lacai*, from *lecai* glutton, covetous, from *lecar* to lick. The figurative sense of servile follower, toady, appeared in English in 1588. —*v.* 1568, from the noun.

laconic *adj.* 1583, of or pertaining to Laconia or its inhabitants; 1589, in the Laconian manner, brief, concise; a shortened form of earlier *laconical* (1576), and possibly influenced by Middle French *laconique*. Both the English and French forms were borrowed, probably through Latin *Lacōnicus* Laconian, from Greek *Lakōnikós*, from *Lākōn* a Laconian (person from the ancient district of Laconia in southern Greece whose capital was Sparta); for suffix see -IC.

Reference to the brevity of speech, characteristic of Laconians appears in the record of English in 1570 in the form *Laconism* the habit of imitating the Laconians in brevity of speech.

lacquer *n.* 1673 *lacker*, borrowed from obsolete French *lacre* a kind of sealing wax, from Portuguese *lacre*, from *lacca* resinous substance, lac, from Arabic *lakk*, from Persian *lak*, from Sanskrit *lāksā*; see LAC. The spelling *lacquer* was influenced by French *laque* lake². An earlier sense of dye obtained from lac, is recorded in 1579. Related to LAC, LAKE², and SHELLAC. —*v.* 1687 *lackered*, participial adjective; 1688 *lacquer*, from the noun.

lacrosse *n.* 1718, in American English; borrowed from Canadian French *la crosse* the game of lacrosse; originally, the racket used in the game; literally, the hooked stick, the crosier.

lact- a form of *lacto-* before vowels, as in *lactiferous*.

lactation *n.* 1668, act of suckling a baby; later, secretion of milk (1857); borrowed through French *lactation*, from Late Latin *lactātiōnem* (nominative *lactātiō*), from Latin *lactāre* suckle, from *lac* (genitive *lactis*) milk; for suffix see -ATION. —**lactate** *v.* 1889, probably a back formation from *lactation*; for suffix see -ATE¹.

lacteal *adj.* 1658, formed in English as if borrowed from Latin *lacteus*, from *lac* (genitive *lactis*) milk; for suffix see -AL¹.

lactic *adj.* 1790 *lactic acid* an acid obtained from sour milk; borrowed from French *lactique*, formed from Latin *lactis* (genitive of *lac* milk) + French *-ique* -ic.

lacto- a combining form meaning milk, as in *lacto-globulin*, or lactic acid, as in *lactobacillus*. Borrowed from Latin *lac* (genitive *lactis*) milk.

lactose *n.* 1858, formed in English from Latin *lactis* (genitive of *lac* milk) + English suffix *-ose*².

lacuna *n.* 1663, borrowed from Latin *lacūna* hole or pit, from *lacus* (genitive *lacūs*) pond, LAKE¹.

lad *n.* Probably before 1300 *ladde* foot soldier; later, young male servant, man of low social position, vagabond (about 1300); and boy or youth (before 1338); possibly borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Danish and Norwegian *askeladd*, literally, ash lad, referring to the youngest son in a folk tale who pokes in the ashes, and Norwegian *tusseladd* pale, insignificant-looking person, weakling; literally, fairy lad).

ladder *n.* About 1175 *læddre*; later *laddere* (probably before 1300); developed from Old English *hlæder* (971). The Old English form is cognate with Old Frisian *hlēdere*, *hlādder* ladder, Middle Dutch *lēder* (modern Dutch *leer*, also *ladder*, from Frisian), Middle Low German *ledder*, Old High German *leitara* (modern German *Leiter*), and dialectal Danish *lejre* ladder, from Proto-Germanic **Hlaidrī*.

lade *v.* Probably about 1200 *laden* to draw water; later, to load (about 1250); developed from Old English *hladan* to load, heap, draw water (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *hlada* to load, Old Saxon *hladan*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *laden*, and Old Icelandic *hladha*, from Proto-Germanic **Hlad-*; also with Old High German *hladan*, *ladan* (modern German *laden*), and Gothic *afhlathan*, from Proto-Germanic **Hlath-*. —**laden** *adj.* 1595, from *laden*, past participle of *lade* to load.

ladle *n.* About 1300 *ladel*, developed from Old English (before 1000) *hlædel*, from *hladan* to load, LADE; the suffix *-le* expresses the sense of an appliance or tool, as in *thimble*. —**v.** About 1532, from the noun.

lady *n.* Before 1121 *læfdige* female ruler; later *lavedi*, *levedi* (about 1300), and *ladi* (probably about 1350); developed from Old English *hlāfdie* mistress of a household, wife of a lord; literally, one who kneads a loaf or loaves (before 830); earlier *hlæfdige* (about 750, a compound of *hlāf* bread, LOAF¹ + *-dige*, related to *dæge* maker of dough, from *dæg* DOUGH).

lag *v.* 1530 move too slowly, fall behind; developed from earlier *lag*, *n.* the last or hindmost person (1514), found in the Middle English compound *lag-mon* last man (probably about 1390); possibly borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Norwegian dialect *lagga* go slowly). —**laggard** *adj.* 1702, formed from English *lag*, *v.* + *-ard*; —**n.** 1808, from the adjective.

lager *n.* 1855, American English, short for *lager beer* (1854), half translation of German *Lagerbier* (*Lager* storehouse, bed, LAIR + *Bier* BEER).

lagoon *n.* 1612 *laguna*, later *Lagune* (1673), both forms in reference to Italian places, especially around Venice; borrowed through French *lagune*, and directly from Italian *laguna* pond, lake, from Latin *lacūna* pond, hole, from *lacus* (genitive *lacūs*) pond, LAKE¹; for suffixal ending see -OON.

lair *n.* About 1410 *leire* place where an animal takes shelter, from earlier *leir* bed, couch (probably before 1200); developed from Old English *leger* act or place of lying down (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *leger* situation, Old Saxon *legar* bed, Middle Dutch *lēgher*, *lēghere* act or place of lying down (modern Dutch *leger* bed, camp), Old High German *legar* bed, a lying down (modern German *Lager* bed, lair, camp, storehouse), Old Icelandic *legr* grave, nuptials (as a lying down together), from Proto-Germanic **lezran*.

laird *n.* Before 1325, northern Middle English *lavered*; later, Scottish *lard* (about 1450), northern variants of *lord*, *loverd* LORD.

laity *n.* Before 1415 *laite*, formed in Middle English from *lay*² + *-ity*.

lake¹ *n.* body of water. Before 1121 *lac*; later *lake* (probably before 1300), in part developed from Old English *lacu* body of water (944), and in part borrowed from Old French *lac*. Both Old English *lacu* and Old French *lac* were borrowed from Latin *lacus* (genitive *lacūs*) pond or lake.

lake² *n.* deep-red coloring matter obtained from lac. 1616, probably borrowed through French *laque*, from Old Provençal *laca*, from Arabic *lakek*; see LACQUER.

larn *n.* 1897, as in *on the lam*; from the verb meaning of run away; of unknown origin, sometimes compared with *lam* to beat (as in LAMBASTE), but no apparent connection can be established.

lama *n.* 1654, borrowed from Tibetan *blama* (with unsounded *b*). —**lamasery** *n.* 1867, borrowed from French *lamaserie* (*lama*, from Tibetan *blama* + *-serie*, probably from Persian *sarāi* inn, as in French *caravanseraï*, 1686).

lamb *n.* Old English (about 858) *lamb*; earlier *lomb* (about 725); cognate with Old Frisian *lamb* lamb, Old Saxon *lamb*, Middle Low German *lam*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *lam*, Old High German *lamb* (modern German *Lamm*), Old Icelandic *lamb* (Swedish *lamm*, Danish *lam*), and Gothic *lamb*, from Proto-Germanic **lambaz*. —**v.** 1611, from the noun.

lambaste *v.* 1637, probably formed from English *lam* (1589, in *lamback*); probably borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Icelandic *lama* bruise, and Old Icelandic *lemja* to beat, lame) + BASTE³ to thrash.

lambda *n.* About 1400, borrowing of Greek *lámdba*, from a Semitic source (compare Hebrew *lāmedh* the twelfth letter of the Hebrew alphabet). Mostly appearing in scientific usage, in such terms as *lambda point* (physics, 1932), *lambda virus* (genetics, 1965) etc.

lambent *adj.* 1647, borrowed from Latin *lambentem* (nominative *lambēns*), present participle of *lambere* to lick; for suffix see -ENT. The sense of shining with a soft, clear light, is first recorded in 1717, and that of playing lightly and brilliantly over a subject, in 1871.

lame *adj.* About 1175 *lame*; developed from Old English (about 750) *lama*; cognate with Old Frisian *lam*, *lom* lame, Old Saxon *lamo*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *lam*, Old High German *lam* (modern German *lahm*), Old Icelandic *lami*, from Proto-Germanic **lamōn*. —**v.** About 1300 *lamen* to injure, wound, disable; from the adjective. —**lame duck** 1761, disabled person or thing; later, in American English, a public official who has been defeated for reelection and is serving the last part of his term, in 1863.

lamella *n.* 1678, borrowing of Latin *lāmella*, diminutive of *lāmīna* thin plate, LAMINA.

lament *v.* Before 1450 *lamenten* to regret, be sorry for; later *lament* express grief (1530); borrowed from Middle French *lamenten* to moan, bewail, and directly from Latin *lāmentārī*, from *lāmentum* a wailing, related to *lātrāre* to bark or cry. —**n.** 1591, borrowing of Middle French *lament*, and probably borrowed directly from Latin *lāmentum*. Also possibly a noun use of the verb in English. —**lamentable** *adj.* Before 1420, borrowing of Middle French *lamentable*, and borrowed directly from Latin *lāmentābilis*, from *lāmentārī* to lament; for suffix see -ABLE. —**lamentation** *n.* Before 1382 *lamentacioun*, borrowing of Old French *lamentation*, and borrowed directly from Latin *lāmentātiōnem* (nominative *lāmentātiō*), from *lāmentārī* to lament; for suffix see -ATION.

lamina *n.* 1656, borrowing of Latin *lāmīna* thin piece of metal or wood, plate, leaf, layer. —**laminare** *v.* 1665, to beat or roll into a succession of bonded plates or layers; formed from English *lamina* + -ate¹. —**lamination** *n.* 1676, formed from English *laminare* + -ion.

lamp *n.* About 1200 *lampe* oil lamp, light; borrowing of Old French *lampe*, from Latin *lampas*, from Greek *lampás* torch, lamp, beacon, meteor, light, from *lámpein* to shine. —**lamp-light** *n.* (probably about 1380)

lampoon *n.* 1645, borrowed from French *lampon*, of uncertain origin; possibly from *lamponner*, *v.*, or from *lampons* let us drink (a popular refrain of satirical drinking songs of the 1600's), from *lamper* to drink or guzzle; for suffix see -oon. —**v.** Before 1657, either from the noun in English, or borrowed from French *lamponner* scoff or jeer at, from Middle French *lamponner*.

lamprey *n.* About 1300 *laupre*; earlier as a surname *Lampre* (1199); borrowed from Old French *lampreie*, from Medieval Latin *lampreda*. The Medieval Latin word may be an alteration (influenced by Latin *lambere* to lick) of Late Latin *naupreda*, *nauprida* lamprey, perhaps a Gaulish borrowing; or it may have an uncertain relationship to Late Latin *lampetra* lamprey; literally, lick rock, from Latin *lambere* to lick + *petra* rock, in reference to their habit of attaching themselves to rocks by their suckerlike mouths.

lanai *n.* Before 1869, borrowing of Hawaiian *lānai* shed, shelter, booth, porch. An earlier spelling, *ranai*, is recorded in 1823 and 1826.

lance *n.* Probably before 1300 *launce* horseman's spear; earlier as surname *Lance* (1198–99); borrowed from Old French *lance*, from Latin *lancea* light spear. —**v.** Probably about 1300 *launcen* to throw, thrust, pierce; later *lancen* (before 1338); borrowed from Old French *lancier*, from Late Latin *lanceāre* wield a lance, pierce with a lance, from Latin *lancea* spear.

lancet *n.* 1392 *launcet*, later *lancet* (probably before 1425); borrowed from Old French *lancette* small lance, diminutive of *lance* LANCE; for suffix see -ET.

land *n.* Old English *land*, *lond* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *land*, *lond* land, Old Saxon *land*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *land*, Old High German *lant* (modern German *Land*), Old Icelandic, modern Scandinavian, and Gothic *land*, from Proto-Germanic **landan*. —**v.** Probably about 1225 *londen* bring to land, set ashore; later *landen* (probably before 1400); from the noun.

landscape *n.* 1603, a picture of a land scene; borrowed from Dutch *landschap*, from Middle Dutch *landscap* region (*land* LAND + -*scap* -SHIP); cognate of Old English *landscepe* region (though no such term appears in Middle English); cognate of Old Saxon *landscepi*, Old High German *lantscaf* (modern German *Landschaft*), and Old Icelandic *landskapr*. —**v.** 1927, from the noun. An earlier meaning of represent as a landscape, depict, appeared in 1868.

lane *n.* Probably about 1300 *lane*; earlier, as a surname (1176); found in Old English (971) *lane*, *lanu* narrow, hedged-in road or way; cognate with Old Frisian *lane*, *lone* lane, Middle Dutch *lāne* (modern Dutch *laan*), and Old Icelandic *lōn* oblong hayrick, row of houses; of unknown origin.

lang syne or **langsyne** *adv.* 1500–20, a compound of *lang* long and *syne* since, Scottish variants of Middle English *lang* LONG and *sin*, contraction of *sithen*, *sithens* SINCE. —**n.** 1788.

language *n.* About 1280 *language* what is said, talk; later *langue* (about 1330); borrowed from Old French *langage*, from *langue* tongue, language, from Latin *lingua* TONGUE; for suffix see -AGE. The sense of speech of a nation, tongue, is first found in Middle English about 1300. The form with *u* developed in English through Anglo-French, from assimilation with French *langue* in Middle English.

languid *adj.* 1597, borrowed from Middle French *languide*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *languidus* faint, listless, from *languēre* be weak or faint.

languish *v.* Before 1325 *languishen* fail in strength, weaken; borrowed from Old French *languiss-*, stem of *languir* be listless, from Vulgar Latin **languire*, from Latin *languēre* be weak or faint, see LAX¹ loose; for suffix see -ISH².

languor *n.* Probably before 1300 *langour* sickness or misery; later *languor* (about 1350); borrowed from Old French *languor*, *langour*, from Latin *languor* faintness, feebleness, lassitude, from *languēre* be weak or faint; for suffix see -OR¹. The sense of lack of energy, feebleness, was first recorded in English in 1656.

lank *adj.* Probably about 1150 *lonke*; later, in a surname *Lank* (1294); developed from Old English (before 1000) *hlanc*, from Proto-Germanic **Hlankaz*. Old English *hlanc* is cognate with Old High German *hlanca* loin, side, flank, Middle High German *lenken* to bend (modern German *lenken* to guide), and Old Icelandic *hlykkir* bend, noose, loop. —**lanky** *adj.* 1670, (of hair) straight and flat; later, awkwardly tall and thin (1818); formed from English *lank* + *-y*¹.

lanolin *n.* 1885, borrowed from German *Lanolin*, from Latin *lāna* WOOL + *oleum* OIL + *-ina* *-in*².

lantern *n.* About 1250 *lanterne* lamp or lantern; borrowed from Old French *lanterne*, from Latin *lanterna*, from Greek *lampṓr*, from *lámpein* to shine.

lanthanum *n.* 1841, New Latin, from Greek *lanthánein* to lie hidden, escape notice; so called because the element was found concealed in oxide of cerium.

lanyard or **laniard** *n.* 1626, short rope used on ships to fasten rigging, perhaps an alteration of Middle English *lainer* thong for fastening parts of armor or clothing (about 1330); later *lanjoure* (1425); borrowed from Old French *laniere*, *lasniere*, from *lasne* strap, thong. Old French *lasne* was apparently an alteration (influenced by *las* LACE) of **nasle* lace, represented by dialectal French (Walloon) *nale* ribbon, from Frankish (compare Old High German and Old Saxon *nestla* lace, strap, band, Old Frisian *nestla* lace, band, Middle Dutch *nestel*, from Proto-Germanic **nastila-*, related to Middle Dutch *nette* NET¹ fabric). The later appearance (1626) may have been a re-borrowing from French rather than an alteration of Middle English *lanier*. The spelling of English *lanyard* was influenced by YARD² a long beam used to support a sail. Compare HAL-YARD.

lap¹ *n.* Probably before 1300 *lappe* lower part of a shirt; also, front part from the waist to the knees of a person sitting down; developed from Old English *leppa* skirt or flap on a garment, lappet (before 899); cognate with Old Frisian *lappa* flap, Old Saxon *lappo* end, rag, Middle Dutch *lappe* (modern Dutch *lap* rag, patch), Old High German *lappa* flap (modern German *Lappen* rag, cloth), and Old Icelandic *leppr*, from Proto-Germanic **lapp-* (earlier **lapn-*). The figurative sense of a place where anything rests or is cared for (as in *the lap of luxury*) is first recorded in 1531.

lap² *v.* to lay one partly over another. Probably before 1325 *lappen* to coil, fold, wrap, from *lappe* flap, LAP¹. The sense of overlap is first recorded in 1607. —**n.** 1673, something coiled or wrapped up; from the verb. The meaning of one of a turn around a track to complete a course is first recorded in 1861 (though the verb sense is found in 1841).

lap³ *v.* lick with the tongue. Before 1325 *lapien* to drink by lapping; developed from Old English (about 1000) *lapien*, from Proto-Germanic **lapōjanan*. Old English *lapan* is cognate with Old High German *laffan* to lick, Old Swedish *lapa* and Icelandic *leppja* to lap, Old Saxon *lepil* spoon, Middle Low German *lepel*, Middle Dutch *lepel* (modern Dutch *lepel*), and Old High German *leffil* (modern German *Löffel*). The mean-

ing of splash gently, is first recorded in 1823. —**n.** 1567, something lapped; from the verb.

lapel *n.* 1789, implied earlier in *lapelled* (1751); formed from English LAP¹ flap on a garment + *-el*, diminutive suffix. Compare LAPPET.

lapidary *n.* About 1380 *lapidarie* treatise on precious stones; also, before 1382, person who cuts or polishes precious stones; borrowed, probably through Old French *lapidaire*, from Latin *lapidārius* stonemason; originally, adjective, of or working with stone, from *lapis* (genitive *lapidis*) stone; for suffix see *-ARY*.

lapis lazuli *n.* Before 1425, borrowed, probably through Old French *lapis lazuli*, from Medieval Latin, a compound of Latin *lapis* stone and Medieval Latin *lazuli*, genitive of *lazulum* lapis lazuli, from Arabic *lāzuward* azure; compare AZURE.

lappet *n.* Probably about 1425 *lappette* lobe of the lungs or the liver; later, flap or fold (1573); formed from Middle English *lappe* (modern English *lap*) LAP¹, flap on a garment + *-et*, diminutive suffix.

lapse *n.* 1440 *laps* an elapsing of time; later *lapse* moral transgression, sin (before 1500), and slight mistake (before 1526); borrowed from Middle French *laps* lapse, from Latin *lapsus* a slipping and falling, flight (of time), a falling into error, from *labi* to slip, glide, fall; see LAP¹ front part. The legal sense of ending of a right or privilege because of neglect is first recorded about 1447. —**v.** Probably before 1425 *lapsen* (of a humor) to deviate from the normal; later, (of time) to go by (about 1443); borrowed from Latin *lapsāre* lose one's footing, slip, related to *lapsus* a slipping and falling. The meaning of fall into error, is first recorded in English in 1611.

lapwing *n.* About 1350 *lapwunge*, alteration by folk etymology, which connected the word with *lap*³, *v.* and *wing*, *n.*, of Old English (about 1050) *hlēapewince* (*hlēapan* to LEAP + *-wince* totter, waver, related to *wincian* to WINK); so called from its irregular, flapping manner of flight.

larboard *n.* Perhaps before 1583 *lerbord*, *larborde*, alteration of Middle English (probably about 1380) *ladde-borde* the loading side (*laden* to load, LADE + *bord* ship's side, BOARD). —**adj.** 1495, from the noun.

larceny *n.* theft. Before 1475, borrowed through Anglo-French *larcin* + English *-y*³, from Old French *larrecin* theft, from Latin *latrōcinium* robbery, from *latrō* (genitive *latrōnis*) hireling, mercenary, bandit, from a lost Hellenistic **latrōn* mercenary, formed from Greek *latron* pay, hire, wages.

larch *n.* 1548, borrowed from German *Lärche*, from Middle High German *larche*, *lerche*, from Latin *larix* (genitive *laricis*).

lard *n.* 1231, as an English word in a Latin context; borrowed from Old French *larde* bacon fat, and directly from Latin *lārdum*, *lāridum* lard. —**v.** Before 1338 *larden*, borrowed from Old French *larder*, from *larde* bacon fat. The figurative sense of intersperse or garnish (speech or writing), is first recorded in 1549.

larder *n.* About 1300, a supply of meat; later, a place for

storing meat (1380); borrowed through Anglo-French *larder* a place for meats, corresponding to Old French *lardier* a tub for meats, from Medieval Latin *lardarium* a room for meats, from Latin *lārdum* lard.

large *adj.* Probably before 1200, abundant, ample, roomy; also, liberal or generous, lavish; borrowing of Old French *large*, from Latin *lārgus* abundant, copious, of uncertain origin. The sense of extensive, is first recorded before 1325; big, huge, about 1385. —**largely** *adv.* Probably before 1200 *largeliche*; formed from Middle English *large* + *-liche* *-ly*¹.

largess or **largesse** *n.* Probably before 1200, quality of being generous; also, liberal bestowal of gifts; borrowed from Old French *largesse* a bounty, from *large* LARGE.

lariat *n.* 1832, American English; borrowed from Spanish *la reata* the rope (*la* the + *reata* rope, from *reatar* tie again, *re-* again + *atar* to tie, from Latin *aptāre* to join).

lark¹ *n.* songbird. About 1275, as a surname *Larke*; earlier, in the place name *Lauerkesfeld* (1184–85), and *laverche* (probably about 1200); developed from Old English *lāwerce* (about 700); cognate with Frisian *liurk* lark, Old Saxon *lēwerka*, Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *lēwerke* (modern Dutch *leuwerik*), Old High German *lērihha* (modern German *Lerche*), Old Icelandic *lævirkri*, Swedish *lārka*, Danish and Norwegian *lerke*, from Proto-Germanic **laiw(a)rikōn*.

lark² *v.* to frolic. 1813, possibly a shortened form of *skylark*, *skylarking* to participate in rough play, originally among sailors, and especially carried on in the rigging of a ship (1809). The verb *lark* was probably also influenced by its earlier noun use. —**n.** 1811, possibly a shortened form of *skylark*, as in *skylarking*, *vbl. n.*

Possibly reinforced by northern British English *lake* to play or sport, developed from *leyken*, *laiken* to engage in sport or play (probably before 1200); borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *leika* to play, Swedish *leka*, Danish *lege*). The connection with *lake* (found also as *lairk*) may be through the shift in pronunciation with an intrusive *r*-sound common to southern British English.

larva *n.*, pl. **larvae** 1768, New Latin, special use of Latin *lārva*, earlier *lārua* ghost, mask. The word was applied to the immature form of the insect by Linnaeus, because it masked the adult form.

Earliest use of *larva* in English was in the sense of a ghost or specter (1651).

laryngeal *adj.* 1795, formed in English from New Latin *laryngeus* (from Greek *lārynx*) + English *-al*¹. —**laryngitis** *n.* 1822–34, New Latin; formed from Greek *lārynx* (genitive *lāryngos*) + *-itis* inflammation.

larynx *n.* 1578, borrowed through Middle French *larynx*, from New Latin, from Greek *lārynx* (genitive *lāryngos*) the upper windpipe, probably altered from *laimós* throat, under the influence of *phārynx* throat, windpipe.

lascar *n.* 1625; borrowed from Portuguese *lachar* (erroneously *laschar*), probably from Hindi *lashkāri* soldier, native sailor,

from *lashkar* army, camp, from Persian *laskar*, from Arabic *al-ʿaskar* the army.

lascivious *adj.* About 1450, borrowed perhaps through Middle French *lascivieux*, from Late Latin *lascīviōsus*, from Latin *lascīvia* lewdness or playfulness, from *lascīvus* lewd or playful; for suffix see *-OUS*.

laser *n.* 1960, acronym formed from *l(ight) a(mplification by) s(timulated) e(mission of) r(adiation)*, on the pattern of the earlier (1955) MASER. —**lase** *v.* 1962, back formation from LASER.

lash¹ *n.* whip. Probably before 1300 *las* a blow or stroke; later *lashe* flexible part of a whip (about 1380), possibly of imitative origin. —**v.** Probably before 1300 *laisen* to strike out, throw, or move violently; later *lasschen* to whip or flog (before 1398); possibly of imitative origin, as the noun.

lash² *v.* bind. 1624, developed from *lasschyn* to lace a garment (1440); probably borrowed from Middle French *lachier*, from Old French *lacier* to LACE.

lass *n.* About 1300 *lasce*, later *las*, *lasse* (about 1390); possibly borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *lǫsker* idle, weak, Old Swedish *lask kona* unmarried woman, literally, one without a fixed dwelling); cognate with West Frisian *lask* light, thin, and dialectal German *lasch* slack or weak.

lassitude *n.* Probably before 1425, borrowed from Middle French *lassitude*, from Latin *lassitūdō* faintness or weariness, from *lassus* faint, tired, weary; for suffix see *-TUDE*.

lasso *n.* 1819, American English; borrowed from Spanish *lazo*, from Latin *laqueum*, accusative of *laqueus* noose, snare. —**v.** 1807, American English.

last¹ *adj.*, *adv.* ending. Probably before 1200 *leaste*; also *laste*, *latste* (probably about 1200); developed from the contraction of Old English *latost* (from Proto-Germanic **latast-*) and Old English, *laetst* (from Proto-Germanic **latist-*), found before 899. The Old English forms are superlatives of *laet*, *adj.* and *late*, *adv.* and correspond to Middle Dutch *laetst* last (modern Dutch *laatst*), Old High German *lazzost*, *lezzist* (modern German *letzt*), and Old Icelandic *lasta* slowest. —**n.** Probably before 1200 *laste*; from the adjective.

last² *v.* endure. 1122 *laesten*; later *lasten* (1137); developed from Old English *lāestan* to continue, endure (possibly about 750); earlier, accomplish, carry out (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *lāsta*, *lesta* to fulfill, Old Saxon *lēstian* to perform, Old High German and modern German *leisten* to perform, carry out, and Gothic *laistjan* to follow, from Proto-Germanic **laistijanan*; all derived from the same Germanic source as Old English *lāst* track, footprint; see LAST³.

last³ *n.* shoemaker's block. Before 1300 *leste*; later *laste* (1395); developed from Old English *lāste* (about 1000), from earlier *lāst* track, footprint, trace (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *leest* form, model, last, Old High German *leist* (modern German *Leisten* last), Old

Icelandic *leistr* trouser leg, sock, and Gothic *laists* footprint, from Proto-Germanic **laistaz*.

latch *v.* Probably before 1200 *lecchen* catch, ensnare; later *lacchen* (about 1250), and *latchen* (before 1338); developed from Old English *læccan* to grasp or seize (about 950), from Proto-Germanic **lakkijanan*. The sense of fasten with a latch is first recorded in 1440. —**n.** 1296–97 *lacche* (English word in Latin context); later *latche* (about 1350); from *lacchen* to catch.

late *adj.* Probably before 1200 *let* slow or sluggish; later *lat*, *late* tardy, remiss (about 1225); developed from Old English *læt* late, slow, sluggish (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *let* late, Old Saxon *lat* lazy, Middle Low German *lat*, Middle Dutch *laet* (modern Dutch *laat* late), Old High German *laz* slow (modern German *lass* indolent, weary), Old Icelandic *latr* sluggish, lazy (Swedish, Norwegian *lat*, Danish *lad*), Gothic *lats*, from Proto-Germanic **latás*. —**adv.** Probably before 1200 *late*; found in Old English *late* (about 750); from *læt*, *adj.*

latent *adj.* 1459, concealed or secret; borrowed through Middle French *latent*, and directly from Latin *latentem* (nominative *latēns*), present participle of *latēre* to lie hidden; for suffix see -ENT. The meaning (of a disease) dormant, is first recorded in 1684.

lateral *adj.* Probably before 1425 *lateralis*; borrowed through Middle French *latéral*, and directly from Latin *lateralis* belonging to the side, from *latus* (genitive *lateris*) side. —**n.** 1635, from the adjective.

latex *n.* 1662, body fluid; borrowed from Latin *latex* (genitive *laticis*) liquid, fluid, probably from Greek *látax* (genitive *látagos*) dregs. The sense of a milky liquid from plants is first recorded in 1835.

lath *n.* 1281–82 *lathe* (English word in Latin context); later *lathie* (before 1393); probably developed from Old English **læththe*, variant of *lætt* lath; cognate with Old Saxon *latta* lath, Middle Dutch *latte* (modern Dutch *lat*), and Old High German *latta* (modern German *Latte*), apparently from Proto-Germanic **laththō*.

lathe *n.* 1310, device used by coopers, perhaps a turning lathe; probably borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Danish *-lad* stand, supporting framework, as in *drejelad* turning lathe, and Old Icelandic *hladh* pile built up as from the shavings of a lathe, related to *hladha* to load, LADE). The first reference to a turning lathe is found in 1611.

lather *n.* 1583, probably redeveloped in modern English from the Middle English verb. A noun is found in Old English (about 1000) *leathor* washing soda, lather; cognate with Old Icelandic *laudhr* foam, washing soda, from Proto-Germanic **lauþran*. —**v.** About 1450 *latheren* to wash or soak clothes, alteration of earlier *liþeren*, *letheren* be bathed in, be covered with foam, sweat, etc. (probably about 1200); developed from Old English *lēþran*, *lþþran* to cover with lather (about 950); cognate with Old Icelandic *leydhra* to clean, wash.

Latin *n.* About 1275 *latyn*, possibly from the adjective, and

rarely found in Old English *latin* (about 950); borrowed from Latin *Latīnum*. The Old English form in general use was *læden* (before 899), also found in Middle English, and altered from earlier **læden*, from Vulgar Latin **Ladīnum*, a variant of Latin *Latīnum*, having arisen from a confusion with *lēden*, *lūden*, *lōden* language, probably in the compound *bōc-lēden* book language, which was formed by popular etymology as a synonym for *læden*. —**adj.** About 1391 *Latin*, found in Old English *latin* (about 950); borrowing of Latin *Latīnus* belonging to Latium, the part of Italy that included Rome.

Latino *n., adj.* 1946, American English; borrowing of American Spanish *Latino*, shortened form of Spanish *Latinoamericano* Latin-American.

latitude *n.* About 1390, breadth, width, geographical latitude; borrowed through Old French *latitude*, and directly from Latin *lātītūdō* breadth, width, extent, size, from *lātus* wide; for suffix see -TUDE. The figurative sense of an allowable degree or range of variation is first recorded probably before 1425.

latrine *n.* 1297 *laterin* a privy, probably borrowed from Latin *lātrīna*, contraction of *lavātrīna* washbasin, washroom (*lavāre* to wash + *-trīna* suffix denoting a workplace). The word disappeared from the record of English and is not found again until 1642 as a borrowing from French (usually in the plural form *latrines*), learned borrowing from Latin *lātrīna*.

latter *adj.* About 1175 *lator*, *later*; later *latter*, *adj.* and *adv.*, at a later time (probably about 1200); developed from Old English *lætra*, *lator* slower (about 1000), comparatives of Old English *læt* LATE, and corresponding to Old Frisian *letora* latter, Middle High German *lazzter* slower, and Old Icelandic *latari*. The meaning of second of two is first recorded in 1555.

lattice *n.* 1304 *lattis*; later *latyce* (probably about 1450); borrowed from Old French *latte* lath, from Frankish (compare Old High German *latta* LATH).

laud *v.* About 1378 *lauden*, borrowed from Old French *lauder*, from Latin *laudāre* to praise, from *laus* (genitive *laudis*) praise, fame, glory; probably cognate with Old English *lēoth* song, poem, hymn, Middle Dutch *liet* (modern Dutch *lied*), Old High German *liod* (modern German *Lied* song), Old Icelandic *ljōdh* strophe, stanza, from Proto-Germanic **leuthan*. —**n.** About 1375 *laude* praise or fame; borrowed from Old French *laude*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *laudem* (nominative *laus*) praise, glory, fame. The plural form *lauds* a morning church service with psalms of praise to God is first recorded as *laudes* (1340); borrowed through Old French *laudes* and directly from Medieval Latin, from Latin *laudēs*, plural of *laus* praise, glory, fame. —**laudable** *adj.* Probably before 1425, borrowed from Old French *laudable*, and from Latin *laudābilis* praiseworthy, from *laudāre* to praise; for suffix see -ABLE. —**laudatory** *adj.* 1555, borrowed from Middle French *laudatoire*, and directly from Late Latin *laudatōrius* of praise, from Latin *laudātor* praiser, from *laudāre* to praise; for suffix see -ORY.

laudanum *n.* 1543, borrowed through Middle French *laudanum*, and directly from New Latin *laudanum*, a word used

by Paracelsus for a medicine supposed to contain opium. The origin of the word is uncertain, though it may have been confused with *ladanum*, borrowed from Latin *lādanum* a gum resin.

laugh *v.* Probably before 1200 *lahhen*; later *laughen* (about 1375); developed from Old English *hlæhhan* (before 830); earlier *hlīhhan* (before 725); cognate with Old Frisian *hlakkeia* to laugh, Old Saxon *hlahhan*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *lachen*, Old High German *hlahhan*, *lahhēn* (modern German *lachen*), Old Icelandic *hlēja* (Swedish, Danish, and Norwegian *le*), and Gothic *hlahjan*, from Proto-Germanic *HlaHjanan.

The original sound, as represented by *gh* in *laugh*, *cough*, *rough*, etc., was like that of Scottish *loch* or German *ach*. As the pronunciation shifted to the sound of *f* in *off*, the spelling of some words also changed to reflect this process, as in *dwarf*, *draft* (for *draught*), etc.; but some spellings remained fixed. —*n.* 1690, act of laughing, laughter; later, instance of laughing (as in *a hearty laugh*, 1713); from the verb. —**laughter** *n.* Probably before 1200 *lahtre*; later *laughter* (about 1385); developed from Old English *hleahtr* (about 725, in *Beowulf*), corresponding to Old High German *lahtar* laughter, Old Icelandic *hlātr*, from Proto-Germanic *HlaHtraz.

launch¹ *v.* propel. Probably before 1300 *launchen* to leap, spring, rush; later, to throw, hurl (about 1330); borrowed from Old North French *lancer*, *lanchier*, corresponding to Old French *lancer*, *lancier* to fling, throw, from Late Latin *lanceare* wield a lance, from Latin *lancea* light spear, LANCE.

The sense of set afloat, is first recorded probably before 1400, and that of start, set going, set out (as in *to launch an enterprise*), is recorded in 1602. —*n.* 1440 *launche* a leap or bound; from the verb.

launch² *n.* boat. 1697, largest boat carried by a warship; borrowed from Spanish and Portuguese *lancha* barge or launch, apparently from Malay *lanchāran*, from *lanchār* quick, agile. The English spelling was probably influenced by *launch*¹.

launder *v.* 1664, from the noun *launder* one who washes, especially linen (1440), contraction of earlier *lavender* (about 1325), also found as a surname *Lavendre* (1227); borrowed from Old French *lavandier* *lavandiere* washer, from Medieval Latin *lavandaria* a washer, from Latin *lavanda* (things) to be washed, from *lavāre* to wash; for suffix see -ER¹. The meaning of make seem lawfully gained or acceptable, is first recorded in 1970. —**laundry** *n.* Before 1450 *laundre* act of washing; earlier *lavendrye* place for washing (about 1378); borrowed from Old French *lavanderie*, from *lavandier*, *lavandiere* washer; for suffix see -RY.

laureate *adj.* About 1375, borrowed from Latin *laureātus*, from *laurea* laurel crown, laurel tree, from feminine of *laureus* of laurel, from *laurus* LAUREL; for suffix see -ATE³. The term *poet laureate* is first found in 1429, though *laureat poete* is to be found in Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*. —*n.* Before 1529, from the adjective.

laurel *n.* 1373 *laureol*, later *laurel* (about 1415); borrowed from Latin *laureola* small laurel branch, from *laurus* laurel tree.

lava *n.* 1750, borrowing of Italian *lava*, from dialectal Italian (Neapolitan or Calabrian) *lava*, of uncertain origin (by traditional etymology, from Latin *lavāre* to wash, originally in Italian from a rivulet caused by sudden downpour of rain, 1611). Italian etymologists derive the word from Latin *lābēs* a fall, from *lābī* to fall.

lavatory *n.* Before 1382 *lavorie*, *lavatory* washbasin; borrowed from Latin *lavātōrium* place for washing, from *lavāre* to wash; for suffix see -ORY. The meaning of a washroom is first recorded in English in 1656.

lave *v.* Archaic. to wash, bathe. Probably before 1200 *laven* to wash, bathe; formed in part by: 1) development from Old English *gelafian* wash by pouring, pour, as water, etc. (about 725, in *Beowulf*); possibly an early borrowing from Latin *lavāre*, *lavere* to wash; and 2) by probable influence in form and meaning of Old French *laver* to wash, from Latin *lavāre*, and perhaps reinforced by Latin *lavāre* itself.

lavender *n.* 1373 *lavandyr*, borrowed through Anglo-French *lavendre*, from Medieval Latin *lavendula*, *livendula* lavender, perhaps derived from Latin *lividus* bluish, LIVID; probably later associated with French *lavande* and Italian *lavanda* lavender, from *lavanda* a washing (so called because of its use in washing and to perfume distilled water), from *lavare*, from Latin *lavāre* to wash, bathe, from the plant's use as a bath perfume. —*adj.* pale-purple. 1840, from the noun.

lavish *adj.* 1469 *laves* outpouring, unrestrained, profuse, prodigal; later *lavas* (1485); possibly developed as an adjective use of earlier *lavas*, *n.*, profusion, extravagant outpouring (not recorded before 1483); borrowed from Middle French *lavasse*, *lavache* torrent (of rain), deluge, from *laver* to wash, from Latin *lavāre* to wash; for suffix see -ISH¹. It is also possible that **lauessh* existed as a parallel form, implied in *lauesshenes* lavishness (about 1477). —*v.* give or spend without stint. 1542, from the adjective.

law *n.* Probably about 1200 *lawe*; developed from Old English (before 1000) *lagu*; borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *lög* law, collective plural of *lag* layer, measure, stroke; literally, something laid down or fixed). The Scandinavian forms correspond to -*lag* in Old Saxon *gilag* decree, fate, *orlag* fate, war, and Old High German *urlag* fate, from Proto-Germanic **lagan*. The semantic development from "something laid down" to "decree, law" is also found in German *Gesetz* law, from *setzen* to set down, and outside Germanic in Latin and Greek. —**lawbreaker** *n.* (1440 *lawe brekare*) —**lawful** *adj.* (about 1300, as a surname 1230). —**lawless** *adj.* (before 1268) —**lawmaker** *n.* (about 1475) —**lawman** *n.* 1535, a lawyer; later, law-enforcement officer (1865); a magistrate of a borough or town (1130–35, in Anglo-Latin *lagamannus*); possibly influenced by Old Icelandic *lögmann*.

lawn¹ *n.* grassy ground. 1548 *laune* glade, open space between woods; developed from *launde* (probably before 1300); borrowed from Old French *lande* heath, moor, from Gaulish (compare Breton *lann* heath, and Old Irish *land* open space;

see LAND). The meaning of grassy ground, kept mown, is first recorded in 1733. —**lawn mower** (1869)

lawn² *n.* thin linen or cotton cloth. 1416 *lawnd* (possibly by confusion with the spelling *launde* glade, open ground), and *lawn* (1423); probably from *Laon* a city in France, long a center of linen manufacture.

lawrencium *n.* 1961, a New Latin formation based on the name of Ernest O. Lawrence (an American physicist, 1901–1958, who founded the laboratory where this element was discovered) + *-ium*.

lawyer *n.* Probably 1383 *lawiere* one skilled in the law (found earlier in the surname *Lawyer*, 1336); formed from Middle English *lawe* LAW + *-iere* *-ier*. The spelling with *y* is first recorded in 1611.

lax¹ *adj.* loose, slack. 1373 *lax* loose or open; later, not strict, careless, negligent (about 1450); borrowed from Latin *laxus* wide, loose, open. —**laxity** *n.* 1528, borrowed from Middle French *laxité*, learned borrowing from Latin *laxitatem* (nominal *laxitās*), from *laxus* loose, LAX¹; for suffix see *-ITY*.

lax² *n.* salmon. Before 1200 *lex*, also in the place name *Lexemer* (1187); later *lax* (about 1300); developed from Old English *leax*, *læx* (before 800); cognate with Old Saxon, Middle High German, and Old High German *lahs* salmon (modern German *Lachs*), and Old Icelandic, Swedish *lax*, Norwegian and Danish *laks*, from Proto-Germanic **laHs-*. Related to LOX.

laxative *n.* 1373 *laxatife*, borrowed as a noun use from Old French *laxatif*, *adj.*, learned borrowing from Medieval Latin *laxativus* loosening, from Latin *laxare* loosen, from *laxus* loose, LAX¹; for suffix see *-IVE*. —**adj.** 1373 *laxatife* having freely moving bowels, not constipated; later, making the bowels move (before 1387); borrowed from Old French *laxatif*.

lay¹ *v.* put or set down. About 1150 *leyen*, *leggen*; developed from Old English *leggan* put down (before 725); cognate with Old Frisian *lega*, *leia* to cause to lie, lay, Old Saxon *leggian*, Middle Dutch *legghen* (modern Dutch *leggen*), Old High German and modern German *legen*, Old Icelandic *leggja* (Swedish *lägga*, Danish *lægge*, Norwegian *legge*), and Gothic *lagjan*, from Proto-Germanic **laġjanan*, causative of LIE². —**n.** 1558, act of laying a tax; from the verb. The meaning of way in which a thing is laid or lies (as in *the lay of the land*) is first recorded in 1819.

lay² *adj.* of ordinary people; not of the clergy or a profession. About 1303 *lai* secular; later *lay* unlearned, uneducated (before 1338); borrowed from Old French *lai*, from Late Latin *laicus*, from Greek *laikos* of the people, from *laos* (earlier *laōs*) people. —**layman** *n.* (probably about 1425) —**laywoman** *n.* (1529)

lay³ *n.* short poem to be sung. Before 1250 *lai* a song or lyric; later *lay* short poem to be sung (probably before 1300); borrowed from Old French *lai*, of uncertain origin; possibly from a Celtic source (compare Irish *laid* song, poem).

layer *n.* Before 1382 *leyer* one who lays stones for a building, a

mason; earlier *legger* (1282); formed from *leggen*, variant of *leyen* to lay¹ + *-er*. The sense of thickness of matter laid over a surface, is first recorded in 1615. —**layer cake** (1881)

layette *n.* 1839, borrowing of French *layette*, from Middle French *layette* chest of drawers, from *laie* drawer or box, from Middle Dutch *laeye*; for suffix see *-ETTE*.

lazar *n.* Probably about 1300 *lazer*; also in the surname *Lazur* (1280); borrowed from Medieval Latin *lazarus* leper, from Late Latin *Lazarus*, name of the beggar full of sores described in the New Testament.

lazy *adj.* 1549 *laysy* disliking work, idle, slothful; origin uncertain, possibly borrowed from Middle Low German *lasich* weak, feeble, tired; cognate with Middle High German *erleswen* grow weak, Old Icelandic *lasinn* weak, slack, limp, Gothic *lasiws* weak —**laze** *v.* About 1588; back formation from LAZY. —**lazybones** *n.* (1592)

-le¹ a suffix forming nouns found in the names of tools and utensils, as in *handle*, *thimble*, *kettle*, and in the names of articles worn to accomplish a purpose, as in *bridle*, *girdle*. In words such as *bundle* the purpose of *-le* and its relationship to the base form is unclear.

The suffix had also a diminutive sense in Old English, which is found in words such as *nozzle* and *bramble*, but this has lost its force in modern English (compare use as a frequentative form in Middle English and modern English *-le*³).

Modern English *-le* developed from Middle English *-el*, *-ele*, and is also found in Middle English *-le*, all of which developed from or are found in Old English noun suffixes *-ela*, *-ele*, *-le*, *-l*; cognate with Old Frisian *-le*, Old Saxon and Old High German *-al*, *-la* (modern German *-el*), Old Icelandic *-al*, *-ill* and Gothic *-ils*.

-le² a suffix forming adjectives with the meaning of liable (to do something) or apt (to be something), as in *fickle* and *brittle*, and usually having no obvious significance as a particle because the root forms from Middle and Old English are no longer recognizable.

Modern English *-le* developed from Middle English *-el*, *-ele*, and is also found in Middle English *-le*, all of which developed from Old English adjective suffixes *-ol*, *-ul*, *-el*; cognate with Old Frisian *-ol*, *-el*, Old Saxon and Old High German *-al*, *-il*, and Gothic *-ils*, *-uls*.

-le³ a suffix forming (frequentative) verbs as in *sparkle*, *wriggle*, *paddle*, *bubble* and earlier sometimes having a diminutive sense. A few modern examples exist from Old English, including *nestle*, *twinkle*, and *wrestle*, but most such words are of Middle and modern English formation, as the imitative words *babble*, *crackle*, *giggle*, and *mumble*.

Modern English *-le* developed from Middle English *-elen*, *-len*, both of which developed from Old English *-lian*; cognate with Old Frisian *-lia*, Old Saxon and Old High German *-lōn*, and Old Icelandic *-la*.

This suffix is equivalent in sense to *-er*⁴, as in *clatter*, *jabber*, *putter*.

lea *n.* About 1230 *lehe*; later *leie* (before 1250); developed from

Old English (about 779) *-lēah* meadow, clearing, untilled land; earlier *-lēch* (before 735) recorded in place names such as *Pærgalæch*, *Godmundeslēah*, and cognate with Old Frisian *lāch* meadow, Old Saxon *lōh* woods, Old High German *lōh* grove, and Old Icelandic *-lō* (Norwegian *lo*) clearing or meadow, from Proto-Germanic **lauHaz*. After the Old English period, the word is chiefly found in poetical or rhetorical use.

leach *v.* 1796, probably developed from the noun (but traditionally said to come from Old English *leccan* to moisten). —**n.** 1397, *leche* in *lechecomb* a tub for soaking; probably developed from *lech*, *leche* muddy ditch or stream (1389, and as a surname, about 1100); developed from Old English **læc*, **lece*, **læce*, **lece*, from *leccan* to moisten; see LEAK.

The meaning of act or process of leaching, derived from the verb and is first recorded in 1828.

lead¹ *v.* guide. 1125 *leden*, developed from Old English (before 725) *lædan* cause to go with one, lead; cognate with Old Frisian *lēda* to lead, Old Saxon *lēdian*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *leiden*, Old High German and modern German *leiten*, and Old Icelandic *leidha*, from Proto-Germanic **laidijanan*. —**n.** Before 1325 *lede* leading, guidance, from the verb. The meaning of the place in front, place of a leader, is first recorded in 1570. Related to LOPE, LOAD. —**leader** *n.* About 1300 *ledere*, formed from Middle English *leden* to lead + *-er*¹.

lead² *n.* metal. Probably before 1200 *laed*; later *led* (before 1300); developed from Old English *lēad* (about 750); cognate with Old Frisian *lād* lead, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *lood*, Middle High German *lōt* (modern German *Lot* plummet), from Proto-Germanic **laudan*. The art of using this metal and its name were borrowed by the Germanic peoples from the Celts. —**v.** 1390 *leden* to cover with lead (but found earlier in past participial use *leadet* weighted with lead, probably before 1200); from the noun.

leaf *n.* Before 1225 *lef*, *leaf*; developed from Old English (before 725) *lēaf* leaf of a plant, page of a book; cognate with Old Frisian *lāf* leaf of a plant, Old Saxon *lōf*, modern Dutch *loof*, Old High German *loub* (modern German *Laub* foliage), and Old Icelandic *lauf* leaf (Danish, Norwegian *løv*, Swedish *löv*), from Proto-Germanic **lauban*. —**v.** put forth leaves. 1611, from the noun. Compare earlier LEAVE³.

league¹ *n.* association. 1561, formed from: 1) *liege* a pact, agreement (1418); borrowed from Middle French *ligue*, from Italian *liga*, variant of *lega*, and 2) probably in its later spelling *league* directly by influence of Italian *lega*, from *legare* to tie or bind, from Latin *ligāre* to bind; see LIGAMENT. —**v.** 1611, from the noun.

league² *n.* distance of about 3 miles. Before 1387 *lege*; borrowed from Provençal *lega* or Old French *legue*, and directly from Late Latin *leuga*, *leuca*, from Gaulish.

leak *v.* Before 1398 *lyken* lose liquid; later *leken* to run off or leak away (probably 1440); probably borrowed from Middle Dutch *leken* to drip or leak; cognate with Old Icelandic *leka* to drip or leak, Middle High German *lechen* to crack from

drought, become leaky (modern German *lecken* to leak), and Old English *leccan* to moisten. —**n.** 1487 *leke* hole causing a leak; probably from the verb in English, and as a borrowing from Middle Dutch *lec*, *lek*, related to *leken* to drip.

lean¹ *v.* to slant. Probably before 1200 *lenen*, *leonen*, *leoniens*; developed from Old English *hleonian* to lean or recline (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *lena* to lean, Old Saxon *hlinōn*, Middle Dutch *lēnen* (modern Dutch *leunen*), and Old High German *hlinēn* (modern German *lehnen*), Danish *læne*, and Norwegian *lene*. —**n.** 1610, a support; later, inclination (1776); from the verb.

lean² *adj.* thin. Probably before 1200 *læne*; developed from Old English (about 1000) *hlæne*, perhaps from *hlænan* cause to lean or bend, from Proto-Germanic **Hlainijanan*; related to Old English *hleonian* LEAN¹. —**n.** Probably before 1200 *læne* lean people or animals; from the adjective.

leap *v.* Probably before 1200 *lepen*; developed from Old English *hlēapan* to jump, run, leap (about 725, in *Beowulf*). Old English *hlēapan* is cognate with Old Frisian *hlāpa* to run, Old Saxon *hlōpan*, Middle Dutch *lōpen* (modern Dutch *lopen*), Old High German *hlouffan* (modern German *laufen*), Old Icelandic and modern Icelandic *hlaupa* to run, leap, and Gothic *ushlaupan* to jump up, from Proto-Germanic **Hlaupanan*. —**n.** Probably before 1200 *lupe*; later *lep*, *leap* (in place names, 1219 and 1291); developed from Old English *-hlēp* in *clif-hlēp* cliff leap (before 800); compare West Saxon *hlȳp* (before 900), from Proto-Germanic **Hlaupiz*; related to *hlēapan* to leap. —**leap year** Before 1387 *lepe yere*.

learn *v.* Probably before 1200 *leornen*; later *lernen* (probably about 1200); developed from Old English (before 725) *leornian* to get knowledge, be cultivated; cognate with Old Frisian *lernia*, *lirnia* to learn, Old Saxon *linōn* (with *-in-* representing earlier *-izn-*, from *-isn-*), Old High German *lernēn*, *lirnēn*, *lernōn*, and Middle High German *lernen* learn, teach (modern German *lernen* learn), originally to follow along a track, from Proto-Germanic **lizinōjanan*. Related to LORE. —**learned** *adj.* About 1303 *lerned* educated or trained, from past participle of *lernen* learn; for suffix see -ED². —**learning** *n.* About 1380 *lerning*, developed from Old English (before 900) *leornung*, from *leornian* learn; for suffix see -ING¹.

lease *n.* About 1384 *lese*; later *lees* (1426); borrowed through Anglo-French *les*, from *lessor* to let or let go, from Old French *laisier*, *lessier*, from Latin *laxāre* loosen, from *laxus* loose, LAX¹. —**v.** Before 1475 *lesen*, from the noun.

leash *n.* Probably before 1300 *les*, *lasse*; later *leshe* (1356–57); borrowed from Old French *laisse*, *lesse*, from *laisier* loosen, from Latin *laxāre*, from *laxus* loose, LAX¹. —**v.** 1599, from the noun.

least *adj.* Probably before 1200, developed from Old English (before 950) *lēast*; earlier *lēsest* smallest, superlative of *lēas* smaller, LESS (about 725, in *Beowulf*). Old English *lēsest* developed from Proto-Germanic **laisistaz*. —**n.** About 1125, least important person; later, smallest thing (probably before

1200); developed from Old English *lēst*; from the adjective. —**adv.** Probably before 1200; from the adjective.

leather *n.* Old English (about 700) *lether* hide, skin, leather (found only in compounds, such as *letherwyrhta* leather worker, *gewaddlether* rein, bridle). The Old English word element is cognate with Old Frisian *lether* leather, Old Saxon *lethar*, Middle Low German *leder*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *leder*, Old High German *ledar* (modern German *Leder*), and Old Icelandic *leður* (Danish *læder*, Swedish *läder*, Norwegian *lær*), from Proto-Germanic **lethran*. —**adj.** Before 1333 *lether*, from the noun.

leave¹ *v.* go away. 1127 *leaven* leave alone; later, go away (probably before 1200); developed from Old English *lēfan* to leave, remain, bequeath (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *lēva* leave over, Old Saxon *farlēbian*, Middle Low German *lēven*, Old High German *leiban*, Old Icelandic *leifa* leave behind, and Gothic *bilaiþjan*, from Proto-Germanic **laiþjanan*; causatives derived from the same Germanic source as Old English *belifan* to remain, and Old High German *blīban* (modern German *bleiben*), from Proto-Germanic **-leibanan*, related to the root of LIVE¹.

leave² *n.* permission, consent. 1129 *leve*; developed from Old English *lēafe* (before 900). Old English *lēafe* is the dative and accusative form of *lēaf* permission (from Proto-Germanic **laubō*), related to *ālyfan* allow, permit, and cognate with Old High German *irlouben* allow (modern German *erlauben*), Gothic *uslaubjan* (from Proto-Germanic **uz-laubjanan*), and Old Icelandic *leyfa* allow, permit, *leyfi* permission; also cognate with Old High German *urloub* leave, furlough (modern German *Urlaub*), Old Frisian *orlof*, and Old Saxon *orlōf*. Related to BELIEVE and FURLOUGH.

leave³ *v.* put forth leaves. About 1250 *leaven*.

leaven *n.* 1340 *levain*; later *leven* (probably before 1425) and *leaven* (1471); borrowed from Old French *levain*, from Latin *levāmen* alleviation, mitigation (literally, a lifting), from *levāre* to raise; see LEVER. —**v.** Before 1400 *levainen*; from the noun.

lecher *n.* Probably before 1200 *lechur*; later, in compounds *lecher-* (1280), and the usual spelling *lehour* (from about 1300 to the 1600's); borrowed from Old French *lechēor* lick, from *lechier* to lick, from Frankish (compare Old High German *leckōn* to LICK). —**lecherous** *adj.* About 1300, probably formed from Middle English *lecher-* and *lecherie* lechery + *-ous*; but compare rare Old French *lecheros*, from *lechēor* lick as a possible alternative source. —**lechery** *n.* Probably before 1200 *lecherie*, *lecherie* (probably about 1200); borrowed from Old French *lecherie*, from *lechier* to lick; for suffix see -Y³.

lecithin *n.* 1923, borrowed from French *lecithine* (Greek *lékithos* egg yolk + French *-ine* -INE²).

lectern *n.* Before 1425 *lectryne*; also *lectorne* (1440); alterations (influenced by Medieval Latin *lectrinum* lectern) of earlier *letorne* (about 1390), *lettrune* (before 1425); borrowed from Old French *letrin*, *leitrin*. The Old French forms were adaptations

of Medieval Latin *lectrinum* and Late Latin *lectrum* lectern, from Latin *legere* to read.

lecture *n.* Probably before 1300, literature, written works; later, reading, learning from books (probably before 1387), and *lectour* reading aloud (about 1443); borrowed through Old French *lecture*, and directly from Medieval Latin *lectura* a reading, lecture, from Latin *legere* to read; for suffix see -URE. —**v.** About 1590, from the noun. —**lecturer** *n.* 1583; formed from English *lecture* + *-er*¹.

ledge *n.* 1272–73 *legge* crossbar on a door; later *ledge* (1452); perhaps formed from *leggen* to place, LAY¹. For a note on spelling see DRUDGE. The sense of a narrow shelf appeared in 1558.

ledger *n.* 1481, book that lies in a permanent place, especially a large copy of a breviary; probably from *leggen* to place, LAY¹ (perhaps in imitation of Dutch *ligger*, *legger* one that lies down, a book kept for reference); for suffix see -ER¹. The sense of a book of accounts is first recorded in 1588, as a shortened form of *ledger-book* (1553).

lee *n.* Probably about 1200 *leohe*; later *le* (before 1325); developed from Old English (before 725) *hlēo* shelter, protection; cognate with Old Frisian *hlī* shelter, protection, Old Saxon *hleō*, Middle Low German *lē*, modern Dutch *lij* lee side, Old Icelandic *hlē* lee side, shelter (Swedish *lä*, Danish *læ*, Norwegian *le*), also *hlý* warmth, and modern German *Lee* lee. —**adj.** 1513; from the noun. —**leeward** *adj.* 1666, situated away from the wind; formed from English *lee* + *-ward*. An earlier and obsolete sense “that makes much leeway” (applied to a ship); it appeared before 1618. Adverb use is first recorded in 1785. —**leeway** *n.* 1669, sideways drift of a ship (away from the wind); formed from English *lee* + *way*. The sense of extra space is first recorded in 1827.

leech¹ *n.* bloodsucking worm. Probably about 1150 *leche*; developed from Old English (before 900) *læce*, Kentish *lyce* bloodsucking worm; cognate with Middle Dutch *lieke* leech, of unknown origin. The form and sense in Middle English were transferred to *leche* physician, LEECH², by early folk-etymology; however, the meaning of physician became obsolete, leaving only the sense of a bloodsucking worm. The sense of a person who is a parasite, is first recorded in 1784.

leech² *n.* Archaic. physician. Probably before 1200 *leche*, developed from Old English (about 900) *læce*; cognate with Old Frisian *lētza* physician, Old Saxon *lāki*, Old High German *lāhhi*, Old Icelandic *læknir* (Swedish *läka* to heal, *läkare* physician, Danish *læge*, Norwegian *lege* to heal, physician), and Gothic *lēkeis* physician, from Proto-Germanic **lækijaz* one who counsels.

leek *n.* Before 1300 *lek*, developed from Old English: Mercian (about 700) *læc*, *-lēc* (in compound *gārlēc* garlic), West Saxon (about 1000) *lēac* leek, onion, garlic; both Old English forms are cognate with Old Saxon *lōk* leek, Middle Dutch *looc* (modern Dutch *look*), Old High German *louh* (modern German *Lauch*), and Old Icelandic *laukr* (Swedish *lök*, Danish *løg*, Norwegian *løk*, *lauk*), from Proto-Germanic **lauka-*; related to Old English *locc* curl of hair, LOCK².

leer *v.* 1530, probably developed from (obsolete) *leer* cheek, face, countenance; in turn developed from Middle English *ler* (probably before 1300); earlier *leor* (probably before 1200). The Middle English forms developed from Old English (about 700) *hlēor*, originally, area near the ear, from Proto-Germanic **Hleuzás*. Old English *hlēor* is also cognate with Old Saxon *hleor* cheek, Middle Dutch *liere*, Middle Low German *ler*, and Old Icelandic *hlýr*. —**n.** 1598, from the verb. —**leery** *adj.* 1718, alert, wide-awake; formed from archaic English *leer* *adj.*, looking slyly + *-y*¹. The sense of wary, doubtful, suspicious, appeared in 1896.

lees *n. pl.* About 1380 *lies*, borrowed from Old French *lies*, plural of *lie* sediment, probably from Celtic (compare Old Irish *lige* bed, cognate with Old English *ligan* to recline, *LIE*²).

left *adj.* Probably before 1200 *lift*, *luft*, *leoft*; later *left* (Kentish dialect, before 1333 and northern British dialects before 1325); developed from Old English *lyft*-weak; cognate with Middle Low German *lucht* and Middle Dutch *lucht*, *luft* left. The Old English sense of “weak” (as in *lyft-ād* lameness, paralysis) apparently arises ultimately from the fact that the left hand is generally the weaker of the two hands. —**adv.** Before 1325, from the adjective. —**n.** Probably about 1200 *luft*, later *left* (before 1325); from the adjective. *Left*, in the sense of the members of a legislative body assigned to the left side of the chamber is first recorded in 1837, probably a loan translation of French *la gauche* (1791); said to have originated during the seating of the French National Assembly of 1789, in which the position on the President's right was assumed by the nobility and the Third Estate (persons not of the nobility or clergy) sat on his left.

leg *n.* Probably before 1300, borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *leggr* leg, bone, Norwegian *legg*, Danish *læg*, and Swedish *låg*), from Proto-Germanic **laǵjaz*.

legacy *n.* About 1384, function or office of a deputy or legate; borrowed from Old French *legacie*, from Medieval Latin *legatia*, from Latin *lēgāre* appoint by a last will, bequeath, send as a LEGATE; for suffix see -ACY. The sense of property left by a will appeared in Scottish about 1460. —**legatee** *n.* 1679–88, formed from English *legate*, *v.* (1546, borrowed from Latin *lēgātus*, past participle of *lēgāre* bequeath) + *-ee*.

legal *adj.* 1447, borrowed from Middle French *légal*, learned borrowing from Latin *lēgālis* legal, from *lēx* (genitive *lēgis*) law, possibly related to *legere* to gather; for suffix see -AL¹. —**legality** *n.* 1459 *legalite*, borrowed from Medieval Latin *legalitas*, from Latin *lēgālis* legal; for suffix see -ITY. —**legalize** *v.* Before 1716, formed from English *legal* + *-ize*.

legate *n.* Before 1121, a representative of the Pope; borrowed through Old French *legat*, and directly from Latin *lēgātus*, originally, provided with a commission, past participle of *lēgāre* send as a deputy, send with a commission, bequeath, from *lēx* (genitive *lēgis*) contract, law; for suffix see -ATE³. —**legatee** *n.* See under LEGACY. —**legation** *n.* Before 1400 *legacyoun* diplomatic mission; borrowed through Old French *legation*, and

directly from Latin *lēgatiōnem* (nominative *lēgatiō*), from *lēgāre*; for suffix see -ATION.

legend *n.* Probably before 1325, story of the life of a saint; borrowed from Old French *legende*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Medieval Latin *legenda* legend, story; originally, (things) to be read (on certain days in church, etc.), from Latin, neuter plural gerundive of *legere* to read, gather, select.

The extended sense of a nonhistorical or mythical story is first recorded in 1386, and that of an inscription in 1611. —**legendary** *adj.* 1563–87 *legendarie* of the nature of a legend, celebrated in legend; borrowed directly from Medieval Latin *legendarius*, from *legenda* (things) to be read; for suffix see -ARY.

legerdemain *n.* Probably about 1430 *legerdemeyn*; borrowed from Middle French *léger de main* quick of hand (*léger* light, from Vulgar Latin **leviārius*, from Latin *levis* LIGHT² not heavy; *de* of, from, from Latin *dē* from; and *main* hand, from Latin *manus*; see MANUAL).

legible *adj.* Probably before 1440; borrowed from Late Latin *legibilis* that can be read, from Latin *legere* to read; for suffix see -IBLE.

legion *n.* Probably before 1200 *legiun* Roman legion; later *legioun* (about 1280); borrowed from Old French *legion*, *legiun*, learned borrowing from Latin *legiōnem* (nominative *legiō*) a body of soldiers in the Roman army, from *legere* to choose, gather (as for an army); for suffix see -ION.

The sense of a very large number is first recorded in English about 1378. It comes from the Biblical reference in Mark 5:9: “My name is Legion, for we are many.”

legislator *n.* 1605, borrowed, probably from French *législateur*, and directly from Latin *lēgis lātor* proposer of a law; *lēgis*, genitive of *lēx* law (see LEGAL); *lātor* proposer, a form serving as agent noun of *ferre* to carry; for suffix see -OR². —**legislate** *v.* 1805, back formation from *legislator*, *legislation*; for suffix see -ATE¹. —**legislation** *n.* Before 1655, probably borrowed from French *législation*, learned borrowing of Late Latin *lēgislatiōnem* (nominative *lēgislatiō*) enactment of a law or laws, from Latin *lēgis* (genitive of *lēx* law) + *lātiō* a bringing, a form serving as abstract noun of *ferre* to carry; for suffix see -TION. —**legislative** *adj.* About 1641, formed (probably through influence of French *législatif*) from English *legislat(or)* + *-ive*. —**legislature** *n.* Before 1676, legislative body, formed from English *legislat(or)* + *-ure*.

legitimate *adj.* Before 1464 *legitimat* lawfully begotten; later, lawful (1638); borrowed from past participle of Middle French *legitimer*, and directly from Medieval Latin *legitimus*, past participle of *legitimare* make lawful, from Latin *lēgitimus* lawful; originally, in line with the law, from *lēx* (genitive *lēgis*) law; see LEGAL; for suffix see -ATE³. —**legitimacy** *n.* 1691, formed from English *legitimate*, *adj.* + *-cy*.

legume *n.* 1676, borrowing of French *légume*, learned borrowing from Latin *legūmen*. —**leguminous** *adj.* 1656, probably borrowed from French *légumineux*, from Latin *legūmen* (genitive *legūminis*) + French *-eux* -ous. *Leguminous* also ap-

peared in Middle English (probably before 1425) in the sense of containing meal made from the seeds of legumes.

lei *n.* 1843, borrowed from Hawaiian, any ornament worn about the neck or around the head.

leisure *n.* Probably before 1300 *leiser* time free from work or duties; borrowed from Old French *leisir* permission, leisure, from *leisir*, *v.*, be permitted, from Latin *licere* be permitted. The spelling *leisure* appeared in English in the 1500's, probably influenced by words such as *measure*.

lemma *n.* 1570, subsidiary proposition in mathematics; later, heading or theme (1601); borrowing of Latin *lēm̄ma* a theme, from Greek *lēm̄ma* anything received or taken. The sense of a word or phrase glossed appeared in 1896.

lemming *n.* 1713, borrowing of Norwegian *lemming*, *lemende*, related to Old Icelandic *lōmundr*, *lēm̄ingi*, *lēm̄ingr* lemming.

lemon *n.* About 1400 *lymon*; borrowed from Old French *limon* (probably influenced by Old Provençal *limon*, or Italian *limone*), from Arabic *limūn*, from Persian *limū(n)*. The shift in spelling to *e* did not occur until the mid-1600's. The slang sense of a worthless person or thing is first recorded in 1906 in American English. —**lemonade** *n.* 1663, borrowed from French *limonade*; for suffix see -ADE.

lemur *n.* 1795, New Latin *lemures*, a name given by Linnaeus from Latin *lemurēs*, *pl.*, specters, ghosts; so called because of the animal's nocturnal habits and ghostlike appearance.

lend *v.* Probably about 1375 *lenden*, alteration of earlier *lenen* (probably before 1200); developed from Old English (before 725 *lēnan* to lend, from *læn* LOAN).

Substitution of *lend-* for *len-*, in Middle English, was influenced by the past tense *lende* and association with many words in -*end*, such as *bend*, *rend*, *send*.

length *n.* 1122 *lengthe*; developed from Old English (about 893) *lengthu*; cognate with Old Frisian *lengethe* length, Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *lengede*, and Old Icelandic *lengd*, from Proto-Germanic **langthō*; derived from the Germanic root of Old English *lang* LONG¹, *adj.*; for suffix see -TH¹. —**lengthen** *v.* About 1450 *lenthēnen*, formed from Middle English *lengthe* length + -*enen* -en¹.

lenient *adj.* 1652, softening, soothing, relaxing; borrowed from Middle French *lenient*, from Latin *lēnientem* (nominative *lēniēs*), present participle of *lēnīre* soften, from *lēnis* mild; for suffix see -ENT.

The sense of mild, gentle, merciful is first recorded in English in 1787, probably influenced by the meaning of *lenity* mildness, gentleness.

lenity *n.* mildness, gentleness, mercifulness. 1548 *lenitie*, borrowed from Middle French *lénité*, learned borrowing from Latin *lēnitātem* (nominative *lēnitās*), from *lēnis* mild; for suffix see -ITY. In Middle English (probably before 1425) the word was used in medicine with the form *lenite* and the sense of softness; borrowed from Latin.

lens *n.* 1693, New Latin *lens*, from Latin *lēns* (genitive *lentis*)

LENTIL (in reference to its seeds which have a double-convex shape similar to an optical lens).

Lent *n.* Before 1387 *lente*, a shortened form of earlier *lenten* spring, lent (1123); developed from Old English (about 700) *lencten* spring; cognate with Old Saxon and Middle Dutch *lentin* spring (modern Dutch *lente*), and Old High German *lengizin*, *lenzin*, *lenzo* (modern German, poetic *Lenz*), from a Proto-Germanic compound **langa-tīnaz*, made up of the root that was the source of Old English *lang* LONG¹ and that of Gothic -*teins* (in *sintēins* daily). The probable reference is to the lengthening of the days in spring. Only in English did the ecclesiastical meaning of Lent develop.

lenticul *n.* About 1250, borrowed from Old French *lenticule*, from Vulgar Latin **lenticula*, from Latin *lenticula*, diminutive of *lēns* (genitive *lentis*) lentil.

leonine *adj.* About 1375, borrowed from Old French *leonin*, from Latin *leōninus* belonging to a lion, from *leō* (genitive *leōnis*) LION; for suffix see -INE¹.

leopard *n.* Probably before 1300 *leuparz*, *lipard*; borrowed from Old French *leupart*, *leopard*, *lipard*, learned borrowing from Late Latin *leopardus*, from Greek *leopardos* (*leōn* LION + *pardos* male panther; the leopard originally being thought a hybrid animal). The spelling *leopard* appeared in Middle English about 1330, apparently borrowed from Late Latin.

leotard *n.* 1886, in allusion to Jules Léotard, 1830–1870, a French trapeze artist who performed in such a garment.

leper *n.* Before 1398 *lepre* person who has leprosy; perhaps developed from *leprous* or, more likely from attributive use of earlier *lepre* leprosy (about 1250), borrowed from: 1) Old French *lepre*, *lepre* leprosy, learned borrowing from Late Latin *lepra*, and 2) probably directly from Late Latin *lepra* (in Latin, only *leprae*, *pl.*), from Greek *lēprā* leprosy, formed from the feminine of *leprōs*, *adj.*, scaly, from *lēpos* a scale, which is related to *lēpein* to peel, *lopós* a peel. —**leprosy** *n.* 1535; developed from earlier *lepruse* (probably before 1450), from *leprus*, variant of LEPROUS; for suffix see -Y³. Middle English *lepruse* replaced *lepre*; see LEPER. —**leprous** *adj.* Probably before 1200 *leprus*; later *leprous* (about 1280); borrowed from Old French *lepros* and Late Latin *leprōsus*, from *lepra* leprosy, see LEPER; for suffix see -OUS.

lepidopterous *adj.* 1797, formed in English from New Latin *Lepidoptera*, *pl.*, the order name (Greek *leptōs*, genitive *leptōdos*, fish scale, related to *lēpein* to peel + *pterón* wing, feather) + English -ous.

leprechaun *n.* 1604 *lubrican*; borrowed from Irish *lupracān*, alteration of Old Irish *luchorpān* (*lu* little + *corpān*, diminutive of *corp* body, from Latin *corpus* body). The spelling *leprechaun* appeared in 1860 probably altered from Irish *leipreachān*.

lepton *n.* 1948, any elementary particle of small mass, formed in English from Greek *leptōs* small, thin, delicate + English suffix -on. The meaning of a class of weakly interactive particles appeared about 1969 to distinguish leptons from hadrons.

lesbian *adj.* 1591 *Lesbian* of or relating to the Greek island of Lesbos (in the northeastern Aegean sea); later *Lesbian* of or relating to homosexual relations between women (1890); borrowed from Latin *Lesbius* of Lesbos, from Greek *Lesbios*, from *Lesbos* Lesbos. The second (and now common) meaning developed because of the reputed homosexuality of Sappho, the Greek lyric woman poet of Lesbos. —**n.** 1925, from the adjective.

lesion *n.* Probably before 1425 *lesioun* bodily injury; borrowed from Middle French *lesion*, from Latin *laesiōnem* (nominative *laesiō*) injury, from *laedere* to strike, hurt, damage; for suffix see **-SION**. —**v.** 1972, from the noun.

less *adj.* About 1125 *læsse* the younger or smaller (in importance); later *lesse*, *lasse* (about 1150). The forms in Middle English developed from a fusion of Old English *læs*, *adv.* (before 725), and *læssa*, *adj.* (about 725, in *Beowulf*) comparative of *læs* (from Proto-Germanic **laisaz*), which is cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *lēs* less, Middle High German, Middle Low German, and Middle Dutch *līse* soft or gentle, modern German *leise* soft, gentle, slight. —**adv.** Probably about 1175 *lesse*, *lasse*, developed from Old English *læs*. —**n.** Probably about 1175 *lesse*, developed from a fusion of Old English *læsse* (about 1000, from *læssa*, *adj.*) and *læs* (about 725, in *Beowulf*, from the *adv.*). —**lessen** *v.* Probably about 1380 *lesnen* make less; later *lessenen* (probably before 1400), from earlier *lessen* (probably about 1200), formed from *lesse*, *adj.* + **-en**¹. —**lesser** *adj.* (as in *the lesser evil*). About 1225, comparative of *less*, formed from Middle English *lesse* + **-er**². —**adv.** 1594, now generally archaic except, since about 1960, in *lesser-known* (for *less well-known*), formed by analogy with *better-known*.

-less a suffix meaning without a _____, that has no _____, as in *childless*, *homeless*; that does not _____, as in *tireless*; that cannot be _____ed, as in *countless*. Middle English *-lesse*, developed from Old English *-lēas*, from *lēas* free from, without; cognate with Old Saxon *lōs* loose, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *los*, Old High German *lōs* (modern German *los*, *lose*), Old Icelandic *lauss*, and Gothic *laus* empty, from Proto-Germanic **lausaz*.

lesson *n.* Probably before 1200 *lesceun*; later *lessoun* (about 1300); borrowed from Old French *leçon*, from Latin *lēcōnem* (nominative *lēcō*) a reading, from *legere* read.

The earliest recorded meaning was a portion from the Bible or other sacred writing read aloud to the congregation. The meanings of something to be learned by a student appeared before 1300.

lest *conj.* Probably before 1200 *leste*, contraction of the phrase *les te* less that, developed from Old English (about 1000) *thȳ lǣs* the whereby less that (*thȳ*, instrumental case of *thæt* THAT; *lǣs* LESS; *the*, relative particle).

let¹ *v.* allow, permit. 1106 *leten*, developed from Old English (before 725) *lĕtan*, *lĕtan* to allow, let, let go, rent; cognate with Old Frisian *lĕta* to let, Old Saxon *lātan*, Middle Dutch, modern Dutch, and Middle Low German *laten*, Old High German

lāzzan (modern German *lassen*), Old Icelandic *lāta*, and Gothic *lĕtan*, from Proto-Germanic **lĕtanan*.

let² *v.* Archaic. prevent, hinder. Before 1121 *lætten*; later *letten* (probably before 1200); developed from Old English *lettan* hinder or delay (before 889). Old English *lettan* is cognate with Old Saxon *lettian* to hinder, Middle Dutch *letten*, Old High German *lezzen* to delay or hurt (modern German *verletzen* to hurt), Old Icelandic *letja* hold back, and Gothic *latjan*, from Proto-Germanic **latjanan*. —**n.** Probably before 1200 *lette*; from the verb. The sense of interference, as with the ball in tennis is first recorded in 1871, though now many in America call a let ball, a net ball.

-let a suffix meaning: little, as in *booklet*, *leaflet*; thing worn as a band on, as in *anklet*. Middle English *-let*; borrowed from Old French *-elet*, a compound formed of *-el* (from Latin *-ellus*, diminutive suffix, or *-āle*, neuter of *-ālis* **-AL**¹) + *-et* **-ET**.

lethal *adj.* 1583, borrowed from Late Latin *lēthālis*, an alteration with *th* of Latin *lētālis*, from *lētum* death; for suffix see **-AL**¹. Development of the Late Latin form with *th* came by association with Latin *Lēthē*, a river in Hades that caused forgetfulness of the past when its water was drunk. The Romans borrowed *Lēthē* from Greek *lēthē* forgetfulness, along with the mythology association.

lethargy *n.* 1373 *litarge*, also *litargie* (about 1380), and *letargye* (about 1410); borrowed from Old French *litargie*, *letargie*, or directly from Medieval Latin *litargia*, from Late Latin *lēthārgia*, from Greek *lēthārgiā*, from *lēthārgos* forgetful; originally, inactive through forgetfulness (*lēthē* forgetfulness + *ārgos* idle); for suffix see **-Y**³. The spelling *lethargy* (with *th*) is first recorded about 1593, influenced by the Late Latin and Greek forms. —**lethargic** *adj.* Before 1398 *litargik*; borrowed from Old French *litargique*, *lethargique*, from Latin *lēthārgicus*, from Greek *lēthārgikós*, from *lēthārgiā* lethargy; for suffix see **-IC**.

letter *n.* Probably about 1150 *lettre* knowledge of reading and writing, book learning; later alphabetic sign, written message (probably before 1200); borrowing of Old French *lettre*, from Latin *littera*, earlier *lītera* letter of the alphabet, *litterae*, pl., epistle, written documents, literature. —**v.** 1668, from the noun.

lettuce *n.* About 1300 *letuse*; borrowed from Old French *laituēs*, plural of *laituē*, from Latin *lactūca* lettuce, from *lac* (genitive *lactis*) milk; so called from the milky juice of the plant.

leuco- or **leuko-** a combining form meaning white, colorless, or slightly colored, as in *leucocyte*, *leukemia*. Also spelled **leuc-** or **leuk-** before vowels. Borrowed from Latin *leuco-*, from Greek *leuko-*, combining form of *leukós* clear, white.

leucocyte *n.* 1870 (probably influenced by French *leucocyte* and German *Leukocyt*); formed from English *leuco-* + **-cyte**.

leukemia *n.* 1855; formed in English from *leuk-* white + *-emia* blood, after earlier German *Leukämie* (1848).

Levantine *adj.* 1649, formed from Middle English *levant* the

Levant (1497) + *-ine*¹. Middle English *levant* was a borrowing of Middle French *levant* the Levant, from *levant*, present participle of *lever* to rise, from Latin *levāre* to raise; so called because of the Levant's position relative to the rising sun.

levee¹ *n.* bank built to keep a river from overflowing. 1719 *levée* a French word used in a description of New Orleans; originally, feminine past participle of *lever* to raise, from Old French, from Latin *levāre* to raise. The sense of a dock, was first recorded in 1813.

levee² *n.* reception. 1672, borrowed from French *lever* a rising from bed, reception held while rising, noun use of the verb *lever* to rise, raise; see **LEVEE**¹. French kings used to hold levees in the morning while getting up and dressing.

level *n.* 1340, device for showing whether a surface is horizontal, flat, or even; borrowed from Old French *livel*, from Vulgar Latin **libellum*, from Latin *libella* a balance, level, diminutive of *libra* balance, scale, unit of weight.

The sense of a horizontal condition or position (as in *the level of the lake*) appeared in Middle English probably before 1400. —*v.* About 1450, from the noun. —**adj.** 1431, from the noun.

lever *n.* About 1300 *levour* bar used for prying or dislodging something; later *lever* (1408); borrowed from Old French *levier* a lifter or lever (Old French *levour* with a different suffix is also sometimes cited), from *lever* to raise, from Latin *levāre* to raise; for suffix see *-ER*¹. —*v.* 1856, from the noun. —**leverage** *n.* 1724, action of a lever; formed from English *lever*, *n.* + *-age*. The figurative sense of advantage appeared in 1858.

leviathan *n.* Before 1382, a huge sea animal in the Bible; also, the Devil; borrowed from Late Latin *leviathan*, from Hebrew *livyāthān* dragon, serpent, huge sea animal. The sense of a great and powerful person or thing is first recorded in 1607.

Levi's *n. pl.* 1926, American English, from the name of Levi Strauss and Company, the original American manufacturer of such trousers. The forms *Levis* (1926) and *levis* (1944) are alterations of the trademark.

levitate *v.* 1673, formed in English from Latin *levitās* lightness (see **LEVITY**) + English *-ate*¹, patterned on earlier *gravitate*. —**levitation** *n.* 1668, formed in English from Latin *levitās* lightness + English *-ation*, patterned on earlier *gravitation*.

levity *n.* 1564, borrowed from Latin *levitās* (genitive *levitātis*) lightness, frivolity, from *levis* **LIGHT**² in weight; for suffix see *-ITY*.

levo- a combining form meaning toward the left, as in *levorotatory* (turning the plane of polarized light to the left), or meaning levorotatory, as in *levoglucose*. Borrowed from French *lévo-*, from Latin *laevus* left.

levy *n.* 1416 *leve* act of raising taxes, etc.; borrowed through Anglo-French *leve*, from Old French *levée* act of raising, levy, from feminine past participle of Old French *lever* to raise; see **LEVER**. The term is found in Anglo-French context as early as 1227. —*v.* 1436–37 *leveyen*; from the noun.

lewd *adj.* Before 1121 *lewed* nonclerical, lay, uneducated; developed from Old English *læwede* (before 899); of uncertain origin. The sense of wicked, unchaste, lustful, is recorded probably about 1378.

lexicographer *n.* 1658, formed in English from French *lexicographe* lexicographer (1578) + English suffix *-er*¹. The French word was borrowed from Greek *lexikographos* (*lexikōn* wordbook, *LEXICON* + *gráphein* to write). —**lexicography** *n.* 1680, formed from English *lexicon* + *-graphy*, or from *lexicographer*, on the pattern of such pairs as *geographer*, *geography*.

lexicon *n.* 1603, borrowed probably through Middle French *lexicon* from Greek *lexikōn* (*biblōn*) wordbook, from neuter of *lexikós* pertaining to words, from *léxis* word, from *légein* say. —**lexical** *adj.* 1836, formed from English *lexicon* + *-al*¹.

liable *adj.* 1450, bound by law, legally subject; probably formed with the English ending *-able* from Old French *lier* to bind, from Latin *ligāre* to bind, tie. The sense of likely to suffer from is first recorded in 1593; that of subject to the possibility, likely, in 1682. —**liability** *n.* 1794–1809; formed from English *liable* + *-ity*.

liaison *n.* Before 1648, act of thickening a sauce; borrowed from French *liaison* a union, a binding together, from Latin *ligātiōnem* (nominative *ligātiō*) a binding, from *ligāre* to bind; for suffix see *-ION*. The sense of a close relation between persons or groups is first recorded in 1809. —**liaise** *v.* 1928 (military use); back formation from *liaison*.

liar *n.* Before 1225 *liar*, *liar*; developed from Old English *lēgere* (about 950); later *lēogere* (before 1023); from Anglian *lēgan*, and West Saxon *lēogan* be untruthful, **LIE**¹.

The form in *-ar* is probably in imitation of the refashioned forms such as *scholar* for *scoler* and *pillar* for *piler*.

lib or **Lib** *n.* 1970, American English, shortened form of *liberation* (originally in *Women's Lib*, short for *Women's Liberation*).

libation *n.* About 1384 *libacioun*; borrowed from Latin *libātiōnem* (nominative *libātiō*), from *libāre* pour out (an offering); for suffix see *-ATION*. The sense of any liquid poured out to be drunk is first recorded in 1751.

libel *n.* About 1300, formal written statement; later, little book (about 1382); borrowed through Old French *libel*, *libelle* and directly from Latin *libellus* a little book, petition, diminutive of *liber* book.

The meaning of a plaintiff's statement of charges is first recorded in 1340; this usage evolved into the sense of any published or written statement likely to harm the reputation of a person in 1521. —*v.* 1570, from the noun. —**libelous** *adj.* 1619, formed from English *libel*, *n.* + *-ous*.

liberal *adj.* Probably before 1350, befitting free men, noble, generous; borrowed from Old French *liberal*, learned borrowing from Latin *liberalis* noble, generous, from *liber* free; for suffix see *-AL*¹.

The term *liberal arts*, the seven arts considered "worthy of or befitting free men," appeared before 1398 as a translation of

Medieval Latin *artes liberales*. The sense of free from prejudice, tolerant, is first recorded in 1776–88, followed by the political sense of favoring constitutional change and legal reforms in 1801, probably borrowed into English from French *libéral* favorable to individual political freedoms. —**n.** 1820, from the adjective. —**liberalism** *n.* (1819) —**liberality** *n.* Probably about 1350 *liberalite* generosity; borrowed from Old French *liberalité*, from Latin *liberalitatem* (nominative *liberalitās*), from *liberalis* liberal; for suffix see -ITY. —**liberalization** *n.* (1835) —**liberalize** *v.* (1774)

liberate *v.* 1623, borrowed from Latin *liberātus*, past participle of *liberāre* set free, from *liber* free; for suffix see -ATE¹. In some instances, *liberate* is probably a back formation from *liberation*. —**liberation** *n.* Probably before 1425 *liberacion*; borrowed through Middle French *libération*, and directly from Latin *liberatiōnem* (nominative *liberatiō*), from *liberāre* set free; for suffix see -ATION.

liberationist *n.* 1970, American English, abstracted from *Women's Liberationist*; formed from English *liberation* + -ist. An earlier use (1869) was restricted to a member of the "Liberation Society" of Great Britain, advocating withdrawal of state support from the established church. The current form is a redevelopment in English.

libertarian *n.* 1789, one who holds the doctrine of free will; later, person advocating liberty in thought and conduct (1878); formed from English *liberty* + -arian, as in *Unitarian*.

libertine *n.* About 1384, emancipated slave, freedman; borrowed from Latin *libertinus* member of the class of freedmen, from *libertus* one's freedman, from *liber* free; for suffix see -INE¹. The sense of a freethinker is first recorded in 1563–83, evidently influenced by the word *liberty*; the sense of a dissolute or licentious person is found in 1593. —**adj.** 1577, freethinking; later, dissolute (1605); from the noun.

liberty *n.* About 1375 *libertee*; borrowed from Old French *liberté* freedom, learned borrowing from Latin *libertatem* (nominative *libertās*), from *liber* free; for suffix see -TY².

libido *n.* 1909, borrowed from Latin *libīdō* desire or lust, from *libēre* be pleasing, please. —**libidinous** *adj.* 1447, borrowed probably through Middle French *libidineux* (feminine *libidineuse*), from Latin *libidinōsus*, from *libīdō* (genitive *libīdinis*) desire or lust; for suffix see -OUS.

library *n.* About 1380 *librarye* place containing books; also *librarie* collection of books (before 1382); borrowed through Anglo-French *librarie*, from Old French *librairie* collection of books, and directly from Latin *librarium* chest for books, from *liber* (genitive *librī*) book, paper, parchment, inner bark of a tree (used in early times for writing). The Romance languages now use the word to mean bookstore, derived from that sense in Late Latin. —**librarian** *n.* 1670, scribe; later, custodian of a library (1713); formed from English *library* + -an.

libretto *n.* 1740, borrowing of Italian *libretto*, diminutive of *libro* book, from Latin *liber* (genitive *librī*).

license *n.* Before 1376 *licence* permission given by law to do

something; borrowed from Old French *licence*, learned borrowing from Latin *licentia*, from *licentem* (nominative *licēns*), present participle of *licēre* be allowed, be lawful. —**v.** Probably before 1400 *licencen*; from the noun. —**licensee** *n.* 1868, formed from American English *license* + -ee.

licentious *adj.* 1535, lawless; later, lewd or lustful (1555); borrowed from Latin *licentiōsus* full of license, unrestrained, from *licentia* LICENSE; for suffix see -OUS. The meaning "lewd" may have come from Middle French *licencieux* (1537).

An example of *licentious* is found about 1425 in the sense of freely, with permission.

lichen *n.* 1601, liverwort (formerly included in the same group with the lichens); borrowed from Latin *lichēn*, from Greek *leichēn*, (originally) what eats around itself, probably from *lechein* to lick. The meaning of a fungus or alga is first recorded in 1715.

licit *adj.* 1483, borrowed from Middle French *licite*, learned borrowing from Latin *licitus* lawful; and borrowed directly from Latin *licitus*, from *licēre* be allowed, be lawful.

lick *v.* Probably about 1200 *licken*; developed from Old English *lician* (830); cognate with Old Saxon *likkōn* to lick, modern Dutch *likken*, Old High German *leckōn* (modern German *lecken*), Old Icelandic *sleikja*, and Gothic *bilaigōn*. The sense of beat or thrash is first recorded in 1535 and that of overcome or defeat in 1800. —**n.** 1603, from the verb.

lickety-split *adv.* 1859, American English, formed from earlier (1817) *lickitie* very fast (irregular formation from *lick*, *n.*, used dialectally in the sense of fast) + *split*, *n.*

licorice *n.* Probably before 1200 *licoriz*; borrowed through Anglo-French *lycorys*, Old French *licorice*, *licorece*, from Late Latin *liquiritia*, alteration of Latin *glycyrrhiza*, from Greek *glykērrhiza* (*glykēs* sweet + *rhiza* root). Development of Late Latin *liquiritia* was influenced by Latin *liquēre* become fluid, in reference to the process of treating the root to obtain its extract.

lid *n.* Before 1250 *lid* eyelid; later, covering or cover (about 1300); developed from Old English (about 1000) *hlid* lid, cover, opening, gate; cognate with Old Frisian *hlid* lid, Middle Low German *lit*, Middle Dutch *lit* (modern Dutch *lid*), Old High German *lit*, *hlit* (modern German *Lid* and *Augenlid* eyelid), Old Icelandic *hlidh* gate, from Proto-Germanic **Hlidān*.

lie *v.* speak falsely. Probably about 1175 *lien*; later *ligen* (probably before 1200) and *legen* (before 1250); developed from Old English *lēgan*, *līgan* (before 830), and earlier *lēogan* (before 725); cognate with Old Frisian *liāga* to lie, Old Saxon *liogan*, Middle Dutch *lieghen* (modern Dutch *liegen*), Old High German *liogan* (modern German *lügen*), Old Icelandic *ljuga* (Swedish *ljuga*, Danish *lyve*), and Gothic *liugan*, from Proto-Germanic **leuzanan*. —**n.** About 1175 *hyge*; later *lye* (about 1385); developed from Old English (about 900) *hyge* lie; cognate with Old High German *lugī* (modern German *Lüge*), and

Old Icelandic *lygi*, from Proto-Germanic **luzin*, from the root **luz-/leus-* that is the source of Old English *lēogan* to lie.

lie² *v.* rest horizontally. 1137 *lien*; later *liggen* (probably before 1200); developed from Old English *liggan* to lie (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *liga*, *lidzia* to lie, Old Saxon *luggian*, Middle Dutch *ligghen*, modern Dutch *liggen*, (from Proto-Germanic **lezjanan*), Old High German *ligen* (modern German *liegen*), Old Icelandic *liggja* (Swedish *ligga*, Danish and Norwegian *ligge*), and Gothic *ligan*.

Middle English *liggen* represents a regular phonetic development from Old English *liggan*. The form *lien*, from which modern English *lie* developed, was based upon Old English *lig-*, stem of the second and third person singular present indicative. —**n.** 1697, from the verb.

liege *adj.* Probably before 1300 *liege*; later *lege* (probably about 1390); borrowed through Anglo-French *lege*, and directly from Old French *liege*, *lige*, from Late Latin *laeticus* cultivated by serfs, from *laetus* serf, probably from a Germanic source (compare Old English *læt* half-freedman, serf, Old Frisian *lēt*, Old High German *lāz*, Middle Low German *lāt*; probably from the Proto-Germanic root of Old English *lætan* to allow). —**n.** Probably about 1375 *lige* vassal, and *lege* feudal lord (about 1380); from the adjective.

lien *n.* 1531, borrowing of Middle French *lien* a band or tie, from Latin *ligāmen* bond, from *ligāre* to bind.

lieu *n.* 1534 *in (the) lieu* of in place of, instead of (possibly also about 1300, cited in a single use); borrowed from Middle French *lieu* place, Old French *leu*, from Latin *locum* (nominative *locus*) place.

lieutenant *n.* About 1378 *lieutenant*, civil or military officer who acts for a superior; borrowed from Late Old French *lieutenant* (earlier *luetenant*) substitute; literally, placeholder (*lieu* place + *tenant*, present participle of *tenir* to hold).

life *n.* Before 1121 *life*, found in Old English *līfe*, dative of *līf* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *līf* life, person, body, Old Saxon *līf* life, person, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *lijf* body, Old High German *līb* life (modern German *Leib* body), and Old Icelandic *līf* life (Swedish *lif*, Danish and Norwegian *liv* life, body), from Proto-Germanic **lība-*; related to Old English *lifian*, *libban* to have life, LIVE¹. —**lifeless** *adj.* Before 1200 *lifleas*; developed from Old English *līflēas* (*līf* life + *-lēas* -less). —**lifetime** *n.* (before 1250 *lif time*)

lift *v.* Probably about 1200 *liften*; borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *hypta* to raise). Old Icelandic *lypta* is cognate with Middle Low German *lichten* to raise, lift, Middle Dutch *luchten* (modern Dutch *lichten*), Middle High German *lūften*, from Proto-Germanic **luftijanan*; from the Proto-Germanic root that is the source of Old English *lyft* heaven, air; see LOFT —**n.** 1485, from the verb. The figurative sense of act of helping, helping hand is first recorded in 1633, and that of help given by offering a ride in a vehicle in 1712. —**lift-off** *n.* (1956, American English).

ligament *n.* 1392, band of strong tissues; borrowed from Latin

ligāmentum band, tie, ligature, from *ligāre* to bind, tie; for suffix see -MENT.

ligature *n.* Before 1400, borrowed through Old French *ligature*, and directly from Late Latin *ligātūra*, from Latin *ligāre* to bind; for suffix see -URE. The sense of two or more letters joined in writing and printing is first recorded in 1693, possibly taken from French (1680). —**v.** 1716–20, from the noun.

light¹ *n.* radiant energy. About 1175 *liht*; later *light* (before 1325); developed from Old English *lēht* (before 830); earlier *lēoht* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *liacht* light, Old Saxon *lioht*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *licht*, Old High German *liohht* (modern German *Licht*), Old Icelandic *ljōs*, and Gothic *liuhath*.

By the early 1300's *gh* was beginning to appear as a variant and then a substitute for Old English *h* in the middle of such words as *light*, also formerly written *liht* in early Middle English, owing in particular to influence of the French scribes. —**adj.** 1122 *liht*; later *light* (before 1325); developed from Old English (before 830) *lēht* bright, shining; developed with the noun. —**v.** Probably before 1160 *lihten*; later *lighten* (before 1325); developed from Old English *līhtan* (about 1000), *līhtan* (before 1000), *līhtan*; cognate with Old Saxon *liuhtian* give light, light up, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *lichten*, Old High German *liuhten* (modern German *leuchten*), Old Icelandic *lýsa*, and Gothic *liuhtjan*, from Proto-Germanic **leuHti-janan*, from **leuHtan* light, the source of Old English *lēoht*, *n.*

light² *adj.* not heavy. Before 1150 *liht*; later *light* (about 1300); developed from Old English *lēoht* (before 899); later *līht* (about 950); cognate with Old Frisian *licht* not heavy, light, Old Saxon *līht*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *licht*, Old High German *līhti* (modern German *leicht*), Old Icelandic *lēttr* (Danish *let*, Norwegian *lett*, Swedish *lätt*), and Gothic *leihts*, from Proto-Germanic **linHtaz*. —**adv.** Probably about 1150 *lihte*, later *light* (before 1325); developed from Old English (about 900) *lēohte*, *līhte*; from the adjective. —**light-hearted** *adj.* (probably before 1400)

light³ *v.* come down to the ground, alight. About 1175 *lihten* descend, dismount, lighten a load; later *lighten* (before 1325); developed from Old English (about 900) *līhtan*, from *līht*, *lēoht* not heavy; cognate with Old Frisian *lichta* to lighten a load, Middle Dutch *lichten*, Old High German *līhten*, and Old Icelandic *létta* (Danish and Norwegian *lette*, Swedish *lätta*), from Proto-Germanic **linHti-janan*, from **linHtaz* LIGHT².

lighten¹ *v.* brighten. Before 1325 *lightenen*, about 1340 *light-nen*; developed from *light* bright, LIGHT¹.

lighten² *v.* take weight off. Probably about 1350 *lihtnen* make lighter or cheerful; later *lightenen* (about 1380), from *light* not heavy, LIGHT²; compare LIGHT³, *v.*

lighter¹ *n.* thing or person that starts something burning. 1553, person who lights or kindles something; formed in English from *light*¹ make bright + *-er*¹.

lighter² *n.* barge. 1372–74, probably formed in English from *light*³ lighten a load + *-er*¹.

lightning *n.* About 1280, formed from Middle English *lightnen* make light, brighten + *-ing*¹; see LIGHTEN¹.

lights *n. pl.* Probably before 1300 *lightes*, earlier *lihte* (before 1200), from *liht* LIGHT² not heavy; so called because the lungs were distinguished from other internal parts of the body by their lightness.

ligneous *adj.* 1626, borrowed (perhaps through French *ligneux*, feminine *ligneuse*) from Latin *ligneus* wooden, of wood, from *lignum* wood, from *legere* to gather; for suffix see -OUS.

lignite *n.* 1808, borrowed from French *lignite*, from Latin *lignum* wood; for suffix see -ITE¹.

like¹ *adj.* similar. About 1200 *iliche*, *ilike*; later *like* (about 1225); developed as an abbreviated form of Old English *gelic* like, similar (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *gelike* like, Old Saxon *gilik*, Middle Dutch *ghelijc* (modern Dutch *gelijk*), Old High German *gilih* (modern German *gleich*), Old Icelandic *glíkr*, *líkr* (Norwegian and Swedish *lik*, Danish *lig*), and Gothic *galeiks*, from a Proto-Germanic compound **galikaz* having the same form, literally, with a corresponding body **ja*, source of Old English *ge-* with, together + (**likan* source of Old English *lic* body). Compare -LY². —**prep.** (as in *sing like a bird*) Apparently about 1200 *lic*; later *like* (before 1250); from the adjective. —**adv.** (as in *like enough it will rain*) Before 1325, in the same manner as; from the adjective. —**conj.** (as in *act like he was afraid*) Probably about 1380; from the adverb. —**n.** (as in *not to see her like again*) Probably before 1200 *liche*; later *like* (before 1393); from the adjective. —**like-ness** *n.* About 1175 *licnesse*; later *liknesse* something similar (about 1250); appearance, guise (probably before 1300); developed from Old English *gelicness*, from *gelic* like + *-ness*. —**like-wise** *adv.* About 1443, from *in lik wise* in a similar manner.

like² *v.* be pleased with. Probably about 1150 *liken* to please; later, be pleased, find agreeable (probably before 1200); developed from Old English *līcian* to please (before 899); cognate with Old Frisian *likia* to please, Old Saxon *likōn* (from Proto-Germanic **likōjanan*), Old High German *līhhen*, Old Icelandic *lika*, and Gothic *leikan*; derived from the Proto-Germanic source of Old English *gelic* similar, LIKE¹. —**likes** *n.* 1851, likings, preferences; earlier *like*, *likes* pleasure or will (before 1325); from the verb. —**likable** *adj.* 1882, variant of *likeable* (1730; formed from English *like* + *-able*). —**liking** *n.* Probably before 1200 *licung*; developed from Old English *līcung*, from *līcian* to please + *-ung* -ing¹.

-like a suffix forming adjectives from nouns and meaning: like, resembling, as in *daisylike*, *wolflike*; characteristic of, as in *childlike*, *workmanlike*; suited to, as in *businesslike*. Late Middle English, abstracted from LIKE¹, *adj.*

likely *adj.* Before 1325 *licly*; later *likly* (about 1385); developed from late Old English *geliclic*; perhaps borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *líkligr*, *glíkligr* likely, formed from *líkr*, *glíkr* similar, LIKE¹ + *-ligr* -ly², adjective suffix). —**adv.** Apparently about 1378 *licly*; later *likly* (probably before 1400); from the adjective. —**likelihood** *n.* 1390 *liklyhede*; later *liklyhode* (1427); formed from Middle English *likly* likely + *-hede*, *-hode* hood.

liken *v.* 1280 *likenen*, formed from Middle English *like* similar, like¹ + *-nen* -en¹.

lilac *n.* 1625 *lelacke tree*; later *lilac* (1658); borrowed from obsolete French *lilac* (now *lilas*), from Persian *lilak*, variant of *nīlak* bluish, from *nīl* indigo. —**adj.** pale pinkish-purple. 1801, from the noun.

lilt *v.* Apparently about 1380 (West Midland dialect) *lulten* to sound an alarm; of uncertain origin. The East Midland form **liltten* is implied in the compound *lilting-horn*. The sense of sing in a light, tripping manner is first recorded in 1786. —**n. 1728, lively song; from the verb. The sense of rhythmical swing or cadence is first recorded in 1840.**

lily *n.* About 1150 *lilie*; found in Old English (971) *lilie*; borrowed from Latin *lilia*, plural of *lilium* a lily. —**adj.** Before 1533, like a white lily, pure, lovely; later, pallid or colorless (1590); from the noun.

lima bean 1756; associated with *Lima* (lĕ'mə), Peru, from which the plant was first introduced.

limb¹ *n.* leg, arm, wing, or branch. 1547 *limb*, alteration (with added *b* as in *thumb*) of early modern English *lim*, *lymme*, *lym*, etc., found in Middle English *lim* (1125), and Old English *lim* limb, part of the body, joint, main branch of a tree (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Icelandic *limr*, *lim* limb, branch (Swedish, Norwegian, and Danish *lem* limb, member of the body), from Proto-Germanic *limu-*. The *-b* in words such as *limb* and *thumb* began to appear at the end of the 1500's and has no etymological significance. It is probable that the spelling with *-b* developed by influence of *limb*² either by design or confusion.

limb² *n.* 1392, graduated edge of a quadrant or other astronomical instrument; borrowed from Old French *limbe* and directly from Latin *limbus* border, edge. The meaning of the edge of the disk of a celestial body is first recorded before 1677.

limber¹ *adj.* flexible. 1565, of uncertain origin. The origin has been ascribed to a possible derivation from *limb*¹, in allusion to the relatively easy movement of boughs of a tree; another suggestion makes a connection with *limber*², in allusion to the flexible movement of the shafts of a cart (this ignores the difference in date and form: *limber*² is not recorded with *-b* until more than fifty years after the appearance of *limber*¹). —**v.** 1748, from the adjective.

limber² *n.* detachable front part of the carriage of a field gun. 1628, alteration of Middle English *lymer* (1454), *lymour* (1430), from earlier *lymon* shaft of a cart (about 1400); borrowed from Old French *limon* shaft of a carriage or cart, of uncertain origin; (perhaps from a Germanic source; compare Old Icelandic *limr*, *lim* LIMB¹; but possibly, from a Celtic source). —**v.** 1843, from the noun.

limbo *n.* About 1378, region on the border of hell; borrowed from Latin (*in*) *limbō* (on) the edge, ablative case of *limbus* edge, border; see LIMP¹, *v.* The figurative sense of a place for people and things forgotten is first recorded in 1642.

Limburger *n.* About 1870; earlier *Limburg cheese* (1817); borrowed from Dutch *Limburger* or from *Limburg*, a province in northeastern Belgium, where the cheese is made.

lime¹ *n.* white substance made up of calcium oxide, obtained by burning shells, bones, etc. About 1150 *lim* lime; developed from Old English (about 700) *lim* sticky substance, birdlime, glue. Old English *lim* is cognate with Old Saxon *lim* birdlime, glue, Middle Dutch *lim* (modern Dutch *lijm*), Old High German *lim* (modern German *Leim*), and Old Icelandic *lim* (Danish, Norwegian, and Swedish *lim*), from Proto-Germanic **leimaz*. Related to LOAM. See also SLIME. —**v.** Probably before 1200 *limen* to cement; developed from Old English *geliman* (before 800); cognate with Old High German *limen* to cement, and Old Icelandic *lima*; derived from the Germanic root that is the source of Old English *lim*, *n.* —**limelight** (1826) —**limestone** *n.* (before 1398)

lime² *n.* greenish-yellow fruit. 1638, borrowed from Spanish *lima*, from Arabic *lima* citrus fruit, probably a back formation from *limūn* lemon, from Persian. Related to LEMON.

lime³ *n.* linden tree. 1625, variant of earlier *line* (about 1510); developed from Middle English *lynde* (about 1325), found in Old English *lind* LINDEN.

limerick *n.* 1896, in allusion to *Limerick*, a county and city in Ireland. There is no evidence to support the explanation that the verse was named after the custom at parties of presenting extemporaneous nonsense verses, each followed by the refrain "Will you come up to Limerick?"

limey *n.* 1918, American English, possibly from the earlier Australian slang name for an English immigrant (1888). *Limey* is first recorded as an Australian shortening for *lime-juicer* (1857), so called from the use of lime juice on British naval ships (introduced by the Navy in 1795) to prevent scurvy among sailors.

limit *n.* Probably 1384, a legal limitation on power or authority; later, a geographical boundary (probably before 1400); borrowed from Old French *limite* a boundary, learned borrowing from Latin *līmitē* (accusative of *limes*) a boundary, embankment between fields, border, related to *līmen* threshold, and perhaps to *līmus* sidelong; see LIMB¹, *n.* The general sense, as in *a limit to one's patience*, is first recorded in English in 1413. —**v.** About 1390, prescribe, fix; also, set a limit to (before 1398); borrowed from Old French *limiter*, from Latin *līmitāre* bound, limit, fix, determine, from *līmes* boundary. —**limitation** *n.* About 1395 *limitacioun* district allotted for begging; later, an assigned limit or bound (probably before 1430); borrowed through Old French *limitacion*, and directly from Latin *līmitātiōnem* (nominative *līmitātiō*), from *līmitāre* to limit; for suffix see -ATION.

limn *v.* About 1420 *lemynen*; also *limnen* to illuminate a manuscript (before 1425); both forms are variants of earlier *luminen* (before 1398); borrowed from Old French *luminer*, from Latin *lūmināre* illuminate, burnish, from *lūmen* (genitive *lūminis*) radiant energy, LIGHT¹. The sense of paint a picture, portray, depict, is first recorded in English in 1592.

limnology *n.* 1893, formed in English from Greek *līmnē* lake, marsh + English -o- + -logy. Greek *līmnē* is probably related to *leimōn* meadow; originally, a hollow, and *limēn* harbor (as a protected bay).

limousine *n.* 1902, borrowing of French *limousine* (about 1900), earlier a cloak of wool or goat's hair used by cart drivers or wagoners (since 1836), from the name *Limousin*, a region in central France, earlier an adjective referring to the capital, Limoges.

limp¹ *v.* walk lamely. 1570, of uncertain origin; not found in Middle or Old English, but possibly related to Middle English *lympen* to fall short, as of the truth (probably before 1400); perhaps short for *lympe hault* (as recorded in 1530), from Old English *lemphealt*, *læmpihalt* halting, lame, limping (about 700); compare Middle High German *limpfen* to limp, *lampen* hang down. —**n.** 1818, from the verb.

limp² *adj.* lacking stiffness or firmness. 1706, of uncertain origin, but probably related to LIMP¹.

limpet *n.* 1312–13 *lempet*, developed from Old English (about 1050) *lempedu*; borrowed from Medieval Latin *lampreda* limpet. The spelling *limpet* appeared in 1602.

limpid *adj.* 1609, *limpidde*, borrowed through French *limpide*, and directly from Latin *limpidus* clear.

linchpin *n.* 1376–77 *linspin*, formed from earlier (before 1333) *lins* linchpin + *pin*. Middle English *lins* developed from Old English *lynis* (before 809); cognate with Old Saxon *lunisa* linchpin, Middle Dutch *lunse* (modern Dutch *luns*), late Middle High German *luns*, *lunse* (modern German *Lünse*), from Proto-Germanic **luntsō*.

linden *n.* 1577, noun use of *linden*, *adj.*, made of wood of the linden tree; Middle English (probably before 1300) and Old English (before 1000), from earlier *lind* linden (about 700); cognate with Old Saxon *linda*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *linde*, Old High German *linta* (modern German *Linde*), and Old Icelandic *lind*, from Proto-Germanic **lindō*. Related to LIME³.

line¹ *n.* long thin mark. By 1425, most of the ordinary senses of *line* in modern English had been recorded in Middle English and any sense division between the Old and Middle English forms had been completely coalesced in a fusion of: 1) Old English *līne* rope, row (before 900), and 2) Middle English *line*, *līgne* cord or rope, line (probably about 1225), borrowed through Old French *līgne*. Both Old and Middle English forms were ultimately borrowed from Latin *līnea* linen thread, string, line, from the phrase *līnea restis* linen cord, from *līneus*, *adj.*, of linen, from *līnum* flax, LINEN. —**v.** Before 1398 *linen* to tie with a cord; from the noun. The sense of mark or mark off with lines probably appeared before 1460. —**liner**¹ *n.* Probably about 1400, an official in Scotland who supervises land boundary records; later, a ship (1829) belonging to a transportation system; formed from English *line*¹, *n.* and *v.* + -er¹. The meaning of cosmetic marker is first recorded in 1926.

line² *v.* put a layer inside of. About 1387–95 *linen*, developed

from Old English (about 700) *līn* linen cloth, LINEN. —**liner**² n. 1611, person who fits a lining to; later, something that serves as a lining (1869), formed from English *line* + *-er*¹. Possibly known by 1454 in the form *lineur* linen underwear.

lineage n. 1697, spelling alteration (influenced by *line*¹) of Middle English *linage* (probably before 1300); borrowed from Old French *lignage*, from *ligne* LINE¹; for suffix see *-AGE*.

lineal adj. Before 1398, of or in a line; borrowed through Anglo-French *lineale*, Old French *lineal*, and Late Latin *lineālis* belonging to a line; both from Latin *linea* LINE¹; for suffix see *-AL*¹. Compare LINEAR. The sense of in the direct line of descent is first recorded before 1420.

linear adj. 1642, borrowed, perhaps through French *linéaire*, from Latin *lineāris* belonging to a line, from *linea* string, LINE¹; for suffix see *-AR*.

Linear and *lineal* are of the same Latin origin: in Latin *lineāris* the original suffix *-ālis* was dissimilated to *-āris*, but in Late Latin, this rule was no longer productive and the formation or re-formation in *-ālis* remained unchanged.

linen n. Probably before 1325, a garment made of linen, from earlier *linnen*, adj., made of flax, made of linen (probably before 1200); developed from Old English (about 700) *līnin*, adj., made of flax, from *līn* flax, linen thread or cloth. Old English *līn* was probably an early borrowing (along with Old Saxon, Old High German, and Old Icelandic *līn* flax, and Gothic *lein* linen cloth) from Latin *linum* flax, linen.

-ling a suffix forming nouns and meaning: little, unimportant, as in *lordling*, *duckling*; one that is, as in *underling*; one belonging to, as in *earthling*. Middle English and Old English *-ling*; cognate with Old High German and modern German *-ling*, Old Icelandic *-lingr*, and Gothic *-lings*; probably formed from the Germanic suffixes *-el* *-LE*¹ + *-ing*¹.

linger v. Before 1325 *lengeren* reside, dwell, frequentative form of *lengen* prolong, lengthen (before 1225); developed from Old English *lengan* prolong, lengthen (about 725); cognate with Old Frisian *lengza* lengthen, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *lengen*, Old High German *lengan* lengthen, draw out, and Old Icelandic *lengja*, from Proto-Germanic **langijanan*; derived from the Proto-Germanic root that is the source of Old English *lang* LONG¹, adj. The meaning of stay on or go slowly, as if unwilling to leave, is first recorded in 1530.

lingerie n. 1835, borrowing of French *lingerie* things made of linen, from Old French *linge* linen, from Latin *līneus*, adj., of linen, from *linum* flax, LINEN.

lingo n. 1660, possibly borrowed from Provençal *lingo*, *lengo* language or tongue, from Old Provençal *lenga*, from Latin *lingua* TONGUE.

lingua franca 1678, borrowed from Italian *lingua franca*, literally, Frankish language. The original *lingua franca*, spoken especially in the Levant, was a hybrid language of some French, Spanish, Greek, Arabic, and Turkish, but consisting largely of Italian words with reduced inflections. "Frankish" probably meant European to the Arabs and other users of the original *lingua franca*.

lingual adj. 1650, probably borrowed directly from Medieval Latin *lingualis* of the tongue, from Latin *lingua* TONGUE; for suffix see *-AL*¹.

linguine n. 1948, borrowing of Italian *linguine*, plural of *linguina* little tongue, diminutive of *lingua* tongue, from Latin *lingua* TONGUE.

linguist n. 1588, person skilled in languages, formed in English from Latin *lingua* language, TONGUE + English *-ist*. The sense of a student of language is first recorded in 1641.

—**linguistic** adj. 1856, formed from English *linguist* + *-ic*, and probably in some instances borrowed from French *linguistique* (1833). —**linguistics** n. 1847, American English, the study or science of languages; formed from English *linguist* + *-ics*, on the patterns of *physics*, *mathematics*, etc. An earlier singular noun form, *linguistic* (1837) was apparently borrowed from German *Linguistik*.

liniment n. Probably before 1425, an ointment, salve; borrowed from Late Latin *linimentum* a soft ointment, from Latin *linire*, earlier *linere* to daub, smear; for suffix see *-MENT*.

lining n. 1378, formed from Middle English *linen* to LINE² + *-ing*¹.

link n. Before 1415 *lynke* section of a rope or cord; later, link of a chain (about 1443); probably borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Swedish *lænker* chain or link, modern Swedish *länk*, Norwegian *lenke*, Danish *lænke*); from Proto-Germanic **Hlankijaz*; cognate with Old English *hlencan*, pl., armor, Middle High German *gelenke* flexible parts of the body (modern German *Gelenk* joint or link), *lenken* to bend. —**v.** About 1385 *linken* to bind or fasten; probably from the noun, although recorded some thirty years earlier, which suggests a defect in the record of this word. —**linkage** n. 1874, formed from English *link*, v. + *-age*.

links n. pl. 1728, from Scottish and Northumbrian *links* sandy, rolling ground, usually covered with turf, and found near the seashore (1702); developed from Old English (931) *hlinc* rising ground, ridge (plural *hlincas*).

linnet n. About 1530, borrowed from Middle French *linette*, from *lin* flax, from Latin *linum* LINEN; so called because flaxseed forms much of the bird's diet.

linoleum n. 1878, a compound of Latin *linum* flax, LINEN + *oleum* OIL. The word was coined in 1860 for a preparation of solidified linseed oil used to coat canvas for making floor coverings.

linseed n. About 1150 *linsed*; developed from Old English (about 1000) *līnsæd* flaxseed.

lint n. 1392 *linet* fleecy material, obtained by scraping linen; also *lint* (before 1400); borrowed from Middle French *linette* grain of flax, diminutive of *lin* flax, from Latin *linum* flax, LINEN. The sense of bits of thread or fluff is first recorded in 1611.

lintel n. 1315, borrowed from Old French *lintel* threshold, of uncertain origin; probably alteration of *lintier*, from Vulgar

Latin **limitāris* threshold, from Latin *limitāris*, adj., that is on the border, from *limes* (genitive *limitis*) border or boundary, LIMIT; the Vulgar Latin meaning "threshold" was influenced by Latin *līmen* (genitive *līminis*) threshold.

In the Wycliffe Bible, *ouerthreswold* was later written as *threisfold*, which may help to explain the confusion surrounding *lintel* and how it got from the sense of a doorsill to that of the top of a door or window. This confusion over *threshold* persisted at least until 1834.

lion *n.* About 1175 *leon*; later *lyon* (about 1200), and *lioun* (probably before 1300); borrowed from Old French *lion* and Latin *leōnem* (nominative *leō*), from Greek *leōn* (genitive *leontos*).

The form *lēo*, recorded in Old English (before 830) as a variant of Anglian *lēa*, was a borrowing directly from Latin *leō*, the source for all Germanic forms, as found in Old Frisian *lawe*, Old Saxon *leo*, Middle Dutch *leuwe* (modern Dutch *leeuw*), Old High German *lēwo*, *louwo*, Middle High German *lewe*, *louwe* (modern German *Löwe*, *Leu*), and Old Icelandic *leōn*, *liōn*.

lip *n.* Before 1200 *lippe*, developed from Old English *lippa* (about 1000); cognate with Old Frisian *lippa* lip, Middle High German and Middle Dutch *lippe* (modern Dutch *lip*), Old High German *lefs*, dialectal High German *Lefze*, modern German *Lippe* (from Low German), Swedish *läpp*, Norwegian *leppe*, from Proto-Germanic **leppjōn*. The slang sense of saucy talk, impudence appeared in 1821, probably from the earlier (1579) phrase *move the lip* to utter even the slightest word (against someone). —**lip-read** *v.* 1892, back formation from *lip-reading*, *n.* (1874). —**lipstick** *n.* (1880).

lipid *n.* 1925 *lipide*, borrowed from French (1923), from Greek *lipos* fat + French *-ide* (chemical suffix). The spelling *lipid* was perhaps formed independently in English from Greek *lipos* + *-id*, variant of *-ide*.

liquefy *v.* Probably before 1425 *liquefien*; borrowed from Old French *liquefier*, learned borrowing from Latin *liquefacere* make liquid, melt (*liquēre* be fluid + *facere* make); for suffix see *-FY*.

liqueur *n.* 1729, borrowing of French *liqueur*, from Old French *licour* liquid; see LIQUOR.

liquid *adj.* Before 1384, borrowed from Old French *liquide*, from Latin *liquidus* fluid, liquid, moist, from *liquēre* be fluid, related to *liqui* to melt, flow, *lixa* water, lye. The application to sound with the meaning of clear, flowing, is found before 1637, and the sense pertaining to finance as of assets, securities, etc. in 1879. —**n.** 1530 *liquid* the sound of *l* or *r*, liquid consonant; borrowed from Middle French *liquide*, from Latin *liquidus* (litterae) the letters *l*, *m*, *n*, *r*, a translation of Greek *hygrá* (stoicheia). The meaning of a liquid substance is not recorded before 1708; from the adjective.

liquidate *v.* About 1575, make clear or ascertain the amount (of a debt, etc.); borrowed, perhaps through influence of Middle French *liquider*, from Late Latin *liquidatus*, past participle of *liquidare* to melt, make liquid or clear, clarify, from Latin *liquidus* LIQUID; for suffix see *-ATE*¹. The sense of clear away (a

debt) is first recorded in 1755. The sense of settle the accounts of (a business, etc.) by distributing the assets is first recorded in English in 1870. The meaning of eliminate, wipe out, kill (1924), was possibly a loan translation from Russian *likvidirovat'*. —**liquidation** *n.* About 1575, act of liquidating assets, etc.; borrowed from Middle French *liquidation* (*liquider* liquidate + *-ation* *-ation*).

liquor *n.* Probably before 1200 *licur* a liquid; later *liquour* (before 1398); borrowed from Old French *licour*, *likeur*, learned borrowing from Latin *liquor* liquid, liquidity, from *liquēre* be fluid; see LIQUID. Related to LIQUEUR. The sense of any drink, especially wine is first recorded probably before 1300.

liquorice *n.* = licorice.

lisle *n.* 1851, borrowing of French *Lisle*, earlier spelling of *Lille*, a city in northern France where this thread was originally made.

lisp *v.* Before 1225 *wlispin*; later *lispyn* (about 1440); developed from Old English (before 1100) *-wlispian*, in *āwlispian*, from *ulisp*, *adj.*, lisp; probably of imitative origin and similar in formation to Middle Low German *wlisp* to lisp, Low German *lisp*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *lisp*, Old High German *lisp* (modern German *lispeln*), Swedish *läspa*, Norwegian *lespe*, and Danish *læspe*. —**n.** Before 1625, from the verb.

lissome *adj.* Before 1800, variant of earlier *lithesome* (1768–74); formed from English *lithe* + *-some*¹.

list¹ *n.* series of names, numbers, words, etc. 1602, borrowed from French *liste*, from Old French *liste* border, band, row, group, from Italian *lista*, from a Germanic source (compare Old High German *lista* strip, border, LIST²). —**v.** 1614, from the noun.

The meaning of *list*¹ is a Romance development and the sense of a list of names, etc., came from French, and not by way of Middle English from the already existing Old English *līste* border.

list² *n.* border or edge of cloth. Probably about 1280 *liste*; found in Old English (about 700) *līste* border; cognate with Middle Low German *līste* border or edge, Middle Dutch *lijste* (modern Dutch *lijst*), Old High German *lista* (modern German *Leiste*), Old Icelandic *lista* (Norwegian and Swedish *list*, Danish *liste*), from Proto-Germanic **listōn*. —**v.** Probably before 1300 *listen*, from the noun.

list³ *v.* (of a ship) to lean or incline to one side, tilt. 1880, variant of earlier *lust* (1626); of uncertain origin (sometimes referred to Middle English *lysten* LIST⁴, as an extended use of "be inclined to," but while the form *lust* in early modern English fits cognates of *list*⁴, the development of the spelling in English is at odds with *list*⁴). —**n.** 1793, variant of earlier *lust* (1633); from the verb.

list⁴ *v.* Archaic. to please, desire. About 1150 *lysten* to please, desire, wish, like; later *listen* (probably before 1200); developed from Old English *lystan* to desire (before 899); cognate with Old Saxon *lustian* to desire or wish, modern Dutch *lusten* to

like, fancy, Old High German *lusten* to desire or wish (modern German *lusten*), and Old Icelandic *lysta*, from Proto-Germanic **lustijan*; all derived from the Proto-Germanic root that is the source of Old English *lust* desire; see LUST. —**n.** Archaic. desire, longing, inclination. Probably before 1200 *liste*, from *listen*, *v.*

list⁵ *v.* Archaic. listen. About 1175 *lysten*, later *listen* (probably before 1200); developed from Old English *hlystan* hear, hear-ken, LISTEN (before 899). Old English *hlystan* was formed from *hlyst* hearing (from Proto-Germanic **Hlustiz*).

listen *v.* Probably about 1150 *lusnen* pay attention, try to hear; later *lustnen* (probably before 1200), and *listnen* (before 1250). The Middle English forms with *t* are spelling alterations (by association with *listen* to try to hear, LIST⁵) of Old English *hlysnan* to listen (before 800), corresponding to Middle High German *lūsenen*, from Proto-Germanic **Hlusiñjanan*, and related to *hlystan* to hear, listen, and *hlyst* hearing. The Old English forms are cognate with Old Icelandic *hlusta* to hear, listen, *hlust* hearing, ear, Old Saxon *hlust* hearing, ear, Old High German *lūstrēn* to listen, *hlosēn* to listen, attend. —**n.** 1788, American English; from the verb. —**listenable** *adj.* (1920)

listless *adj.* 1440 *listles*; formed from Middle English *liste* desire, LIST⁴ + *-less*.

lists *n.pl.* About 1385 *listes*; a blend of *list*² border, and Old French *lisse* place of combat, from Germanic (compare Old High German *lista* border, edge, LIST²).

litany *n.* Probably before 1200 *letanie*; borrowed from Old French *letanie* and Medieval Latin *letania*, both from Late Latin *litanīa*, from Greek *litaneia* litany, an entreating, from *liē* prayer, entreaty.

The generalized sense of a repeated series (as in a *litany* of *courses*) is recorded before 1822, probably borrowed from French *litanie* a monotonous enumeration. The spelling *litany* appeared in English in 1679, influenced by the Late Latin and Greek forms.

-lite a combining form meaning stone or rock, as in the names *chrysolite*, *aerolite* (meteorite made up of stone). Borrowed from French *-lite* or *-lithe*, from Greek *lithos* stone.

liter *n.* 1797 *litre*, borrowing of French *litre* (1793), from *litron*, an obsolete French measure of capacity, from Medieval Latin *litra*, from Greek *litra* pound (unit of weight, 12 ounces), apparently from the same source (probably Sicilian Italic **liθrā*) as Latin *libra* pound (12 ounces), balance, pair of scales.

literal *adj.* Before 1397, not figurative or allegorical; also before 1398, pertaining to letters of the alphabet; borrowed from Old French *lital* and from Late Latin *litterālis*, *litterālis* of or belonging to letters or writing, from Latin *littera*, *littera* LETTER; for suffix see -AL¹. The sense as in a *literal translation*, is first recorded in 1599.

literary *adj.* 1646, pertaining to letters of the alphabet; later, pertaining to literature (1737); borrowed from French *littéraire*, from Latin *litterārius*, *litterārius* belonging to letters or learning, from *littera*, *littera* LETTER; for suffix see -ARY.

literate *adj.* Probably before 1425 *litterate* able to read and write, educated; borrowed from Latin *litterātus*, *litterātus* lettered, learned, formed in imitation of Greek *grammatikós* (see GRAMMATICAL) from Latin *littera*, *littera* LETTER; for suffix see -ATE¹. —**literacy** *n.* 1883, formed from English *literate* + *-cy*, in contrast to earlier *illiteracy* (1660).

literati *n.pl.* 1621, borrowed from Latin *litterātī*, *litterātī*, plural of *litterātus*, *litterātus* lettered, LITERATE.

literature *n.* Probably before 1425 *litterature* knowledge from books, book learning; borrowed through Middle French *littérature*, and directly from Latin *litterātūra*, *litterātūra* writing, from *littera*, *littera* LETTER; for suffix see -URE.

The meaning of a body of writings of a period or of a country, emerged relatively late in English in 1812. The sense of a bibliography or list of works published on a given subject is first recorded in English in 1860.

lith- a form of **litho-** before a vowel, as in *lithic* consisting of stone or rock (1797).

-lith a combining form meaning stone or rock, as in *megalith*, *monolith*. Borrowed, through New Latin *-lithus* or French *-lithe*, from Greek *lithos* stone.

lithe *adj.* About 1150, gentle, smooth, pleasant; found in Old English *lithe* soft, mild, gentle (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Saxon *liθi* soft, mild, gentle, Old High German *lindi* (modern German *lind*), and Norwegian *linn*, from Proto-Germanic **linthijaz*. The Old English and Old Saxon forms show a characteristic loss of *n* before *th*. The sense of supple, bending easily, is first recorded about 1300.

lithium *n.* 1818, New Latin, from Greek *lithos* stone + New Latin *-ium*; so called from the mineral or "stone" origin of this alkali metal, as distinguished from two previously known alkalis of vegetable origin.

litho- a combining form meaning stone or rock, as in *lithography*, *lithosphere*. Borrowed from Greek *litho-*, from *lithos* stone.

lithography *n.* 1813, borrowed from German *Lithographie* (*litho-* stone + *-graphie* -graphy). In the obsolete sense of a description of stones or rocks, *lithography* appeared in English as early as 1708, borrowed from New Latin *lithographia*.

—**lithograph** *n.* 1839, print made by lithography; —**v.** 1825, to print by lithography; both back formations from *lithography*.

litigate *v.* 1615, borrowed, perhaps through influence of Middle French *litigier*, from Latin *litigātus*, past participle of *litigare*, from a lost adjective **litigus* carrying on a lawsuit (*lis*, genitive *litis*, lawsuit + the root of *agere* to drive, conduct); for suffix see -ATE¹. —**litigant** *n.* 1659, from (1638) *adj.*, engaged in a lawsuit; borrowed from French *litigant*, learned borrowing from Latin *litigantem* (nominative *litigāns*), present participle of *litigare*; for suffix see -ANT. —**litigation** *n.* 1567, disputation; 1647, act of carrying on a lawsuit; borrowed from Middle French *litigation*, learned borrowing of Late Latin *litigatiōnem* (nominative *litigatiō*), from Latin *litigare*; for suffix see -ATION. *Litigate* was probably not a back formation from *litigation* because the sense of *litigation* a carrying on of a lawsuit was later (1647) than the first recorded use of the verb (1615).

litigious *adj.* About 1384, quarrelsome; later, engaged in litigation (about 1450); borrowed from Latin *litigiōsus* contentious or quarrelsome, from *litigium* dispute, strife, from a lost adjective **litigus* carrying on a lawsuit, see LITIGATE; for suffix see -IOUS.

litmus *n.* 1324–25 *litemose*, borrowed from a Scandinavian source; compare Old Norwegian *litmosi* (lita to dye + *mosi* moss), Swedish *letmossa*. The earliest Middle English form is *lykemose* (1320), borrowed from Middle Dutch *lijkmoes*, variant of *lēcmoes* (*lēken* to drip, LEAK + *mos* MOSS); so called because this dye is obtained from various lichens.

The spelling *litmus* was probably reinforced by obsolete English *lit* to dye or stain, borrowed from Old Icelandic *lita*, from *litr* color, dye, cognate with Old English *wlite* brightness, beauty, and Gothic *wlits* face, from Proto-Germanic **wlitiz*. The phrase *litmus test* with the figurative meaning of a decisive or acid test (1957), derives from the use of paper treated with litmus as a chemical indicator (*litmus paper*, 1803).

litotes *n.* 1657, borrowing of Greek *litōtēs*, from *litós* small, plain, simple, related to *leōs* smooth; see LIME.

litter *n.* Probably before 1300 *liter* portable bed; later *litter* (1410); borrowed through Anglo-French *litere*, Old French *litier*, alteration of expected **leitier* (by influence of *lit* bed), from Medieval Latin *lectaria* litter, from Latin *lectus* bed, couch; see LIE² recline; for suffix see -ER¹. Middle English *liter* was also influenced in formation by Anglo-Latin *litera*, alteration of Medieval Latin *lectaria*.

The sense of straw used for bedding is first recorded about 1410, and that of the offspring of an animal at one birth in 1440. The meaning of odds and ends, things scattered about, debris, appeared in 1730, probably from the verb. —**v.** Before 1398 *literen* provide with bedding; from the noun. The meaning of scatter things about is first recorded in 1713.

little *adj.* 1106 *litel*; earlier *litte* (1066); developed from Old English *lytel* (about 725, in *Beowulf*), related to *lyt* little or few (from Proto-Germanic **lūtī*). Old English *lytel* is cognate with Old Saxon *luttill* little, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *luttel*, Old High German *luzzil*, dialectal German *lützel*, from West Proto-Germanic **lūtīla-*, **luttīla-*, from **lūt-*.

A cognate, synonymous and phonetically similar Proto-Germanic form, **lūtīla-*, found as Gothic *leitils* small, little, Old Icelandic *litell* (Swedish and Norwegian *liten*, Danish *liden*), Old Frisian *litik*, and Middle Dutch *litel* suggests influence from Old Icelandic *litell*. —**adv.** Before 1125 *litel*, developed from Old English (about 1000) *lytel*; from the adjective. —**n.** Before 1121 *litel*, developed from Old English (about 1000) *lytel*; from the adjective.

littoral *adj.* 1656, borrowed from Latin *littoralis*, *littoralis* of or belonging to the seashore, from *litus* (genitive *litoris*) shore; for suffix see -AL¹. —**n.** 1828, borrowed from Italian *littorale*, originally *adj.*, of the seashore, from Latin *littoralis*, *littoralis*.

liturgy *n.* 1560, borrowed through Middle French *liturgie*, and directly from Late Latin *liturgia* public service, public worship, from Greek *leitourgía*, from *leitourgós* one who performs a public ceremony or service (*leitō-*, earlier *leitō-* public, from *laōs*

people; see LAY² + -*ergos* that works, from *érgon* WORK); for suffix see -Y³. —**liturgical** *adj.* 1641; formed in English from Late Latin *liturgicus* (from Greek *leitourgikós*, from *leitourgia* liturgy) + English -al¹.

live¹ *v.* have life, exist. Before 1121 *lifēn*; later *liven* (probably before 1160); developed from Old English *lifian* (Anglian, about 725, in *Beowulf*), and *libban* (West Saxon), cognate with Old Frisian *libba* to live, Old Saxon *libbian*, Middle Dutch *lēven* (modern Dutch *leven*), Old High German *lebēn* (modern German *leben*), Old Icelandic *lifa* (Swedish *leva*, Danish and Norwegian *leve*), and Gothic *liban*; all from the Proto-Germanic stem **libbē*, from the root **lib-* to remain, continue, whence English LIFE. —**livable, liveable** *adj.* 1611, likely to live; later, conducive to living (1664); and suitable for living (1814); formed from English *live*¹ + -able. —**living** *n.* About 1350, fact of being alive; formed from Middle English *liven* to live + -ing¹. —**adj.** Before 1375, being alive; alteration of earlier *liviend* (probably before 1200), developed from Old English *lifiende*, present participle of *lifian* to live; for suffix see -ING².

live² *adj.* alive. 1542, having life; later, burning, glowing (1611); variant of ALIVE. The meaning as in a live performance, is found first in 1934 in British English. —**livestock** *n.* (1742 *live stock*, American English)

livelihood *n.* 1611, alteration of *livelode* means of keeping alive, by association with *livelihood* liveliness. The older Middle English form *livelode* (probably before 1325) took the form *livelihood* (1566, from *lyvelyhed*, before 1475, a compound of *lyvely* living + -hed -head), and developed from Old English (about 1000) *līflād* course of life (*līf* LIFE + *lād* way, course; see LOAD).

live³ *adj.* About 1410 *live long (day)*, *leve longe (day)*; formed from Middle English *leve*, *lef* dear + LONG¹ and corresponding to German *die liebe lange Nacht* (literally) the dear long night.

lively *adj.* 1377 *līflich* active, energetic; later *lyvely* (probably before 1400); developed from Old English (before 1000) *līflīc* living, existing (*līf* LIFE + -*lic* -ly²).

liven *v.* 1884 *liven up*; formed from English *live* + -en¹, under the influence (or as an abstracted form) of the earlier *enliven* (1633) from *en-* + *live* + -en¹.

liver *n.* About 1150 *liver*, in compound *liver-sar* pain or disease of the liver; developed from Old English *lifer* (before 899); cognate with Old Frisian *livere*, Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *lēver* (modern Dutch *lever*), Old High German *lebara* (modern German *Leber*), and Old Icelandic *lifr*, genitive and plural *lifrar* (Swedish *lever*, Danish and Norwegian *lever*), from Proto-Germanic **librōn* fattened up, an adjective left after loss of the original noun for liver.

liverwort *n.* Before 1325 *liverewort*, developed from Old English (before 1100) *lifewyrȝt* (*lifer* LIVER + *wyrȝt* WORT¹); loan translation of Medieval Latin *hepatica* hepatica; so called from the plant's liver-shaped leaves.

liverwurst *n.* 1869, American English, half translation of German *Leberwurst* (*Leber* liver + *Wurst* sausage).

livery *n.* Probably about 1300 *liveray* allowance of food and drink; later *livere* servants' rations, and *lyvery* delivery of merchandise (probably about 1400); borrowed from Old French *livrée*, from feminine past participle of *livrer* dispense, from Latin *liberāre* liberate; for suffix see -y⁴.

The sense of distinctive clothing given to servants is found about 1380, that of provender for horses before 1440, and that in *livery stable*, in 1705.

livid *adj.* Probably before 1425 *livide*; borrowed from Middle French *livide* and Latin *lividus*, from *livere* be bluish. The sense in *livid with rage*, is first recorded in 1912.

living *n.* See under LIVE¹.

lizard *n.* About 1378 *lusarde* any reptile, such as a crocodile or serpent; also, before 1382 *lisard* a lizard; borrowed through Anglo-French *lusard*, Old French *lesard* (feminine *laisarde*), from Latin *lacertus*, (feminine *lacerta*) lizard.

llama *n.* 1600, borrowing of Spanish *llama*, from Quechua (Peru) *llama*.

lo *interj.* Before 1121 *la*; later *lo* (probably before 1200); a fusion of Old English *lā*, an exclamation of surprise, grief, or joy (about 725, in *Beowulf*), and of Middle English *lok* look! imperative of *loken* to LOOK.

load *n.* Before 1250 *lode* burden or load, earlier *lade* course, way (probably about 1200); found in Old English *lād* way, course, carrying (about 725, in *Beowulf*), from Proto-Germanic **laidō*; related to *lædan* to guide, LEAD¹; influenced in meaning by Middle English *laden* to load, LADE. Also compare *LODE* for differentiation of meaning. The spelling *load* appeared in the 1500's. —**v.** Before 1470 *loden*, from *lode*, *n.*

loaf¹ *n.* bread baked as one piece. About 1280 *lof*, developed from Old English (before 725) *hlāf* bread or loaf; cognate with Old Frisian *hlēf* loaf, Old High German *hleib*, *hlaiba* (modern German *Laib*), Old Icelandic *hleifr* (Swedish *lev*, Norwegian *leiv*), and Gothic *hlaiþs*, from Proto-Germanic **Hlaibaz*. Whether the sense of "bread" or that of "loaf" is the earlier is uncertain.

loaf² *v.* spend time idly. 1835, American English; back formation from *loafer* an idler or vagabond (1830), variant of *land-loafer* (1836, earlier *land looper*, 1795); partial loan translation of German *Landläufer* vagabond (*Land* LAND + *Läufer* runner, from *laufen* to run).

loam *n.* Before 1325 *lam* moistened clay; later *lom* (about 1350); developed from Old English (probably about 700) *lām* clay, mud, mire, earth (from Proto-Germanic **laimaz*). Old English *lām* is cognate with Old Saxon *lāmo*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *leem*, Old High German *leime* (modern German *Lehm*), and related to Old English *līm* glue; see LIME¹. —**v.** 1600, from the noun.

loan *n.* About 1175 *lan*; later *loan* (before 1250); borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *lān*, related to *ljā* to lend). Through Middle English *lan* is cognate

with Old English *lān* loan, the Old English form did not survive into Middle English, but its verb is found in modern English *lend*. Other Germanic cognates are found in Old Frisian *lēn*, Old Saxon *lēhan* loan, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *leen*, Old High German *lēhan* loan, *lēhan* borrow, lend (modern German *leihen* lend), and Gothic *leiþwan* to lend. Old Icelandic *lān* (Danish, Norwegian, and Swedish *lån*) is from Proto-Germanic **laiþwuniz*, -az-. —**v.** 1542–43 (perhaps before 1200); from the noun.

loath *adj.* About 1280 *loth*; earlier *lath* (probably before 1200); developed from Old English (about 700) *lāth* hostile, loathsome, injurious; cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *lēth* loathsome, Old High German *leid* (modern German *Leid* sorrow, harm), Middle Dutch *leet* (modern Dutch *leed*), and Old Icelandic *leidhr* loathsome (Swedish and Danish *led*, Norwegian *lei*), from Proto-Germanic **laithaz*. —**loathsome** *adj.* Before 1400 *laithsum* foul, detestable; later *lothsom* fearsome, terrifying (before 1420); formed from Middle English *lath*, *loth* loath + -sum, -som, -some¹.

loathe *v.* About 1300 *lothen* be hateful or distasteful; also, about 1303, to hate, dislike; developed from Old English *lāthian* to hate (before 899), from *lāth* hostile, LOATH. Old English *lāthian* is cognate with Old Saxon *lēthan* and Old Icelandic *leidha*, from Proto-Germanic **laithōjanan*.

lob *v.* 1847, possibly developed from an amalgam of earlier meanings: to move heavily or clumsily (1819), to cause to hang heavily (1599); perhaps associated with *lobbe*, *lob*, *n.*, country bumpkin (1533), from earlier *lobi* a lazy lout (before 1376, and found as a surname *Lobb*, 1291); probably developed from Old English (unrecorded). —**n.** 1875, from the verb.

lobby *n.* 1593, entrance hall, passageway; earlier, cloister or covered walk (1533); borrowed from Medieval Latin *lobia* covered walk, from a Germanic source (compare Old High German *louba* hall, roof, modern German *Laube* covered way, bower, arcade).

The meaning of persons who try to influence legislators is first recorded in 1808 in American English, from the lobbyists' custom of gathering in the lobby outside a legislative chamber. Such a lobby originally (1640) referred to the one in the British House of Commons, and served for interviews with persons not belonging to the House. —**v.** Before 1848, American English; from the noun. —**lobbyist** *n.* 1863, American English, formed from *lobby*, *v.* + -ist.

lobe *n.* Probably before 1425, borrowed from Middle French *lobe*, and directly from Medieval Latin *lobus*, from Late Latin *lobus* hull, husk, pod, from Greek *lobós* lobe, vegetable pod.

lobelia *n.* 1739, New Latin, in allusion to Matthias de Lobel, 1538–1616, Flemish botanist.

lobotomy *n.* 1936, formed from English *lobe* + connective -o- + -tomy surgical incision.

lobster *n.* Before 1311–12 *lopister*, later *lobster* (1390); developed from Old English (before 1000) *lopystre*, probably from *loppe* spider, variant of *lobbe*; cognate with Middle Low Ger-

man *lobbe*, *lubbe* thick, hanging lip, and Old Icelandic *lubba* large cod (fish).

local *adj.* 1392, borrowed possibly through Old French *local*, and directly from Late Latin *locālis*, from *locus* place, see LOCATE; for suffix see -AL¹. —**n.** 1824, local inhabitant; from the adjective. —**localism** *n.* (1823) —**localization** *n.* (1816) —**localize** *v.* (1792)

locale *n.* 1772 *local*; later *locale* (1816); borrowed from French *local*; noun use of *local*, *adj.*, from Old French; see LOCAL. The spelling with *e* is probably based on *morale*.

locality *n.* 1628, the fact of having a place or location; borrowed from French *localité*, from Late Latin *localitatem* (nominative *localitās*), from *locālis* belonging to a place, LOCAL; for suffix see -ITY. The sense of a geographical place or location, is first recorded in 1830.

locate *v.* 1739, mark the limits of (a place); borrowed from Latin *locātus*, past participle of *locāre* to place, from *locus* a place, from Old Latin *stlocus*; for suffix see -ATE¹. The meaning of fix or establish in a place is first recorded in 1807 and that of find the exact place or locality of, in American English, in 1882. —**location** *n.* 1592, act of leasing for hire; borrowed from Middle French *location*, learned borrowing of Latin *locātiōnem* (nominative *locātiō*) a placing, leasing, from *locāre* hire out, lease, (originally) to place; for suffix see -ATION. The meaning of position or place is first recorded in English in 1597.

loch *n.* 1375 *lauch*, borrowed from Gaelic *loch*, from Old Irish *loch* body of water, LAKE¹.

lock¹ *n.* means of fastening. About 1250 *lok*; developed from Old English *loc* bolt, fastening, enclosure (about 750, from Proto-Germanic **lukan*, and related to *lūcan* to lock or close); cognate with Old Frisian *lok*, Old High German *loh* hole, opening (modern German *Loch*), Old Icelandic *lok*, *loka* fastening, lock, and Gothic **luk*, in *usluk* opening. —**v.** About 1300 *lokken*; from the noun; replacement of Old English *lūcan* (about 750) to close, fasten, lock; cognate with Old Frisian *lūka* to close, Old Saxon *lūkan*, Old High German *lūhhan* (from Proto-Germanic **lūkanan*), Old Icelandic *lūka*, Gothic *galūkan*. —**locker** *n.* 1313 *loker* a means of locking; later, locked receptacle (1388); formed from Middle English *lokken*, *v.*, to lock + -er¹.

lock² *n.* tress of hair. Probably before 1200, developed from Old English (about 700) *loc*; cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *lok* lock; Middle Dutch *loc*, *locke* (modern Dutch *lok*), Old High German *loc* (modern German *Locke*), and Old Icelandic *lokker*, from Proto-Germanic **lukkás*; see LOCK¹.

locket *n.* 1679, ornamental case (with hinged cover); developed from Middle English *loket* crossbar, fastener (1354–55); borrowed from Old French *loquet* latch, diminutive of Old French *loc*, from Frankish (compare Old Icelandic *lok* fastening, LOCK¹).

loco *n.* 1844, American English, borrowed from Spanish *loco*, *adj.*, insane, of uncertain origin (possibly borrowed from Arabic *lauqa*, *lauq*, feminine and adjective forms of 'alwaq fool,

crazy person). —**adj.** 1887, American English; borrowed from Spanish *loco*.

locomotion *n.* 1646, formed in English from Latin *locō* from a place (ablative of *locus* place) + *mōtiōnem* (nominative *mōtiō*) MOTION.

locomotive *adj.* 1612, of or pertaining to locomotion; borrowed from French *locomotif* (feminine *locomotive*), from Latin *locō* from a place (ablative of *locus* place) + Late Latin *mōtivus* moving, MOTIVE; for suffix see -IVE; applied to a railroad engine in 1815. —**n.** 1829, from the adjective.

locus *n.* 1715, borrowing of Latin *locus* place. The sense in mathematics of a curve or other figure that contains all the points that satisfy a given condition is first recorded in 1727–51.

locust¹ *n.* kind of grasshopper. Before 1325, borrowed from Old French *locuste*, and directly from Latin *lōcusta* locust, lobster.

locust² *n.* any of various trees. 1615, fruit of the carob tree, probably so called from a supposed resemblance of the carob pod to the locust (insect). Greek *akrís* a locust or grasshopper, was commonly applied in the Levant to the carob pod and from very early times it has been believed that the "locusts" eaten by John the Baptist were these pods. In 1623 the word was used in the phrase *locust tree* for the carob tree, and by 1640 *locust* was applied to various other trees.

locution *n.* Probably before 1425 *locucion*; borrowed through Middle French *locution*, and directly from Latin *locutiōnem* (nominative *locutiō*) a speaking, from *loquī* speak; for suffix see -TION.

lode *n.* 1602, vein of metal ore; earlier, watercourse, channel (1572); developed from Middle English *lode*, *lade* course, carrying; see LOAD. The form *lode* was the original Middle English spelling of *load*; however, the two forms became differentiated in sense during the 1500's. —**lodestone** *n.* About 1515, literally, way-stone; formed from Middle English *lode* course, way, carrying + *stone*; so called from the early use of this stone as a magnet in guiding mariners.

lodge *n.* 1231 *lhoge* siege tower; later *logge* small shelter (1290); and *lodge* (probably before 1400); borrowed from Old French *loge* arbor, covered walk, from Frankish **laubja* (compare Old High German *louba* hall, roof, modern German *Laube* covered way, arcade; cognate with Old Icelandic *lopt* LOFT). The sense of a local branch of various societies appeared in 1686, having developed from an early sense of *logge* as the workshop of masons (1348). —**v.** Probably before 1200 *loggen*; later *lodgen* (before 1470); borrowed from Old French *logier*, from *loge* covered walk. —**lodger** *n.* Before 1325 *loger* tent dweller; earlier, as a surname *Loggere* (1208–12); formed from Middle English *loggen* to lodge + -er¹. The sense of one who lives in rented rooms is first found in 1596.

loess *n.* 1833, borrowed from German *Löss*, from Swiss German *lös*ch, *adj.*, loose, related to German *los* loose; see -LESS. The -sch of Swiss German *lös*ch was evidently regarded as dialectal and altered to -s (-ss).

loft *n.* Before 1225, upper room, sky; developed from Old English (before 1000) *loft* air; borrowed from a Scandinavian source; compare Old Icelandic *loft* air, sky, upper story (-*pt*-pronounced as -*ft*-), Swedish, Norwegian, and Danish *loft*. The Scandinavian forms are cognate with Old English *lyft* air, Old Saxon *luft*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *lucht*, Old High German *luft* (modern German *Luft*), and Gothic *luftus*; all from Proto-Germanic **luftuz*. —**v.** 1518, to store (goods) in a loft; from the noun. The sense of hit (a ball) high into the air is first recorded in 1857. —**lofty** *adj.* About 1426 *lofte* of high rank, noble; earlier, as a surname *Lofty* (1332); formed from Middle English *loft* (in *on loft* on high, ALOFT) + *-y*¹.

log *n.* Before 1398 *logge*; earlier, as a surname *Log* (about 1210); of uncertain origin (not a borrowing of Old Icelandic *lág* felled tree).

The sense of a wooden float to measure a ship's speed is first recorded in 1574; hence *logbook* (before 1679) and *log* (1825). —**v.** 1699, from the noun. The sense of to record in a log is first recorded in 1823; that of travel (a distance) or attain (a speed) as noted in a log, is found in 1883.

loganberry *n.* 1893, American English, in allusion to James H. *Logan*, who developed it + *berry*.

logarithm *n.* 1615–16, borrowed from New Latin *logarithmus*; a compound of Greek *lógos* proportion, ratio, word (from *légein* speak) + *arithmós* number.

loge *n.* 1749, booth stall; 1768, box in a theater; borrowed from French *loge*, from Old French *loge* covered walk.

loggerhead *n.* 1588, probably formed from dialectal English *logger* heavy block of wood (*log* + *-er*¹) + *head*. The phrase at *loggerheads* in disagreement, is first recorded in 1831, probably from the earlier *loggerhead* thick-headed iron instrument (1687).

logic *n.* Before 1378 *logyk* system of reasoning; borrowed from Old French *logique*, learned borrowing from Latin *logica*, from Greek *logikḗ téchnē* reasoning art, from *lógos* reason, idea, word, from *légein* speak. The meaning of use of argument, reasoning, is first recorded in 1601 and that of reason, sound sense in 1682. The sense of a system of operations in a computer is first recorded in 1950. —**logical** *adj.* Probably before 1425, based on logic or reason; later, capable of reasoning correctly (1664); borrowed from Medieval Latin *logicalis*, from Late Latin *logica* logic; for suffix see *-AL*¹. —**logician** *n.* Before 1382 *logicien*; borrowed from Old French *logicien*, from *logique* logic + *-ien* *-ian*.

logistics *n.* 1879, borrowed from French *logistique* logistics, from Middle French *logistique*, formed (by influence of *logistique* pertaining to calculation) from *logis* lodging, from Old French (1308) *logeis* (earlier **logeiz*) shelter for an army, encampment (with *-eiz*, suffix from Vulgar Latin *-āticus*), from *loge*; see *LODGE*; for suffix see *-ICS*.

logo *n.* 1937, probably shortened form of *logogram* sign or character representing a word (1840); formed in English from Greek *lógos* word (see *LOGIC*) + English *-gram*¹.

logy *adj.* 1848, American English; perhaps borrowed from Dutch *log* heavy, dull; cognate with Middle Low German *luggich* sleepy, sluggish; or perhaps a variant of British English *loggy* sluggish in movement (1847).

—**logy** a combining form meaning: 1 study or science of, as in *biology*; 2 speech, expression, or discussion, as in *eulogy*, *tautology*; 3 collection, as in *anthology*. Borrowed through French *-logie* or Latin *-logia*, and directly from Greek *-logía*, in part from *lógos* speech, word, discourse, but generally from *-lógos* one who deals with or treats of (a certain subject, e.g. *astrológos* astronomer); both Greek forms from *légein* speak (of); see *LEGEND*. See *-OLOGY*.

loin *n.* Often *loins*, pl. Before 1325 *loyne*; borrowed from eastern Old French *loigne*, from Vulgar Latin **lumbea*, shortened form of **lumbea carō* meat of the loin, from Latin *lumbus* loin.

This borrowing from Old French replaced the native Middle English *lende* (plural *lendes*), developed from Old English *lenden*, pl., loins; cognate with Old High German *lentī*, *lentīn* kidneys, loins (modern German *Lende* loin, *Lenden* loins), Old Saxon *lendin* loins, Middle Dutch *lendine* (modern Dutch *lende* loin), Old Frisian *lendenum* loins (from Proto-Germanic **land-wīn-*), Old Icelandic *lend* loin (Norwegian *lend*, Swedish *lånd* and Danish *lænd*). Related to *LUMBAGO*, *LUMBAR*.

loiter *v.* About 1425 *loitren*, borrowed from Middle Dutch *loteren* be loose or erratic, shake, totter; probably cognate with Old English *lūtian* lurk, Middle Low German and late Middle High German *lūschen* (modern German *lauschen* eavesdrop), Old High German *luzēn* lurk, and Gothic *lutōn* mislead; see *LITTLE*.

loll *v.* Before 1376 *lollen* to lounge idly, hang loosely; possibly of an origin similar to that of Middle Dutch *lollen* to doze, mumble; later, to hang loosely; see *LULL*.

Lollard *n.* 1395, borrowed from Middle Dutch *lollaerd*, literally, mumbler or mutterer, so called by their critics, who regarded them as heretics pretending to be pious and humble, from *lollen* to mumble or doze.

lollipop or **lollypop** *n.* 1784 *lolly-pops* sweetmeats, candy, perhaps formed from *loll* to dangle the tongue, *LOLL* + *pop*¹ stroke, slap. The piece of hard candy on a stick, is first recorded in the 1920's.

lollygag *v.* 1862 *lallygag* a fooling around; American English, perhaps formed from dialectal English *lolly* tongue + *gag*² deceive or trick.

lone *adj.* About 1378, shortened form of *alone*, by misdivision of *al one*, *alone* all by oneself, as a *lone* (see *ALONE*) or possibly through loss of weakly stressed *a-* in *al one*, *alone*. —**lonely** *adj.* 1607, formed from English *lone* + *-ly*¹. —**loneliness** (before 1586) —**lonesome** *adj.* 1647, formed from English *lone* + *-some*¹.

long¹ *adj.* that measures much from end to end. About 1175 *long*, *lang*; found in Old English (before 725) *lang*, *long*; cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *lang* long, Middle Dutch *lanc*

(modern Dutch *lang*), Old High German and modern German *lang*, Old Icelandic *langr* (Danish and Norwegian *lang*, Swedish *lång*), and Gothic *laggs*, from Proto-Germanic **langa-*. —**adv.** About 1175 *longe*; found in Old English *lange*, *longe* (about 725); from the adjective. —**n.** long time. Apparently about 1200; from the adjective.

long² *v.* yearn. Probably before 1200 *longen*; developed from Old English (about 875) *langian* (from Proto-Germanic **langōjanan*); cognate with Old Saxon *langōn* to long, Middle Low German *langen* to reach, hand, Middle Dutch *langhen* (modern Dutch *aanlangen*), Old High German *langēn* to long (modern German *verlangen* ask, desire, demand), and Old Icelandic *langa* to long. —**longing** *n.* Before 1250 *longinge* a yearning, formed from Middle English *longen* yearn + *-inge* *-ing*¹.

longevity *n.* 1615, borrowed from Late Latin *longaevitās*, from Latin *longaevus* long-lived (*longus* LONG¹, *adj.* + *aevum* life-time, AGE); for suffix see *-ITY*.

longitude *n.* 1391, borrowed through Old French *longitude*, and directly from Latin *longitūdō* length, from *longus* LONG¹, *adj.*; for suffix see *-TUDE*.

longshoreman *n.* 1811, formed from *long shore*, *longshore* along the shore + *man*. *Longshore* is a shortening of *alongshore* (1779, *along* + *shore*).

look *v.* Before 1121 *locon*, later *loken* (about 1200); developed from Old English *lōcian* see, gaze, look, spy (before 899); cognate with Old Saxon *lōkon* see, look, spy, Middle Dutch *loeken*, Old High German *luogēn* look out (modern German *lügen* look, peep), of unknown origin. —**n.** Probably before 1200 *loke* act of looking, glance; from the verb.

loom¹ *n.* machine for weaving cloth. Probably before 1200 *lome* tool, implement; later, a loom for weaving (1380); developed from Old English *gelōma* utensil, tool (before 800); formed from *ge-* perfective prefix (see ENOUGH) + *-lōma*, as in *andlōman*, pl., apparatus, furniture, of unknown origin. The spelling *loom* appears as early as 1440.

loom² *v.* appear dimly. 1542, applied to a ship; perhaps borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare dialectal Swedish *loma* move slowly; see LUMBER²).

loon¹ *n.* large diving bird. 1634, borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Norwegian *lom* loon, Old Icelandic *lōmr*); see LAMENT.

loon² *n.* stupid person, scamp, idler. Probably about 1450 *lowen* rascal, of uncertain origin (compare early modern Dutch *loen* stupid person).

loony *adj.* 1872, American English; probably developed by shortening and alteration from LUNATIC, but also influenced by *loon*², and by *lunatic*, found with the spelling *luny*. —**n.** 1884, from the adjective.

loop *n.* Probably about 1390 *loupe*; borrowed probably from a Celtic source (compare Gaelic *lub* bend, Irish *lúbaim*). However, the form of the Middle English word suggests the Celtic word was reshaped by blending with a borrowing from Scan-

dinavian (compare Old Icelandic *hlaup* a leap, run, *hlaupa* to LEAP). —**v.** Probably before 1400 *loupén*, from *loupe*, *n.*, loop.

loophole *n.* 1464 *lopehole* small opening for ventilation; later *loop hole* small opening to look or shoot through, or admit light (1591). The word is formed after Middle English *loupe* opening in a wall (1386, *loop* 1512); possibly cognate with Middle Dutch *lūpen*, *glūpen* to watch, peer (modern Dutch *luipen*, *gluipen* to spy, sneak). Medieval Latin *loupa* (1388) was apparently borrowed from Middle English.

The common figurative meaning of an outlet or means of escape is first recorded in 1663–64.

loose *adj.* Probably before 1200 *louse* not firmly attached; later *loos* (about 1350); borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *lauss* loose; see *-LESS*). —**v.** Probably before 1200 *lowsen*; from the adjective. —**loosen** *v.* Before 1382 *losnen*; later *lousnen* (probably before 1425); formed from Middle English *los*, *loos* loose + *-nen* *-en*¹.

loot *n.* 1788, Anglo-Indian *loot*, borrowed from Hindi *lūt*, probably from Sanskrit *lōta-m*, *lōtra-m* booty, stolen property. —**v.** 1842, from the noun.

lop¹ *v.* cut off. 1519, developed from Middle English *loppe*, *n.*, the smaller branches and twigs trimmed from trees (1355–56); of uncertain origin, but related to *lopped* (1458), participial *adj.*, trimmed; found earlier in the place name *Loppedthorn* (1287).

lop² *v.* droop. 1578, probably variant of LAP (as *flop* is of *flap*) and closely related in meaning to LOB to droop (1599). —**lopsided** *adj.* 1711 *lapsided* (of a ship) unevenly balanced; formed from English *lop*² + *-sided* (1400's), on the pattern of *lop-eared* (1687, *lap-eared*).

lope *v.* About 1300 *loupén* to jump or leap; later *lopen* (before 1376); borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *hlaupa* to run, LEAP). The sense of run with a long, easy stride is first recorded before 1825. —**n.** Before 1393 *lope* a jump or leap; from the verb.

loquacious *adj.* 1667, probably a back formation from English *loquacity* + *-ous*, though theoretically formed in English from the stem of Latin *loquāx* (genitive *loquācis*) talkative + English *-ous*. —**loquacity** *n.* Probably before 1200 *loquacite*; borrowed from Latin *loquacitatem* (nominative *loquacitās*) talkativeness, from *loquāx* (genitive *loquācis*) talkative, from *loqui* to speak, talk, of uncertain origin; for suffix see *-ITY*.

loran *n.* 1943, American English, acronym formed from *lo*(ng) *ra*(nge) *n*(avigation).

lord *n.* Before 1121 *laverd*; later *loverd*, *lord* (about 1250); developed from Old English *hlāford* master of a household, ruler, superior (about 725, in *Beowulf*); literally, one who guards a loaf or loaves (*hlāf* bread, LOAF¹ + *weard* keeper, guardian, WARD); compare LADY. —**v.** About 1340 *lorden*; from the noun. —**lordly** *adj.* Before 1225 *loverdlich*; later *lordlich* (before 1376) and *lordli* (about 1395); formed from Middle English *loverd*, *lord* lord + *-lich*, *-li* *-ly*². —**adv.** About 1350, from the adjective. —**lordship** *n.* About 1300 *louerdshipe*; later *lordshipe*

(about 1350); developed from Old English *hlāfordscipe* rule or dominion of a lord (before 899), from *hlāford* lord + *-scipe* -ship.

lore *n.* About 1300, developed from Old English (before 725) *lār* learning, teaching, knowledge, doctrine; cognate with Old Frisian *lāre* doctrine, teaching, Old Saxon *lēra*, Middle Dutch *lēre* (modern Dutch *leer*), Old High German *lēra* (modern German *Lehre*), from Proto-Germanic **laizō*.

lose *v.* 1120 *losen* be lost, perish; later, be deprived of, lose (probably before 1200); developed from Old English (before 725) *losian* be lost, perish, from *los* destruction, loss, related to Old English *forlēosan* to lose; cognate with Old Frisian *forliāsa* to lose, Old Saxon *farliosan*, Middle Dutch *verliesen* (modern Dutch *verliezen*), Old High German *firliosan* (modern German *verlieren*), and Gothic *fraliusan*, from Proto-Germanic **fra-leusanan*. The modern English pronunciation of *lose* (*lüz*) is probably the result of influence of *loose*, which in *to lose one's hold* closely approaches the meaning of *lose*.

loss *n.* Probably before 1200 *los* death, destruction; later, a losing, loss (before 1338); found in Old English *los* loss, destruction (before 899), and possibly influenced by Old Icelandic *los* looseness, breaking up, from Proto-Germanic **lusan*; see *LOSE*.

The Old and Middle English form was probably reshaped by analogy with *lost*, past participle of *losen* to lose.

lot *n.* About 1300, object used to decide something by chance; later, portion, share (probably before 1350); developed from Old English *hlot* in compound *huon-hlotum*, adv., by little portions, minutely (before 800). The Old English form *hlot*, abstracted from the compound above, and derived from Proto-Germanic **Hlutan*, is cognate with Old Frisian *hlot* lot, Old Saxon *hlōt*, Middle Low German *lot*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *lot*, Old High German *hluz*, *hlōz* (modern German *Los*), Old Icelandic *hlutr* (Danish *lod*, Swedish *lott*, and Norwegian *lodd*, *lott*), and Gothic *hlauts*.

The sense of a plot or portion of land is first recorded in 1633 and that of a group, collection, set (as in *a bad lot*, *a large lot of ore*) in 1725, which by 1812 evolved into the sense of a great many, often used in the plural (*a lot of people*, *lots of money*).

Lothario *n.* 1756, from the name of the principal male character in Nicholas Rowe's play *The Fair Penitent* (1703). The name had been previously used for a somewhat similar character in William Davenant's play *The Cruel Brother* (1630).

lotion *n.* Before 1400 *loscion*; borrowed through Old French *lotion*, from Latin *lōtiōnem* (nominative *lōtiō*) a washing, from *lōtus*, popular form of *lautus*, past participle of *lavare* to wash (later, *lavātus*, past participle of *lavāre* to wash, *LAVE*); for suffix see *-TION*.

The spelling *lotion*, after the French and Latin, appeared in English in 1549.

lottery *n.* 1567, borrowed from Middle French *loterie*, from Middle Dutch *loterje*, from *lot* share, *LOT*; for suffix see *-ERY*.

lotto *n.* 1778 *loto*, borrowed through French *loto*, and directly

from Italian *lotto* lotto, lot, from Old French *lot* lot, from Frankish (compare Old Frisian and Old English *hlot* *LOT*).

lotus *n.* 1540–41, borrowed from Latin *lōtus*, from Greek *lōtós*, the name of several plants, perhaps from a Semitic source (compare Hebrew *lōt* myrrh).

loud *adj.* About 1175 *lude*; later *loud* (probably before 1300); developed from Old English (before 725) *hlūd* making noise, sonorous; cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *hlūd* loud, Middle Dutch *luut* (modern Dutch *luid*), Old High German *hlūt*, *lūt* (modern German *laut*) from Proto-Germanic **Hlūdās*, Old Icelandic *hljóðh* silence, hearing, and Gothic *hliuma* hearing. —**adv.** Probably before 1200 *lude*; later *loude* (about 1300); developed from Old English (about 750) *hlūde*, from Proto-Germanic **Hlūdai*, and cognate with Old Saxon *hlūdo*, Middle Dutch *luut* (modern Dutch *luid*), Old High German *hlūto*, *lūto* (modern German *laut*).

lounge *v.* 1508, Scottish, of uncertain origin, possibly borrowed from French *s'allonger* (*pareseusement*) to lounge about, lie at full length, Middle French and Old French *alongir*, *longuir*, *eslongier*, from Old French *alongier* lengthen, *long*, *lonc* long, from Latin *longus* *LONG*¹, *adj.* —**n.** 1775, from the verb. The meaning of a comfortable drawing room is first recorded in 1881, and that of a couch, in 1830.

lour *v.* See *LOWER*².

louse *n.* Before 1300 *louse*; developed from Old English (about 700) *lūs*; cognate with Middle Low German *lūs* louse, Middle Dutch *luus* (modern Dutch *luis*), Old High German *lūs* (modern German *Laus*), and Old Icelandic *lūs* (modern Icelandic *lús*), from Proto-Germanic **lūs*.

The plural *lice*, known in Old English before the end of the 600's (*lyse*, *lyse*), is the result of adjustment of the vowel in *louse* to a more forward position, caused by the following vowel sound represented by *i* in Proto-Germanic **lūsiz*. —**v.** Before 1387, to remove lice from; from the noun. —**lousy** *adj.* Probably about 1350 *lousy* infested with lice; formed from *louse* *louse* + *-y*¹. The figurative sense of worthless, inferior, contemptible, is first recorded in 1395.

lout *n.* Before 1548, developed from *louten*, *v.*, bow down (probably before 1300), from Old English (before 900) *lūtan* bow low, earlier *forthlūtan* (before 830). Old English *lūtan* is cognate with Old Icelandic *lútr* bend down, stooping, *lūta* to stoop; see *LITTLE*.

louver *n.* Before 1325 *lover* chimney, skylight; later *louver* (1367–68); borrowed from Old French *lover*, *lovier* and Medieval Latin *lovarium*, *luvarium*; perhaps from Germanic (compare Old High German *loubā* upper room, roof; see *LOBBY*). The sense of overlapping strips in a window, etc. is first recorded in 1555, and earlier in *louverstrings* cords to adjust louverboards (1356–57).

love *n.* About 1200 *luve*; later *love* (probably before 1300); developed from Old English (before 725) *lufu* love; cognate with Old Frisian *luve* love, Old Saxon *luva*, Old High German *luba*, and Gothic *-lubō*, from Proto-Germanic **lubō*. A different grade, **leuba-* and its derivatives, produced Middle Dutch

and modern Dutch *liefde*, and Old High German *liubi*, *liuba* (modern German *Liebe*). —**v.** Before 1121 *luven*; later *loven* (probably before 1300); developed from Old English (before 725) *lufian*; cognate with Old High German *lubōn* to love (modern German *lieben*) from Proto-Germanic **lubōjanan*. —**lovely** *adj.* Probably before 1200 *luvelich*, before 1375 *loveli* lovely, loving; developed from Old English (about 1000) *luflic* (from *lufu* love + *-lic* -ly²).

low¹ *adj.* not high. About 1175 *lah*; later *low* (about 1280); borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *lāgr* low, Swedish *låg*, Danish *lav*, Norwegian *lav*, *låg*, from Proto-Germanic **læzaz*). The Scandinavian words are cognate with Old Frisian and Middle Low German *lēch* low, Middle Dutch *lage* (modern Dutch *laag* low), Middle High German *læge* flat, and dialectal German *lāg* flat. —**n.** About 1300, from the adjective. —**adv.** Probably before 1200 *lahe*; later *lowe* (before 1250); from the adjective.

low² *v.* make the sound of a cow. Before 1300 *lowen*, developed from Old English (before 1000) *hlōwan*; cognate with Middle Low German *lōien* to low, Middle Dutch *loeyen*, *loeyen* (modern Dutch *loeien*), Old Low Franconian *luon*, *luogin*, and Old High German *hluoēn*, from Proto-Germanic **Hlō-*. —**n.** 1549, from the verb.

lower¹ *v.* let down or haul down. 1606 *lowre* to descend, sink; 1659 *lower* to cause to descend; developed from *lower* *adj.*, and replacing Middle English *lahzhenn* to make humble (probably before 1200); later *lowen*, *lowen* to lower in space, come downward (probably before 1300); developed from *lahzh*, *loue*, *low* *adj.* The original Middle English verb to *low* is recorded as late as 1793. —**adj.** Probably before 1200 *lahre*, comparative of *lah* low + *-re* (feminine, neuter) or *-ra* (masculine) comparative suffix; later *lower* (before 1398); see **LOW**¹.

lower² or **lour** *v.* look dark and threatening. Probably about 1225 *luren* to frown or scowl; later *lourcen* (probably before 1300); either developed from Old English **lūran* or borrowed from Middle Low German or Middle Dutch. The probable Old English form would be cognate with Middle Low German *lūren* lie in wait, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *loeren*, Middle High German *lūren* (modern German *lauern*), and dialectal Norwegian and Swedish *lurka* move slowly, creep forward. The word's form and meaning suggests a number of words starting with *gl-*, for example English *glower* and Low German *gluren*.

lox *n.* About 1930–34, American English; borrowed from Yiddish *laks*, from Middle High German *lahs* salmon, **LAX**².

loyal *adj.* 1531, faithful, especially in allegiance to a ruler or country; borrowed from Middle French *loyal* faithful, from Old French *loial*, *leial* faithful, *lawful*, from Latin *lēgālis* legal, from *lēx* (genitive *lēgis*) law; for suffix see **-AL**¹. Modern English *loyal* replaced Middle English *lel* (recorded probably before 1300); later *leal* (about 1350); borrowed from Old French *leal*, *leial*, from Latin *lēgālis* legal. —**loyalty** *n.* Probably before 1400, borrowed from Old French *loialté*, from *loial* loyal. During the 1500's *loyalty* replaced earlier *leaute* (1265, borrowed from Old French *leauté*, from *leal*); for suffix see **-TY**².

lozenge *n.* 1320 *losonge*; 1330 *lozenge*; borrowed from Old French *losenge* windowpane, small square cake of herbs, etc., or other things with a quadrilateral shape, from pre-Roman, perhaps either Iberian **lausā* flat stone (the source of Old Provençal *lauza*, Catalan *llosa*, Spanish *losa*, Portuguese *lousa*), found also in Latin *lausiae lapidēs* stone chips, or Gaulish **lausā*, from a pre-Celtic language.

luau *n.* 1853, feast generally held outdoors; earlier, baked dish of young taro tops (1843); borrowed from Hawaiian *lū'au* (literally) young taro tops (so called because taro tops were served at an outdoor feast).

lubber *n.* About 1390 *lobre*; later *lobur* (before 1475); developed from or related to earlier *lobi* a lazy lout (before 1376); see **LOB**.

lubricate *v.* 1623, borrowed from Latin *lubricātus*, past participle of *lubricāre* make slippery or smooth, from *lubricus* slippery; for suffix see **-ATE**¹. Modern English *lubricate* replaced *lubrifien* (recorded probably before 1425, and borrowed perhaps from Middle French *lubrifier*, and from Medieval Latin *lubrificare* make slippery). —**lubricant** *adj.* 1822–34, lubricating; borrowed from Latin *lubricātem* (nominative *lubricāns*), present participle of *lubricāre* to lubricate; for suffix see **-ANT**. —**n.** 1828, from the adjective. —**lubrication** *n.* (1803)

lucid *adj.* 1591, bright or shining; borrowed through Middle French *lucide*, and directly from Latin *lucidus* light, bright, clear; related to *lūcere* to shine. The sense of easy to follow or understand is first recorded in 1786. —**lucidity** *n.* 1656, brightness; later, intellectual clearness (1851); borrowed from French *lucidité*, learned borrowing from Late Latin *luciditās*, from Latin *lucidus* bright; for suffix see **-ITY**.

Lucifer *n.* Old English *Lucifer* Satan; also, the morning star (probably about 725); borrowed from Latin *lūcifer* the morning star; literally, light-bringing (*lūx*, genitive *lūcis* light + *ferre* carry).

This name for Satan comes from the Biblical passage (translated from the Vulgate) “How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning!” (Isaiah 14:12).

luck *n.* Before 1500 *lucke*, *luk* good fortune; possibly a back formation from earlier *lucky*, but more likely borrowed from Middle Dutch *luc*, shortened form of *gheluc*, *ghelucke* happiness, good fortune, luck (modern Dutch *geluk*); cognate with Middle Low German *lucke* luck, Middle High German *gelücke*, and modern German *Glück* happiness, good fortune, success, luck. Perhaps the word came into English as a gambling term, though the ultimate etymology of the word is unknown. —**lucky** *adj.* About 1450 *lucky*; probably formed from Middle English *luk* luck + *-y*¹.

lucrative *adj.* About 1412 *lucratif*, borrowed from Old French *lucratif* (feminine *lucrative*), and directly from Latin *lucrātīvus*, from *lucrāri* to gain, from *lucrum* gain or profit, see **LUCRE**; for suffix see **-IVE**.

lucre *n.* About 1390 *lucre* illicit gain; also, monetary gain, profit (before 1393); borrowed from Latin *lucrum* gain or profit.

luddite or **Luddite** *n.* 1811, person strongly opposed to increased mechanization, in allusion to the *Luddites*, who destroyed machinery in England for fear its use would put them out of work. Their name supposedly derives from Ned Ludd (worker who destroyed stocking frames) + *-ite*¹.

The word by 1961 had contemporary application to use of automation and computers.

ludicrous *adj.* 1619, intended for play or pastime, sportive; borrowed from Latin *lūdicus*, from *lūdicum* source of amusement, joke, from *lūdere* to play; for suffix see *-OUS*. The sense of ridiculous, is first recorded in English in 1782.

luff *n.* Probably before 1200 *lof* a spar holding out and down the windward tack of a square sail; later *lufe* (probably before 1400); borrowed through Old French *lof* probably a device for adjusting a sail; perhaps originally, an oar to assist in steering; or borrowed from Middle Dutch *loef* probably the windward side of a ship; cognate with Middle Low German *lof* side of a ship toward the wind. The sense of the windward side of a ship appeared about 1380 in Middle English and that of a turning the bow toward the wind before 1400. —*v.* Before 1393 *loven*, from *lof*, *n.*, luff.

lug¹ *v.* drag. Probably about 1380 *luggen* move heavily; later *loggen* drag (about 1390); borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Swedish *lugga*, Norwegian *luge* to pull by the hair). —*n.* 1545, something heavy; later, act of lugging (before 1616), from the verb.

lug² *n.* part to hold or grip something. 1624, handle of a pitcher, etc.; developed from *luggie*, Scottish, earflap of a cap, ear (1495); perhaps borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Swedish *lugg* forelock, Norwegian *lugg* tuft of hair). The sense in *lug bolt* is first recorded in 1794.

luge *n.* 1905, borrowing of French *luge* small coasting sled, from dialectal French (Savoy and Switzerland), from Medieval Latin *studia* sled, perhaps from a Gaulish word of the same root as English *SLED* and *SLIDE*.

luggage *n.* 1596, formed from English *lug*¹ to drag + *-age*.

lugger *n.* 1757, probably formed from English *lug(sail)* + *-er*¹; see *LUG*¹.

lugubrious *adj.* 1601, formed in English from French *lugubre*, or directly from Latin *lūgubris* mournful, mourning (from *lūgere* mourn) + English suffix *-ous*. Latin *lūgubris* (earlier **lūgosris*) is cognate with Greek *hygrós* mournful or sad.

lukewarm *adj.* 1373 *luke warm*; later *leuke-warm* (probably before 1425), a compound of *leuk*, *luke*, *adj.*, tepid + *warm*. Note also, about 1450, *lew warm*, from Old English *hlēowe* (adverb) warm. The source of Middle English *leuk*, *luke* (probably before 1200), if related to *-hlēow* warm, *hlēo* shelter or *LEE*, remains obscure, though it is cognate with Low German *lūk* tepid, modern Dutch *leuk*, East Frisian *lūk*, *luke* tepid, weak.

lull *v.* Before 1325 *lullen* hush to sleep; possibly of imitative origin; similar forms are found in Swedish *lulla*, Danish and Norwegian *lulle* lull, Middle Dutch *lollen* to doze, mumble

(modern Dutch *lullen* to prattle), Middle Low German *lollen* (modern German *lullen*) to lull. —*n.* 1719, something which lulls; from the verb.

lullaby *n.* 1588, song sung to children to soothe them to rest; developed from earlier *lullay* by a soothing refrain to pacify infants (about 1542); formed from Middle English *lollai* (probably before 1325; later *lullay*, 1372; from *lullen* to LULL) + *-by*, as in *good-by*.

lumbago *n.* 1693 (possibly earlier, implied by *lumbaginous*, 1620); borrowing of Late Latin *lumbāgō* disease or weakness of the loins or lumbar region of the lower back, from Latin *lumbus* LOIN.

lumbar *adj.* 1656, borrowed from New Latin *lumbaris* of the loins, from Latin *lumbus* LOIN; for suffix see *-AR*. —*n.* 1858, from the adjective.

lumber¹ *n.* timber cut into boards. Probably 1662, American English, specialized meaning of the earlier sense of disused articles of furniture or the like, heavy, useless objects that take up room inconveniently (1552); probably a noun use of *LUMBER*², *v.*

lumber² *v.* move heavily or clumsily. 1530, developed from Middle English *lomerēn* move slowly or haltingly (probably about 1380 *lomerande*, present participle); perhaps borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare dialectal Swedish *loma* move slowly and haltingly, related to Old Icelandic *lami* LAME).

lumen *n.* 1898, borrowed from French *lumen*, from Latin *lūmen* light, opening; see *LUMINOUS*.

luminary *n.* Before 1449 *luminary* source of light, lamp; later *luminarie* (before 1475); borrowed from Middle French *luminarie*, *luminare* lamp, light, from Late Latin *lūmināre* that which gives light; formed from Latin *lūmen* (genitive *lūminis*) light + *-āris* (specialized neuter use of adjective suffix); for suffix see *-ARY*. The sense of a notable person, celebrity, is first recorded in 1692.

luminescence *n.* 1896, possibly a back formation from *luminescent*, or a formation from Latin *lūminis* (genitive of *lūmen* light) + English *-escence*. —**luminescent** *adj.* 1889, formed from Latin *lūminis* (genitive of *lūmen* light) + English *-escent*.

luminous *adj.* Probably before 1425 *luminose*; later *luminouse* (1471); borrowed, perhaps by influence of Middle French *lumineux*, from Latin *lūminōsus* shining, from *lūmen* (genitive *lūminis*) light, related to *lūcere* to shine; for suffix see *-OUS*. —**luminosity** *n.* 1634, either borrowed from French *luminosité*, from Latin *lūminōsus* luminous + French *-ité* *-ity*; or formed from English *luminous* + *-ity*, perhaps by influence of French *luminosité*.

lummo *n.* Before 1825, East Anglia dialect, apparently related to *lummock* to move heavily or clumsily, of uncertain origin; compare German *Lümmel* lout, from an archaic (now dialectal) adjective *lumm* limp, flabby, Middle High German *lūeme* flabby, soft, mild. Phonetic modification from *-ock* to

-ocks, written *-ox*, was probably influenced by association with *ox* as a heavy-moving and dull beast of burden.

lump¹ *n.* solid mass. Before 1325 *lumpe*; of uncertain origin (compare early modern Dutch *lompe* mass, chunk, piece; related to Dutch *lomp* rag, tatter), cognate with German *Lumpen* rag, and Middle High German *lumpe* rag. —**v.** 1624; from the noun. —**lumpy** *adj.* 1707, formed from English *lump*¹ + *-y*¹.

lump² *v.* endure. 1791 (in "As you like it, you may lump it"), apparently extended sense of to look sulky, dislike (1577); of uncertain origin.

lumpectomy *n.* 1972, formed from English *lump*¹ + *-ectomy*, as in *mastectomy*.

lumpenproletariat *n.* 1924, borrowing of German *Lumpenproletariat*, coined in 1850 by Karl Marx from *Lumpen* (volk) rabble (from *Lumpen* rag) + *Proletariat*; see **LUMP**¹.

lunacy *n.* 1541, formed from English *luna*(tic) + *-cy*. The sense of extreme folly is first recorded in 1588.

lunar *adj.* Probably before 1425 *lunare*, *lunar* crescent-shaped; borrowed through Old French *lunaire*, or directly from Latin *lūnāris* of the moon, from *lūna* moon; for suffix see *-AR*. The sense "of or belonging to the moon" is first recorded in 1626.

lunatic *adj.* About 1300 *lunatyke*, borrowed from Old French *lunatique* insane, from Latin *lūnāticus* moon-struck, from *lūna* moon; so called because it was thought recurrent attacks of insanity were brought on by phases of the moon; for suffix see *-IC*. —**n.** About 1378 *lunatik*, probably from the adjective.

lunch *n.* 1829, shortened form of **LUNCHEON**. —**v.** 1823, from the noun, though of preceding date.

luncheon *n.* 1580 *luncheon* a thick piece, hunk; later, a light meal (*lunching*, before 1652, and *luncheon*, 1706). Semantic development was probably influenced by north English *lunch* hunk of bread or cheese; morphological development may have been by alteration of *nuncheon* light meal, developed from Middle English *nonechenche*, *nonschench* (1342), a compound of *none* NOON + *schench* drink, from Old English *scenc*, from *scencan* pour out.

lung *n.* Probably before 1300 *lunge*; developed from Old English *lungen*, pl. (about 1000); cognate with Old Frisian *lungen* lung, Old Saxon *lunga*, Middle Low German *lung*, Middle Dutch *longe* (modern Dutch *long*), Old High German *lungun* (modern German *Lunge*), and Old Icelandic *lunga* (Danish and Norwegian *lunge*, Swedish *lunga*), from Proto-Germanic **lungw-*.

lunge *v.* 1735, shortened form of *allonge* to thrust (1668); borrowed from French *allonger* to extend, thrust, from Old French *alongier* to lengthen, make long (*à-* to + Old French *long*, from Latin *longus* LONG¹, *adj.*). —**n.** 1748, probably from the verb *lunge*; or shortened form of *allonge* (1731); from the English verb *allonge*.

lunk *n.* 1867, shortened form of earlier *lunkhead* (1852, possible alteration of *lump*¹ + *head*).

lupine¹ *n.* plant. 1373 *lupyne*; borrowed from Old French *lupin* or directly from Latin *lupīnus*, *lupīnum* a lupine (plant), from *lupīnus* of the wolf, **LUPINE**². The association with wolf is unknown, but is perhaps in allusion to the plant's quality of destroying the land it grows on.

lupine² *adj.* wolflike, fierce. 1660, borrowed from French *lupine*, learned borrowing from Latin *lupīnus* of the wolf, from Latin *lupus* wolf; for suffix see *-INE*¹.

lupus *n.* 1392 *lupe*, before 1398 *lupus* any of several diseases that cause ulceration of the skin; borrowing of Medieval Latin *lupus*, from Latin *lupus* wolf (apparently from its rapid eating away of the affected part).

lurch¹ *n.* sudden leaning or roll to one side. 1819, originally a nautical term, of unknown origin; (perhaps abstracted from *lee lurches*, variant of *lee larches* a sudden jerky roll of a ship to the leeward, possibly representing an alteration of *lee latch* in reference to keeping a ship from going leeward). —**v.** 1833, from the noun.

lurch² *n.* 1584, predicament or discomfiture; later in *leave in the lurch* (1596); probably from *lurch v.*, implied in *lurching* (about 1330) a complete victory in *lorche* a game similar to backgammon; borrowed from Old French *lourche* name of a game, also *adj.* ensnared, duped. Also perhaps related to *lurken* (about 1300), *lorken* (before 1375) to lie hidden, lie in ambush, **LURK**.

lure *n.* About 1386, attraction, enticement; earlier *bringen to lure* bring under control (about 1300); borrowed through Anglo-French *lure*, from Old French *loirre* device used to recall hawks, *lure*, from Frankish (compare Middle High German *luoder* and Middle Low German *löder* *lure*, bait, from Proto-Germanic **lōthran*, in modern German *Luder*, related to Old High German *ladōn* to call, invite, German *einladen* invite). Old High German *ladōn* is cognate with Old Saxon and Old English *lathian* to call or invite, Old Frisian *lathia*, Middle Dutch *laden*, Old Icelandic *ladha*, and Gothic *lathōn*. —**v.** About 1378 *luren*, from the noun.

lurid *adj.* 1656, lighted up with a red or fiery glare; borrowed from Latin *lūridus* pale yellow, ghastly, of uncertain origin. The sense of terrible, ghastly, sensational, is first recorded in English in 1850.

lurk *v.* About 1300 *lurken* to hide or lie hidden, probably borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare dialectal Norwegian and Swedish *lurka* move slowly, creep forward); sometimes considered a frequentative form with *-k* (as in the pair *tale*, *talk*) of *louren* frown, **LOWER**².

luscious *adj.* Before 1400 *licius* delicious; later *lucius* (about 1450); perhaps an alteration by aphesis from **DELICIOUS**.

lush¹ *adj.* tender and juicy. 1440 *lusch* lax or soft; probably an alteration of *lasche* loose or weak (1440), earlier *lacche* (before 1300) and in a surname *Lacheman* (1212); borrowed from Old French *lasche* soft, succulent (as young shoots), from *laschier* loosen, from Late Latin *laxicare* become shaky, related to Latin

laxare loosen, from *laxus* loose, LAX¹. The sense of succulent and luxuriant in growth is first recorded in English in 1610.

lush² n. drunkard. 1890, person who drinks too much; earlier, liquor (1790); perhaps a humorous use of LUSH¹, in the sense of watery or juicy or a back formation from *lushing* a drunkard (1840), though other use (v., indulge in drink, 1811) and *lushy* drunk, 1811; *lushing* action of drinking, 1829; *lush ken* alehouse, 1790, must have contributed to the current meaning.

lust n. Old English (before 725) *lust* desire, pleasure; cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *lust* desire, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *lust*, Old High German *lust* (modern German *Lust*), Old Icelandic *losti* (Middle Swedish *luste*, *loste*, Danish *lyst*, possibly borrowed from Low German), and Gothic *lustus*, from Proto-Germanic **lustis*. The sense of physical desire, bodily appetite, appeared in Old English before 1000, and that of sexual desire, passion, about 1000. —**v.** About 1175 *lusten* to desire, from the noun. —**lustful adj.** Old English (before 900) *lustfull* having a strong or excessive desire (*lust* + *-full* -ful). The meaning of sensuous is first recorded about 1340.

luster n. About 1522 *lustre*; borrowed from Middle French *lustre*, from Italian *lustro* splendor, brilliancy, luster, from *lustrare* illuminate, from Latin *lustrare* spread light over, brighten, related to *lucere* shine. The sense of fame, glory, brilliance, is first recorded in English about 1555. —**lustrous adj.** 1601, formed from English *lustre* + *-ous*.

lusty adj. Probably about 1200 *lusty* merry, cheerful, lively; later, healthy, strong, vigorous (about 1387–95); formed from Middle English *lust* vigor, energy, disposition, happiness (in Old English, desire, pleasure; see LUST) + *-y¹*, perhaps by influence of Middle Dutch *lustich* merry, cheerful.

lute n. 1295, borrowed from Old French *lut*, *leüt*, from Old Provençal *laüt*, from Arabic *al-‘ūd* the oud (Arabian lute), formed from *al* the + *‘ūd* oud; literally, wood.

lutein n. 1869, formed in English from Latin *luteum* egg yolk (from neuter of *luteus* yellow, from *lutum* yellow weed) + English *-in²*.

lutetium n. 1911, New Latin, from Latin *Lutetia* (the name of an ancient town on the site of modern Paris) + New Latin *-ium*.

lutz n. 1938, probably alteration of the name of Gustave Lussi, 20th-century Swiss figure skater, who invented the jump.

luxuriant adj. About 1540, prolific; borrowed possibly from Middle French *luxuriant* (used of vegetation), or directly from Latin *luxuriantem* (nominative *luxuriāns*), present participle of *luxuriare* have to excess, grow profusely, LUXURIATE; for suffix see -ANT. The sense of growing abundantly, lush, is first recorded in English in 1661. —**luxuriance n.** 1728–46, formed from English *luxuriant*; for suffix see -ANCE.

luxuriate v. 1621, borrowed perhaps by influence of French *luxurier* indulge in lustful pursuits, from Latin *luxuriātum*, past participle of *luxuriare* indulge or have to excess, from *luxuria* excess, LUXURY; for suffix see -ATE¹.

luxury n. 1340 *luxurie* lust, lasciviousness; borrowed from Old French *luxurie*, from Latin *luxuria* excess, luxury, from *luxus* (genitive *luxūs*) excess, extravagance, magnificence, related to *luxus*, adj., dislocated, and *luctari* wrestle, strain; see LOCK² tress; for suffix see -Y³. The sense of indulgence in what is choice or costly is first recorded in 1633, and that of something giving comfort or pleasure but not really necessary in 1704. —**luxurious adj.** Probably before 1300 *luxoriosus* lustful, lascivious; borrowing of Anglo-French *luxurious*, Old French *luxorios*, from Latin *luxuriōsus*, from *luxuria* luxury; for suffix see -OUS.

-ly¹ a suffix forming adverbs, chiefly from adjectives, and meaning: 1 in a _____ manner, as in *cheerfully*, *warmly*. 2 in _____ ways or respects, as in *financially*. 3 to a _____ degree, as in *greatly*. 4 in, to, or from a _____ direction, as in *northwardly*. 5 in the _____ place, as in *thirdly*. 6 at a _____ time, as in *recently*. Middle English *-ly*, *-li* (the common form by the 1400's), shortening (influenced by Scandinavian *-liga*) of earlier *-liche*, *-like*, developed from Old English *-lice* (derived from the adjective suffix *-lic* -LY²).

In Old English most adverbs were formed on an adjective in *-lic* (except for *baerlice* barely, *sārlice* sorely, and others formed directly on the simple adjective), but as the sound represented by *-e* in *-liche* and *-like* was gradually lost in Middle English, it became the practice to attach *-ly*, *-li* to an adjective without the intervening adjective suffix, except for an occasional use of *friendlily*. A curious formation also exists in *partly* which is formed of a noun + *-ly*.

Other adjectives that form adverbs in *-ly* undergo contraction. This group ending in *-le* (double, simple) includes *doubly*, *simply*. Another form of contraction (but only graphically) is the loss of *l* in words that end in *-ll*, such as *full*, which becomes *ful-* + *-ly* when written.

-ly² a suffix forming adjectives and meaning: 1 like a _____, as in *ghostly*. 2 like that of a _____, as in *brotherly*. 3 suited to a _____, as in *womanly*. 4 of each or every _____, as in *daily*. 5 that is a _____, as in *heavenly*. Middle English *-ly*, *-li* (the universal form by the 1400's, but found commonly in the 1300's), shortening (influenced by Scandinavian *-lig-*) of earlier *-lich*, *-lik*; developed from Old English *-lic*; cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *-lik* -ly, Middle Dutch *-lijc*, Old High German *-lih*, *-lih* (modern German *-lich*), Old Icelandic *-ligr*, and Gothic *-leiks*; derived from the Proto-Germanic root that is the source of Old English *lic* body; see LIKE¹ similar.

lyceum n. 1579–80, borrowing of Latin *Lyceum*, a grove near Athens, where Aristotle taught, from Greek *Lýkeion*, from neuter of *Lýkeios* "Wolf-slayer," an epithet of Apollo, whose temple was near the Lyceum. Compare ACADEMY.

lye n. Before 1300 *leihe*; later *lie* (before 1400); developed from Old English (about 700) *læg*, *lēag*; cognate with Middle Dutch *lōghe* lye (modern Dutch *loog*), Old High German *louga* (modern German *Lauge*), Old Icelandic *laug* bath, hot spring, from Proto-Germanic **lauzō*.

lymph n. 1725, nearly colorless liquid in the tissues of the body; earlier, water (before 1630); borrowed from French

lymphe and New Latin *lympa*, both from Latin *lympa* water, clear water, variant of *lumpae* waters, borrowed from Greek *nýmphē* goddess of a spring, nymph. —**lymphatic** adj. 1649, of the lymph; borrowed from French *lymphatique* and from Medieval Latin *lymphaticus* of water, from Latin *lympa* water; for suffix see -IC. —**lymphocyte** n. 1890, formed from English *lympho-*, combining form of *lymph* + *-cyte* cell.

lynch v. 1835 *Lynch*, also, *lynch* (1839), to punish an accused person without a lawful trial; shortened form of earlier *Lynch law* (1811, after William Lynch, of Virginia, who in 1780 with his neighbors established a vigilance committee to maintain order in their community). Since the late 1800's, the term has meant inflict sentence of death without a lawful trial.

lynx n. 1340, borrowing of Latin *lynx*, from Greek *lýnx*.

lyre n. Probably before 1200 *lire*; borrowed through Old French *lire*, *lyre*, and directly from Latin *lyra*, from Greek *lýra*.

lyric adj. 1589, borrowed through Middle French *lyrique*, and directly from Latin *lyricus* of or for the lyre, from Greek *lyrikós*, from *lýra* LYRE; for suffix see -IC. —n. 1581, short poem expressing personal emotion; borrowed through Middle French *lyrique*, from Latin *lyricum* a lyric poem, from neuter of *lyricus*, adj. —**lyrical** adj. 1581, of lyric poetry; formed from English *lyric*, n. + *-al*. —**lyricism** n. 1760, formed from English *lyric* + *-ism*.

lysis n. 1902, dissolution of cells, bacteria, etc.; borrowed from Latin *lysis*, from Greek *lýsis* dissolution, from *lýein* untie; see LOSE.

M

macabre adj. 1833, in *The Dance of Macabre*; earlier *the dance of Machabray* (1598), and *The Daunce of Machabree* (probably about 1430). Use of the form *Machabree* suggests a connection with *Maccabee* and also a familiarity with the Middle French *danse Macabré* which was probably a translation of Medieval Latin *chorea Machabeorum*, literally, the dance of the Maccabees (leaders of the revolt of the Jews against Syria, about 166 B.C.).

The allegorical representation of Death leading mankind in a dance to the grave is first found in English literary and artistic works, perhaps as an allusion to the vivid description of the martyrdom of the Maccabees in the Apocryphal books of the Maccabees. From this representation characterizing the gruesome descriptions of the *danse macabre* modern English abstracted the sense of gruesome, horrible (1889), probably by influence of French *macabre* gruesome (1842).

macadam n. 1824, in allusion to its inventor, John L. McAdam, 1756–1836. —**macadamize** v. 1826, formed from English *macadam* + *-ize*.

macaque n. 1840, borrowing of French *macaque*, from Portuguese *macaco* monkey, from a Bantu word brought by the Portuguese to Brazil.

Originally *macaque* was applied to some Brazilian species of monkey (1698). The later meaning of a monkey of the genus *Macacus* was introduced into English in 1840.

macaroni n. 1 kind of pasta. 1599, borrowed from southern Italian dialect *maccaroni* (Italian *macheroni*) macaroni, plural of *maccarone*; possibly from *maccare* bruise, batter, crush; of uncertain

origin. 2 fop, dandy. 1764, in allusion to members of the *Macaroni Club*, who affected French and Italian fashion and food (macaroni was an exotic dish in England at the time). An earlier use by Addison (1711) in the sense of blockhead, fool, is probably not connected with this sense of fop, dandy.

macaronic adj. 1611, mixed or jumbled; later, denoting a burlesque form of verse with a mixture of native and foreign words, usually Latin words with words from another language, or with non-Latin words that are given Latin endings (1638); borrowed from New Latin *macaronicus*, from dialectal Italian *maccarone* MACARONI, and allusion to the coarse, rustic mixture of words is comparable to macaroni.

macaroon n. 1611, borrowed from French *macaron*, from dialectal Italian *maccarone*, singular of *maccaroni* MACARONI; for ending see -OON. The French meaning was apparently an invention of Rabelais, who introduced the word in 1552.

macaw n. 1668, borrowed from Portuguese *macau*, from a Brazilian name (perhaps from Tupi *macavuaná*).

mace¹ n. medieval weapon of war. Probably before 1300; earlier as a surname (1229); borrowed from Old French *mace* a club, scepter, from Vulgar Latin **mattea*, from Latin *mateola* (in Late Latin also *matteola*) a kind of mallet. Related to MATTOCK.

mace² n. spice. Probably before 1300; back formation as a new singular form from earlier *maces* (1234), and *macis* (1381); borrowed from Old French *mace*, *macis*, mistaken to be a plural

form; or borrowed directly from Medieval Latin *macis*, apparently a scribal error for Latin *macir* a red spicy bark from India.

macerate *v.* 1547, cause to waste away; either developed from *macerate* wasted, weakened (1540), from Latin *mācerātus*; or borrowed, through influence of Middle French *macérer*, from Latin *mācerātus*, past participle of *mācerāre* soften, related to *māceria* garden wall (originally of kneaded clay); for suffix see -ATE¹. Also *macerate* may be a back formation from *maceration* (1491); borrowed from Latin *mācerātiōnem* (nominative *mācerātiō*), from *mācerāre*; for suffix see -ATION. The meaning of soften by soaking is first recorded in 1563.

machete *n.* 1832, borrowing of Spanish *machete*, probably diminutive of *macho* sledge hammer, alteration of *mazo* club, probably dialectal variant of *maza* mallet, from Vulgar Latin **mattea* war club, MACE¹.

Machiavellian *adj.* 1579 (earlier as a noun, 1568); from *Machiavellian*, *n.* (*Machiavelli*, Florentine statesman who advised that rulers place advantage above morality, + -an, -ian).

machicolation *n.* 1788, borrowed from Medieval Latin *machicolationem* (nominative *machicolatio*) from *machicolare* furnish with openings, a Latinization of Old French *machicouler*, ultimately from Old Provençal *machacol* machicolation, a southern dialect variant of **macacol*; literally, neck crusher (*macar* to crush, from Vulgar Latin **maccāre* crush + *col* neck); for suffix see -ATION.

A connection may be found in the earlier recorded past participle *machekolud* machicolated, having openings in a parapet (1408), a variant form of *machecolled*, from *machecole*, probably borrowed from Old French *machecoller*, and directly from Medieval Latin *machecollare* provide with machicolation.

machination *n.* Before 1475 *machynacion* intrigue, fraud, trick; borrowed through Old French *machinacioun*, and directly from Latin *māchinātiōnem* (nominative *māchinātiō*) device, contrivance, machination, from *māchinārī* contrive, plot, from *māchina* MACHINE; for suffix see -ATION.

machine *n.* 1549, any structure or contrivance; borrowed from Middle French *machine* device, contrivance, learned borrowing from Latin *māchina*, from Greek *māchanā*, Doric variant of *mēchanē* device, means; related to *mēchos* means, expedient. The sense of mechanical device, is first recorded in 1673, and in the form *machinament* (1413, borrowed from Latin *māchināmentum*, from *māchinārī* to contrive, plot). —*v.* 1878, from the noun; earlier *machynen* decide a course of action, contrive, plot (probably about 1450) borrowed from Old French *machiner*, and directly from Latin *māchinārī* to contrive, plot. —**machinery** *n.* 1687, devices for creating stage effects, formed from English *machine* + -ery.

machismo *n.* 1948, borrowed through American Spanish *machismo*, from Spanish *macho* male, MACHO.

macho *n., adj.* 1928, borrowed from Spanish *macho* male, from Latin *masculus* MASCULINE.

mackerel *n.* About 1300 *makerel*; earlier, as a surname (1183); borrowed from Old French *makerel*, *maquerel*; of uncertain

origin. Though apparently the same word as Old French *maquerel* pimp or procurer, from a Germanic source (compare Middle Dutch *makelaer* broker), it is difficult to make a connection.

mackinaw *n.* Found in *Mackina* boat (1812), from earlier *Mackinac* trading post on the site of Mackinaw City, Michigan; borrowed from Canadian French *michili-mackinac*, from Algonquian (Ojibwa) *mitchi makināk* large turtle.

mackintosh *n.* 1836, in allusion to Charles *Macintosh*, inventor of a waterproofing process.

macro- a combining form meaning large or long, in scientific terms, such as *macrocephalic* having an abnormally large head and in general terms with the sense of on a large scale, from use in *macrocosm*. Borrowed through Middle and Old French and from Medieval Latin, from Greek *makro-*, combining form of *makrós* large, long. Compare MEGA-.

macrocosm *n.* 1600, borrowed from French *macrocosme*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Medieval Latin *macrocosmus* (Greek *makrós* large, long + *kósmos* COSMOS), probably formed in distinction to *microcosm*. Medieval Latin *macrocosmus* is found as English *macrocosm* probably before 1408.

macron *n.* 1851, borrowed from Greek *makrón*, neuter of *makrós* long.

mad *adj.* About 1275 *madde* crazy, angry; later *mad* (about 1300); developed from Old English (before 1000) *gemædde*, pl.; earlier *gemæded* rendered insane (before 800), past participle of **gemædan* make mad, from *gemād* mad; cognate with Old Saxon *gimēd* foolish, Old High German *gimeit* foolish, vain, and Gothic *gamaidans* (accusative plural) crippled (from Proto-Germanic **ga-maidaz*, compound of *ga-* perfective prefix + **maidās*, corresponding to Old Icelandic *meida* to hurt). —**madden** *v.* 1735; formed from English *mad* + -en¹ replacing *mad* *v.*, developed from *madden* to drive mad (about 1395), to become insane (probably about 1380), from earlier *medden* (before 1325); from *mad*, *adj.* —**maddening** *adj.* Before 1743, from *madden*, *v.* —**madding** *adj.* 1579, from *mad*, *v.* + -ing².

madam *n.* Probably before 1300 *madame*, borrowed from Old French *ma dame* my lady.

madame *n.* 1599; see MADAM.

madder *n.* Probably before 1300 *madere*; later *madder* (1347–48); in part developed from Old English (about 1000) *mædere* plant used for making dyes; and in part borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *madhra*).

Madeira *n.* 1584 *Madera*, shortened form of *Madeira* or *Madeira wine*, in allusion to the island of *Madeira*, from Portuguese *madeira* wood, from Latin *māteria* wood, matter; see MATTER.

mademoiselle *n.* 1642, borrowed from French; see DAMSEL. An isolated example of this word is recorded in Middle English, probably about 1450.

Madonna *n.* 1644, in reference to a wall painting of the Virgin Mary; earlier, Italian form of address for a lady (1584);

borrowing of Italian *madonna* (*ma* my, weakly stressed variant of *mia* + *donna* lady).

madras *n.* 1882 *Madras-net* muslin closely woven cotton cloth, and *Madras* handkerchief (1833); in allusion to the former state of *Madras* and its capital where this type of cloth was exported.

madrigal *n.* 1588 *madrigales* short lyrical poem, song with parts for several voices; borrowing of Italian *madrigale*, probably from dialectal Italian (Venice) *madregal*, *maregal* simple, ingenuous, from Late Latin *mātrīcālis* invented, original, of or from the womb, from *mātrīx* (genitive *mātrīcis*) womb; see MATRIX.

maelstrom *n.* 1701 *Maelstrom*, whirlpool off the coast of Norway (recorded in English in 1682 as *Male Stream*, and about 1560 as *Malestrand*); borrowed from Danish *Malstrøm*, from earlier Dutch *Maelstrom* (now *Maalstroom*, a compound of *malen*, to grind + *stroom* STREAM). The sense of any great or violent whirlpool was popularized in English about 1841, and that of a violent confusion of ideas, conditions, etc., in 1831.

maenad *n.* 1579, borrowed from Latin *maenas* (genitive *maenadis*) from Greek *mainás* (genitive *mainádos*) priestess of Bacchus; literally, madwoman, from *maínesthai* to rage, go mad; see MANIA.

Mafia *n.* 1875, borrowing of Italian *Mafia* secret society of criminals in Sicily, from dialectal Italian (Sicily) *mafia* boldness, bravado, probably from Arabic *mahjās* aggressive boasting, bragging.

magazine *n.* 1583 *magosine*; also 1589 *magasin* warehouse, depot, store; borrowed from Middle French *magasin*, from Italian *magazzino*, from Arabic *makhāzin*, plural of *makhzan* storehouse, from *khazana* to store up. The spelling *magazine* is first recorded in English in 1599, and appeared in the title of a periodical in 1731. The sense of a storehouse for ammunition, gunpowder, etc., appears in 1596.

magenta *n.* 1860, named in allusion to the Battle of *Magenta*, Italy, 1859, because the dye was discovered in that year.

maggot *n.* Probably before 1475 *magat*, and *magot* (before 1500); perhaps related to earlier *mathek* maggot (about 1225), and *maddokk* earthworm, maggot (before 1400); possibly developed from Old English *matha* maggot, grub, with a Proto-Germanic suffix in *-k-*, as represented in Middle English suffix *-ok*, as in *hillock*, *bullock*.

The Middle English *mathek* corresponds to Old Icelandic *madhkr* maggot and Middle Low German *medeke*; Old English *matha* is cognate with Gothic *matha*, Old Saxon *matho*, Old High German *mado* (modern German *Made*), Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *made*, from Proto-Germanic **mathōn*.

Magi *n. pl.* Probably about 1200 *magy* men skilled in magic and astrology; later *magēs* (before 1350); borrowing of Latin *magī*, plural of *magus*, from Greek *mágos*, either: one of the Magi or Magians (a Median tribe); or one of the members of the Persian learned and priestly caste, though also portrayed as pagan kings in the Bible; see MAGIC.

magic *n.* About 1380 *magik*, borrowed from Old French *magique*, from Latin *magicē* sorcery, magic, from Greek *magikḗ*, from feminine of *magikós* magical (presumably used to modify *téchnē* art), from *mágos* one of the members of the learned and priestly caste, from Old Persian *maguš* a member of a priestly caste. —**adj.** Before 1393 *magique*, borrowed from Old French *magique*, from Latin *magicus*, from Greek *magikós* magical. —**magician** *n.* About 1375 *magicien* sorcerer; borrowed of Old French *magicien*, from *magique* magic.

magisterial *adj.* 1632, borrowed from Late Latin *magisteriālis* of or pertaining to the office of magistrate, director, teacher, or to teaching, from *magisterius* having the authority of a magistrate, director, teacher, magisterial, from Latin *magister* MASTER; for suffix see *-AL*¹.

magistrate *n.* About 1380, *magistrat* office of a magistrate; 1384, a civil official, magistrate; borrowed, perhaps through Old French *magistrat*, from Latin *magistrātus* (genitive *magistrātūs*) a magistrate; originally, magisterial rank or office, from *magistrāre* serve as a magistrate, from *magister* chief, director, MASTER; for suffix see *-ATE*³.

magma *n.* Probably 1440, sediment or dregs; borrowed from Latin *magma* dregs of an ointment, from Greek *mágma* an ointment; related to *mássein* to knead, mold. The meaning of molten material beneath the earth's crust, is first recorded in 1865.

magnanimous *adj.* 1584, back formation from *magnanimity* + *-ous*; or borrowed from Latin *magnanimus* high-minded (*magnus* great + *animus* mind, soul, spirit), probably a loan translation of Greek *megálōpsýchos* high-souled, generous, or *megáthymos* great-hearted; for suffix see *-OUS*. —**magnanimity** *n.* 1340 *magnanimite* high-mindedness; borrowed from Old French *magnanimité*, learned borrowing from Latin *magnanimitātem* (nominative *magnanimitās*) greatness of soul, high-mindedness, from *magnanimus* having a great soul, high-minded; for suffix see *-ITY*.

magnate *n.* Probably before 1439 *magnates*, pl.; borrowed from Late Latin *magnātēs*, plural of *magnās* (genitive *magnātis*) great person, nobleman, from Latin *magnus* great.

magnesia *n.* About 1395 *magnasia* mineral ingredient of the philosophers' stone; borrowed from Medieval Latin *magnesia*, from Greek (*hē*) *Magnēsīā* (*lithos*) the lodestone; literally, the Magnesian stone, from *Magnēsīā* Magnesia, a region in Thessaly.

magnesium *n.* 1812, New Latin, from Medieval Latin *magnesia* MAGNESIA + New Latin *-ium*.

magnet *n.* Before 1398 *magnes*, *magnas* piece of lodestone; later *magnet* (1429); borrowed from Latin *magnētem*, accusative of *magnēs* lodestone, from Greek *Mágnēs lithos*, *Magnētis lithos* Magnesian stone, from *Magnēsīā* Magnesia, a region in Thessaly. —**magnetic** *adj.* 1611, of or acting like a magnet; borrowed through French *magnétique*, and directly from Late Latin *magnētīcus*, from Latin *magnēs* (genitive *magnētis*) magnet; for suffix see *-IC*. Curiously the figurative sense of very attractive is first recorded in 1632. —**magnetism** *n.* 1616, the

properties of a magnet; borrowed from New Latin *magnetismus*, from Latin *magnēs* (genitive *magnētis*) **MAGNET** + *-ismus* *-ism*. —**magnetize** *v.* 1787, formed from English *magnet*, *n.* + *-ize*.

magneto *n.* 1882, shortened form of *magnetolectric*, in *magnetolectric machine*. The adjective *magnetolectric* characterized by electricity produced by magnets (1831), was formed from *magneto-* + *electric*.

magneto- a combining form meaning magnetic, magnets, or magnetism, as in *magnetometer*, *magnetolectric*, and *magnetochemistry*. Formed in English from *magnetic*, but also representing the combining form of Latin *magnēs* (genitive *magnētis*) lodestone, **MAGNET**.

magnificence *n.* 1340, high-mindedness, fortitude; later, grandeur, glory; borrowed from Old French *magnificence* splendor, nobility, grandeur, learned borrowing from Latin *magnificentia*, from the comparative and superlative stem *magnificēt-* of *magnificus* noble, eminent, splendid (*magnus* great + the root of *facere* to make); for suffix see *-ENCE*. —**magnificent** *adj.* Before 1460, splendid, exalted, glorious; probably as a back formation from *magnificence*; and a borrowing from Middle French *magnificent*, from *magnificence*; for suffix see *-ENT*.

magnify *v.* About 1380, *magnifying*, gerund of *magnifier* glorify, praise, make greater (before 1382); borrowed from Old French *magnifier*, learned borrowing from Latin *magnificāre* esteem greatly, extol from *magnificus* splendid; see **MAGNIFICENCE**; for suffix see *-FY*. The meaning of increase the apparent size of an object artificially, as with the lens of a telescope or microscope, appeared in 1665. —**magnification** *n.* Probably before 1425 *magnificacioun* enlargement; borrowed from Middle French *magnification*, from Old French, act of magnifying, glorification, praise, from Late Latin *magnificatiōnem* (nominative *magnificatiō*), from Latin *magnificāre*; for suffix see *-ATION*.

magniloquence *n.* 1623, borrowed from Latin *magniloquentia* lofty style of language (*magnus* great + *loquentem* [nominative *loquēns*] speaking, present participle of *loqui* speak); for suffix see *-ENCE*. —**magniloquent** *adj.* 1656, back formation from *magniloquence* and probably borrowed directly from Latin *magniloquentia*; for suffix see *-ENT*.

magnitude *n.* Before 1400, grandeur, magnificence; later, size, extent (before 1425); borrowed, probably through Old French *magnitude*, and directly from Latin *magnitūdō* greatness, bulk, size, from *magnus* great; for suffix see *-TUDE*.

magnolia *n.* 1748, adoption of New Latin *Magnolia* the genus name from *Magnolius*, the Latinate name of Pierre *Magnol*, a French botanist.

magpie *n.* 1605, a compound of *Mag*, nickname for *Margaret*, and *pie*² magpie. The nickname *Mag* was long used in various proverbial phrases referring to idle chattering, such as Middle English *magge tales* tall tales, nonsense, trifles (before 1410).

mah-jongg or **mah-jong** *n.* 1922, borrowed from dialectal

Chinese (Shanghai) *ma chiang* the name of the game; literally, hemp birds, sparrows; so called from a design on the game pieces.

mahogany *n.* 1671 *mohogeney*, borrowed from obsolete Spanish *mahogani*, perhaps from the native name in Maya (Honduras). —**adj.** 1730, from the noun.

maid *n.* Probably before 1200 *maide* young woman, female servant, shortened form of **MAIDEN**.

maiden *n.* About 1200 *maiden*, *mæden*; developed from Old English (about 950) *mæden*, (about 750) *mægden*, diminutive of *mægth*, *mægeth* maid. Old English *mægden* is cognate with Old High German *magatin*, from Proto-Germanic **mazadīnan*; and Old English *mægeth* is cognate with Old Frisian *maged*, *megith* maiden, Old Saxon *magath*, Middle Dutch *maghet* (modern Dutch *maagd*), Old High German *magad* (modern German *Magd*), and Gothic *magaths* virgin, from Proto-Germanic **mazadīs* young womanhood, related to **mazuz*, whence Gothic *magus* boy and Old Icelandic *magr* son. —**adj.** Probably about 1300, virgin, unmarried; from the noun. The figurative sense of new, fresh, first (as in *maiden voyage*) is first recorded in 1555.

mail¹ *n.* letters, parcels, etc. Probably before 1200 *male* traveling bag; later *mayll* (before 1460); borrowed from Old French *male* wallet, bag, from Frankish (compare Old High German *malha*, *malaha* wallet, bag; cognate with Middle Dutch *māle* bag, modern Dutch *maal* mailbag, mail). The sense of a bag of letters, is first recorded in 1654. —**v.** 1828–32, from the noun.

mail² *n.* armor. Probably before 1300 *maile* mail, link of mail; later *mayl* (before 1400); borrowed from Old French *maille* link of mail, a mesh of a net, from Latin *macula* a mesh in a net; originally, spot, blemish.

maim *v.* About 1300 *maymen*; later *maheimen* (about 1415); borrowed from Old French *mahaigrier*, possibly from a Germanic source; compare Gothic *gamaidans* (accusative plural) crippled, and Old Icelandic *meidha* to hurt; see **MAD**. Related to **MAYHEM**.

main *adj.* Probably before 1200, *mæin* outstanding because of size, most important; later *main* (1303); developed from Middle English *main*, *n.*; and from Old English *mægan-* in compounds (about 725, in *Beowulf*), from *mægen* power, strength, force, probably influenced by Old Icelandic *meginn* strong, powerful and cognate with Icelandic *magn*, *megin* strength, and Old High German and Old Saxon *magan*, *megin*; see **MAY**. —**n.** Probably before 1200 *maine* power, strength, force; developed from Old English *mægen*.

Main in the sense of the principal part, essential point (1595) is derived from the adjective; the phrase *in the main*, is found before 1628. The meaning of principal channel in a utility system is recorded in 1727, abstracted from *main drain* (1707–12). —**mainland** *n.* (probably before 1400) —**mainstay** *n.* (1485; figurative use, 1787) —**mainstream** *n.* (1667; figurative use, 1831).

maintain *v.* Probably about 1300 *mayntenen*, *meintenen* keep, keep up; borrowed through Anglo-French *meinténir*, Old

French *maintenir*, *meinténir* keep, maintain, from Latin *manū tenēre* hold in the hand (*manū*, ablative of *manus* hand; *tenēre* to hold). — **maintenance** n. Before 1333 *mentenaunce* action of wrongfully aiding and abetting litigation; later *mayntenaunce* support, backing (about 1378); borrowed through Anglo-French *mayntenaunce*, Old French *maintenance* act of maintaining, from *maintenir* maintain.

maize n. 1555, borrowed from Spanish *maíz*; earlier *mahiz*, *mahis*, *mayz*, from Arawakan (Haiti) *mahiz*.

majesty n. About 1300 *majeste*, *mageste* dignity, magnificence, especially of God; borrowed from Old French *majesté* grandeur, nobility, from Latin *majestātem* (nominative *majestās*) greatness, dignity, from the stem of *major*, comparative of *magnus* great. — **majestic** adj. 1601; formed from English *majesty* + *-ic*.

major adj. Probably before 1300 *maiour* great, greater; borrowed from Latin *major*, irregular comparative of *magnus* large, great. — **n.** 1579, borrowed from Middle French *major* (as in *sergent-major* sergeant-major), from Medieval Latin *major* chief officer, magnate, superior person, from Latin *major* an elder, adult, noun use of the adjective, greater, superior. — **v.** *major* in 1924, take as a major subject of study, from the noun, in the sense of a subject of specialization (1890).

major-domo n. 1589, borrowed from Spanish *mayordomo* or Italian *maggiordomo*, both from Medieval Latin *major domūs* chief of the household (*major* chief; *domūs*, genitive of *domus* house).

majority n. 1552, condition of being greater; borrowed from Middle French *majorité*, from Medieval Latin *majoritatem*, from Latin *major*, adj., MAJOR. The sense of the greater number or part (as in the *majority of voters*) is first recorded in 1691. An earlier sense, the state of being of full age (as in *to attain majority at 21*), is found in 1565.

make v. Before 1121 *macen* put together, build, form; later *maken* (1137); developed from Old English *macian* (before 901); probably borrowed from Old Saxon *makōn*, from Old High German *mahhōn*, *machōn*; cognate with Old Frisian *makia* to make, build, and Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *maken*, from Proto-Germanic **makōjanan*. — **n.** Probably about 1300 *make* design, construction; from the verb. — **make-believe** n. (1811); adj. (1824) — **maker** n. 1340, the Creator; later, a writer or composer (about 1350), and a manufacturer or builder (1391); formed from *maken* make + *-er*. — **makeshift** adj. 1683, serving as a substitute; earlier, shifty, roguish (1592, from the noun). — **n.** 1802–12, temporary substitute; earlier, shifty person, rogue (1565); from *to make a shift* to try all means (about 1460). — **makeup** n. (1821). The meaning of cosmetics (1886) is from appearance of face, dress, etc., assumed by an actor (1858).

mal- a combining form meaning: 1 bad or badly, as in *malfunction*. 2 poor or poorly, as in *malnutrition*. 3 abnormal or abnormally, as in *malformed*. 4 wrongly or unfairly, as in *malapportion*. 5 wrong or unfair, as in *malpractice*. Borrowed from Old French *mal-*, *male-*, and Latin *mal-*, prefixes formed on Latin *malus*,

adj., bad, and *male*, adv., badly. — **maladjustment** n. (1833) — **malcontent** adj. 1586, borrowed from Middle French (*mal-* poorly + *content*). — **n.** 1581, from the adjective (even though attested earlier). — **malfunction** v. (1928); n. (1941) — **malnutrition** n. (1862) — **malpractice** n. (1671).

malachite n. Before 1398 *melochites*; later *molochites* (before 1500); borrowed from Old French *melochite*, and as a learned borrowing directly from Latin *molochitis*, from Greek *molochitis lithos* mallow stone, from *molochē*, *malachē* MALLOW: perhaps so called from the similarity in color between the mineral and the leaves of the mallow plant.

malady n. About 1275 *maladie*, borrowed from Old French *maladie* sickness, illness, disease, from *malade* ill, from Latin *male habitus* doing poorly, feeling unwell; literally, ill-conditioned (*male*, adv., badly; *habitus*, past participle of *habēre* have, hold).

malaise n. Before 1300 *maleise* pain, suffering; also *malayse* distress, sorrow; borrowed from Old French *malaise* (*mal* bad + *aise* EASE).

malamute or **malemute** n. 1898, earlier *maglemut* (1874), from the name of an Alaskan Eskimo tribe that developed this breed of dog.

malapropism n. 1849; formed from earlier *malaprop* a malapropism (1823) + *-ism*. The forms *malaprop* and *malapropism* are an allusion to Mrs. *Malaprop*, a character in Sheridan's play *The Rivals* (1775), noted for her ridiculous misuse of words. Sheridan coined her name by back formation from MAL-APROPOS.

malapropos adv. 1668, borrowed from French *mal à propos* badly for the purpose, inappropriate (*mal* badly; *à propos* appropriately, to the purpose, from *proposer* PROPOSE).

malaria n. 1740, borrowing of Italian *malaria*, from *mala aria* bad air (*mala* bad, feminine of *malo*; *aria* air). The disease was formerly thought to be caused by bad air in swampy areas.

malarkey or **malarky** n. 1929 *malaky*, of unknown origin.

male n. 1373, borrowed from Old French *male*, *masle*, *mascle*, from Latin *masculus* masculine, male, diminutive of *mās* (genitive *maris*) male person or animal, male. — **adj.** About 1378, borrowed from Old French *male*, adj. and n. The sense in mechanics of a part designed to fit inside a corresponding part to make a connection (as in a *male plug*), is first recorded in 1669.

malediction n. 1447 *malediccyoun*; borrowed through Old French *malediction*, *maledition*, from Latin *maledictionem* (nominative *maledictiō*) the action of speaking evil of, slander (in Late Latin, a curse), from *maledicere* to speak badly or evil of, slander (*male* badly + *dicere* to say); for suffix see *-TION*.

malefactor n. Before 1438, borrowing of Latin *malefactor*, from *malefacere* to do evil (*male* badly + *facere* to perform); for suffix see *-OR*².

malevolence n. About 1454 *malivolence*; later *malevolence*

(1464); borrowed from Middle French *malivolence*, and from Latin *malivolentia*, *malevolentia*, from *malivolentem*, *malevolentem* (nominative *malivolēns*, *malevolēns*) malevolent (*male* badly + *volentem*, nominative *volēns*, present participle of *velle* to wish); for suffix see -ENCE. —**malevolent** adj. 1509, borrowed from Middle French *malivolent*, and from Latin *malivolentem*, *malevolentem*; for suffix see -ENT. It is also possible that *malevolent* is a back formation from *malevolence*.

malfeasance *n.* 1696; borrowed from French *malfeasance* wrongdoing (*mal-* badly + *faisant*, present participle of *faire* to do); for suffix see -ANCE. *Malfeasance* has largely replaced the older *maleficence* (1598), borrowed, probably through Middle French *maleficence*, from Latin *maleficientia*, from *maleficus* wicked (*male* badly; *facere* perform).

malice *n.* About 1300, borrowed from Old French *malice* ill will, spite, learned borrowing from Latin *malitia* badness, ill will, spite, from *malus* bad. It is probable borrowing of *malice* was influenced by *malicious*. —**malicious** adj. About 1225 *malicious*; later *malicious* (probably before 1300); borrowed from Old French *malicios* showing ill will, spiteful, from Latin *malitiōsus* full of malice, from *malitia*; for suffix see -OUS.

malign *adj.* Before 1333 *maligne*; borrowed from Old French *malign* having an evil nature, learned borrowing from Latin *malignus* evilly-disposed, bad-natured (*male* badly + *-gnus* born, from *gignere* to bear, beget). —**v.** Before 1420 *maligner*; borrowed from Middle French *malignier* to plot, deceive, pervert, and from Late Latin *malignāre* injure maliciously, from Latin *malignus* evil, bad-natured. —**malignancy** *n.* 1601, malignant quality or character; formed from *malignant* + *-cy*; for suffix see also -ANCY. The sense of a malignant growth, is first recorded in 1685. —**malignant** adj. 1542–45, disaffected, malcontent; borrowed from Middle French *malignant* deceitful, and Late Latin *malignantem* (nominative *malignāns*) acting from malice, present participle of *malignāre* injure maliciously; for suffix see -ANT. The meaning of severe, virulent, is first recorded in 1568, and that of having an evil influence, in 1591.

malingering *v.* 1820 (implied earlier in the once slang term *malingeringer*, *n.* 1785), probably an unrecorded slang term as a verb; borrowed from French *malingrer* to suffer; perhaps also, pretend to be ill, from *malingre* ailing, sickly, possibly a blend of Old French *mingre* sickly or miserable, and *malade* ill. Old French *mingre* is itself a blend of *maigre* MEAGER and *haingre* sick, haggard, possibly from a Germanic source (compare Middle High German and modern German *hager* thin).

mall *n.* 1737, from *The Mall*, broad promenade in St. James's Park, London (1674); formerly an alley used in *pall-mall*, a game in which a ball was hit with a mallet (*mall*, now MAUL) through a ring at the end of an alley. The name of the game was borrowed into English from obsolete French *pallemaille*, from Italian *pallamaglio* (*palla* ball + *maglio* mallet).

mallard *n.* Probably before 1300 *maulard*; later *mallard* (1348); borrowed from Old French *malart*, and from Medieval Latin *mallardus*, also from Old French *malart*, apparently from *male*, *masle*, *mascle*, from Latin *masculus*; see MALE. The original meaning was probably “male of the wild duck.”

malleable *adj.* About 1395 *malliable*; later *malleable* (1413); borrowed from Old French *malleable*, and directly from Medieval Latin *malleabilis*, from *malleare* to beat with a hammer, from Latin *malleus* hammer; see MALLET: for suffix see -ABLE. The figurative sense of adaptable, yielding, is first recorded in English in 1612.

mallet *n.* 1392 *maylet*; earlier in surname *Malet* (1159); also *mallet* (1406); borrowed from Old French *maillet*, *mallot* wooden hammer, diminutive of *mail*, from Latin *malleus* hammer, related to *molere* to grind.

mallow *n.* Before 1325 *malwe*; later *malowe* (1392); possibly developed from Old English *malwe*, *mealwe* (about 1000), from Latin *malva*, but more likely borrowed from Old French *malve*, *mauve*, and directly from Latin *malva*, from the same (Mediterranean) source as Greek *maláchē*, *molóchē* mallow.

malmsey *n.* 1407 *malmesey*; later *malmsey* (probably before 1475); borrowed, perhaps through Provençal **malmesie*, or Middle Dutch *malemesye*, from Medieval Latin *malmasia*, alteration of Medieval Greek *Monembasia* Monemvasia, town in southeastern Peloponnesus that was an important center for production of wine in the Middle Ages. The word is complicated by the fact that a variety of wine of Madeira is also called *malmsey* and first appears as *malmsey madeira* (1723).

malt *n.* Old English (about 700, in Anglian dialect) *malt*; later (about 950, in West Saxon) *mealt*; both cognate with Old Saxon *malt* malt, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *mout*, Old High German *malz* (modern German *Malz*), and Old Icelandic (also Norwegian, Swedish, and Danish) *malt*, from Proto-Germanic **maltaz*; derived from the Germanic root that is the source of Old English *meltan* to MELT.

mamba *n.* 1862, borrowing of Zulu (*i*)*mamba*, or Swahili *mamba*.

mameluke *n.* 1600, slave in Moslem countries; earlier *Mamoluke* a member of a military body, originally consisting of Caucasian slaves (1511; they seized the Egyptian throne in 1254 and ruled until 1517); borrowed through Middle French *mameluk*; earlier *mamelos*, and directly from Arabic *mamlūk* purchased slave, from past participle of *malaka* he possessed.

mamma¹ or **mama** *n.* mother. 1579 *mamma*; later *mama* (1727); ultimately probably of imitative origin, representing sounds made by infants. The word is found in many European languages, (Irish, Cornish, Breton, and Welsh *mam*, Latin *mamma* mother, breast, Greek *mámmē* mother, breast, Lithuanian *mamà* mother, Russian *máma*, Armenian *mam* grandmother).

mamma² *n.* milk-giving gland in female mammals. 1693, borrowed from Latin *mamma* breast, mother.

mammal *n.* 1826, borrowed from New Latin *Mammalia* the class of mammals, from neuter plural of Late Latin *mammālis* of the breast, from Latin *mamma* breast; for suffix see -AL¹. —**mammalian** *n.* 1835, formed in English from New Latin *Mammalia* + English *-an*. —**adj.** 1851, from the noun.

mammary *adj.* 1682, borrowed from French *mammaire* (formed from Latin *mamma* breast, mother + French *-aire* -ary). — **mammary gland** (1831)

Mammon or **mammon** *n.* About 1390 *Mammona*, also *Mammon* (about 1400); borrowed from Late Latin *mammōna*, from Greek *māmōnās*, from Aramaic *māmōnā*, *māmōn* riches, gain.

mammoth *n.* 1706, borrowed from earlier Russian *mammot*, now *mámmont*, probably from Ostyak, a Finno-Ugric language (compare Finnish *maa* earth, so called because of the mammoth's once supposed habit of burrowing in the earth). — **adj.** 1802, American English; from the noun, in allusion to the mammoth's enormous size.

mammy *n.* 1523, a diminutive formed from earlier *mam* (probably before 1500) + *-y*. *Mam* is probably from children's speech and ultimately from the same source as English *MAMMA*¹.

man *n.* Old English (before 725) *man*, *mann*, *mon* (pl. *men*, *menn*) human being, person; later, adult male (about 1000); cognate with Old Frisian *monn* human being, man, Old Saxon *man*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *man*, Old High German *man*, sing. and pl. (modern German *Mann*, pl. *Männer*), Old Icelandic *maðr* (-ðr from -nr, pl. *menn*), Swedish *man*, Danish *mand*, from Proto-Germanic **manwaz*. In addition, Old English had *manna*, cognate with Gothic *manna* (earlier **mana*), from Proto-Germanic **manōn*.

In all Germanic languages, the word originally had the twofold sense "human being" and "adult male human being." Later, with the exception of English, the sense "human being," was mainly assumed by a derivative (German *Mensch*, Swedish *människa*, Dutch *mens*, etc.). The primary sense of Old English *man* was "human being." The words *wer* and *wif* (meaning man and woman) distinguished the sexes. By the late 1200's *were* (Old English *wer*) began to disappear, replaced by *man* in the sense "adult, male human being." — **v.** Probably before 1300 *mannen* supply (a ship, etc.) with men; from the noun. The sense of take charge, manage, is first recorded in 1338, and that of behave like a man, act with courage, is found about 1400. — **manhood** *n.* Before 1250 *manhede* human condition, nature, or form; later, manliness (before 1300); also *manhode* bravery (before 1333); formed from *man* + *-hede*, *-hode* -hood. — **mankind** *n.* Before 1225 *man-kende*; later *mankinde* (about 1300, *man* + *kinde* sort, *KIND*²). *Mankind* replaced *mankenne*, *mannkin* (recorded before 1200); developed from Old English *mancynn* human race (about 725, in *Beowulf*); formed from *man* *MAN* + *cynn* *KIN*. — **manpower** *n.* (1862) — **manslaughter** *n.* Before 1325 *mans-slaughter*; later *manslaghter* killing of a human being, homicide (probably about 1375); formed from *man* + *slaghter* slaughter. This form replaced the earlier *monslaht* (before 1225); developed from Old English (Anglian, before 1000) *mannslæht*, (West Saxon, before 899) *mannsliht*; formed from *mann* man + *slæht*, *slieht* act of killing.

manacle *n.* About 1340 *manykil*; later *manacle* (about 1395); borrowed from Old French *manicle*, from Latin *manicula* han-

dle, little hand, diminutive of *manicae* long sleeves of a tunic, manacles, from *manus* hand. — **v.** 1307 *manklen*; later *manaclen* (1422); from the noun.

manage *v.* 1561 *manege* to handle or direct (a horse); probably borrowed from Italian *maneggiare*, from Vulgar Latin **manizāre*, from Latin *manus* hand. The English word was influenced in meaning by French *manège* horsemanship, and by French *ménager* to use carefully, to husband, from *ménage* household. The original spelling *manege* was altered by 1570 to *manage* by influence of the suffix *-age*. The sense of administer (1609), is found earlier in carry on an undertaking (1579). — **manageable** *adj.* (1598) — **management** *n.* 1598, act or manner of managing; 1739, persons who manage a business or institution. — **manager** *n.* 1588, one who manages (something); later, one who manages a business establishment or a institution (1705). — **managerial** *adj.* (1767)

manatee *n.* 1555, borrowed from Spanish *manatí*, from Carib *manati* breast, udder.

mandamus *n.* 1535, borrowing of Latin *mandāmus* we order, first person plural present indicative of *mandāre* to order, *MANDATE*.

mandarin *n.* 1589 *mandelines*, an erroneous transcription, borrowed from Spanish *mandarín*, from Portuguese *mandarim*; later *mandorijn* (1598); borrowed from Dutch *mandorijn*, now *mandarijn*, probably from Portuguese *mandarim*, from Malay *mantri*, found in Hindi *mantri* councilor, minister of state, from Sanskrit *mantrī*, nominative of *mantrin-* advisor. The sense of the chief dialect of Chinese (usually capitalized), is first recorded in 1604.

mandate *n.* 1552, borrowed through Middle French *mandat*, and directly from Latin *mandātum*, noun use of neuter past participle of *mandāre* to order, commit to one's charge (probably from *manus* hand + *dare* to give, with transfer to the *-āre* conjugation); for suffix see *-ATE*¹. — **v.** 1623, from the noun. — **mandatory** *adj.* 1576, borrowed from Late Latin *mandātōrius* of or belonging to one who commands, analyzed as either from Latin *mandātor* + *-y* or as *mandāt-*, participle stem of *mandāre* to order; for suffix see *-ORY*.

mandible *n.* 1392, borrowed from Old French *mandible*, and directly from Late Latin *mandibula*, from Latin *mandere* to chew.

mandolin *n.* 1707, borrowed from French *mandoline*, from Italian *mandolino*, diminutive of *mandola*, *mandora* a larger kind of mandolin, alteration of Late Latin *pandūra* three-stringed lute, from Greek *pandoura*.

mandrake *n.* About 1325 *mondrake*; later *mandrake* (1373); alteration of earlier *mandragora* (about 1150); borrowed from Medieval Latin *mandragora*, from Latin *mandragorās*, from Greek *mandragorās*.

The alteration of *mandragora* to *mandrake* is the result of equating the *-drago-* of *mandragora* with the *drago-* of *dragoun* dragon, and this with the noun *drake* meaning dragon. Association of the form of the root of this plant with that of the human form, and the fabled shriek the plant is supposed to

utter when pulled from the ground (all to explain the element *man* of *mandrake*), is often cited.

mandrill *n.* 1744, either formed from English *man* + *drill*³ baboon, or from an African language, with misdivision of the form into recognizable English components. French *mandrill* (1751) and Spanish *mandril* (1817) were apparently borrowed from English.

mane *n.* Probably before 1300, developed from Old English (before 800) *manu* mane, related to *mene* necklace. Old English *manu* is cognate with Old Frisian *mana* mane, Middle Dutch *mane*, Old High German *mana* (modern German *Mähne*), and Old Icelandic *mon* mane (Swedish, Norwegian, and Danish *man*), from Proto-Germanic **manō*.

maneuver *n.* 1758 *manœuvre*; later *maneuver* (1778); borrowing of French *manœuvre* manipulation, *maneuver*, from Old French *manœuvre* manual labor, from Medieval Latin *manuopera*, from *manuoperare* to work with the hands, from Latin *manū operārī*. —**v.** 1777, borrowed from French *manœuvrer*, from Old French *manouvrier* to work with the hands, from Medieval Latin *manuoperare*. —**maneuverability** *n.* (1923) —**maneuverable** *adj.* (1921)

manganese *n.* 1676, oxide or ore of manganese; borrowing of French *manganèse*, from Italian *manganese*, alteration of Medieval Latin *magnesia*; see MAGNESIA.

mange *n.* Before 1425, *manjewe*; borrowed from Middle French *manjue*, *mangeue* the itch, from *manju-*, accented stem of Old French *mangier* to eat, from Latin *mandūcāre* to chew, eat, from *mandūcus* glutton, from *mandere* to chew. —**mangy** *adj.* Before 1529, formed from English *mange* + *-y*¹.

manger *n.* Before 1333 *manyour*, also *manger* (before 1338); borrowed from Old French *mangeoire*, from *mangier* to eat + *-oire* (common suffix for implements and receptacles); see MANGE.

mangle *v.* Probably before 1400 *manglen* to mutilate; borrowed through Anglo-French *mangler*, frequentative form of Old French *mangoner* cut to pieces; of uncertain origin (sometimes connected with Old French *mahaignier* to maim). The sense of spoil, ruin, is first recorded in 1533.

mango *n.* 1681, earlier *mangas* (1582); borrowed from Portuguese *manga*, from Malay *mangga*, from Tamil *mānkāy*.

mangrove *n.* 1613 *mangrow* (probably influenced in formation by *grow*); borrowed from Spanish *mangle*, earlier *mangue*, probably from Carib or Arawakan. The current spelling appeared in 1697, influenced by *grove*.

mania *n.* About 1385 *manye* derangement, frenzy; also *mania* (before 1398); borrowed from Late Latin *mania* insanity, madness, from Greek *manīā* madness, related to *malnēsthai* to rage, go mad, also related to *mēnos* passion, spirit. The sense of unusual or unreasonable fondness, rage, craze, is first recorded in 1689.

Since the 1500's *mania* has been used as a final element in compounds to express the general sense of a certain kind or

state of madness, after some Greek compounds such as *erōtomanīā* love madness, *hippomanīā* craze for horses. Some of the compounds in *-mania* that were formed as medical New Latin and adopted in English were *nymphomania* (1775), *kleptomania* (1830), and *megomania* (1890). —**maniac** *adj.* 1604 *maniacque*, borrowed from French *manique*, from Late Latin *maniacus*, from Greek *maniakós*, from *manīā* madness. A revival of a Latin spelling, found in the present-day *maniac*, is first recorded in English in 1727. —**n.** Before 1763, from the adjective. —**maniacal** *adj.* 1678, affected with mania; formed from English *maniac*, *n.* + *-al*¹. —**manic** *adj.* 1902, borrowed from Greek *manikós* mad, from *manīā* madness; for suffix see *-ic*.

manicure *n.* 1880, a manicurist; later, care of the fingernails and hands (1887); borrowing of French *manicure*, *manucure* (from Latin *manus* hand + *cūra* care). —**v.** 1889; from the noun. —**manicurist** *n.* (1889)

manifest *adj.* About 1380, borrowed through Old French *manifeste*, or directly from Latin *manifestus*, *manifestus* caught in the act, plainly apprehensible, from *manus* hand + *-festus* (able to be) seized. —**v.** About 1380 *manifesten*, from the adjective by influence of Latin *manifestāre* to make plain, from *manifestus* palpable. —**n.** 1561, indication, manifestation; borrowed from Middle French *manifeste*, from *manifeste* to manifest, from Latin *manifestāre* to make plain. The sense of a list of a ship's cargo, is first recorded in 1706. —**manifestation** *n.* Probably before 1425 *manifestacioun*, borrowed through Middle French *manifestation*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Late Latin *manifestatiōnem* (nominative *manifestatiō*), from Latin *manifestāre* to manifest; for suffix see *-ation*; also possibly in some instances a formation in English of *manifest*, *v.* + *-ation*.

manifesto *n.* 1644, proof of evidence; also 1647, proclamation; borrowing of Italian *manifesto* an indication, public declaration, from Latin *manifestus* MANIFEST.

manifold *adj.* Before 1200 *monifold*; later *manyfold*, (about 1300); developed from Old English *monigfald* (Anglian before 830); earlier *manigfeald* (West Saxon about 750, *manig MANY* + *-feald* *-fold*), possibly formed in imitation or translation of Latin *multiplex*; see *MULTIPLY*. —**n.** About 1250 *monie volde* variety, great number; later *manyfolde* (about 1303); from the adjective. —**v.** 1767, make manifold, multiply; a new formation from the adjective. An older verb in English before 1500 developed as *manifolden* to increase, multiply (about 1350), from earlier *monigfalden* (probably before 1200), which in turn developed from Old English *gemonigfaldian* augment, multiply (before 830); from the adjective.

manikin *n.* 1570 *manneken* artist's manikin; borrowing of Dutch *manneken*, literally, little man, diminutive of *man* MAN. Compare MANNEQUIN.

manipulate *v.* 1827, back formation from *MANIPULATION*; for suffix see *-ate*¹. —**manipulation** *n.* 1727–41, method of digging ore; later, skillful handling of any object (1826); borrowed from French *manipulation*, in part as if from New Latin **manipulationem* (nominative **manipulatio*), from **manipulare*; and in part a formation in French from *manipule* handful

measure in pharmacy, learned borrowing from Latin *manipulus* handful, sheaf (*manus* hand + the root of *plēre* to fill) + French *-ation* -ation. The sense of clever use of influence especially to one's own advantage, is first recorded in 1828. —**manipulative** adj. 1836, formed from English *manipulate* + *-ive*. —**manipulator** n. 1851, probably on the model of French *manipulateur* (1783).

manna n. Old English *manna* (before 899); borrowed from Late Latin *manna*, from Greek *mánna*, from Hebrew *mān*. The extended sense of something that is supplied unexpectedly, is first recorded in 1593.

mannequin n. 1730–36 *manequine* jointed figure used by artists, manikin; borrowed of French *mannequin*, from Dutch *manneken* MANIKIN. The sense of a model employed to display new clothes is first recorded in English in 1902.

manner n. Probably before 1200 *manere* way of acting, kind, sort; borrowed through Anglo-French *manere*, Old French *maniere* way or mode of handling, from feminine of *manier*, handmade, skillful, from Vulgar Latin **manārius*, from Latin *manuārius* belonging to the hand, from *manus* hand. —**man-nered** adj. About 1378 *manered* having manners of a certain kind; formed from *manere* manner + *-ed*². —**mannerism** n. 1803, excessive or affected adherence to a distinctive manner or style, especially in art and literature, formed from English *manner* + *-ism*. The sense of habitual peculiarity of action, expression, etc. is first recorded in 1819. —**mannerly** adj. Probably about 1390 *manerly* well-mannered; formed from Middle English *manere* + *-ly*². —**adv.** Probably 1350–75 *manerlich* properly, becomingly, formed from Middle English *manere* + *-lich* *-ly*¹.

manor n. About 1300 *maner*, borrowed through Anglo-French *maner*, Old French *manoir*; earlier *maneir*, noun use of *maneir* to dwell, from Latin *manēre* to stay, abide. —**manorial** adj. 1785, formed from English *manor* + *-ial*.

mansard n. 1734, borrowing of French *mansarde*, formed in allusion to François Mansard, a French architect.

manse n. 1534 parsonage; earlier manor house (1490); borrowed from Medieval Latin *mansa* a dwelling, noun use of feminine past participle of Latin *manēre* to stay, abide.

mansion n. About 1340 *mansyon* abode, act of dwelling; also, a house; borrowed from Old French *mansion*, and directly from Latin *mānsiōnem* (nominative *mānsiō*), from *manēre* to stay, abide; for suffix see *-SION*. The meaning of a stately residence is found in 1807.

mantel n. 1489, moveable shelter used by soldiers besieging a fortress; variant of MANTLE. *Mantel*, meaning a timber or stone supporting the masonry above a fireplace, is first recorded in 1519 as a shortened form of *mantiltre* manteltree, mantel (1451–52). —**mantelpiece** n. (1686)

mantis n. 1658, New Latin *Mantis*, from Greek *mántis*, literally, prophet, from *maínesthai* be inspired, related to *ménos* passion, spirit.

mantle n. Probably before 1200 *mentel*; also about 1200 *mantel*, *mantle*; borrowed through Old French *mantel*, and directly from Latin *mantellum*; also influenced by Old English *mentel* cloak (before 899); borrowed from Latin *mantellum*, perhaps from a Celtic source. —**v.** Probably about 1225 *mantelen*, from *mantel*, n. and, in some instances, borrowed from Old French *manteler*.

mantra n. 1808, passage from a sacred text (used as a prayer); borrowed from Sanskrit *māntra*-s sacred message or text, charm, spell, counsel; related to *mānyate* thinks. The sense of a sacred name or special word used for meditation is first recorded in English in 1956.

manual adj. Probably 1406 *manuel*; later *manual* (about 1450); borrowed through Middle French *manüel*, or directly from Latin *manuālis* of or belonging to the hand, from *manus* hand; for suffix see *-AL*¹. Latin *manus* is related with Old English, Old Frisian, and Old Icelandic *mund* hand, Old High German *munt* (from Proto-Germanic **mundō*), modern German *Vor-mund* guardian. —**n.** 1432 *manüel* service book used by a priest; also *manual* (1447); borrowed from Old French *manuel*, and directly from Late Latin *manuāle* the case or cover of a book, handbook, service book, from neuter of Latin *manuālis*, adj., manual.

manufacture n. 1567, something made by hand; borrowed from Middle French *manufacture* (1511), possibly from Italian *manifattura* or, more likely, Spanish *manufactura*, a compound formed from Latin *manus* hand + *factūra* a working, formation (*fact-*, participial stem of *facere* to perform); for suffix see *-URE*. The sense of act or process of manufacturing is first recorded in 1622. —**v.** 1683, from the noun, or possibly borrowed from French *manufacturer*, from Middle French *manufacture*, n.

manumission n. Probably before 1400 *manumissioun*; borrowed from Latin *manūmissionem* (nominative *manūmissiō*) the freeing of a slave, from *manūmittere* to set free, from *manū mittere* release from control (*manū*, ablative of *manus* hand, power of a master; *mittere* let go, release); for suffix see *-SION*.

manure v. Probably before 1400 *manouren*, *maynoyren* to cultivate or manage land; borrowed through Anglo-French *meynoverer*, *meinourer*, Old French *manovrer*, *manouvrrer* to work with the hands, from Medieval Latin *manuoperāre*, from Latin *manū operārī* (*manū*, ablative of *manus* hand; *operārī* to work, OPERATE). The meaning of put on the soil as fertilizer is first recorded in 1599 (implied in spread like manure, 1592); probably from the noun. —**n.** 1549, from the verb.

manuscript n. 1600, borrowed from Medieval Latin *manu-scriptum* document written by hand, from Latin *manū scriptus* written by hand (*manū*, ablative of *manus* hand; *scriptus*, past participle of *scribere* to write). Since Latin already had the form *chirographum* for a manuscript, the form in Medieval Latin may be a loan translation of Greek *cheirógraphon*.

many adj. 1137 *mani*; later *monie* (about 1175); developed from Old English *monig*, *manig* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *manich* many, Old Saxon *manag*, Old High German *manag* (modern German *manch* many a), Old Icelandic

dic *margr* many, Old Swedish *manger* (Swedish *mången*, Danish *mangen*), and Gothic *manags*, from Proto-Germanic **manazaz*, the Old English forms *mænig*, *menig* are cognate with Old Frisian *menich*, Middle Dutch *mēnich* (modern Dutch *menig*), and Old High German *menig*, from Proto-Germanic **manizaz*. —**n.** 1137 *mani*; later *monie* (probably before 1200); from the adjective in Middle English and ultimately Proto-Germanic **managin-*, from which cognates are found in Gothic *managei* multitude, crowd, Old High German *managī*, *menigī* large number, plurality (modern German *Menge* multitude), and Old English *menigu*, *mengu*, which did not survive long into Middle English.

map **n.** 1527 *mappe*; probably in part abstracted from *mappe-mound* (1393); earlier *mapemounde* (about 1380); and in part borrowed from Middle French *mappe*, from Old French *mape* (abstracted from Old French *mapemond*, *mappemond*), and from Medieval Latin *mappa* map (abstracted from earlier *mappa mundi* map of the world), from Latin *mappa* napkin, cloth (on which maps were once drawn). —**v.** 1586, from the noun.

maple **n.** Probably before 1300 *mapel*; earlier, in a place name *Maplescanyse* (1211–12); developed from Old English *mapul-*, as in *mapultrēo* maple tree (774); earlier, in *mapuldur* (about 700). Old English *mapul-* is cognate with Old Saxon *mapul-* in *mapulder*.

mar **v.** Probably before 1200 *meren* kill, defeat; also *merren* harm, ruin (probably about 1200); later *marren* (before 1250); developed from Old English *merran* to waste, spoil (about 950, in Anglian dialect); *mierran* (before 900, in West Saxon); both forms cognate with Old Frisian *meria* hinder, Old Saxon *merrian*, Middle Low German *merren*, *marren*, Old High German *marren*, *merren* hurt, harm, hinder, and Gothic *marzjan* offend, hinder, cause to stumble, from Proto-Germanic **marzjanan*.

maraschino **n.** 1791–93, borrowed from Italian *maraschino*, from *marasca* bitter black cherry, shortened form of *amarasca*, from *amaro* bitter, from Latin *amārus* sour. The *maraschino* cherry, is first recorded in 1905.

marasmus **n.** 1656, New Latin *marasmus*, from Greek *marasmós* a wasting, withering, decay, from *marainein* put out, quench, weaken, wither, cause to waste away; see MORTAR² pounding bowl.

marathon **n.** 1896 (found in earlier *Marathonian*, 1767), in allusion to *Marathon*, a plain in Greece, site of the battle of Marathon (490 B.C.). The foot race was introduced in 1896 with the revival of the Olympic Games, to commemorate the unknown runner who carried the news of the victory to Athens.

Since the turn of the century *marathon* has also been applied to any competition requiring endurance or any event or activity that lasts a long time.

maraud **v.** 1711, borrowed from French *marauder*, from Middle French *maraud* rascal, of uncertain origin. —**n.** 1837, from the verb.

marble **n.** Before 1200 *marbra*; later *marbre* (about 1300), and

marble (before 1338; a form thought to have developed by dissimilation of the second *r* in *marbre* to *l*); borrowed from Old French *marbre*, from Latin *marmor*, from Greek *mármaros* marble, gleaming stone. —**adj.** Probably about 1375, from the noun. —**marbles** **n.** pl. 1709 game played originally with marble balls. The marble (ball) was first recorded in 1694–95.

march¹ **v.** walk in time and step. About 1410 *marchen*; borrowed from Middle French *marcher* to march or walk, from Old French *marchier* to trample, stride, march; probably from Frankish (compare Old High German *marchōn* to mark out, delimit, MARK¹, *v.*); or possibly Old French *marchier* developed from a Gallo-Romance verb **marcāre* to hammer, beat or mark time, from Latin *marcus* hammer, perhaps a back formation from *marculus* small hammer, and related to *malleus* hammer. —**n.** About 1572, rhythmic drumbeat to accompany marching; borrowed from Middle French *marche*, from *marcher* to march.

march² **n.** land along a border. About 1300; earlier *marche* (probably before 1300), and in a surname (1207); borrowed from Old French *marche* boundary, frontier, borderland; from Frankish (compare Old High German *marca*, *marha* boundary, MARK¹, *n.*). The borrowing *marche*, from Old French, replaced and coalesced with Old English *meare* boundary, mark, limit of space or time. —**v.** Probably before 1300, borrowed from Old French *marchier* to have a common border, bound, from *marche* boundary.

March **n.** Probably about 1200 *march*; also *marz* (about 1300); borrowed through Anglo-French *march*, *marche*, Old French *march*, dialect variant of *marz*, *marz*, from Latin *Mārtius mēnsis* month of Mars, the Roman god of war, from *Mārs* (genitive *Mārtis*) Mars; earlier *Māvors* (genitive *Māvortis*).

Mardi gras 1699, borrowing of French *mardi gras*, literally, fat Tuesday (*mardi* Tuesday, from Latin *Mārtis diem* day of the planet Mars; *gras* fat, from Latin *crassus* thick). The festival name is in allusion to the eating and festivities, before the fasting season of Lent.

mare¹ **n.** female horse. Before 1250 *mare* a riding horse, mare; also *mere* (about 1250), alteration (probably influenced by some form of Old English *merh*, *meah* horse) of Old English (Mercian) *mēre*, (before 900, in West Saxon) *mýre*, from **miere* mare. The Old English forms are cognate with Old Frisian *merrie* mare, Old Saxon *meriha*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *merrie*, Old High German *marha*, *marha* (modern German *Mähre* mare, jade), and Old Icelandic *merr* mare (Norwegian *merr*, and Danish *mær* mare), from Proto-Germanic **marHjōn*.

mare² **n.** broad dark area of the moon or of another planet. 1860, New Latin *Mare* in the names of lunar or Martian “seas” such as *Mare Tranquillitatis* (Sea of Tranquility), from Latin *mare* sea; see MARINE. The word was first applied by Galileo to the dark areas of the moon.

margarine **n.** 1873, borrowing of French *margarine* (in *oléomargarine*, 1854), from *margarique* margaric acid; literally, pearly (in reference to the acid’s pearly luster), from Greek *margarītēs* pearl.

margin *n.* Probably before 1350 *marginē*; borrowed from Latin *margō* (genitive *marginis*) edge. —**marginal** *adj.* 1576, written or printed in the margin; borrowed from Middle French *marginal* and Medieval Latin *marginalis*, from Latin *margō* (genitive *marginis*) margin; for suffix see -AL¹. The meaning of that which is on the margin or of minor effect or importance, is first recorded in English in 1887.

marguerite *n.* 1866, borrowing of French *marguerite*, from Old French *margarite* daisy, pearl, from Latin *margarita* pearl, from Greek *margaritēs* pearl.

marigold *n.* 1373 *marygolde*; later *marigold* (about 1425); a compound of *Mary* (probably genitive, in reference to the Virgin) and *gold*.

marijuana or **marihuana** *n.* 1918 *marajuana*, alteration (probably influenced by the Spanish proper name *María Juana* Mary Jane) of earlier *mariguan* (1894); borrowed from Mexican Spanish *mariguana*, *marihuana* (a restored variant spelling in English, first recorded in 1907); of uncertain origin.

marimba *n.* 1704, borrowed from an African language, probably Bantu (compare Kimbundu and Swahili *marimba* xylophonelike instrument, Tshiluba *madimba*).

marina *n.* 1805, a promenade by the sea; later, a dock where moorings are available (1935); borrowed from Spanish or Italian *marina* shore, coast, from feminine of *marino* of the sea, from Latin *marīnus* MARINE.

marinade *n.* 1704, borrowed from French *marinade* spiced vinegar or brine for pickling, from *mariner* to MARINATE; for suffix see -ADE.

marinate *v.* About 1645, formed in English from French *mariner* to pickle in (sea) brine, from Old French *marin*, *adj.*, of the sea, from Latin *marīnus* MARINE + English suffix -ATE¹.

marine *adj.* Probably 1440 *maryne*, borrowed from Middle French *marin* (feminine *marine*), from Old French *marin*, learned borrowing from Latin *marīnus* (feminine *marina*) of the sea, from *mare* (genitive *maris*) sea; cognate with Gothic *marei* sea, Old Icelandic *marr*, Old High German *meri* (modern German *Meer*), Middle Dutch *mēre* (modern Dutch *meer*), Old Saxon *meri*, Old Frisian *mere*, and Old English *mere* sea, lake, pool, pond (which did not survive into Middle English), from Proto-Germanic **mari*. —**n.** 1669, shipping, fleet, later, a soldier who serves aboard a ship (1672); borrowing of French *marine*, from Old French *marine*, *adj.* This is a new borrowing from French, having no connection with an earlier borrowing found before 1375 with the meaning of seacoast, or area or promenade by the sea (surviving in 1703, and later in MARINA). —**mariner** *n.* About 1250, sailor, seaman; earlier as a surname *Marinier* (1197); borrowed through Anglo-French *mariner*, Old French *marinier*, from *marin* of the sea, MARINE; for suffix see -ER¹.

marionette *n.* About 1620, borrowed from French *marionnette*, from *Marion*, diminutive of *Marie* Mary; for suffix see -ETTE.

marital *adj.* 1603, borrowed from French *marital*, *maritale*, and directly from Latin *marītālis* of or belonging to married people, from *marītus* married man, husband; for suffix see -AL¹.

maritime *adj.* 1550, intended for service at sea; borrowed through Middle French *maritime*, and directly from Latin *marītus* of the sea, from *mare* (genitive *maris*) sea; see MARINE. The Latin ending -*ītus* was originally a superlative suffix (as in Latin *optimus*, superlative of *bonus* good) denoting close association.

marjoram *n.* 1373 *magiron*; later *majorane* (before 1393), and *margenum* (about 1550); borrowed from Old French *majorane*, from Medieval Latin *maiorana*; of uncertain origin.

mark¹ *n.* trace, impression. Apparently before 1200 *meärke*, *merke*, *marke* boundary, border, track, trace, imprint, mark; later *mark* (about 1303); in part, developed from Old English *mearc* boundary, sign, limit (701, in West Saxon) and *merc* a mark, as in the compound *meāseren* branding iron (about 700, in Mercian); also, in part, borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *mark* border area). The Old English and Old Icelandic forms are cognate with Old Frisian *merke* boundary, sign, Old Saxon *marka* boundary, Middle Dutch *marc*, *marke* (modern Dutch *mark*), Middle Low German *mark* district, Old High German *marca*, *marha* boundary, district (modern German *Mark*), and Gothic *marka* boundary, from Proto-Germanic **markō*. —**v.** Probably before 1200 *mearken*; also *merken*, *marken* (probably about 1200); in part, developed from Old English *mearcian* to trace out boundaries (about 888, in West Saxon) and *merciga* (about 950, in Anglian); also, in part, borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *marka*, *merka* to mark). The Old English and Old Icelandic forms are cognate with Old Frisian *merkia* to mark, Old Saxon *markon*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *merken*, and Old High German *markōn*, *markōn* delimit, plan, *merken*, *merchen* to mark, note, observe (modern German *merken*), from Proto-Germanic **markōjanan*; derived from the Proto-Germanic root that is the source of Old English *mearc* boundary, sign. —**marker** *n.* 1486, formed from *mark* + -er¹. Apparently a form *mearcere* existed in Old English as a gloss for Latin *notārius* clerk, secretary, but the word was not found again until late Middle English.

mark² *n.* unit of money or weight. Probably before 1200 *marc*, developed from Old English (about 960) *marc* unit of weight (about eight ounces); earlier, in the compound *healf-marc* (886); probably borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *mark* unit of weight, Swedish, Danish, and Norwegian *mark*). The Old English form is cognate with Middle High German *marc*, *marke* unit of weight, about half a pound (modern German *Mark* monetary unit), Middle Dutch *marc* unit of weight, and Old Frisian *merk*. Old French *marc* and Medieval Latin *marca*, *merca*, although themselves loans from the Germanic languages, may have affected the development of the word in Middle English. Essentially *mark*² is a derivative of *mark*¹ in that the meaning sign or imprint was a feature of the weight (bar) or coin.

market *n.* Before 1121 *markete*; also *market* (1124); borrowing

of Old North French *market*, variant of Old French *marchiet*; later *marchié*, from Latin *mercātus* (genitive *mercātūs*) trading, trade, market, from *mercārī* to trade, deal in, from *merx* (genitive *mercis*) wares, merchandise. Related to MART, MERCHANT, MERCANTILE. —v. 1635, from the noun.

marlin *n.* fish. 1917, shortened form of *marlinspike* a marlinspike (so called from the shape of a the marlin's pointed snout, see MARLINE).

marline *n.* 1417 *merlyn*; later *marlyne* (1485); borrowed from Middle Dutch *marlijn*, variant (influenced by *lijn* line) of *marling* small cord, from *marlen* to fasten or secure (a sail) with a marline, probably a frequentative form of Middle Dutch *māren*, *mēren* to tie, MOOR¹, v. —**marlinespike** *n.* 1626, originally *marling spike*, from *merlyng iren* a pointed iron tool used by sailors to separate strands of rope (1485, also compare *marlyne* of the same date); formed originally from *merlyng*, *marling* after Middle Dutch *marling* (with later substitution of *marline*-); see MARLINE.

marmalade *n.* 1524, borrowed from Middle French *marmelade*, *marmellade*, from Portuguese *marmelada*, from *marmelo* quince (formed by dissimilation of the first *l* in the Latin *melimēlum* to *r*) in borrowing from Latin *melimēlum* a kind of sweet apple, from Greek *melimēlon* (*mēli* honey + *mēlon* apple); for suffix see -ADE.

marmoreal *adj.* 1798, like marble, cold, smooth; formed in English from Latin *marmoreus* of marble (from *marmor* MARBLE) + English -AL¹, possibly by influence of earlier *marmorean* (1656, also formed in English, from Latin *marmoreus* + English -AN).

marmoset *n.* Before 1398 *marmusette* a kind of small monkey; borrowed from Old French *marmouset* grotesque figurine, perhaps variant of *marmot* monkey, little child, from *marmonner*, *marmouser* to mumble; probably of imitative origin.

marmot *n.* 1607, borrowed from French *marmotte*, perhaps related to *marmotter*, *marmonner* to mumble; probably of imitative origin. Alternatively, French *marmotte* may be an altered form (by influence of *marmot* monkey; see MARMOSET) of **mormont*, from Latin *mūrem montis* mountain mouse.

maroon¹ *n., adj.* very dark brownish-red. 1594, a kind of chestnut; later, a chestnut color (1791); borrowed from French *marron* chestnut, from the French dialect of Lyons, from a pre-Roman (perhaps Ligurian) word; for ending see -OON.

maroon² *v.* put (a person) ashore in a desolate place and leave there. 1697, be lost in the wilds; from earlier *maron*, *n.*, a fugitive black slave living in the mountains and forests of the West Indies and Dutch Guiana (1666, but earlier found as *Symeron*, 1626). This noun was originally borrowed from Spanish *cimarron* wild, untamed, and later borrowed from French *marron*, a shortening of American Spanish *cimarrón* runaway person or animal; originally an adjective meaning wild, untamed, with the literal sense of living high in the mountains; probably derived from Spanish *cima* summit, top, from Latin *cyma* sprout; see CYME. The English suffix -roon, -oon, as in *octroon*, is an extended form of the noun suffix in

French -on and Spanish -ón, often used in a derogatory manner.

The sense of put ashore on a desolate island or coast, is first recorded in 1724 as *marooning*, gerund.

marque *n.* official permission to capture enemy merchant ships, especially in the phrase *letters of marque*. 1419 *merque*, *marque*; earlier *mark* (1353); borrowed through Anglo-French *mark* from Old Provençal *marca* reprisal, from *marcar* seize as a pledge, mark, from Germanic (compare Old High German *markhōn*, *markhōn* delimit, MARK¹, v.).

marquee *n.* 1690, large tent, back formation (mistaken as a plural) from French *marquise* linen canopy placed over an officer's tent to distinguish it from others. The meaning of a canopy over the entrance of a hotel, theater, etc., is first recorded in 1934 in American English.

marquis or **marquess** *n.* Probably about 1300 *marchis*; later *markeys* (about 1395) and *marques* (1444); borrowed from Old French *marquis*, *marchis*, literally, ruler of a border area; compare Old French *marche* frontier, MARCH².

marriage *n.* About 1300 *mariage*; borrowing of Old French *mariage*, from *marier* to MARRY; for suffix see -AGE.

marrow *n.* About 1340 *mergh*; later *marwe* (before 1387) and *marowe* (before 1398); developed from Old English (before 1000) *mearg* marrow; earlier *merg* (before 800) and *maerh* (about 700). The Old English forms are cognate with Old Frisian *merg* marrow, Old Saxon *marg*, Middle Dutch *merch* (modern Dutch *merg*), Old High German *marg*, *marag* (modern German *Mark*), and Old Icelandic *mergr* (Swedish *merg*, Danish *marv*), from Proto-Germanic **mazga-*.

marry *v.* About 1300 *marien* to give in marriage; borrowed from Old French *marier*, from Latin *marītare* wed, marry, from *marītus* married man or husband; of uncertain origin (very possibly a quasi-participle with the meaning of provided with a **marī*, a young woman). —**married** *adj.* Before 1376 *maried*; developed from past participle of *marien* to marry; *n.*

marsh *n.* About 1250 *mersh*; later *marsh* (probably about 1450); developed from Old English (about 700) *mersc*, *merisc*; cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *mersc* marsh, Middle Low German *mersch*, *marsch* (modern German *Marsch*), and Middle Dutch *mersch*, *marsh*; derived from Proto-Germanic **mariskō*. —**marshy** *adj.* Before 1382 *mershi*; formed from *mersh* marsh + -i -y¹.

marshal *n.* 1258 *mareschal* high officer of a royal court; earlier as a surname *Marshal* (1218); borrowed from Old French *mareschal*, *marescal*, originally, stable officer, horse tender, groom, from Frankish (compare Old High German *marahscalc* groom, corresponding to modern German *Marschall* marshal, Middle Low German *marshalk* groom, Middle Dutch *maerschalc*, and modern Dutch *maarschalk* marshal). —v. About 1450 *marchalen* arrange in order, tend horses; from the noun.

marshmallow *n.* Before 1400 *marshmalwe* kind of mallow plant which grows near salt marshes; developed from Old English (about 1000) *mersc-mealwe* (*mersc* MARSH + *mealwe*

MALLOW. *Marshmallow* the confection (1884) was originally made from the root of the marsh mallow plant.

marsupial *adj.* 1696, formed in English from New Latin *marsupium* + English *-al*. *Marsupium* is found in Late Latin *marsupium* pouch or purse, from Latin *marsupium*, *marsipium*, from Greek *marsippion*, diminutive of *marsippos*, *marsyppos* pouch. —**n.** 1835, from the adjective.

mart *n.* 1436, market or fair; borrowed from Middle Dutch *markt*, or colloquial *mart*; borrowing of Latin *mercātus* trade, MARKET.

marten *n.* Probably about 1250 *martre* the animal or its fur; later *martin* (before 1300) and *marten* (1437); borrowing in part from Old French *martreine*, noun use of feminine *martin* of or pertaining to the marten, from *martre*, *martre* marten; and, in part from Medieval Latin *martina*, *martina*; both the Old French and Medieval Latin forms are from Germanic (compare Old Saxon *marthrin*, *adj.*, of or pertaining to the marten, Old High German *marthar* marten, modern German *Marder*, Middle Dutch *maerter*, modern Dutch *marter*, Old Icelandic *mǫrdhr*, Old Frisian *merth*, and Old English *meath*, which did not survive into Middle English; from Proto-Germanic **marthuz*).

martial *adj.* About 1385 *marcial*; later *martial* (before 1475); borrowed from Latin *Martiālis* of Mars or war, from *Mars* (genitive *Martis*) Mars, the Roman god of war. The term *martial law*, meaning military rule over civilians, is first recorded in 1533.

Martian *adj.* About 1395 *marciē* subject to influence of the planet Mars; in present-day English *Martian* of the planet Mars (1880); formed from Latin *Martius* pertaining to Mars (from *Mars*, genitive *Martis* Mars) + English *-an*. —**n.** 1892, from the adjective.

martin *n.* 1589; earlier Scottish *martoune* (about 1450); probably borrowed from Middle French *martin*, from *Martin*, a proper name, perhaps Saint *Martin*, bishop of Tours (about 371), whose festival of *Martinmas* is celebrated on November 11, at about the same time as the bird's migration.

Martin replaced *martnet* (1440), *martynet* (1513), European *martin* or swift; borrowed from Middle French *martinet* and from Medieval Latin *martineta*, diminutive forms of *Martin*, the proper name.

martinet *n.* 1779 *Martinet* a military or naval officer who is a strict disciplinarian, developed from earlier *Martinet* a system of drill (1676), reputedly invented by Colonel Jean *Martinet*, a French general.

martingale *n.* 1589, borrowed from Middle French *martingale*, originally, a style of fastening trousers, perhaps from Provençal *martegalo*, feminine of *martegal* inhabitant of *Martigues*, a small town near Marseilles, France.

martini *n.* 1894, in allusion to *Martini* and Rossi, an Italian company that manufactures vermouth; earlier (1870) a make of rifle.

martyr *n.* Old English *martyr* (before 899); borrowed from Late Latin *martyr*, from Greek *mártýr*, late form of *mártýs* (genitive *mártýros*) martyr, witness, probably related to *mémēra* care, trouble, *mermalrein* be anxious or thoughtful. In Middle English the term was reinforced by borrowing (probably before 1200) from Old French *martir*, from Late Latin *martyr*. —**v.** Probably before 1200 *martren*; later *martiren* (about 1200); developed from Old English *gemartyrian* (before 899), and *gemartrian* (before 899); from *martyr*, *n.* In Middle English, the verb was also reinforced by borrowing from Old French *martirier*, *martirer*, and Medieval Latin *martyriare*. —**martyrdom** *n.* About 1175, *martirdom*, developed from Old English *martyrdom* (before 899); formed from Old English *martyr*, *n.* + *-dom* -dom.

marvel *n.* Probably before 1300 *merveille*, *merveille* something wonderful; later *marveyle* (probably before 1400); borrowed from Old French *merveille* a wonder, from Vulgar Latin **mirabilia*, alteration of Latin *mīrabilia* wonderful things, from neuter plural of *mīrabilis* strange or wonderful, from *mīrārī* to wonder at, from *mīrus* wonderful. —**v.** Probably before 1300 *mervelen* be filled with wonder; later *marvaylen* (1439); borrowed from Old French *merveillier* to wonder, from *merveille*, *n.* —**marvelous** *adj.* Probably before 1300 *merveilleuse* causing wonder; borrowed from Old French *merveillous*, from *merveille* marvel; for suffix see -OUS.

Marxism *n.* 1897 (implied earlier in *Marxist*, 1886); probably borrowed from French *marxisme*, from Karl *Marx*, German political theorist + *-isme* -ism.

marzipan *n.* 1901, borrowing of German *Marzipan*, from Italian *marzapane*. *Marzipan* replaced earlier *marcpayne* (1494); borrowed from Middle French *marcepain*, also from Italian *marzapane*. The Italian word also means a candy box; earlier, especially in Medieval Latin, a small box, and a medieval coin bearing the image of a seated Christ.

maskara *n.* 1890 *maskaro*; probably an alteration of Spanish *máscara* soot, stain, mask, from the same source as Italian *maschera* MASK. The spelling *maskara* is first recorded in English in 1922.

mascot *n.* 1881, borrowed from French *mascotte* sorcerer's charm, good luck piece, from Provençal *mascolo* sorcery, fetish, from *masco* witch, from Old Provençal *masca*, from Medieval Latin *masca* mask, specter, nightmare; of uncertain origin.

masculine *adj.* Probably about 1350 *masculyn* masculine in gender; later, of men, male (about 1380); borrowed from Old French *masculin*, and directly from Latin *masculinus* male, masculine, of the masculine gender, from *masculus*, diminutive of *mās* (genitive *maris*) male person, male. —**n.** About 1450 *masculin*, from the adjective.

maser *n.* 1955, acronym formed from *m*(icrowave) *a*(mplification) *by* *s*(timulated) *e*(mission of) *r*(adiation). Compare LASER.

mash *n.* soft mixture. 1305 *mas-* in *masfat* vat used to hold mash (wort) in making beer or ale; later *massh-* in *masshaf* (1335); developed from Old English (about 1000) *māsc-* in *māsc-wyrt* mash-wort. The Old English element *māsc-* is cog-

nate with Middle High German *meisch* crushed grapes, infused malt for beer (modern German *Maisch*), from Proto-Germanic **maisk-*, earlier **maiH-sk-*. The general meaning of soft mixture, is first recorded in 1598. —**v.** About 1250 *meschen* to reduce to a pulp; developed from Old English **māscan*, *māscan* to make pulp; from *māsc-*, see the noun.

mask¹ *n.* make amorous advances. 1879 (but said to be in theatrical parlance as early as 1860), probably a figurative use of *mask*¹, *v.*, either in the sense of press or force (one's attentions) on someone, or reduce someone's emotions to a soft mass or mash. Alternatively, *mask*² could be a back formation from *masher*, with the same sense development. —**masher** *n.* 1875, probably formed from *mask*¹ (in the sense of press or force one's attentions on someone, or reduce someone's emotions to a soft mass or mash) + *-er*¹.

mask *n.* 1534, borrowed from Middle French *masque* covering to hide or protect the face, through Italian *maschera*, and perhaps also directly from Medieval Latin *masca* mask, specter, nightmare, of uncertain origin, possibly shortened from Arabic *maskhara* buffoon, from *sakhira* to ridicule. —**v.** 1560, take part in a masquerade; later, to disguise (1579); either from the noun or borrowed from Middle French *masquer* (1550), from *masque*, *n.*

masochism *n.* 1893, borrowed from German *Masochismus*, from the name of Leopold von Sacher-Masoch, Austrian novelist who described this abnormality in his works + *-ismus* -ism. German *Masochismus* was coined in 1883 by the German neurologist Richard von Krafft-Ebing, 1840–1902. —**masochist** *n.* 1895, borrowed from German *Masochist*, from Sacher-Masoch + *-ist*. —**masochistic** *adj.* 1904, probably formed from English *masochist* + *-ic*, after German *masochistisch*.

mason *n.* Probably before 1200 *machun* worker who builds with stone or brick; later *masoun* (probably before 1300); borrowed from Old French *masson*, *maçon*, *machon*, from Frankish (compare Old High German *steinmezzo* stone mason, modern German *Steinmetz* mason, related to *māhōn* to MAKE). *Mason* is also found as a surname *Macun* (1125–30). —**masonry** *n.* Probably about 1375, borrowed from Old French *maçonerie*, from *maçon* mason, and influenced in form by Middle English *masoun* mason; for suffix see -RY.

masque *n.* 1514 *maske*, borrowed from Middle French *masque*; see MASK. Originally the same word as *mask*, but now distinguishing the amateur dramatic entertainment, popular especially among the English nobility in the 1500's and 1600's, a sense first recorded in 1562, or a play written for such entertainment (1605).

masquerade *n.* 1597 *mascarado*, in imitation of Italian, using French *mascarade* with a supposed Italian ending -o; and also *mascarad* (1613); borrowed from French *mascarade* party or dance at which masks and fancy costumes are worn, from Italian *mascarata*, variant of *mascherata* masquerade, from *maschera* MASK. —**v.** 1654, to disguise as at a masquerade; from the noun.

mass¹ *n.* lump, heap. Before 1382 *masse*, borrowed from Old French *masse* lump, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *massa* kneaded dough, lump, from Greek *māza* barley bread, related to *māsein* to knead. —**adj.** 1733 *mass meeting*, from the noun. The term *mass media* appeared in 1923 and the meaning of on a large scale (as in *mass production*) in 1920. —**v.** 1563, from the noun. An isolated example is recorded earlier in Middle English *ymaced*, ppl. (about 1380).

Mass or **mass**² *n.* eucharist. Before 1121 *messe*; also *masse* (1135); developed from Old English *mæsse* (before 901); earlier *messe* (before 810); borrowed as an alteration of Vulgar Latin **messa* dismissal, also, the name of the religious service, from Late Latin *missa* dismissal, probably also, the name of the religious service, from Latin *missa* dismissal, feminine past participle of *mittere* to let go, send; probably so called from the concluding words of the Mass *Ite, missa est*, meaning "Go, it (the prayer) has been sent," or "Go, it is the dismissal."

massacre *n.* 1586, borrowed from Middle French *massacre*, *maçacre* wholesale slaughter, carnage, related to Old French *macerecre*, *macecle* a shambles, slaughterhouse, butchery, of uncertain origin (compare Latin *macellum* provisions store, butcher shop). —**v.** 1581, borrowed from Middle French *massacrer* to slaughter, from *massacre* *massacre*, *n.*

massage *n.* 1876, borrowed from French *massage* friction or kneading, from *masser* to massage, probably (during Napoleonic campaign in Egypt) from Arabic *massa* to touch, feel, handle. —**v.** 1887, from the noun.

masseur *n.* 1876, borrowing of French *masseur*, from *masser* to MASSAGE. —**masseuse** *n.* 1876, borrowing of French *masseuse*, feminine of *MASSEUR*.

massive *adj.* Probably about 1408, *massiffe*; later *massif* (before 1420); borrowed from Middle French *massif* (feminine *massive*) bulky, massive, from Old French *masse* lump, *MASS*¹; for suffix see -IVE.

mast¹ *n.* pole on a ship to support sails. Probably before 1200 *mast*; developed from Old English *mæst* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *mast* mast or pole, Middle Low German *mast*, and Old High German *mast* (modern German *Mast*), from Proto-Germanic **mastaz*. —**masthead** *n.* 1748, top of a ship's mast; later, part of a periodical that gives the title (1838).

mast² *n.* nuts, etc., that have fallen to the ground, used as food for swine. About 1380 *mast*; earlier *maste* a feeding ground for swine (about 1300); developed from Old English (825) *mæst*; cognate with Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *mast* food, mast, Old High German *mast* (modern German *Mast*), from Proto-Germanic **mastaz*.

mastectomy *n.* 1923, formed in English from Greek *mastós* breast + English *-ectomy* surgical removal.

master *n.* Probably about 1150 *maister*, *master* person in authority, person holding a teaching degree; a fusion of 1) Old English (about 1000) *mægester*, borrowed from Latin *magister* chief, head, director, teacher, and 2) Old French *maître*, *mas-*

tre, *meister*, from Latin *magister*, contrastive adjective formed from *magis*, adv., more, comparative of *magnus* great; see MUCH. —**adj.** Before 1225 *meister*, *maister*; from the noun. —**v.** Probably before 1200 *meistren* to overcome, defeat; later *maistren* (before 1300); from the noun, and also borrowed from Old French *maistrier*, from *maistre*, n., master. —**masterpiece** n. 1605 *maisterpiece*; formed as an Anglicization of earlier *maisterstik* (1579), probably a borrowing from, or loan translation of, Dutch *meesterstuk* or perhaps German *Meisterstück* work by which a craftsman gained the rank of master. —**mastery** n. Probably before 1200, Middle English *meistrie*; later *masterie* (before 1250); borrowed from Old French *maistrie*, from *maistre*, n., master.

mastic n. 1373 *mastik*, borrowed from Old French *mastic*, and directly from Late Latin *masticum*, *masticha*, naturalized forms of Latin *masticē*, from Greek *masticē*, related to *masāsthai* to chew.

masticate v. 1649, probably a back formation from earlier *mastication*; for suffix see -ATE¹. —**mastication** n. Probably before 1425 *masticacioun*; borrowed from Old French *mastication*, and directly from Late Latin *masticātiōnem* (nominative *masticātiō*), from *masticāre* chew, probably from Greek *masticān* gnash the teeth; related to *māstax* mouth, jaws, and *masāsthai* chew; for suffix see -ATION.

mastiff n. Before 1338 *mastif*, irregular borrowing from Old French *mastin*, from Vulgar Latin **mānsuētīnus* domesticated, from Latin *mānsuētus* tame, gentle (*manus* hand + *suētus*, past participle of *suēscere* become used to). The ending of *mastiff* was influenced in Middle English by Old French *mestif* mongrel.

mastodon n. 1813, borrowed from French *mastodonte*, from New Latin *Mastodon* the genus name, formed from Greek *mastós* breast + *odōn* (genitive *odōntos*) tooth; so called from the nipplelike projections on the mastodon's teeth.

mastoid adj. 1732, borrowed from Greek *mastoeidēs* resembling a breast (*mastós* breast + *eidos* form). —**n.** 1800, from the adjective.

masturbation n. 1766, borrowed from French *masturbation* and probably directly from New Latin *masturbationem* (nominative *masturbatio*), from Latin *māsturbārī*, alteration, probably by influence of *turbāre* to stir up, of earlier **man-stuprāre* (*manus* hand + *stuprāre* defile), which would reinforce connection with the earlier form in English *mastupration*, 1621; for suffix see -ATION. —**masturbate** v. 1857, back formation from *masturbation*; for suffix see -ATE¹.

mat¹ n. piece of coarse fabric used as a rug. Probably before 1200 *matte*; later *mat* (probably about 1350); developed from Old English *matte* (before 800); borrowed from Late Latin *matta*, probably from Phoenician (compare Hebrew *mittāh* bed, couch). —**v.** 1549, cover with mats; also tangle thickly together (1577); from the noun; recorded once in Middle English *matten* make mats (before 1425).

mat², **matt**, or **matte** adj. not shiny, dull. Before 1648 *matte*, probably developed from the verb in English, and in part

borrowed from French *mat* dull, from the verb. —**v.** 1602, borrowed from French *mater*, from *mat* dull, from Old French *mat* beaten down, withered, probably from Latin *mattus* maudlin or sodden with drink (probably a dialectal or colloquial form of **maditus* soaked, from *madēre* be wet or sodden, be drunk). —**n.** 1845, backing for a picture, borrowed from French *mat* a dull surface or finish; from the adjective.

matador n. 1681, borrowing of Spanish *matador*, literally, killer, from *matar* to kill or wound, probably from Vulgar Latin **mattāre* beat down, wound; possibly from **mattus* stupid, brutish, from Latin *mattus* drunk; see MAT² dull.

match¹ n. stick for striking a fire. About 1378 *macche* wick of a candle or lamp; later *meche* (before 1400) and *matche* (probably about 1450); borrowed from Old French *meiche* wick of a candle, of uncertain origin (probably from Gallo-Romance **micca*, **mycca*, perhaps a blend of Latin *myxa*, from Greek *mýxa* lamp wick, mucus, and Latin *mucosus*, *mucus* MUCUS); the semantic connection (going back to antiquity) is that the spout of a lamp resembles a nostril, and the wick is suggestive of mucus.

match² n. an equal. Probably about 1200 *macche* one's spouse, mate; later, one's equal (about 1300); developed from Old English *mæcca* (about 1000), from *gemæcca* companion, mate, wife (before 971, from Proto-Germanic **zamakjōn*); earlier *gemecca* companion (before 810); cognate with Old Saxon *gimaco* fellow, equal, Old High German *gimahho* (from Proto-Germanic **zamakōn*), and Old Icelandic *maki* companion, mate. The meaning of contest is first recorded in 1545, from an earlier sense of matching of adversaries (probably before 1400). —**v.** About 1353 *machen*, from the noun.

mate¹ n. one of a pair. Probably about 1350, fellow; also companion (about 1380); borrowed from Middle Low German *māte*, *gemate* one eating at the same table, messmate (modern German *Maat* mate); cognate with Old High German *gimazzo* messmate from Proto-Germanic **za-matōn* having food (**matiz*) together (**za-*). —**v.** 1509, to equal, rival; later, to associate, couple, pair (1593); from the noun.

mate² v. checkmate. Probably before 1300 *maten*; earlier, to overcome, defeat, damage (probably about 1200); borrowed from Old French *mater*, from *mat*, n., checkmate, in *eschecat*; see CHECKMATE. —**n.** Probably before 1300 *mat*, borrowed from Old French *mat*; see verb above.

material n. About 1380, thing made of matter, substance; from the adjective. —**adj.** About 1340 *materiel* of matter, physical, concrete, earthly; later *material* (about 1390); borrowed through Old French *materiel*, *material*, and directly from Late Latin *māteriālis* of or belonging to matter, from Latin *māteria* matter; see MATTER; for suffix see -AL¹. —**materialism** n. 1748, belief that all action, thought, and feeling is made up of material things; borrowed from French *matérialisme* or from New Latin *materialismus*, from Late Latin *māteriālis* of matter; for suffix see -ISM. The meaning of devotion to material objects and needs, is first recorded in 1851. —**materialist** n. 1668, borrowed from French *matérialiste* or from New Latin *materialista*, from Late Latin *māteriālis* + *-ista*

-ist. —**materialize** v. 1710; formed from English *material* adj. + -ize.

materiel or **matériel** n. 1827, earlier, the mechanical part of an art, such as style, technique, etc. (1814); borrowing of French *matériel* material, from Old French *materiel*, adj., learned borrowing from Late Latin *materiālis* of matter, from *materia* substance, MATTER.

maternal adj. 1481, borrowed from Middle French *maternel*, learned borrowing from Vulgar Latin **māternālis*, derived (probably on the model of Latin *mātrōnālis* of or befitting a matron) from Latin *māternus* maternal, from *māter* MOTHER; for suffix see -AL¹.

maternity n. 1611, borrowed from French *maternité* motherhood, learned borrowing from Medieval Latin *maternitatem* (nominative *maternitas*), from Latin *māternus* MATERNAL; for suffix see -ITY.

mathematics n. 1581 *mathematikes*, plural of Middle English *methametik* (before 1387), borrowed from Latin *mathēmatica*; and *mathématique* (before 1393); borrowed from Old French *mathématique*, from Latin *mathēmatica*, from Greek *mathēmatikḗ téchnē* mathematical science, feminine singular of *mathēmatikós* relating to mathematics, from *māthēma* (genitive *mathēmatos*) learning, knowledge, mathematical knowledge; related to *manthánein* to learn. —**mathematical** adj. Probably before 1425 *mathematicalle*; borrowed from Medieval Latin *mathematicalis*, from Latin *mathēmaticus* (from Greek *mathēmatikós*) + -ālis -al¹. —**mathematician** n. Probably before 1425 *mathematicioun*; borrowed from Middle French *mathematicien*, from *mathématique* mathematical, from Latin *mathēmaticus*; for suffix see -IAN.

-matic a combining form abstracted from *automatic*, and used in allusion to the sense of automatic, often with a connective vowel, such as -a- or -o-, as in *Adjustomatic*, *Instamatic*.

matinee or **matinée** n. 1848, as a French term in *matinée musicale*; French *matinée*, from *matin* morning (i.e. daytime), from Old French *matines*; see MATINS. —**adj.** 1895 *matinée actor*, from the noun.

matins n. pl. About 1250, church service held in the morning; borrowed from Old French *matines*, from Late Latin *mātūtīnās* (accusative) morning prayers, originally *mātūtīnās vigiliās* morning watches, from Latin *mātūtīnus* of or in the morning, associated with *Mātūta* dawn goddess.

matr- a combining form borrowed from Latin *mātri-*, as found in such forms as *mātrīcīda* matricide and *mātrīmōnium* matrimony, from *māter* (genitive *mātris*) mother, used in terms describing kinship with the mother or the female line, as in *matricentric* mother-centered (1956), *matrilineal* (1904). Contrasted with PATRI-.

matriarch n. 1606, formed from English *matr-* + -arch, abstracted from *patriarch*; see PATRIARCH. —**matriarchal** adj. 1863, formed from English *matriarch* + -al¹, patterned after *patriarchal*. —**matriarchy** n. 1885, formed from English *matriarch* + -y³, patterned after *patriarchy*.

matricide¹ n. person who kills his or her mother. 1638, borrowed perhaps through French *matricide* mother killer, from Latin *mātrīcīda*, from *māter* mother + -īda -cide¹, killer.

matricide² n. act of killing one's own mother. 1594, borrowed perhaps through French *matricide* mother killing, from Latin *mātrīcīdium*, from *māter* mother + -īdium -cide², a killing.

matriculate v. 1579, enroll as a student in a college or university; earlier, to place a name on an official list (1577); either developed from English *matriculate*, adj., registered, enrolled (1487), borrowed from Medieval Latin **matriculatus*, past participle of **matriculare*; or borrowed directly from Medieval Latin **matriculare*, from Late Latin *mātrīcula* a public register, diminutive of *mātrīx* (genitive *mātrīcis*) list, roll, sources, womb, from Latin *mātrīx* breeding animal, MATRIX; for suffix see -ATE¹.

The Late Latin meaning (also found in Latin) of *mātrīx* as list or roll is understandable only as a loan translation of Greek *métrā* register, lot, and Latin *mētrī* to measure as if that were the same word as Greek *métrā* womb. —**matriculation** n. 1588, formed from English *matriculate* + -ion.

matrimony n. About 1300 *matrimoyne*, also *matrymony* (about 1303); borrowed from Old French *matrimoine* and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *mātrīmōnium* wedlock, marriage, derived (probably on the model of *patrimōnium* patrimony) from *māter* (genitive *mātris*) mother + -mōnium suffix signifying action, state, condition. —**matrimonial** adj. 1449 *matrimonyal*; borrowed from Middle French *matrimonial*, and directly from Latin *mātrīmōniālis*, from *mātrīmōnium* matrimony; for suffix see -AL¹.

matrix n. Probably before 1425 mold; earlier *matrice* womb (1373); borrowed from Old French *matrice*, from Latin *mātrīx*, and directly from Late Latin *mātrīx* (genitive *mātrīcis*) womb, from Latin, breeding animal, from *māter* (genitive *mātris*) mother. —v. 1951 (implied in *matrixing*); from the noun.

matron n. Before 1393 *matrone* married woman; borrowing of Old French *matrone*, and borrowed directly from Latin *mātrōna* married woman, from *māter* (genitive *mātris*) mother. The meaning of a woman who manages a hospital, school, or other public institution, is first recorded in 1557.

matt or **matte** adj., n. See MAT².

matter n. Probably before 1200 *materie* substance, concern, subject, as of discussion; later *mater* (before 1325); borrowed from Old French *matere*, *matiere*, and directly from Latin *māteria* substance from which something is made, timber, from *māter* origin, source, mother. —v. 1581, from the noun. An earlier meaning of form or discharge pus, is found in 1530.

mattock n. About 1303 *mattoke*; developed from Old English (about 700) *mættoc*; probably borrowed from Vulgar Latin **matteuca* club, related to Latin *mateola* kind of mallet.

mattress n. About 1300 *materas*; later *materace* (1388); borrowed from Old French *materas*, from Italian *materasso*, and from Medieval Latin *matracium*, *materacium*, both Italian and

Medieval Latin forms from Arabic *al-matrah* the cushion; literally, thing thrown down, from *ṭaraḥa* he threw (down).

mature *v.* 1541, probably a back formation from the earlier *maturation*, perhaps by influence of Middle French *maturer* ripen; for suffix see -ATE¹. It is also possible that the verb developed from *maturate*, adj., matured, (of an abscess) brought to a head (probably about 1425); borrowed from Latin *mātūrātum* ripened, past participle of *mātūrāre* to ripen; see MATURATION.

The old sense of mature, develop (1622) is now experiencing a revival in the social sciences.—**maturation** *n.* 1392 *maturacioun* formation of pus; borrowed from Middle French *maturation*, and directly from Latin *mātūrātiōnem* (nominative *mātūrātiō*) a hastening, from *mātūrāre* to ripen, from *mātūrus* ripe; for suffix see -ATION.

mature *adj.* Probably 1440, ripe, full-grown; later, well-considered, careful (1454); borrowed through Middle French *mature*, and directly from Latin *mātūrus* ripe, timely, early.—**v.** 1392 *maturen* ripen, bring to a head; borrowed from Latin *mātūrāre* to ripen, from *mātūrus* ripe. The meaning of come or bring to maturity is first recorded in 1626.—**maturity** *n.* Probably before 1430 *matyryte*; borrowed through Middle French *maturité*, and directly from Latin *mātūrītatem* (nominative *mātūrītās*) ripeness, from *mātūrus* ripe; for suffix see -ITY.

maudlin *adj.* 1607, tearful; later, sentimental (before 1631); developed from Middle English *Maudelen* (probably before 1325), *Magdalene* (about 1390, supposed to be the repentant sinner forgiven by Jesus, Luke 7:37); borrowed from Old French *Madelaine*, and directly from Latin *Magdalēnē*, from Greek *Magdalēnē* of Magdala, a town on the Sea of Galilee. The figurative meaning developed in allusion to the paintings in which Mary Magdalene was often represented as weeping in repentance.

maul *n.* 1545, spelling alteration of Middle English *malle* (before 1400); earlier *mealle* (probably about 1200) and, in the surname *Maulmanger* seller of mauls (1205); borrowed from Old French *mail* Mallet.—**v.** 1593, spelling alteration of Middle English *mallen* to strike with a maul (probably about 1350); earlier *meallen* (probably about 1200); from the noun. The meaning of knock about, handle roughly is first recorded about 1610.

Maundy Thursday 1440, developed from *maunde* the Last Supper, also the ceremony of washing the feet; borrowed from Old French *mandé*, from Latin *mandātum* commandment, in reference to the first word of the church service for this day, from the passage in John 13:34, "A new commandment (*mandātum novum*) I give unto you," spoken by Jesus to the Apostles after washing their feet at the Last Supper.

mausoleum *n.* 1600, from reference to *Mausoleum* (probably about 1425, name of the tomb built at Halicarnassus, in Asia Minor); borrowed from Latin *Mausōlēum*, from Greek *Mausōleion*, from *Maússollos* Mausolus, king of in Asia Minor. This tomb was considered one of the Seven Wonders of the ancient world.

mauve *n., adj.* 1859, borrowing of French *mauve*, from Old French *mauve* mallow, from Latin *malva* mallow; so called from the color of the mallow plant.

maven or **mavin** *n.* 1965, borrowed from Yiddish *mevvn*, from Hebrew *mēbhīn*, literally, one who understands.

maverick *n.* 1867, unbranded calf, in allusion to Samuel *Maverick*, Texas cattle owner who did not brand the calves of one of his herds. The transferred meaning of individualist, unconventional person, is first recorded in 1886.

maw *n.* Probably before 1300 *maue* stomach; earlier *mahe* (probably before 1200); developed from Old English *maga* (before 800); cognate with Old Frisian *maga* stomach, Middle Dutch *maghe* (modern Dutch *maag*), Old High German *mago* (modern German *Magen*), and Old Icelandic *magi*, from Proto-Germanic **mazōn*.

mawkish *adj.* 1668, inclined to sickness; formed from dialectal *mawke* maggot + -ish¹. *Mawke*, Middle English *mawke* (recorded before 1425) is borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *madhr* MAGGOT). The sense of sickly sentimental, is found in 1702.

maxilla *n.* 1676, borrowing of Latin *maxilla* upper jaw, diminutive of *māla* cheekbone, jaw. The word was apparently lost for 250 years after its earlier appearance in Middle English *maxille* (1425); borrowed from Middle French, from Latin *maxilla*.—**maxillary** *adj.* 1626, formed in English from Latin *maxilla* jaw + English -ary.

maxim *n.* Probably before 1430 *maxime* proverb, adage; borrowed from Middle French *maxime*, learned borrowing from Late Latin *maxima*, usually cited in *maxima prōpositiō* axiom; literally, greatest premise, feminine of *maximus* greatest; see MAXIMUM.

maximum *n.* 1740, borrowed through French *maximum*, and directly from Latin *maximum*, neuter of *maximus* greatest, superlative of *magnus* great or large.—**adj.** 1834, from the noun.—**maximize** *v.* 1802, formed from English *maximum* + -ize.

may *v.* Before 1200 *mai*, *may* have power, may (first and third person singular present indicative for the infinitive *mouen*, with the past tense *mighte*, *moghte*); developed from Old English (perhaps 650) *mæg* (infinitive *magan*, past tense *meahte*, *mihte*). The Old English forms are cognate with Old Frisian *mei* have power, may (infinitive *muga*, past tense *machte*), Old Saxon *mag* (infinitive *mugan*, past tense *mahte*), Middle Dutch *mach* (infinitive *moghen*, past tense *mohte*; modern Dutch *mag*, infinitive *mogen*, past tense *mocht*), Old High German *mag* (infinitive *magan*, past tense *mahta*; modern German *mag*, infinitive *mögen*, past tense *möchte*), Old Icelandic *mā* (infinitive *mega*, past tense *mätte*; Norwegian, Danish, Swedish *må*, past tense *mätte*), and Gothic *mag* (infinitive *magan*, past tense *mahte*) from the Proto-Germanic root **mag-* (infinitive **mag-anan*). Related to MIGHT.

May *n.* 1110 *Mai*; borrowed from Old French *mai*, and directly from Latin *Majus*, *Maius mēnsis* month of May, possibly related

to *Maja*, *Maia*, an earth goddess whose name is probably cognate with Latin *magnus* great, with reference either to her stature or her furthering growth of crops.

maybe *adv.* Before 1400 *may be*, a variant form of the phrase (*it*) *may be*; also corresponding to archaic *mayhap* (1444 *may happe*, a variant form of the phrase [*it*] *may hap* it may happen; see HAPHAZARD, HAPPEN).

Mayday or **mayday** *n.* 1927, adapted from the pronunciation of French *m'aider*, a shortening of *venez m'aider* come help me! Compare SOS.

mayhem *n.* Probably before 1300 *maym* a mutilation, injury; later *maheym* (about 1405); borrowed through Anglo-French *mahaim*, *maihem*, Old French *mahaigne* injury, related to *mahaignier* to MAIM, from Vulgar Latin **mahanāre*, of unknown origin. The figurative sense of any excessive violence, damage, or disorder, is first recorded in 1868.

mayonnaise *n.* 1841, borrowing of French *mayonnaise*, *mahonnaise* (1807), probably named in allusion to *Mahon*, a seaport on the island of Minorca, captured by the Duc de Richelieu in 1756, whose chef is said to have introduced the *Mahonnaise* in commemoration of his employer's victory.

mayor *n.* About 1300 *mer*, later *maire* (about 1378), but also found as a surname *Mair* (1242); borrowed from Old French *maire*, *major* head of a city or town government; originally, greater or superior, *adj.*, from Latin *maior*, *major*, comparative of *magnus* great. —**mayoralty** *n.* 1386, borrowed from Old French *mairalte*, from *maire* + *-alte* as in *principalte*, and reformed in English as *-alty*.

maze *n.* About 1300 *mase* delusion, deception, bewilderment; later *maze* (about 1385); developed from *amasen* AMAZE. The meaning of a network of paths, labyrinth, is first recorded about 1386.

mazurka or **mazourka** *n.* 1818, borrowed probably from Russian *mazúrka*, from Polish *mazurek* dance of the *mazur*, inhabitant of *Mazowsze* (Mazovia), ancient region in central Poland; in Russian the accusative in the Polish expression *tańczyć* (to dance) *mazurka* was reinterpreted as a feminine form with the suffix *-ka*, hence the form *mazúrka*.

McCoy *n.* the **real McCoy**, 1922, alteration of the earlier Scottish phrase *the real Mackay* (1883); of uncertain origin.

Several derivations have been proposed: 1) from *Mackay*, a Scotch whiskey distilled by A. and M. Mackay of Glasgow; a citation (1908) refers to the liquor as "the clear McCoy"; 2) from, or influenced by, *Kid McCoy*, a former welterweight boxing champion; 3) from the northern branch of the Scots clan *Mackay*, whose chief, Lord Reay, in rivalry with other branches, was referred to as "the Reay Mackay," said to be later altered to "the *real* Mackay" or the genuine article.

me *pron.* Old English *mē* dative, and *mē*, *mec* accusative case of *I* (about 650); cognate with Old Frisian *mi* me (accusative), *mi*, *mir* (dative), Old Saxon *mī* (dative and accusative), Middle Dutch *mī*, modern Dutch *mij*, Old High German *mih* (accusative), *mir* (dative), modern German *mich*, *mir*, Old Icelandic

mik (accusative), *mēr* (dative), Gothic *mik* (accusative), *mis* (dative), from Proto-Germanic accusative **meke*, dative **mes*.

mead¹ *n.* Archaic. meadow. Probably about 1150 *mede*; developed from Old English (before 901) *mæd*, from Proto-Germanic **mædwō*; earlier *mede* in *Medeshamsted*, Old English name of Peterborough (about 737); see MEADOW.

mead² *n.* alcoholic drink of fermented honey and water. About 1150 *mede*; developed from Old English *medu* mead (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *mede* mead, Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *mēde* (modern Dutch *mede*, *mee*), Old High German *metu* (modern German *Met*), and Old Icelandic *mjǫður* (Swedish *mjöd*, Danish, Norwegian *mjød*), all from Proto-Germanic **meduz*.

meadow *n.* Probably before 1200 *medewe*; later *medwe* (about 1300) and *medow* (before 1338); developed from Old English *mædwē* (777), from Proto-Germanic **mædwōn*. Old English *mædwē* is the oblique case of *mæd* meadow, cognate with Old Frisian *mēde* meadow, Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *māde*, Middle High German *mate*, *matte*, modern German (poetic or dialectal) *Matte*, and Old Swedish *math*; related through, but not derived from, Old English *mæth* a mowing or crop of hay, *māwan* to cut down, *MOW*¹. The spelling *meadow* is a partial revival of the Old English, first recorded in Shakespeare's plays.

meager *adj.* About 1378 *megre*; earlier, in a surname (1179); borrowed from Old French *megre*, variant of (half-learned) *maigre*, from Latin *macrum*, accusative of *macer* thin, lean. A separate group of Germanic cognates, not borrowings from Latin, but from Proto-Germanic **magrās*, include Old Icelandic *magr* thin (Swedish, Norwegian, and Danish *mager*), Old High German *magar* (modern German *mager*), Middle Dutch *māgher* (modern Dutch *mager*), Middle Low German *māger*, and Old English *mæger* (which did not survive in Middle English).

meal¹ *n.* food served. Probably before 1200 *mele*, *mel*; developed from Old English (before 725) *mæl* appointed time, mealtime, meal; cognate with Old Frisian *mēl* time, Middle Low German *māl* appointed time, Middle Dutch *mael* time, meal (modern Dutch *maal*), Old High German *māl* (modern German *Mahl* meal, *Mal* time), Old Icelandic *māl* measure, time, meal (Swedish, Norwegian, Danish *māl* mark, measure, meal), Gothic *mēl* time (pl. *mēla* marks, writing), from Proto-Germanic **mæla-*; probably related to Old English *mæth* MEASURE.

meal² *n.* ground grain. About 1150 *melewe*; later *mele* (probably about 1200); developed from Old English *melu* (before 899, from Proto-Germanic **melwan*); cognate with Old Frisian *mele* meal, Old Saxon *melo*, Middle Dutch *mele* (modern Dutch *meel*), Old High German *melo* (modern German *Mehl*), Old Icelandic *mjöl* meal (Swedish *mjöl*, Danish *mel*), Old Saxon, Old High German, and Gothic *malan* to grind (modern German *mahlen*), and Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *malen* to grind.

mean¹ *v.* intend. About 1175, Middle English *menen*; later

meanen (probably before 1200); developed from Old English *mænan* mean, tell, say (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *mēna* signify or mean, Old Saxon *mēnian* intend or make known, Middle Dutch *mēnen* mean or think (modern Dutch *menen*), and Old High German *meinen* have in mind (modern German *meinen* hold an opinion, mean), from Proto-Germanic **mainijanan*. — **meaning** n. Before 1387 *mening* sense or interpretation; from *menen* to mean + *-ing*¹.

mean² *adj.* inferior. Probably before 1200 *mene* shared by all, common; later, inferior, poor (before 1325); developed from Old English *gemæne* common; cognate with Old Frisian *mēne* common, Old Saxon *gimēni*, Middle Low German *gemeine*, Middle Dutch *ghemēne* (modern Dutch *gemeen*), Old High German *gimeini* (modern German *gemein*), and Gothic *gama-ins*, from Proto-Germanic **za-mainiz* possessed jointly.

The sense development of inferior, of low grade, was probably influenced by confusion over the shared form *mene* in Middle English of the two adjectives *mean*² and *mean*³. The sense of small-minded, nasty, is first recorded in 1665; it developed from the earlier sense of petty, unimportant (1585). The use of remarkably good, clever, etc. (as in *plays a mean trumpet*), is first recorded in 1920, a development from use in *no mean* _____ not inferior or inconsiderable (1596). This also illustrates the Middle English confusion of *mean*² and *mean*³, for the definition *no mean* _____ could be rewritten as "not average, or intermediate," as in *New York is no mean city*.

mean³ *adj.* halfway between two extremes, intermediate. 1340 *men*; later *mene* (about 1375); borrowed probably through Anglo-French (found in pl. *meines*), Old French *meien*, variant of *moien*, from Latin *mediānus* of or that is in the middle, from *medius* MIDDLE. The meaning of only tolerable, mediocre (1340) is easily confused with *mean*². — **n.** Probably about 1300 *mene* intermediate tone or state, intermediary agent or tool, instrument or course of action, means of attainment; borrowed from Old French *meien*, *moien* from *meien*, *adj.*

The plural form *means* (Middle English *menes*) a course of action, method, way, is first recorded about 1390, and is found in *by means of* (before 1460). The meaning of wealth or resources (as in *a man of means*), corresponding to French *moyens* and German *Mittel*, is first recorded in 1603. The mathematical sense of an average value or quantity (such as the *arithmetic mean*), corresponding to French *moyenne*, is found before 1500, derived from the adjective sense, as in *mean diameter* (about 1391). — **meantime** n. (1340 *mene-time*); *adv.* (before 1382) — **meanwhile** n. (before 1375 *mene while*); *adv.* (before 1382)

meander n. 1576, confusing ways, intricacies; later, a winding course (of a river, 1599); borrowed from Latin *meander* a winding course, in allusion to Greek *Maíandros*, name of a winding river in Asia Minor. — **v.** About 1612, from the noun.

measles n. Before 1325 *maseles* measles or pustules, plural of *masel*; perhaps borrowed from Middle Dutch *masel* blemish, or Middle Low German *masele*; cognate with Old High German *masala* blood blister (modern German *Masern* measles), from Proto-Germanic **mas-*. The Middle English variants *mesels* (before 1398), *meses* (about 1450), source of the current spelling, were probably influenced by *mesel* leprous (about

1280); borrowed from Old French *mesel*, from Latin *misellus* wretched, unfortunate, diminutive of *miser* wretched.

measly *adj.* 1687, affected with measles; formed from English *measles* + *-y*¹. The meaning of poor, meager, contemptible, is first recorded in 1864, originally in British slang.

measure *v.* Before 1325 *mesuren* to control, govern, regulate; later, to find the extent, size, etc., of (about 1380); borrowed from Old French *mesurer*, from Late Latin *mēnsūrāre* to measure, from Latin *mēnsūra* a measuring, a thing to measure by, from *mētūrī* to measure; for suffix see *-URE*. Development of the verb in Middle English was influenced by earlier use of the noun and replaced Old English *mæth* measure. — **n.** Probably before 1200 *measure*; borrowed from Old French *measure*, from Latin *mēnsūra* a measuring, a thing to measure by; see the verb above. — **measurable** *adj.* Probably before 1300, moderate, not excessive; later, that can be measured (about 1340); borrowed from Old French, from *measure* measure + *-able*. — **measured** *adj.* About 1390, deliberate and restrained; from *measure*, *v.* The sense of uniform, regular, is recorded before 1400, and that of rhythmical is found in 1581, in Sydney's works, perhaps a development of the earlier sense of proportioned (before 1400).

meat n. About 1125 *mete* food, meal (as in *meat and drink*); later, animal flesh (about 1250); developed from Old English (before 725) *mete* food, item of food; cognate with Old Frisian *mete* food, Old Saxon *meti*, Old High German *maz*, Old Icelandic *matr* (Swedish and Norwegian *mat*, Danish *mad*), and Gothic *mats* food, from Proto-Germanic **matiz*.

Mecca or **mecca** n. 1850, place or goal which many aspire to reach, an allusion to *Mecca* sacred city of Islam where Mohammed was born and to which Muslims go on pilgrimages, from Arabic *Mekkah*, variant of *Makkah*.

mechanic n. 1562, borrowed through Middle French *mechanique*, *mecanique*, n. and *adj.*; and directly from Latin *mēchanicus*, n. and *adj.*, from Greek *mēchanikós*, n., an engineer, and *adj.*, pertaining to machines or contrivances, inventive, from *mēchanē* MACHINE; for suffix see *-IC*. An adjective use also existed in Middle English before 1393. — **mechanical** *adj.* Probably before 1425 *mechanicall*; formed from English *mechanic*, *adj.* (earlier *mechanique*, before 1393; borrowed from Old French *mecanique* and Latin *mēchanicus*) + suffix *-al*¹. — **mechanics** n. (1648) — **mechanism** n. 1662, borrowed from Late Latin *mēchanisma* piece of construction, alteration of Greek *mēchanēma*, from *mēchanāsthai* devise, from *mēchanē* machine; for suffix see *-ISM*. — **mechanistic** *adj.* 1884; formed from English *mechanist* (1606) a mechanic + *-ic*. — **mechanization** n. 1839; formed from English *mechanize* + *-ation*. — **mechanize** *v.* 1678; formed from English *mechanic* + *-ize*.

medal n. Before 1586, metal disk used as a charm; borrowed from Middle French *médaille*, from Italian *medaglia* medal; originally, a coin worth half a denarius, from Vulgar Latin **medālia*, a form postulated on the probable dissimilation of *iā* . . . *ia* in Late Latin *mediālia* little halves, neuter plural of *mediālis* of the middle, medial; see MEDIAL.

medallion *n.* 1658, borrowed from French *médailion*, from Italian *medaglione* large medal, augmentative of *medaglia*; see MEDAL.

meddle *v.* About 1300 *medlen* to mix, mingle; also, to interfere (before 1338); earlier *melen* (before 1300); borrowed from Old North French *medler*, **mesdler*, standard Old French *mesler*, later *meller*, from Vulgar Latin **misculāre*, from Latin *miscere* to MIX. Related to MELEE.

media *n. pl.* 1927 (used as a singular), perhaps abstracted from *mass media*, originally, a technical use in advertising (1923). The form *media* is the plural of *medium* in the sense of intermediate agency, means, vehicle, or channel, which is first found in 1605.

medial *adj.* 1570, mean or average; borrowed from Late Latin *mediālis* of the middle, from Latin *medius* MIDDLE; for suffix see -AL¹.

median *adj.* 1592, middle (vein, nerve, etc.); borrowed through Middle French *médian*, or directly from Latin *mediānus* of the middle, from *medius* MIDDLE. —*n.* 1541, a median part (in anatomy); borrowed from Latin *mediānus*, *adj.* An earlier use restricted to medicine, is found in Middle English *mediana* a vein of the arm (1392); borrowing of Medieval Latin *mediana* median vein. The sense in mathematics of the middle number of a series, is first recorded in 1902; that of a strip of grassy area, between directions of traffic on highways, is first recorded in 1954.

mediate *v.* 1542, divide into two equal parts; later, to settle a dispute by intervening (1568); either a back formation from *mediation*, or developed from the adjective. *Mediate* replaced Middle English *medien* to halve (probably about 1425); borrowed from Late Latin *mediārī*. —*adj.* Probably before 1425, intermediate; borrowed from Late Latin *mediātus*, past participle of *mediārī* to be or divide in the middle, intervene, from Latin *medius* MIDDLE; for suffix see -ATE¹. —**mediation** *n.* Before 1387 *mediacioun*; borrowed through Old French *mediacion*, and directly from Late Latin *mediātiōnem* (nominative *mediātiō*), from *mediārī* intervene, mediate, from Latin *medius* MIDDLE; for suffix see -ATION. —**mediator** *n.* About 1350 *mediatur*; later *mediatour* (before 1387); borrowed from Late Latin *mediātor* one who mediates, from *mediārī* intervene, mediate; for suffix see -OR².

medic *n.* 1659, medical student, physician; borrowed from Latin *medicus* physician; see MEDICAL. The meaning of serviceman in a military medical corps, is first recorded in 1925.

medical *adj.* 1646, borrowed from French *médical*, from Medieval Latin *medicālis*, from Latin *medicus*, *n.*, physician, and *adj.*, healing, from *medērī* to heal; originally, know the best course for; for suffix see -AL¹.

medicate *v.* 1623, probably a back formation from *medication*, possibly influenced by Latin *medicātus*, past participle of *medicāre*, *medicārī* medicate, heal, cure; see MEDICATION; for suffix see -ATE¹. —**medication** *n.* Probably before 1425 *medicacioun* medical treatment; borrowed through Middle French *médication*, and directly from Latin *medicatiōnem* (nominative *medi-*

cātiō), from *medicāre*, *medicārī* medicate, heal, cure, from *medicus* healing; see MEDICAL; for suffix see -ATION.

medicine *n.* Probably before 1200 *medecine*, *medicine* medicinal substance, art of healing; borrowed from Old French *medicīne*, *medecine*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *medicīna* (originally *ars medicīna* the medical art), from feminine of *medicīnus*, *adj.*, of a doctor, from *medicus* a physician; see MEDICAL. —**medicinal** *adj.* About 1384, borrowed from Old French *medicinal*, and directly from Latin *medicīnālis* of or pertaining to medicine, from *medicīna* medicine; for suffix see -AL¹.

medieval *adj.* 1827 *mediæval*, formed in English from Latin *medi(um)* middle + *æv(um)* age + English -al¹.

mediocre *adj.* 1586, borrowed from Middle French *médiocre*, learned borrowing from Latin *mediocris* of middling or moderate quality; originally, halfway up a mountain (*medius* middle + *ocris* jagged mountain); also probably in some instances a back formation from *mediocrity*. —**mediocrity** *n.* Probably before 1425 *mediocrite* moderate or intermediate state or condition; borrowed from Middle French *médiocrité*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *mediocritātem* (nominative *mediocritās*) a middling state or condition, from *mediocris* mediocre. The sense of mediocre quality, average, is first recorded in 1588.

meditate *v.* 1560, probably a back formation from *meditation*, possibly by influence of Middle French *méditer*, for suffix see -ATE¹. —**meditation** *n.* Probably before 1200 *meditatium*; later *meditacioun* (about 1390); borrowed from Old French *meditation*, and directly from Latin *meditatiōnem* (nominative *meditatiō*), from *meditārī* to meditate, cognate with Greek *médesthai* be mindful, *médesthai* take thought, plan; for suffix see -ATION.

Mediterranean *adj., n.* About 1400; borrowed from Late Latin *Mediterrāneum* in *Mediterrāneum mare* Mediterranean Sea, from Latin *mediterrāneus* midland or inland, with the sense originally of the sea in the middle of the earth (formed from Latin *medius* middle + *terra* land or earth); for suffix see -AN.

medium *n.* 1584, something lying in the middle, borrowing of Latin *medium*, from neuter of *medius*, *adj.*, MIDDLE.

The meaning of substance through which something is conveyed, is first recorded in 1595 and that of a person who conveys messages from spirits in 1853. The technical sense of a liquid with which pigments are mixed in paint, is first recorded in 1854 and that of enveloping substance, environment, in 1865. See MEDIA. —*adj.* 1670, from the noun.

medley *n.* Before 1400 *mele*; later *medle* (1440) and *medley* (1438); borrowed from Old French *mellee*, *medlee*; earlier **mesdlee*, *meslee*, from Gallo-Romance **misculāta*, from Vulgar Latin **misculāre* to mix; see MEDDLE. Related to MELEE. —*adj.* About 1303 *medel*; later *medle* (about 1350); from the noun.

medulla *n.* 1392, borrowing of Latin *medulla* marrow.

medusa *n.* 1758, New Latin *Medusa* the genus name, from

Latin *Medūsa* Medusa (legendary monster with snakes for hair), from Greek *Médousa*; the genus name was coined in allusion to Medusa's hair and the resemblance of the feelers of some jellyfish.

meek *adj.* Probably before 1200 *mēok* gentle, humble; later *mēc* (probably about 1200); borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *mjúkr* soft, pliant, gentle, from Proto-Germanic **meukaz*).

meet¹ *v.* come face to face with. Probably before 1200 *meten*; developed from Old English *mētan* (about 725, in *Beowulf*), related to *gemōt* meeting. Old English *mētan* (from Proto-Germanic **mōtijanan*) and *gemōt* are cognate with Old Frisian *mēta* to meet, Old Saxon *mōtian* to meet, *mōt* meeting, Middle Dutch *ghemoete* (modern Dutch *tegemeet*), Old High German *muoz* meeting, Old Icelandic *mēta* to meet (Swedish *möta*, Norwegian *møte*, and Danish *møde*), *mōt* meeting, and Gothic *gamōtjan* to meet. Related to *MOOT*. —**n.** 1831–34, meeting in preparation for a hunt; from the verb. —**meeting** *n.* Probably before 1300 *meting*, developed from gerund of *meten* to meet.

meet² *adj.* proper, fitting. Probably about 1300 *mete*; developed from Old English (about 961) *gemēte* suitable; cognate with Old High German *gamāzi*, *gemāze* suitable, acceptable (modern German *gemäss* appropriate), from Proto-Germanic **ga-mētijaz*.

meg- or **mega-** a combining form used especially to form scientific terms and meaning: 1 large or great, as in *megaspore*, *megadose*, *megohm*. 2 one million, as in *megacycle*, *megaton*. Borrowed from Greek *mégas* great.

megalith *n.* 1853, back formation from *megalithic*, after the pattern *mega-* large + *-lith* stone. —**megalithic** *adj.* 1839, formed from English *mega-* large + *-lith* (borrowed from Greek *lithos*) stone + *-ic*.

megalomania *n.* 1890, borrowed from French *mégomanie*, formed from Greek *mégas* (genitive *mégálon*) great + *manía* madness, *MANIA*.

megalopolis *n.* 1832, formed in English from Greek *mégas* (genitive *mégálon*) great + *pólis* city. The Greeks applied it to Athens, Syracuse, and Alexandria.

meiosis *n.* 1905, process by which the number of chromosomes in reproductive cells is reduced to half the original number; New Latin *meiosis*, borrowing of Greek *meiōsis* a lessening, from *meiōn* lessen, from *meiōn* less; see *MINOR*.

melancholy *n.* About 1303 *malyncoly* mental disorder characterized by depression; later *melancolie* (before 1398); borrowed from Old French *melancolie*, *malencolie*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Late Latin *melancholia*, from Greek *melancholiā* sadness, (excess of) black bile (*mélās*, genitive *mélanos* black + *cholē* bile). In medieval times melancholy was thought to be caused by an excess of black bile, a secretion of the spleen in a condition associated with jaundice. The Old French variant *malencolie* was formed by false association with *mal* sickness (from Latin *malum* an evil). —**adj.** 1392 *malancolie* mixed with

or caused by black bile, gloomy or sad of temperament; later *melancolie* (probably before 1425); from the noun. —**melancholic** *adj.* About 1385 *malencolyk*; formed from *malencoly* (earlier *malyncoly*) melancholy + *-ic*.

melanin *n.* 1843, formed in English (probably by influence of earlier *melanoma* blackish tumor, 1840), from Greek *mélās* (genitive *mélanos*) black + English suffix *-in*².

meld¹ *v.* announce and show (cards for a score) in rummy, canasta, pinochle, etc. 1897, borrowed from German *melden* announce (Old High German *meldōn*); cognate with Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *melden* announce, Old Saxon *meldon*, and Old English *meldian*, from Proto-Germanic **meldōjanan*. Old English *meldian* (probably about 750), appears in Middle English *melden* accuse, call to account (about 1300); later, reveal, show (probably before 1325), but this form did not survive into Modern English and reappeared in the late 1800's as a borrowing from German, especially with the popularity of pinochle among German immigrants. —**n.** 1897, from the verb.

meld² *v.* to merge, blend. 1939, probably verb use of *melled* mingled or blended, past participle of dialectal English *mell* to mingle or blend, from Middle English *mellen* (about 1380), variant of *medlen*; borrowed from Old French *meller*, *medler*, variants of *mesler* to mix or mingle; see *MEDDLE*. —**n.** 1974, from the verb.

melee or **mêlée** *n.* Before 1648, borrowing of French *mêlée*, from Old French *meslee* confused fight, mixture, from feminine past participle of *mesler* to mix; see *MEDDLE*. The word is found in Middle English *mele* mixture (before 1400); earlier *melle* war or battle (before 1325), and *medle*, *medlay* (probably before 1300); borrowed from Old French *medlee*, *mellee*, variants of *meslee*; see *MEDLEY*. Apparently the Middle English word did not survive into modern English, and so the present-day form is a reborrowing from modern French.

meliorate *v.* Before 1552, back formation from earlier *melioration*; for suffix see *-ATE*¹. —**meliorative** *adj.* 1808, formed from English *meliorate* + *-ive*. —**melioration** *n.* Before 1400 *melioracioun* improvement; borrowed from Late Latin *meliorātiōnem* (nominative *meliorātiō*), from Latin *meliorāre* improve, from *melior* better (comparative of *bonus* good); see *MULTI-*; for suffix see *-ATION*.

mellifluous *adj.* Probably before 1425, learned borrowing from Late Latin *mellifluus* (Latin *mel*, genitive *mellis*, honey + *-fluus* flowing, from *fluere* to flow); for suffix see *-OUS*. —**mellifluent** *adj.* 1601, borrowed probably from Middle French *mellifluent*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Late Latin *mellifluentem* (nominative *mellifluens*), a compound of Latin *mel* (genitive *mellis*) honey + *fluentem* (nominative *fluens*), present participle of *fluere* to flow; for suffix see *-ENT*.

mellow *adj.* 1440 *melwe*; of unknown origin (possibly an attributive use of *melowe*, variant of *mele* ground grain, *MEAL*²; its meaning possibly influenced by Middle English *merow* soft or tender, Old English *mearu*). —**v.** 1572, from the adjective.

melodeon *n.* 1847, variant of *melodion*, borrowing of German

Melodion, from *Melodie* melody, from Old French *melodie*; see MELODY.

melodrama *n.* 1809, romantic stage play with music; earlier *melodrame* (1802); borrowing of French *mélodrame* (Greek *mélōs* song, MELODY + French *-drame*). —**melodramatic** *adj.* 1816, substitution of *dramatic* for *drama* in *melodrama*.

melody *n.* Probably before 1300 *melodie* sweet music, tunefulness; borrowed from Old French *melodie*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Late Latin *melōdia*, from Greek *mélōidīā* singing, chanting, a tune to which lyric poetry is set (*mélōs* song + *ōidē* song, ODE); for suffix see -Y³. —**melodic** *adj.* 1823, formed from English *melody* + *-ic*, after French *mélodique*, from Late Latin *melōdicus*, from Greek *mélōidikós*, from *mélōidīā* melody. —**melodious** *adj.* About 1385, borrowed from Old French *melodios*, from *melodie* melody; for suffix see -OUS.

melon *n.* About 1395 *meloun*, also *melon* (before 1398); borrowed from Old French *melon*, and directly from Medieval Latin *melonem*, shortened form of Latin *mēlopepōnem* a kind of pumpkin, from Greek *mēlopépōn* (*mēlon* apple + *pépōn* a kind of gourd, a noun use of *pépōn* ripe). Medieval Latin *melonem* may have been borrowed directly from Greek *mēlon*, interpreted as meaning “applelike fruit.”

melt *v.* Probably about 1150 *melten*, a fusion of Old English *meltan* become liquid (about 725, in *Beowulf*), from Proto-Germanic **meltanan*, and of Old English *gemæltan* make liquid (before 830, Anglian), *gemyltan* (West Saxon), from Proto-Germanic **ja-maltijanan*. The Old English forms are cognate with Old Icelandic *melta* to digest, melt, and Gothic *gamalteins* dissolution. Related to SMELT and MILD. —**n.** 1854, from the verb.

member *n.* Probably 1280 *membre* part of the body; later, person belonging to a group (before 1338); borrowed from Old French *membre*, from Latin *membrum* limb, member of the body, part.

membrane *n.* 1519, parchment; later, thin layer of tissue (1601); borrowed from Latin *membrāna* parchment, skin, tissue covering part of the body, from *membrum* limb, member of the body, part, member. The sense in English of a thin layer of tissue, may have been borrowed from French *membrane*. —**membranous** *adj.* 1597, borrowed from Middle French *membraneux*, from *membrane* membrane, from Latin *membrāna*; for suffix see -OUS.

memento *n.* Before 1376, borrowing of Latin *mementō* remember, imperative of *meminisse* to remember, related to *mēns* MIND. *Memento* first appears in English in Psalm 131. The meaning of an object serving to remind or warn, is first recorded in 1580, and from it developed the meaning of a keepsake (1768).

memo *n.* 1889, shortened form of MEMORANDUM.

memoir *n.* 1427 *memoire* written record, variant form of *memorie* memory, written record; borrowed through Anglo-French *memorie*, Old French *memoire*, learned borrowing from

Latin *memoria* MEMORY. The plural *memoirs* appeared in 1659 in the sense of a personal record of events.

memorabilia *n. pl.* 1806–07, borrowing of Latin *memorabilia*, neuter plural of *memorabilis* worthy of being remembered; see MEMORABLE.

memorable *adj.* 1436, borrowed from Middle French *mémorable*, learned borrowing from Latin *memorabilis* worthy of being remembered, from *memorāre* to bring to mind; for suffix see -ABLE.

memorandum *n.* Probably 1435, borrowed from Latin *memorandum* (thing) to be remembered, neuter singular of *memorandus*, gerundive of *memorāre* to bring to mind.

memorial *n.* Before 1382, commemorative act, faculty of memory; borrowed from Old French *memorial*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Late Latin *memoriāle*, from neuter of Latin *memoriālis*, *adj.*, of or belonging to memory, from *memoria* MEMORY; for suffix see -AL². —**adj.** About 1375, borrowed from Latin *memoriālis* of or belonging to memory. —**memorialize** *v.* (1798)

memory *n.* About 1250 *memorie* remembrance, renown; later, faculty of remembering (about 1380); borrowed through Anglo-French *memorie*, Old French *memoire*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *memoria*, from *memor* mindful, remembering. The meaning of a device in a computer in which information is stored, is first recorded in 1946. —**memorize** *v.* 1591, to commemorate in writing, formed from English *memory* + *-ize*. The meaning of commit to memory, is first recorded in 1838. —**memorization** *n.* 1886–87; formed from English *memorize* + *-ation*.

menace *n.* About 1303 *manas*; later *menace* (before 1325); borrowed from Old French *menace*, *manace* threat, from Vulgar Latin **minācia*, singular of Latin *mināciae*, from *mināx* (genitive *minācis*) threatening, from *minārī* threaten, jut, project, from *minae* threats, projecting points. —**v.** Probably before 1300 *manacen*; borrowed from Old French *menacer*, *manacer* threaten, from Vulgar Latin **mināciāre*, from **minācia* menace.

ménage or **menage** *n.* 1698, management of a household, domestic establishment, borrowing of French *ménage*, from Old French *menage*, *menaige*, *manaige* household, family dwelling, from Vulgar Latin **mānsiōnāticum* household, from Latin *mānsiōnem* dwelling, MANSION.

Ménage or *menage* is a reborrowing in modern English of a word that appeared in Middle English probably before 1300 and became obsolete before 1500.

menagerie *n.* 1712 *menagery*, borrowed from French *ménagerie* housing for domestic animals, from Old French *menage* MÉNAGE.

mend *v.* Probably before 1200 *menden* repair; later, make right, remove a fault (probably before 1300), shortened variant form of *amenden* amend; see AMEND. —**n.** Before 1325 *mende* (usually *mendes*, *pl.*) recompense, reparation, remedy; from the verb.

mendacious *adj.* 1616, borrowed probably from Middle French *mendacieux*, from Latin *mendācium* a lie, from *mendāx* (genitive *mendācis*) lying, deceitful, from *menda* fault, carelessness in writing; for suffix see -IOUS. — **mendacity** *n.* 1646, borrowed probably from French *mendacité*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Late Latin *mendacitās*, from Latin *mendāx* lying; for suffix see -ITY. It is also probable that *mendacity* was formed in English from *mendac(ious)* + -ity.

mendelevium *n.* 1955, New Latin, in allusion to Dmitri Ivanovich Mendeleev, Russian chemist + -ium.

mendicant *n.* 1395 *mendicaunt*, borrowed from Latin *mendicantem* (nominative *mendicāns*), present participle of *mendicare* to beg, from *mendicus* beggar, physically handicapped person (especially such a person who resorts to begging), from *menda* fault, physical defect; for suffix see -ANT. — **adj.** 1470, borrowed from Latin *mendicantem*, present participle.

menhaden *n.* 1643, American English, from Algonquian (probably Narragansett) *munnauwateadg* herringlike fish, once the most abundant fish on the eastern coast of the United States; literally, they fertilize; so called because these fish (menhaden, alewife, and herring) were used by American Indians as fertilizer.

menial *adj.* Before 1387 *meynal* belonging to the household, domestic; later *meynyal* (1433); borrowed through Anglo-French *meignial*, from *meignée*, *meiné*, Old French *maisniée* household, from Vulgar Latin **mānsiōnāta*, from Latin *mānsiōnem* dwelling, MANSION; for suffix see -IAL. The meaning of lowly, humble, suited to a servant, is first recorded in 1673. — **n.** Before 1387 *meynyal* domestic servant; probably from the adjective.

meninges *n. pl.* 1616, borrowing of Middle French *meninges* (1532); learned borrowing, probably through Late Latin *mēninga*, from Greek *mēnix* (genitive *mēningos*) membrane, especially of the brain; see MEMBER. — **meningitis** *n.* 1828, New Latin, formed from *mening(es)* + -itis.

meniscus *n.* 1693, a lens convex on one side and concave on the other; New Latin *meniscus*, from Greek *mēnskos* a crescent, diminutive of *mēnē* MOON. The meaning in physics of the curved surface on a column of liquid is first recorded in 1812–16.

menopause *n.* 1872, borrowed from French *ménopause*, formed from Greek *mēn* (genitive *mēnós*) month + connective -o- + *paūsís* cessation, pause.

menses *n. pl.* 1597, borrowing of Latin *mēnsēs*, plural of *mēnsis* month; see MOON.

Menshevik *n.* 1917, borrowed from Russian *men'shevik* (*men'she* lesser, a comparative form to *malo* little + -evik one that is). The Mensheviks were so called (by Lenin) from the fact that they held a temporary minority within the party. Compare BOLSHEVIK.

menstrual *adj.* Before 1398, borrowed through Old French *menstruel*, or directly from Latin *mēnstruālis* monthly, of or

having monthly courses, from *mēnstruus* of menstruation, monthly, from *mēnsis* month; for suffix see -AL¹.

menstruate *v.* 1800, probably a back formation from earlier *menstruation*; for suffix see -ATE¹. The form appeared as an adjective as early as 1384, borrowed from Late Latin *mēnstruāta*, past participle of *mēnstruāre* menstruate, but did not survive into modern English. — **menstruation** *n.* 1776–84, probably borrowed from French *menstruation*, and formed directly in English from Late Latin *mēnstruāre* menstruate, from Latin *mēnstrua* the menses, neuter plural of *mēnstruus* of menstruation, monthly, from *mēnsis* month + English suffix -ation.

mensuration *n.* 1571, act or process of measuring, borrowed from Middle French *mensuration*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Late Latin *mēnsūratiōnem* (nominative *mēnsūratiō*), from *mēnsūrāre* to MEASURE; for suffix see -ATION.

-ment a suffix forming nouns, especially from the verbs, and meaning act or process of _____ing, as in *enjoyment*; condition of being _____ed, as in *amazement*; product or result of _____ing, as in *pavement*; means or instrument that _____s, as in *inducement*. Middle English, borrowed from Old French *-ment*, from Latin *-mentum*. In the Middle English period *-ment* occurred mainly in words borrowed from Old French or through Anglo-French; these words either represented Latin nouns ending in *-mentum* or were formed in French on the analogy of Latin forms by the addition of *-ment* to verb stems. Since in most cases the French verb was borrowed by English along with the noun in *-ment* derived from the verb, the suffix came to be treated as English and in the 1500's was freely added to English verb stems, producing such common words as *atonement*, *amazement*, *betterment*, and *bewilderment*.

mental *adj.* About 1422, borrowed from Middle French *mental*, learned borrowing from Late Latin *mentālis* of the mind, from Latin *mēns* (genitive *mentis*) MIND; for suffix see -AL¹. — **mentality** *n.* 1691, formed from English *mental* + -ity.

menthol *n.* 1876, borrowing of German *Menthol*, from Latin *mentha* MINT¹ (herb) + German *-ol*, from Latin *oleum* OIL. — **mentholated** *adj.* 1933, formed from English *menthol* + -ate¹ + -ed².

mention *n.* About 1300 *mention* act of commemorating by speech or writing; borrowed from Old French *mention*, learned borrowing from Latin *mentīōnem* (nominative *mentīō*) a calling to mind, a speaking, mention, from the root *men-* of Old Latin *miniscā* to think, related to *mēns* (genitive *mentis*) MIND; for suffix see -TION. — **v.** 1530, borrowed from Middle French *mentionner*, from Old French *mention*, *n.*

mentor *n.* 1750, borrowed in allusion to Greek *Mēntōr*, the name of a friend and adviser to Odysseus, in Homer's *Odyssey*. The name may ultimately mean "adviser," having the form of an agent noun related to Greek *mēnos* intent, purpose, spirit, passion; see MIND.

menu *n.* 1837, detailed list of what is served at a meal; borrowing of French *menu*, from Middle French *menu*, *adj.*, small or detailed, from Latin *minūsus* small. The transferred

sense of any detailed list, is first recorded in English in 1889, and the meaning in computer use in 1971.

meow *n.*, *interj.* 1873, sound made by a cat; earlier *miaow* (1634 *miau*, probably influenced in form by French *miauou*). —*v.* 1894, earlier *meaw* (1632).

mercantile *adj.* 1642, borrowed from French *mercantile*, from Italian *mercantile*, from Medieval Latin *mercantilis* of a merchant or trade, or from Italian *mercante* merchant, from Latin *mercantem* (nominative *mercāns*) a merchant; also, trading, present participle of *mercāri* to trade; see MARKET.

mercenary *n.* About 1387–95 *mercenarie* hireling, person working for money only; borrowed perhaps through Old French *mercenaire*, and directly from Latin *mercēnnārius*, *n.*, one who does anything for pay, from a lost noun **mercēdō* (genitive **mercēdinis*) pay, from *mercēs* (genitive *mercēdis*) pay, reward, wages; for suffix see -ARY. —*adj.* 1532 *mercennary*, from the noun in English, and probably borrowed in part from Latin *mercēnnārius* doing anything for pay; also.

merchandise *n.* Before 1250 *marcaundise* act of trading, wares; later *merchaundise* (probably before 1387); borrowed through Anglo-French *marcaundise*, Old French *marcheandise*, from *marcaunt*, *marcaund* MERCHANT + -ise; for suffix see -ISE. —*v.* About 1384 *marcaundisen*, from the noun.

merchant *n.* Probably about 1200 *marcaunt*; later, in the surname *Merchaunt* (1332); borrowed through Anglo-French *marcaunt*, Old French *marcēant*, from Vulgar Latin **mercātāntem* (nominative **mercātāns*) a buyer, present participle of **mercātāre*, a frequentative form of Latin *mercāri* to trade, see MARKET; for suffix see -ANT. —*adj.* Probably before 1400 *marchant*; from the noun, and probably influenced by Old French *marcēant*, *adj.*

mercury *n.* About 1150 *mercuris* the Roman god; later, the planet (probably before 1300), and *mercurie* silver-white metal, quicksilver (about 1395); borrowing of Medieval Latin *mercurius*, from Latin *Mercurius* Mercury, the Roman god. —*mercurial* *adj.* 1647, sprightly, volatile, quick; originally, having the qualities of one born under the planet Mercury (1593); developed from Middle English *Mercurial* of or relating to Mercury (before 1393); borrowed from Latin *mercurialis* of Mercury (the god or planet), from *Mercurius*; for suffix see -AL¹. —*mercuric* *adj.* 1828–32; formed from English *mercury* + -ic.

mercy *n.* Probably before 1200 *mearci*; later *merci* (probably about 1200); borrowed from Old French *merci* reward, gift, kindness, mercy; earlier *mercit*, from Latin *mercēdem* reward, wages, from *merx* (genitive *mercis*) wares, merchandise. —*merciful* *adj.* About 1340, formed from Middle English *merci* + -ful. —*merciless* *adj.* Probably about 1380 *mercyles*; formed from Middle English *merci* + -les -less.

mere¹ *adj.* nothing more than, only, bare. About 1390, pure or unmixed; borrowed from Old French *mere*, *mier* pure, entire, and directly from Latin *merus* unmixed, pure, bare, mere, probably originally clear, bright.

The meaning of nothing more than, (as in *the merest scratch*),

is first recorded in 1581 and existed alongside the conflicting sense of, nothing less than, absolute, sheer, downright, (as in *of mere malice*), first recorded about 1443, but no longer found, except in vestiges such as *mere folly*. —**merely** *adv.* About 1449, formed from Middle English *mere¹* + -ly¹.

mere² *n.* lake, pond. Old English (before 700) *mere* sea, lake, pool, pond; cognate with Old Saxon *meri* a lake, Old Frisian *mar* sea, ditch, Middle Dutch *mare*, *maer* (modern Dutch *meer*) sea, pool, Old High German *mari*, *meri* (modern German *Meer*) sea, Old Icelandic *marr*, from Proto-Germanic **mari*, and Gothic *marei* lake, from Proto-Germanic **marin*.

meretricious *adj.* Before 1626, characteristic of a prostitute; borrowed from Latin *meretrīcius* of or pertaining to prostitutes, from *meretrīx* (genitive *meretrīcis*) prostitute, from *merēre*, *merēri* to earn, gain; for suffix see -OUS. The meaning of showily attractive is first recorded in 1633.

merganser *n.* 1752, New Latin (from Latin *mergus* waterfowl, diver, from *mergere* to dip, immerse + *anser* goose).

merge *v.* 1636, to plunge or immerse in an activity, environment; later, be absorbed or swallowed up in something else (1726); borrowed from Latin *mergere* to dip, immerse. —**merger** *n.* 1728, absorption of an estate, etc., in another; formed from English *merge* + -er¹. The meaning of combination of one business firm with another is first recorded in 1889.

meridian *n.* Probably about 1350 *meridien* middle, noon; borrowed from Old French *meridien*, from Latin, and directly from Latin *merīdianus* of noon, southern, from *merīdiēs* noon, south, from *merīdiē* at noon, formed by dissimilation of *r* for *d* in the pre-Latin form **mediei diē* (the locative form of *medius* mid + *diēs* day); for suffix see -IAN.

Meridian in the sense of a circle of the earth passing through the poles, is first recorded in 1391.

meringue *n.* 1706, borrowing of French *meringue*, of unknown origin.

merino *n.* 1781, borrowing of Spanish *merino* a breed of sheep; possibly an alteration (influenced by *merino* inspector of cattle pastures and sheep paths) of Arabic *Merīni* the Beni-Merīn, Berber family of sheep farmers in northwestern Africa, whose sheep were imported into Spain in the 1300's and 1400's to improve local breeds.

Spanish *merino* in the sense of inspector of sheep paths and cattle pastures was borrowed from Medieval Latin *majorinus*, as used in Spain to mean overseer, from Latin *majōrinus*, *adj.*, from *major* greater.

meristem *n.* 1874, undifferentiated tissue of the younger parts of plants; formed from Greek *meristós* divisible or divided (from *merizein* to divide, from *mēros* part + -em, as in *xylem*).

merit *n.* Probably before 1200, borrowed from Old French *merite*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *meritum*, neuter of *meritus*, past participle of *merēre*, *merēri* to earn, deserve, acquire, gain. —*v.* 1484, borrowed from Middle French *meriter*, from *merite*, *n.* —**meritorious** *adj.* Probably before 1425, borrowed, perhaps by influence of Old French

meritoire, from Latin *meritōrius* serving to earn money, from *meritus*, past participle of *merēre*, *merēri*; for suffix see -ORY, and -OUS.

mermaid *n.* About 1350 *meremayde*; later *mermayde* (about 1390); formed from Middle English *mere*² sea, lake + *made* maid.

merry *adj.* Before 1200 *murie* mirthful, joyous, pleasing; later *mirie* (about 1250), and *mery*, *meri* (probably before 1300; as a surname *Merilord*, about 1273); developed from Old English *myrige* pleasing, agreeable (before 899). Old English *myrige* (from Proto-Germanic **murgijaz*) is cognate with Old High German *murg*, *murgi* short, and Gothic *gamaurgjan* shorten. The transition from the Proto-Germanic sense "short" to the Old English sense "pleasant" may have occurred through a lost Old English verb meaning "to shorten," and hence "to shorten time, to cheer"; compare Old Icelandic *skemta* to shorten time, amuse oneself, derived from *skammr* short. —**merriment** *n.* 1576, comic performance, jest; later, merrymaking, mirth, fun (1588); formed from English *merry* + *-ment*.

mes- a combining form, the form of *meso-* before vowels, as in *mesencephalon* (the midbrain), *meson*.

mesa *n.* 1759, borrowing of Spanish *mesa*, literally, table, from Latin *mēnsa* table.

mescal *n.* 1702, peyote, borrowing of Mexican Spanish *mescal*, from Nahuatl *mexcalli* fermented drink made from the desert plant maguey (*metl* maguey and *ixcalli* stew). —**mescaline** *n.* 1896, formed from English *mescal* + *-ine*².

mesentery *n.* Probably before 1425 *mesentarie*, borrowed from Medieval Latin *mesenterium*, from Greek *mesentērion* (*mésos* middle + *énteron* intestine).

mesh *n.* About 1395 *mesche* mesh of a net; also found as *mask*, *maske* (1343; 1440); developed from Old English (probably about 1050) *max* net (a form showing metathesis of the sounds represented by *sk* to *ks*); earlier *mæscere* (probably about 950), from **masc*, **mæsc*, from Proto-Germanic **mask-*. The Old English forms are cognate with Middle Dutch *maesce* (early modern Dutch *maesche*, later *maas*) mesh, from Proto-Germanic **māsk-*, Old Icelandic *mǫskvi*, Old Saxon *masca*, and Old High German *masca* (modern German *Masche*) mesh, net.—**v.** 1532, to entangle, enmesh; from the noun. The use in reference to the teeth of a gear in machinery, is found in 1875.

mesmerism *n.* 1802, borrowing of French *mesmérisme*, formed in allusion to Friedrich or Franz Mesmer, + *-isme* -ism. Mesmer developed the theory according to which a mysterious body fluid allows a person to have a powerful hypnotic influence over another. —**mesmerize** *v.* 1829, formed from English *mesmerism* + *-ize*.

meso- a combining form meaning middle, halfway, midway, intermediate, as in *mesoderm*, *mesosphere*. Borrowed from Greek *meso-*, combining form of *mésos* MIDDLE. Also *mes-* before vowels.

mesoderm *n.* 1873, borrowing of German *Mesoderm* and French *mésoderme* (from *meso-* middle + *-derm*, *-derme*; from Greek *dérma* skin).

meson *n.* 1939, alteration of *mesotron* (1938, from *meso-* midway + *-tron*, as in *electron*). The alteration to *meson* was due to the influence of the suffix *-on*, as in *proton*, and possibly by an earlier French *mésón*, about 1935.

mesosphere *n.* 1950, formed from English *meso-* + *-sphere*, as specifically used in reference to *atmosphere*.

mesquite *n.* 1759, borrowing of Mexican Spanish *mezquite*, from Nahuatl *mizquitl*.

mess *n.* Probably before 1300 *mes* portion of food, prepared dish; borrowed from Old French *mes* portion of food, a course at dinner, from Late Latin *missus* (genitive *missūs*) course at dinner; literally, placing or putting (as if on the table), from *mittere* to put or place, from Latin *mittere* to send, let go; see MISSION. The sense of a kind of liquid or mixed food for an animal (1738) led to the contemptuous use of a concoction, jumble, mixed mass (1828). The figurative sense of a state of confusion (as *to get into a mess*), is first recorded in 1834, and later that of a dirty or untidy condition in 1851.—**v.** 1381 *messen* serve food; from the noun. The sense of make untidy or dirty, is first recorded in 1853. —**messy** *adj.* 1843, formed from English *mess*, *n.* + *-y*¹.

message *n.* Probably about 1300 *message* words sent from one to another; probably a back formation from earlier *messenger*, and in part a borrowing of Old French *message*, from Medieval Latin *missaticum*, from Latin *missus*, past participle of *mittere* to send. —**messenger** *n.* Probably before 1200 *messenger*, later *messanger* (probably before 1300); borrowed from Old French *messager*, from *message*, *n.*, *message*; for suffix see -ER¹.

In late Middle English the *n* was phonetically inserted before *-ger* in *messenger* as in some other words, such as *harbinger*, *passenger*, *scavenger* (a phenomenon for which no satisfactory explanation has been given).

Messiah *n.* 1560, alteration of Middle English *Messyass* (probably about 1200); later *Messie* (about 1300); borrowed from Old French *Messie*, and directly from Late Latin *Messīās*, from Greek *Messīās*, from Aramaic *mēshīā* and Hebrew *māshīah* anointed (of the Lord), from *māshah* anoint. The form *Messiah* was invented to give a Hebraic appearance to the name. —**Messianic** *adj.* Before 1834, borrowed from New Latin *Messianicus*, from Late Latin *Messīās* Messiah; for suffix see -IC.

mestizo *n.* About 1588, borrowing of Spanish *mestizo* of mixed European and Amerindian parentage, from Late Latin *mixticius* mixed, mongrel, from Latin *mixtus*, past participle of *miscēre* to MIX.

met- a combining form, the form of *meta-* before vowels, as in *metencephalon*, *metonymy*.

meta- a prefix meaning: 1 between, among, as in *metacarpus* (bones between the fingers and the carpus or wrist). 2a over or across, in the sense of change of place or state, as in *metathesis* (transposition of sounds, syllables, or letters), *metamorphosis*. b

reciprocal, as in *metacenter*. **3a** behind, after, as in *metathorax* (posterior segment of insect's thorax). **b** later, more advanced, as in *metazoan* (animals of more than one cell). **4** beyond, transcending, as in *metalinguistics*. **5** similar in chemical composition to, as in *metaphosphate*. Borrowed from Greek *meta-*, from *metá*, preposition meaning with, after, between.

metabolism *n.* 1878, formed from English *metabol(ic)* + *-ism* and borrowed from French *métabolisme*, formed from Greek *metabolé* change (see **METABOLIC**) + *-isme* *-ism*. —**metabolic** *adj.* 1743, involving change; borrowed from Greek *metabolikós* changeable, from *metabolé* change, from *metabállein* to change (*meta-* over + *bállein* to throw); for suffix see **-IC**. The sense of pertaining to metabolism (1845) was borrowed from French. —**metabolite** *n.* 1884, formed from English *metabol(ism)* + *-ite*¹.

metal *n.* About 1250, borrowing of Old French *metal*, learned borrowing from Latin *metallum* metal, mine, quarry, substance obtained by mining, from Greek *metállon* metal, ore; originally, mine, quarry, pit or cave where minerals are sought, probably a back formation from *metalléuein* to mine, to quarry. —**adj.** About 1477; (earlier in attributive use *metal ore*, etc., before 1382); from the noun. —**metallic** *adj.* Probably before 1425, borrowed from Latin *metallicus*, from Greek *metallikós* of or concerning mines or metal; for suffix see **-IC**. —**metallurgy** *n.* 1704, borrowed through French *métallurgie*, or directly from New Latin *metallurgia*, from Greek *metallourgós* worker in metal (*metállon* metal + *-orgós*, earlier **-worgós*, from *érgon* work); for suffix see **-Y³**.

metamorphosis *n.* 1533, borrowed perhaps through Latin *metamorphōsis*, from Greek *metamorphōsis* a transforming, from *metamorphoūn* to transform (*meta-* change + *morphé* form). An earlier Anglicized form *Metamorphoseos*, in allusion to the Roman poet Ovid's work, is found about 1390. —**metamorphic** *adj.* 1816, formed, perhaps by influence of French *métamorphique*, from English *metamorphos(is)* + *-ic*. The geological sense of altered by heat and pressure appeared in 1833. —**metamorphose** *v.* 1576, borrowed from Middle French *métamorphoser*, from *métamorphose* metamorphosis, perhaps through Latin *metamorphōsis*, from Greek *metamorphōsis*.

metaphor *n.* About 1477 *methaphor*, borrowed from Middle French *métaphore*, and directly from Latin *metaphora* or from Greek *metaphorá* a transfer, especially to one word of the sense of another, from *metaphéreîn* transfer, carry over (*meta-* over, across + *phéreîn* to carry, **BEAR²**). —**metaphorical** *adj.* Before 1555, formed from English *metaphor* + *-ical*.

metaphysics *n.* 1569, plural of Middle English *methaphisik* (about 1449); earlier *methaphesik* (before 1387); borrowed from Medieval Latin *metaphysica*, neuter plural, from Medieval Greek (*tà*) *metaphysiká*, from Greek *tà metá tà physiká* the (works) after the Physics, the title given to a collection of Aristotle's writings with reference to the fact that the treatises on metaphysics were placed after the treatises on physics; for suffix see **-ICS**. —**metaphysical** *adj.* Probably before 1425 *metaphysicalle*; formed from Middle English *methaphesik* + *-al*¹, and probably borrowed from Medieval Latin *metaphysicalis*.

metastasis *n.* 1577, New Latin *metastasis* transition from one subject to another (a term in rhetoric), from Late Latin *metastasis* transition, from Greek *metástasis* transference, removal, change, from *methístānai* to remove, change (*meta-* over, across + *hístānai* to place). The sense of a transfer of pain, or disease from one part of the body to another, especially of cancerous cells, is first recorded in 1663. —**metastasis** *v.* 1907, formed from English *metastasis* + *-ize*.

metathesis *n.* 1577, transposition of letters; later, transposition of words (1608); borrowed from Late Latin *metathesis* transposition of words, from Greek *metáthesis* transposition, from *metatithénai* to transpose (*meta-* over, across + *tithénai* to set, put).

mete *v.* About 1175 *meten* to measure; later, to allot, apportion (before 1225); developed from Old English *metan* to measure (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *meta* to measure, Old Saxon *metan*, Middle Dutch *mēten* (modern Dutch *meten*), Old High German *mezzan* (modern German *messen*), Old Icelandic *meta* to value, estimate, measure (Swedish *mäta* to measure), and Gothic *mitan* to measure, from Proto-Germanic **metanan*. Related to **MEET²** proper. The word is now literary in use, except in the phrase *mete out*, first recorded in 1535.

meteor *n.* Probably 1471 *Metheours* atmospheric phenomena; borrowed from Middle French *météore*, and directly from Medieval Latin *meteora*, from Greek *tà metéōra* the celestial phenomena, plural of *metéōron* celestial phenomenon; literally, thing high up, neuter of *metéōros* high up, raised above the ground, earlier *metēōros* (*meta-* over, beyond + *-aōros* lifted).

The modern spelling *meteor* is first recorded in English in 1576, with the meaning of falling or shooting star in 1590. —**meteoric** *adj.* Before 1631, elevated, lofty; formed from English *meteor* + *-ic*. The meaning of pertaining to meteors is first recorded in 1812. —**meteorite** *n.* 1834, formed from English *meteor* + *-ite*¹.

meteorology *n.* 1620, borrowed through French *météorologie*, and directly from Greek *meteōrologiā* treatise on celestial phenomena, from *metéōron* celestial phenomenon + *-logiā* treatment of; *-logy*. Earlier appearance of *meteorological* suggests a defect in the record of English for *meteorology*, especially as the form in French is recorded from 1547. —**meteorological** *adj.* 1570, formed in English after Middle French *météorologique* or Greek *meteōrologikós* with English suffix *-al*¹; for suffix see **-ICAL**. —**meteorologist** *n.* 1621, formed in English after Greek *meteōrológos* one who deals with celestial phenomena with English suffix *-ist*.

meter¹ *n.* measured rhythm in poetry or verse. Old English *mēter* (before 899); borrowed from Latin *metrum*, from Greek *mētron* meter, MEASURE. As the word disappears from the record of English for almost 300 years (reappearing about 1338), it is possible that use in Middle English was a reborrowing of Old French *metre* with the additional meaning of metrical scheme or composition, verse, poetry, learned borrowing from Latin *metrum* poetic measure or meter.

meter² *n.* unit of length. 1797 *metre*, borrowed from French

mètre, learned borrowing from Greek *métron* MEASURE. The term was developed by the French Academy of Sciences for a system of weights and measurement based on a decimal system originated in 1670 by a French clergyman, Gabriel Mouton.

meter³ *n.* mechanical device for measuring. 1830, probably abstracted from *gas-meter* (1815), but also found in earlier use (1790) describing a *gazometer*. The word in English was probably much influenced by the combining form *-mètre* in French and was also probably, in part, an extended use of earlier *meter* person who measures (about 1384); formed from *meten* to measure + *-er*¹. —*v.* 1884, from the noun.

-meter a combining form meaning a device or instrument for measuring something, in actual use commonly *-ometer*, as in *speedometer*, *barometer*, *hygrometer*, *pedometer*, and in some later formations *-imeter*, as in *gravimeter*, *calorimeter*. Borrowed from French *-mètre*, from Greek *métron* MEASURE. In some later formations *-meter* is attached to modern words without any attempt to parallel the form of the first element to that of a Greek or Latin combining form, as in *voltmeter*, *ammeter*.

methadone *n.* 1947, from (di)meth(yl)a(mino) + d(i)phenyl-(heptan)one, the chemical name of the drug.

methane *n.* 1868, formed from English *meth(yl)* + *-ane* (chemical suffix).

methinks *v.* Archaic. it seems to me. Before 1200 *me thinketh*; later *me thinkes* (before 1375); developed from Old English *mē thynnth* it seems to me (before 899); formed from *mē*, dative of *I* (see ME) and *thynnth*, third person singular of *thyncan* to seem. In Old English, the word *thyncan* to seem, and the closely related *thencan* to THINK, were kept distinct; but in Middle English, because Old English *thync-* and *thenc-* developed into Middle English *think-*, the two words became confused and finally coalesced.

method *n.* Probably before 1425, recommended medical procedure; borrowed from Latin *methodus* way of teaching or proceeding, from Greek *méthodos*, originally, pursuit, following after (*meta-* after + *hodós* a traveling road, way). The sense of any special way of doing things, is first recorded in 1586.

The name *Methodist* was originally applied to a member of a religious society of Protestants founded at Oxford in 1729 by John and Charles Wesley. The precise origin of the name is obscure though reference is made as early as 1692 to *methodists* in terms of religious practices. —**methodical** *adj.* 1570, formed in English from Late Latin *methodicus* (from Greek *methodikós*, from *méthodos* method) + English *-al*¹.

methy *n.* 1844, borrowed from French *méthyle*, back formation from *méthylène* METHYLENE; for suffix see *-YL*.

methylene *n.* 1835, borrowed from French *méthylène*, from Greek *méthy* wine + *hýlē* wood; for suffix see *-ENE*.

meticulous *adj.* 1827, extremely careful about small details; borrowed by influence of French *méticuleux* timorously fussy about details, from Latin *meticulōsus*; earlier, fearful or timid (1535); borrowed from Latin *meticulōsus* fearful or timid (*metus*

fear + *-iculōsus*, an ending patterned after *periculōsus* perilous); for suffix see *-OUS*.

métier *n.* 1792, borrowing of French *métier* trade, profession, from Old French *mestier*, from Gallo-Romance **misterium*, contraction (influenced by the form of Latin *mysterium* religious service) of Latin *ministerium* office, service, from *minister* servant; see MINISTER.

metonymy *n.* 1562, borrowed, perhaps through French *métonymie*, and directly from Late Latin *metonymia*, from Greek *metōnymía*, literally, a change of name (*meta-* change + *ónyma* dialectal form of *ónoma* NAME); for suffix see *-Y*³. An earlier form *metonomian* is recorded in 1547.

metric *adj.* 1864, probably in part borrowed from French *métrique*, from *mètre* METER² unit of length; for suffix see *-IC*; and also formed by reduction of earlier English *metrical* (1797) of or having to do with the meter or metric system.

metrical *adj.* Probably before 1425, borrowed from Latin *metricus* metrical, from Greek *metrikós*, from *métron* poetic meter, MEASURE. For suffix see *-ICAL*.

metronome *n.* 1815, formed in English from Greek *métron* MEASURE + *-nómos* regulating, verbal adjective of *némein* to regulate.

metropolis *n.* 1535, the see of a metropolitan bishop; later, the mother city or parent state of a Greek colony (before 1568); borrowed from Late Latin *mētrópolis* mother city, from Greek *mētrópolis* (*mētēr* MOTHER + *pólis* city). The sense of a large or chief city appeared about 1386 in the form *metropol*, borrowed from Late Latin *mētrópolis*. —**metropolitan** *n.* Probably before 1350, borrowed from Late Latin *mētrópolis*, from Greek *mētrópolis* resident of a city, chief bishop, from *mētrópolis* chief city; for suffix see *-AN*. —**adj.** Probably before 1425, probably from the noun, in part by influence of Late Latin *mētrópolis* of a metropolis.

-metry a combining form meaning the process or art of measuring, as in *geometry*, *optometry*. Borrowed from Greek *-metriā*, from *metrein* to measure, from *métron* MEASURE.

mettle *n.* 1581, spirit or courage; also, quality of disposition (1584); figurative use of *metal*, as the material of which a person is made. *Mettle* was originally a variant spelling of *metal*, later formally differentiated (1706) in the figurative senses cited above. —**mettlesome** *adj.* 1662, formed from English *mettle* + *-some*¹.

mew¹ *v.* make the characteristic sound of a cat. Before 1325 *mewen*; of imitative origin. —**n.**, **interj.** 1596; of imitative origin.

mew² *n.* sea gull. Before 1200 *meau*; later *mewe* (about 1450); developed from Old English *māw* (about 700); cognate with Frisian *meau*, *mieu* sea gull, Old Saxon *mēw*, Middle Low German *mēwe* (modern German *Möwe*), Middle Dutch *mēwe* (modern Dutch *meeuw*), from Proto-Germanic **maizwis*, and cognate with Old High German *mēh* and Old Icelandic *mār*, from Proto-Germanic **maiHwaz*.

mew³ *n.* a cage. Before 1375 *meuwe* a hiding place, place of confinement; later, cage for hawks, especially while molting (about 1395); borrowed from Old French *mue*, from *muer* to molt, from Latin *mūtāre* to change, **MUTATE**. —**v.** About 1450, to cage; later, to hide, conceal (1577–87).

mews *n. pl.* Before 1631, developed from *Mewes* name of the royal stables at Charing Cross (1387, so called from the site where the royal hawks were caged at molting time), from plural of *mewe*; see **MEW³**.

Mexican *n.* 1604, borrowed from Spanish *Mexicano*, from *Mexico* + *-an*. —**adj.** (1696)

mezzanine *n.* 1715, low story between two higher stories of a building; borrowing of French *mezzanine*, from Italian *mezzanino*, from *mezzano* middle, from Latin *mediānus* of the middle. The sense of lowest balcony in a theater, is first recorded in 1927.

mi *n.* Before 1450, third note of the musical scale; borrowing of Medieval Latin *mi*, from the initial syllable of Latin *mīra* wonders (wondrous things), the word sung to this note in the Hymn for St. John the Baptist's day. Latin *mīra* developed from *mīrus*, *adj.*, wonderful; see **MIRACLE**.

miasma *n.* 1665, New Latin *miasma* noxious vapors, from Greek *miasma* stain, pollution, related to *mialnein* to pollute; see **MOLE¹** *spot*.

mica *n.* 1706, New Latin *mica*, special use (perhaps influenced by Latin *micāre* to flash, glitter) of Latin *mīca* grain or crumb; see **MICRO-**.

mickle *adj., adv., n.* Probably about 1175 *muchel* much; later *Michel* and *mikel* (probably about 1200); developed from Old English *micel* (before 725), *mycel* (before 900), from Proto-Germanic **mekilaz*; see **MUCH**.

micro- a combining form used chiefly to form scientific terms and meaning: 1 small, very small, as in *microorganism*. 2 one millionth of, as in *microfarad*. 3 that magnifies or amplifies, as in *microscope*. Borrowed from Greek *mīkro-*, from *mīkρός*, *smīkρός* small, short.

microbe *n.* 1881, borrowing of French *microbe*, formed as if from Greek *mīkρός* small + *bios* life. —**microbial** *adj.* 1887, formed from English *microbe* + *-ial*.

microbiology *n.* 1888, formed from English *micro-* + *biology*.

microcosm *n.* Probably before 1430 *myrocosome*, borrowed from Middle French *microcosme*, from Medieval Latin *microcosmus*, from Greek *mīkρός kósmos* little world. Earlier in Middle English *microcosmos* man thought of as an epitome of the universe, is found probably about 1200 as a direct borrowing from Medieval Latin *microcosmus*.

microfilm *n.* 1927, formed from English *micro-* + *film*. —**v.** 1940, from the noun.

micron *n.* 1885, borrowing of French *micron* (1880), from Greek *mīkrón*, neuter of *mīkρός* small.

microorganism *n.* 1880, formed from English *micro-* small + *organism*.

microphone *n.* 1683, ear trumpet to intensify small sounds for the hard-of-hearing; formed from English *micro-* + *-phone* sound. In 1878 *microphone* was applied to a telephone transmitter, and later to use in radio broadcasting and motion-picture recording, before 1929.

microscope *n.* 1656, borrowed from New Latin *microscopium* (about 1628, from *micro-* + Greek *-skópiōn* means of viewing, from *skopēōn* look at). —**microscopic** *adj.* 1732, like a microscope; formed, perhaps by influence of French *microscopique*, from English *microscope* + *-ic*. The sense of extremely small, is first recorded before 1770. —**microscopy** *n.* 1664–65, formed from English *microscope* + *-y³*.

microwave *n.* 1931, formed from English *micro-* + *wave, n.*

mid *adj.* Old English (before 725) *mid*; cognate with Old Frisian *midde* mid or middle, Old Saxon *middi*, Old High German *mitti*, Old Icelandic *midhr*, and Gothic *midjis*, from Proto-Germanic **medjaz*. The Old English form was rare except in inflected forms, as *midde*, *midde*s, *midre*, *midne*, etc. In modern English its most common use is as the prefix *mid-*.

mid- a prefix meaning middle point or part of, as in *midday*, *midnight*, *midcontinent*; of, in, or near the middle of, as in *midsummer*. Middle English, developed from *mid*, *adj.*, in the middle of.

midday *n.* 1135 *mid dæi*; later *middei* (probably before 1200), and *midday* (about 1275); found in Old English (about 1000) *middæg*; earlier *midne dæg* (971); cognate with Old High German *mittitag*, *mitter tag* (modern German *Mittag*), Middle Dutch and Middle Low German *middach* (modern Dutch *middag*), and Old Icelandic *midhdagr* (Swedish, Norwegian, and Danish *middag*). —**adj.** Before 1325, from the noun.

middle *adj.* Probably before 1200 *midle*; developed from Old English (785) *middel*; cognate with Old Frisian *middel* middle, Old Saxon *midil*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *middel*, Old High German *mittil* (modern German *mittel*), from Proto-West-Germanic **middila*, formed from **middy*, from Proto-Germanic **medjaz* **MID**; and cognate with Old Icelandic *medhal* among, between (Swedish *medel* Danish and Norwegian *middle* center). —**n.** Probably before 1200 *midle*; developed from Old English *middel*, from the adjective. —**middle age** (about 1378 *myddel age*) —**middle-aged** *adj.* (1608) —**Middle Ages** period of history intermediate between ancient and modern times (1722). —**middle class** (1766) —**middleman** *n.* 1795, trader who sells to a retailer; earlier, one who takes a middle course (1741), and soldier in a middle rank of a formation (1616).

midling *adj.* 1456, Scottish *mydlyn*; probably formed from English *mid*, *adj.* + *-ling¹*. —**adv.** 1719, from the adjective.

midge *n.* About 1340 *mydge*; developed from Old English (about 700) *mygg*, *mycg*, *myge*; cognate with Old Saxon *muggia* midge, Middle Dutch *mugghe* (modern Dutch *mug*), Middle

Low German *mügge*, Old High German *mucka* (modern German *Mücke*), from Proto-Germanic **muŕjōn*.

midget *n.* 1884, very small person; earlier, anything very small, mite (1865); formed from English *midge* + *-et*.

midland *adj.* Before 1447 *mydlonde* located or living in the Midlands of England; later *mid land*, in *mid land sea* the Mediterranean Sea (1579), and *midland inland* (1601); formed from Middle English *mid* + *land* land. —**n.** 1555 *mydlande* the interior part of a country.

midnight *n.* Probably before 1200 *mid-niht*; later *midnigt* (probably before 1300), and *mydnyght* (about 1385); found in Old English *mid-niht*, *midde neaht* (before 899).

midriff *n.* Before 1333 *midrif*; developed from Old English (about 1000) *midhrif* (*mid* MID + *hrif* belly, abdomen).

midst *n.* Before 1325 *midde*, formed from Middle English and Old English *mid* MID + adverbial genitive *-s* or *-es*; the ending was changed to *-st* in the 1400's by association with superlatives in *-st* and *-est* (compare *amongst* and *against*); alternatively the final *-t* may have been added to the ending *-s* or *-es* for phonetic or articulatory reasons (compare *betwixt*). —**adv.** 1667, from the noun, especially in the adjective use. The adverb also occurs in Middle English in the form *myddys* (1432). —**prep.** 1591, commonly considered a shortened form of *amidst*. The preposition also occurs in Middle English as *myddis* (probably before 1400).

midsummer *n.* 1101 *midde sumeran*; later *midsummer* (1131), and *Midsummer* in a place name (1269); found in Old English *midsumor* (about 1050), *middum sumere* (before 899), formed from Old English *mid* + *sumor*.

midway *n.* Probably before 1200 *mid wei*; later *midwai* (about 1225); found in Old English *mid-weg* (before 899). —**adj.** 1050 (but published in 1500) *midway*; from the noun. —**adv.** Probably before 1200 *mid wei*; from the noun.

midwife *n.* Probably before 1300 *midwif* (*mid* with + *wif* woman). The forms with *med-* may derive from influence of Latin *medius* mediator.

midwinter *n.* About 1000, Old English *midwinter*, earlier *midde wintre* (827). —**adj.** 1135, from the noun.

mien *n.* 1513, probably a shortened form of Middle English *demean* bearing or demeanor (about 1450, from *DEMEAN*² behave); influenced by Middle French *mine* appearance or expression of the face.

miff *n.* 1623, perhaps imitative of an exclamation of disgust. —**v.** 1797, from the noun.

might¹ *v.* past tense of *may*. About 1387–95 *myghte*; developed from Old English *mihte*, *meahte* (before 899); earlier *mæhte* (before 830); see *MAY*.

might² *n.* great strength, power. Before 1325 *might*, developed from Old English (before 900) *miht*; earlier *mæht* (before 830), and *mæct* (before 700); all cognate with Old Frisian *macht* might, Old Saxon *maht*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch

macht, Old High German *maht* (modern German *Macht*), Gothic *mahts*, from Proto-Germanic **mahtis*, and Old Icelandic *mátt*, from Proto-Germanic **mahtuz*. —**mighty** *adj.* About 1380 *mighti*; developed from Old English *mihtig* (before 899); earlier *mæhtig* (before 830), from *miht*, *mæht* might + *-ig* -y¹; see *MAY*.

migraine *n.* 1373 *migrane*; later *mygrayne* (before 1425); borrowed from Old French *migraigne*, *migraine*, from Late Latin *hēmīcrānia* pain on one side of the head, headache, from Greek *hēmīkrānīā* (*hēmi-* half + *krānion* skull). The form *migraine* was reinforced by a borrowing from modern French in the 1700's.

migrant *adj.* 1672, borrowed from Latin *migrāntem* (nominative *migrāns*), present participle of *migrāre* to move from one place to another; for suffix see *-ANT*.

migrate *v.* 1623, back formation from *migration*; for suffix see *-ATE*¹. —**migration** *n.* 1611, borrowed through French *migrātion*, or directly from Latin *migrātionem* (nominative *migrātiō*), from *migrāre* to move from one place to another, remove, depart, formed from a lost adjective **migrāns* moving; for suffix see *-ATION*. —**migratory** *adj.* 1753, formed from English *migrate* + *-ory*.

mikado or **Mikado** *n.* 1727, the former title of the emperor of Japan, rendered in English as *mikado* (*mi* honorable + *kado* gate, portal) and resembling the title of the former Turkish government or its ruler, the *Sublime Porte*, as well as the Egyptian royal title *Pharaoh*, literally, great house.

mil *n.* 1721 (in *per mil* per thousand, corresponding to *per cent*); borrowed from Latin *mille* a thousand; see *MILE*.

milch *adj.* About 1250 *milche* giving milk, milky; developed from Old English *-milce* a milking (as found in *thrimilce* month of May, in which cows could be milked three times a day). The Old English form is cognate with Old High German *melch* giving milk (modern German *melk*), Old Icelandic *mjólk*, and related to Old English *milc* milk, from Proto-West-Germanic **melik-*, altered from **meluk-*; see *MILK*.

mild *adj.* Old English (before 725) *milde* gentle, merciful, clement; cognate with Old Frisian *milde* mild, Old Saxon *mildi*, Middle Dutch *milde* (modern Dutch *mild*), Old High German *multi* (probably modern German *milde*), Old Icelandic *mildr* (Norwegian, Swedish, and Danish *mild*), and Gothic *-mildeis*, *-mild-s* in compounds such as *milditha* kindness (from Proto-Germanic **mildijaz*); related to *MELT*.

mildew *n.* About 1225 *mildeu* honeydew, nectar; later, kind of fungus, in reference to its sticky, honeylike appearance (1340, in a Latin context); developed from Old English (before 1000) *mildēaw*, *meledēaw*; cognate with Old Saxon *milidou* honeydew, and Old High German *milidou*, all from a Proto-Germanic compound of the root represented in Gothic *milith* honey and that found in Old English *dēaw* *DEW*. The Old English variant *meledēaw* was probably influenced by Old English *melu* ground grain, *MEAL*². —**v.** 1552, (implied in *mildewed*); from the noun.

mile *n.* Before 1121 *mile*, developed from Old English (before

800) *mil*; borrowed from Latin *mīlia*, *mīlia* thousands (as in *mīlia passuum* thousands of Roman paces), plural of *mille* a thousand (as in *mille passūs* a thousand paces). Many languages borrowed their word from Latin, as found in Middle Dutch *mīle*, Old High German *mīla*, Old French *mille*, *mīle*, Italian *miglio*, Portuguese *milha*, and Spanish *milla*, and through English, Old Icelandic *mīla* (Norwegian, Swedish, and Danish *mil*).

The ancient Roman *mīle* was equal to one thousand double paces (one step with each foot or about 4,860 feet), a distance about 400 feet shorter than a statute mile. —**mileage** *n.* 1754, formed from English *mīle* + *-age*.

milieu *n.* 1877, a compound in French of *mi* middle + *lieu* place.

militant *adj.* Before 1415, engaged in warfare; borrowed from Middle French *militant*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *militāntem* (nominative *militāns*), present participle of *militāre* serve as a soldier, see *MILITATE*; for suffix see *-ANT*. —**n.** 1610, from the adjective.

military *adj.* 1460, borrowed from Latin *militāris* of soldiers or war, warlike, from *mīles* (genitive *militis*) soldier, Old Latin *meiles*, perhaps from Etruscan; for suffix see *-Y¹*. —**n.** 1736, an officer; later, the army, soldiers (1757); from the adjective. —**militarism** *n.* 1864, formed from English *military* + *-ism* by influence of French *militarisme*. —**militarist** *n.* 1601, formed from English *military* + *-ist*. —**militaristic** *adj.* 1905, formed from English *militarist* + *-ic*.

militate *v.* 1625, serve as a soldier, borrowed from Latin *militātum*, past participle of *militāre* serve as a soldier, from *mīles* (genitive *militis*) soldier, see *MILITARY*; for suffix see *-ATE¹*. The sense of exert force, operate (against), is first recorded in 1642.

militia *n.* 1590, military system, military force; borrowing of Latin *militia* military service, warfare, from *mīles* (genitive *militis*) soldier; see *MILITARY*. The sense of citizen army is first recorded in 1696, and may have been taken from French *milice* troops of the bourgeois (from Latin *militia*).

milk *n.* About 1150 *mylc*; later *milk* (about 1300); developed from Old English, in West Saxon *meoluc* (before 899), and in Anglian *milc*, both related to *melcan* to milk. Cognates are found in Old Frisian *melok* milk, Old Saxon *miluk*, Middle Dutch *melc* (modern Dutch *melk*) milk, Old High German *miluh* (modern German *Milch*) milk, Old Icelandic *mjólk* milk (Swedish *mjöl*, Norwegian *melk*, *mjöl*, Danish *melk*) and Gothic *milukes* milk, from Proto-Germanic **meluk-*. —**v.** About 1300 *milken*; developed from Old English (971) *meolcan*, (about 1000) *milcian*, from the noun; also merged with *melcan* to milk; cognate with Old High German *melchan*, from Proto-Germanic **melkanan*. —**milk chocolate** (1723) —**milk shake** (1889) —**milky** *adj.* About 1380, formed from Middle English *milk* + *-y¹*. —**Milky Way** About 1380, loan translation of Latin *via lactea*.

mill¹ *n.* machine for grinding grain into flour or meal. Probably before 1200 *mulne* building with machinery for grinding

grain; later *mylne* (before 1225), and *mille* (about 1390); developed from Old English (about 961) *mylen* mill. The Old English word is an early borrowing from Late Latin *molina*, *molinum* mill, originally feminine and neuter of *molinus* pertaining to a mill, from Latin *mola* mill, millstone, related to *molere* to grind. The Late Latin *molina* was also borrowed into Old Frisian *mole* mill, Old Saxon *mulin*, Old High German *mulī*, *mulin* and Old Icelandic *mylna*.

The meaning of a machine for grinding grain is probably recorded before 1425; the building or machinery for manufacturing something (as a *textile mill*), is first recorded in 1417–18. —**v.** 1552, pass (cloth) through a mill; later, grind (grain) into flour (1570); from the noun. The meaning of move or mass in a circle (as in *to mill about*), is first recorded in 1888. —**miller** *n.* Before 1376 *myllere*; earlier as a surname *Mulner* (1230); formed from Middle English *mille* and *mulne* mill + *-ere* *-er¹*. —**millpond** *n.* (1371) —**millstone** *n.* Before 1225; earlier as a surname *Mileston* (1205).

mill² *n.* $\frac{1}{10}$ of a cent. 1791, shortened form of Latin *millēsimum* one thousandth, from *mille* a thousand; see *MILE*.

millennium *n.* Before 1638, New Latin *millennium*, a compound of Latin *mille* thousand + *annus* year, patterned on Latin *biennium* two-year period. *Millennium* was first used in English to refer to the period during which Christ is expected to reign on earth. The general meaning of a period of a thousand years is first recorded before 1711. —**millennial** *adj.* 1664, pertaining to the prophesied millennium; formed from English *millenni(um)* + *-al¹*. The general sense of pertaining to a thousand years, is first recorded in 1807.

millet *n.* Probably before 1425 *milet*; borrowed from Middle French *millet*, diminutive of *mil* millet, from Latin *milium*. An earlier form *myle* is first recorded before 1382; developed from Old English *mīl*, from Latin *milium*.

milli- a combining form meaning one thousandth, as in *millimeter*, *millisecond*. Borrowed from French *milli-*, and directly from Latin *milli-*, from *mille* a thousand. —**milligram**, **milliliter** *n.* 1810, borrowed from French. —**millimeter** *n.* 1807, borrowed from French.

milliner *n.* 1530 *myllenor* dealer in fancy goods, especially associated with those imported from Milan, probably special use of earlier *Milener* native or inhabitant of Milan, possibly considered as stylish or fashionable and also associated with the straw work in hats manufactured there (1449); formed in English from *Milan*, Italy, famous for its straw work + *-er¹*. The sense of one who makes or sells women's hats (1742) is possibly found as early as the 1530's. —**millinery** *n.* 1679–88, formed from English *milliner* + *-y³*.

million *n.* Before 1376 *mylion*, *milioun*; borrowed from Old French *millon*, *million*, probably from Italian *milione*, *millione*, augmentative form of *mille* thousand, from Latin *mille*. —**adj.** 1694, from the noun. —**millionaire** *n.* 1826, borrowed from French *millionnaire*.

millipede *n.* 1601, borrowed from Latin *mīlipeda* kind of

crawling insect (*mille* thousand + *pēs*, genitive *pedis* FOOT), possibly a loan translation of Greek *chiliópous*.

milt *n.* 1483 *milte*, probably developed from *mylte* spleen (considered the source of *milt* or a spermatic member, 1392), from Old English *milte* spleen; cognate with Old High German *milzi* (modern German *Milz*) and Old Icelandic *gerti* (Swedish *mjelte*, Danish *milt*) spleen, from Proto-Germanic **meltijōn*.

mime *n.* 1603, borrowed from French *mime*, and directly from Latin *mimus*, from Greek *mimos* imitator or actor. It is probable that *mime* was borrowed by influence of an earlier sense of *mimic*, *adj.*, acting as a mime (1598), and *n.*, a mime (1590). —**v.** 1616 (implied in *miming*); from the noun.

mimetic *n.* 1637, borrowed from Greek *mīmētikós* imitative, from *mimēsthai* to imitate; for suffix see -IC.

mimic *adj.* 1598, borrowed from Latin *mimicus*, from Greek *mimikós* of or pertaining to mimes, from *mimos* mime; for suffix see -IC. Later borrowing from French *mimique* is also recorded and in some instances the adjective in English was a development from the noun. —**n.** 1590, borrowed from Latin *mimicus*, *adj.* —**v.** 1687, from the noun. —**mimicry** *n.* 1687, formed from English *mimic*, *n.* + -ry.

mimosa *n.* 1751, New Latin *Mimosa* the genus name; formed from Latin *mimus* mime + -*osa*, adjective suffix, feminine of -*osus* -*ose*¹; so called because some species of this plant seem to mimic animal reactions by folding their leaves at the slightest touch.

minaret *n.* 1682, borrowed from French *minaret*, probably from Turkish *minare* a minaret, from Arabic *manārah*, *manārat* lamp, lighthouse, minaret, related to *manār* candlestick a derivative of *nār* fire.

mince *v.* 1381, borrowed from Old French *mincier* make into small pieces, from Vulgar Latin **miniūtāre* make small, from Late Latin *miniūtāre* small bits, from Latin *minūtus* small, MINUTE². —**mincemeat** *n.* 1747, alteration of earlier *minced meat* (1578). —**mincing** *adj.* affectedly dainty (1530).

mind *n.* About 1175 *mynd*; later *minde* (probably before 1200); developed from Old English (before 725) *gemynd* memory; thinking; cognate with Old High German *gimunt* memory, Gothic *gamunds*, (from Proto-Germanic **ga-mundis*), Old High German *minna* love, Old Saxon *minnea*, and Old Frisian and Middle Dutch *minne*, developed from the stem of the word for remembrance found in Old Icelandic *minni* and Gothic *gaminthi*, Proto-Germanic **ga-menthijan*. —**v.** Probably before 1350 *minden* remember, notice, turn one's attention to; from the noun. The meaning of care or object is first recorded in 1608. —**mindful** *adj.* (about 1340) —**mindless** *adj.* (before 1400)

mine¹ *pron.* belonging to me. 1100 *mine*, developed from Old English *mīn* mine, my (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *mīn*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *mijn*, Old High German *mīn* (modern German *mein*), Old Icelandic *mínn* (Norwegian, Swedish, and Danish *min*),

and Gothic *meins*, from Proto-Germanic **mīnaz*, an adjective formed from the old genitive (Gothic *meina* of me, Old English *mīn*; reduced in Middle English to *mī* before consonants) of the pronoun.

mine² *n.* pit dug to extract minerals. About 1303 *myne*; borrowed from Old French *mine*, either from the verb in Old French or possibly through Gallo-Romance **mīna*, from Celtic (compare Welsh *myyn* ore, mine, and Irish *mein* ore, mine, from Proto-Celtic **meini-*). —**v.** Probably before 1300 *minen*, borrowed from Old French *miner*, possibly from *mine*, *n.* —**miner** *n.* About 1300 *mynur*, as a surname *Miner* (1212).

mineral *n.* Probably before 1425, a substance obtained by mining; ore of a metal (before 1449); earlier, a variety of the philosophers' stone (before 1393); borrowed from Medieval Latin *mineralis* something mined, from neuter of *mineralis* pertaining to mines, from *minera* mine, and Old French *miniére* mine, from *mine* MINE²; for suffix see -AL¹. —**adj.** Probably before 1425, borrowed from Medieval Latin *mineralis*. —**mineralogy** *n.* 1690, formed from English *mineral*, *n.* + -logy; or borrowed from French *minéralogie* (1649).

mingle *v.* Before 1475 *menglen*, a frequentative form (showing repeated action) of earlier *myngen* to mix (about 1348), and *mengen* (about 1150); developed from Old English (before 800) *mengan*, related to AMONG. Old English *mengan* is cognate with Old Frisian *mendza* to mix, Old Saxon *mengian*, Middle Dutch *menghen* (modern Dutch *mengen*), Old High German and modern German *mengen*, from Proto-Germanic **mangijanan*.

mini- a combining form meaning miniature or minor, as in *minicrisis*, *minicourse*; very short, as in *miniskirt*. Abstracted from *miniature*, but also influenced by *minimum*.

miniature *n.* Before 1586, thing represented on a small scale; borrowed from Italian *miniatura* manuscript illumination or small picture, from past participle of *miniare* to illuminate a manuscript, from Latin *miniāre* to paint red, from *minium* red lead.

Because illuminated pictures in medieval manuscripts were of small size, *miniature* developed the sense of small picture, influenced by association with Latin *min-* expressing smallness in *minor* less, *minimus* least, and *minutus* small. —**adj.** 1714, from the noun. —**miniaturization** *n.* (1947) —**miniaturize** *v.* 1946, formed from English *miniature*, *adj.* + -ize.

minimum *n.* 1663, portion so small that it is indivisible; borrowed from Latin *minimum* smallest (thing), neuter of *minimus* (earlier *minumus*) smallest, superlative to *minor* smaller (see MINOR, MINUS). The meaning of least amount attainable, allowable, etc., is first recorded in 1676. —**adj.** 1810, from the noun. —**minimal** *adj.* 1666, formed in English from Latin *minimus* smallest + English -al¹. —**minimize** *v.* 1802, formed from Latin *minimus* smallest + English -ize.

minion *n.* 1500–20, beloved or favorite person; also, servile dependent (1501); borrowed from Middle French *mignon*, *n.*, a favorite, darling, and *adj.*, dainty, pleasing, favorite, from Old

French *mignot*, perhaps from Celtic (compare Old Irish *mīn* tender, soft); or derived from Old High German *minnja*, *minna* love, memory.

minister *n.* About 1300 *ministre* agent or clergyman; later, servant (about 1325); borrowed from Old French *ministre* servant, learned borrowing from Latin *minister* (genitive *ministri*) servant, priest's assistant, from *minus* less; hence subordinate. In Medieval Latin *minister* had the meaning priest, adopted directly into Middle English. —**v.** Before 1338 *ministren* to serve, administer, perform religious rites; borrowed from Old French *ministrer*, and directly from Latin *ministrare* to serve, from *minister*, *n.*, servant. —**ministerial** *adj.* 1561, borrowed through Middle French *ministériel*, and directly from Late Latin *ministerialis* of a minister, from Latin *ministerium* ministry, from *minister* minister; for suffix see -IAL.

ministration *n.* About 1340 *mynystacyon*, borrowed through Old French *ministration* or directly from Latin *ministratiōnem* (nominative *ministratiō*), from *ministrare* to serve, see MINISTER; for suffix see -ATION.

ministry *n.* About 1200 *menstre* service in religious matters; later *mynisterie* (about 1384); borrowed perhaps from Old French *ministere*, and directly from Latin *ministerium* office or service, from *minister* servant, see MINISTER; for suffix see -RY.

mink *n.* 1431 *myneke* mink fur; possibly borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Danish and Norwegian *mink* and Swedish *mink*). In English *mink* was the name of the fur before it was applied to the animal.

minnow *n.* Before 1425 *menew*, probably related to Old English *myne*, earlier **mynwe* minnow; cognate with Middle Low German *mōne* a kind of fish, modern Dutch *meun*, and Old High German *muniwa* (modern German *Münne*), from Proto-Germanic **muniwōn*. The Middle English forms may have been influenced by Old French *menu* small.

minor *adj.* 1 About 1410, lesser (used to designate smaller plant species); earlier, as part of surnames (1212); borrowed from Latin *minor* lesser, formed as masculine/feminine (on the pattern of *maior*: *maius* greater) to *minus*, though in early Italic times *minus* was not a neuter or even a comparative at all, but a *u*-stem adjective meaning small (compare Greek *miny-* short), from which was formed *minuere* to lessen. 2 About 1230 *meonur*, about 1300 *menor* lesser (used to designate religious orders); borrowed from Old French *menor*, from Latin *minor*; see def. 1.

The general sense of less important, not significant, is first recorded in 1623. —**n.** Probably before 1400, minor premise of a syllogism in logic; borrowed from Medieval Latin *minor*, from Latin *minor*, *adj.*; later, person under legal age (1612); from the adjective in English, probably also influenced by the sense in *minority* (1547). —**minority** *n.* 1533, condition of being smaller; borrowed from Middle French *minorité*, or directly from Medieval Latin *minoritatem* (nominative *minoritas*), from Latin *minor* lesser; for suffix see -ITY.

minster *n.* 1127 *minstre* monastery, church of a monastery; developed from Old English (probably about 750) *mynster*,

from Vulgar Latin **monisterium*, altered from Late Latin *monasterium* MONASTERY.

minstrel *n.* Probably before 1300 *minstrel*, *minestral*, singer or musician; earlier *menestral* a servant (probably before 1200); borrowed from Old French *menestrel* entertainer or servant, from Medieval Latin *ministralis* servant, jester, singer, from Late Latin *ministerialis* imperial household officer, from *ministerialis*, *adj.*, ministerial, from Latin *ministerium* MINISTRY. —**minstrelsy** *n.* Probably before 1300 *minstralsie*, borrowed through Anglo-French *menestralsie*, from Old French *menestrel* minstrel.

mint¹ *n.* sweet-smelling plant. Old English (before 800) *mintē*, borrowed from Latin *menta*, *mentha* mint. Other early Germanic borrowings from the Latin include Old Saxon *mintā* mint, Middle Dutch *mente*, *mintē*, and Old High German *minza*.

mint² *n.* 1423 *mynt* coin, money, place where money is coined, earlier (before 1200) *munet* coin, money; developed from Old English (about 700) *mynit* coin, an early borrowing (like Old Frisian *menote*, *munte* coin, Old Saxon *munita*, Middle Dutch *munte*, and Old High German *munizza*), from Latin *monēta* mint; see MONEY. —**v.** 1546, from the noun. —**adj.** in perfect condition, as a freshly minted coin (1902).

minuend *n.* 1706, borrowed from Latin *minuendus* to be made smaller, gerundive form of *minuere* to lessen.

minuet *n.* 1673, borrowed from French *menuet*, from Old French *menuet*, *adj.*, small, delicate, from *menu* small, from Latin *minūtus* small, MINUTE² (so called from the small steps taken in the dance); for suffix see -ET. The spelling English was influenced by Italian *minuetto*.

minus *prep.* 1481–90 *mynus*, borrowed from Latin *minus* less, neuter of *minor* smaller, MINOR. The sense in English of subtracted from, probably originated in the commercial language of the Middle Ages, perhaps first used by German merchants next to a number to indicate a deficiency in weight or measure. —**adj.** 1789, from the preposition. —**n.** 1654, from the preposition.

minuscule *adj.* 1893, extremely small, an extended sense of the meaning of small letter, not capital (1727–41); borrowing of French *minuscule*, learned borrowing from Latin *minuscula* in *minuscula littera* slightly smaller letter, feminine of *minusculus* rather less, diminutive of *minus* less, MINUS.

minute¹ *n.* About 1378, one sixtieth of an hour or degree; borrowed from Old French *minut*, or directly from Medieval Latin *minuta* minute, short note, from Latin *minūta*, feminine of *minūtus* small, MINUTE². The plural *minutes*, in the sense of a record of proceedings developed about 1710.

minute² *adj.* 1472, very small, borrowed from Latin *minūtus* small, past participle of *minuere* lessen.

minutiae *n. pl.* 1751, borrowing of Late Latin *minūtiae* trifles, plural of Latin *minūtia* smallness, from *minūtus* small, MINUTE².

minx *n.* 1542 *mynx* a pet dog, of uncertain origin; later, a pert girl, hussy (1592), perhaps a shortened form of earlier *minikins* a girl or woman (before 1550); borrowed from Middle Dutch *minnekeijn* darling, beloved (*minne* love + *-kijn* -kin, diminutive suffix).

miracle *n.* 1137, borrowing of Old French *miracle*, from Latin *mirāculum* object of wonder (in church Latin, a marvelous event by the intervention of God), from *mirārī* to wonder at, from *mirus* wonderful, earlier **smetros*. —**miraculous** *adj.* Before 1410 (implied in *myraculosly*); borrowed through Middle French *miraculeux*, or directly from Medieval Latin *miraculosus*, from Latin *mirāculum* miracle; for suffix see -OUS.

mirage *n.* 1812, borrowing of French *mirage*, from *mīrer* look at, *se mīrer* look at oneself in a mirror, be reflected, from Latin *mīrāre*, variant of *mīrārī* to wonder at, see MIRACLE; for suffix see -AGE.

mire *n.* 1219, in the compound *mirepit* muddy hole; later *muir* a swampy place (1300), and *myre* (before 1338); borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *mýrr* bog, swamp, cognate with Old English *mos* bog; see MOSS). —**v.** Probably about 1400, (figurative use) to involve in difficulties; from the noun.

mirror *n.* About 1250 *mirour*; borrowed from Old French *miroir* a reflecting glass, *miroier*, from *mīrer* look at, from Latin *mīrāre*, variant of *mīrārī* to wonder at, admire; see MIRACLE. —**v.** 1593, from the noun. The verb also appeared in Middle English *mirouren* to be a model for (probably 1410); also from the noun.

mirth *n.* Probably about 1300 *mirthe* a source of joy; earlier *murthe* (probably about 1150); developed from Old English *myrth* joy or pleasure (before 899); related to *myrge* pleasing, agreeable; for suffix see -TH¹.

mis- a prefix meaning bad or badly, as in *misgovernment*, *misbehave*; wrong or wrongly, as in *mispronunciation*, *misapply*; representing: 1) in native words, Old English *mis-*; cognate with Old Frisian, Old Saxon, Middle Dutch, and modern Dutch *mis-*, Old High German *missa*, *missi-* (modern German *miss-*), Old Icelandic *mis-*, Gothic *missa-*, from Proto-Germanic **missa-*, stem of an ancient past participle, and related to Old English *missan* fail to hit, MISS¹; 2) in borrowed words, Middle English *mis-*, *mes-*; borrowed from Old French *mes-*, from Frankish (compare Old High German *missa-*, *missi-*).

misadventure *n.* Probably before 1300 *misaventour*; borrowed from Old French *mesaventure*, from *mesavenir* to turn out badly (*mes-* *mis-* + *avenir* to happen); and perhaps formed from Middle English *mis-* + *aventure*; see ADVENTURE.

misanthrope *n.* 1563, borrowing of Greek *mīsanthrōpos*; later *misanthrop* (1683), borrowed through Middle French *misanthrope*, or directly from Greek *mīsanthrōpos* hating mankind (*mīsein* to hate + *ánthrōpos* man). —**misanthropic** *adj.* 1762, a shortened form of earlier *misanthropical* (1621). —**misanthropy** *n.* 1656, borrowed from French *misanthropie*, from Greek *mīsanthrōpía*, from *mīsanthrōpos*; for suffix see -Y³.

misbehave *v.* 1451, implied in *misbehaving*; formed from *mis-* + *behave*. —**misbehavior** *n.* (1486)

miscarry *v.* About 1300 *miscaryen* go astray; later, come to harm (about 1340); formed from *mis-* + *caryen* carry. The meaning of deliver a baby before it can live, is first recorded in 1527. The meaning of fail is found in 1607. —**miscarriage** *n.* 1590, mistake, error; formed from *mis-* + *carriage*. The meaning of birth of a baby before it can live is first recorded in 1662.

miscegenation *n.* 1864, formed from Latin *miscēre* to MIX + *genus* race + English -ation.

miscellaneous *adj.* 1637, borrowed from Latin *miscellāneus*, from *miscellus* mixed, diminutive of a lost adjective **misculus* (compare Vulgar Latin **misculāre*), from *miscēre* to mix; for suffix see -OUS. —**miscellany** *n.* 1615, probably borrowed from French *miscellanées*, feminine plural, from Latin *miscellānea*, from neuter plural of *miscellāneus* miscellaneous.

mischief *n.* Probably before 1300 *mischef* misfortune, harm, injury; borrowed from Old French *meschief*, from *meschever* come or bring to grief (*mes-* badly + *chever* happen, come to an end, from Vulgar Latin **capāre*, from **capum* head, from Latin *caput* HEAD). The meaning of playful behavior, is first recorded in 1784. —**mischievous** *adj.* Before 1350 *myschevous* miserable, calamitous, formed from *mischef* misfortune + -ous. The meaning of disposed to playful behavior, is first recorded in 1676.

miscible *adj.* 1570, borrowed from Medieval Latin *miscibilis* mixable, from Latin *miscēre* to mix; for suffix see -IBLE.

misconstrue *v.* About 1385 *mysconstruuen*; formed from *mys-* + *construuen* construe.

miscreant *adj.* Probably before 1300 *miscreaunt* unbelieving, heathen; borrowing of Old French *mescreant* (*mes-* wrongly + *creant*, present participle of *creire* believe, from Latin *crēdere*); for suffix see -ANT. The meaning of villainous is first recorded in 1593. —**n.** Probably 1383 *myscreaunt* unbeliever, infidel; from the adjective. The meaning of villain is first recorded in 1590.

misdeemeanor *n.* 1487, formed from *mis-* wrong + *demenure* demeanor.

miser *n.* 1542, wretch, wretched, learned borrowing of Latin *miser* unhappy, wretched. The meaning of a person who hoards money, avaricious person, is first recorded about 1560. —**miserly** *adj.* 1593, formed from *miser* + -ly².

miserable *adj.* About 1412, very unhappy, wretched; borrowing of Old French *miserable*, and borrowed directly from Latin *miserābilis* pitiable, lamentable, from *miserārī* to pity, lament, from *miser* wretched; for suffix see -ABLE. —**miser** *n.* About 1375 *miserie* miserable state of mind; borrowed from Old French *miserie*, learned borrowing from Latin *miseria* wretchedness, from *miser* wretched; for suffix see -Y³.

misfeasance *n.* 1596, borrowed from Middle French *mesfaisance*, from *mesfaisant*, present participle of Old French *mesfaire* to misdo (*mes-* wrongly + *faire* do, from Latin *facere* to perform); for suffix see -ANCE.

misgiving *n.* 1601, formed from earlier *misgive* to cause to feel doubt (1513) + *-ing*¹.

misshap *n.* Before 1250, bad luck; formed from *mis-* + *hap* luck.

mismatch *n.* About 1475 *mysse-masche*; probably imitative reduplication of *mash*¹ soft mixture, possibly influenced by *misbad* (see *MIS-*). Compare German *Mischmasch* mishmash, from reduplication of *mischen* to mix.

misnomer *n.* 1455 *misnourer* mistake in naming; borrowed from Middle French *mesnourer* to misname (*mes-* wrongly + *nourer* to name, from Latin *nōmināre* nominate); for suffix see *-ER*³.

misogamy *n.* 1656, borrowed from New Latin *misogamia*, formed from Greek *misos* hatred + *gamos* marriage; for suffix see *-GAMY* and *-Y*³.

misogyny *n.* 1656, borrowed from Greek *misogynīā*, from *misogynēs* woman hater (*misos* hatred + *gynē* woman); for suffix see *-Y*³. Also possibly a back formation in English from earlier *misogynist*. —**misogynist** *n.* 1620, formed from Greek *misogynēs* woman hater + English *-ist*.

misprision *n.* 1425, borrowed through Anglo-French *misprision*, Old French *mesprison*, from *mespris*, past participle of *mesprendre* to mistake or act wrongly (*mes-* wrongly + *prendre* take, from Latin *prēndere*, contracted from *prehendere* seize); for suffix see *-ION*.

miss¹ *v.* fail to hit, attain, etc. Probably before 1200 *missen* fail to obtain, discover to be absent, lack; developed from Old English *missan* fail to hit (about 725, in *Beowulf*) and probably from Old Icelandic *missa* to miss or lack. The Old English and Old Icelandic forms are cognate with Old Frisian *missa* to miss, Middle Low German, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *missen*, Old High German *missan* (modern German *missen*), from Proto-Germanic **missijanan*, formed from a noun **missan* (whence Old English *miss* loss). —**n.** Probably about 1175 *mis* loss, lack; developed from Old English *missan* and from Old Icelandic *missa* to miss; from the verb. The meaning of a failure to hit, is first recorded in 1555 (an earlier form *mis-yengen* to miss the mark with an arrow, is recorded about 1250). —**missing** *adj.* 1530, absent; formed from *miss*¹ + *-ing*². Earlier as a noun with the meaning of absence (before 1325); formed from *missen* *miss*¹ + *-ing* *-ing*¹.

miss² *n.* girl, young woman. 1645, prostitute or concubine, shortened form of *MISTRESS*. The meaning of young unmarried woman, girl, is first recorded in 1666–67.

missal *n.* Probably before 1300 *messel* book of the Mass; later *missale* (before 1400); borrowed from Old French *messel* and directly from Medieval Latin *missale*, from Late Latin *missa* *MASS*.

missile *n.* 1656, borrowed from French *missile*, and directly from Latin *missile* weapon that can be thrown, from neuter of *missilis*, *adj.*, capable of being thrown, from *missus*, past partici-

ple of *mittere* to send. The meaning of a self-propelled rocket or bomb, is first recorded in 1738.

mission *n.* 1598, act of sending on some special work; errand; borrowed from Middle French *mission*, and directly from Latin *missiōnem* (nominative *missiō*) act of sending, from *mittere* to send; for suffix see *-SION*. The sense of *diplomatic mission* or *religious mission* is first recorded in 1622, and that of a headquarters of a mission, in 1769. —**missionary** *n.* 1656, from the earlier adjective, sent on a mission (1644); borrowed from New Latin *missionarius* pertaining to a mission, from Latin *missiōnem* (nominative *missiō*) mission; for suffix see *-ARY*.

missive *n.* 1501, from the earlier adjective, sent by a superior authority (1444); borrowed from Medieval Latin *missivus* for sending, sent, from Latin *missus*, past participle of *mittere* to send; for suffix see *-IVE*.

mist *n.* Old English *mist* dimness, mist (875); earlier, in compounds *misthleothu* misty cliffs, *wælmist* the mist of death (about 725); cognate with Middle Low German, Middle Dutch, and modern Dutch *mist* mist, modern Icelandic *mistur*, Norwegian *mist*, and Swedish *mist*, from Proto-Germanic **miHstaz*. —**v.** Before 1300 *misten*; developed from Old English (about 1000) *mistian* to grow dim, mist, from *mist*, *n.* —**misty** *adj.* About 1325 *mysty*; developed from Old English *mistig* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); formed from *mist* *mist* + *-ig* *-y*¹.

mistake *v.* Before 1338 *mistaken* to transgress; later, misunderstand (before 1393); borrowed from a Scandinavian source; compare Old Icelandic *mistaka* take by mistake, miscarry (*mis* wrongly + *taka* TAKE). —**n.** 1638, from the verb.

mister *n.* 1447–48 as abbreviated form *Mr.*; later unaccented variant of *MASTER* (1551).

mistletoe *n.* Probably about 1125 *mistelta*; later *mistelto* (probably before 1425); developed from Old English (about 1000) *mistiltān* (*mistel* mistletoe + *tān* twig); earlier *mistel* (about 700) is cognate with Old Saxon *mistil* mistletoe, Old High German *mistil* (modern German *Mistel*), modern Dutch *mistel*, and Old Icelandic *mistilteinn* (Swedish *mistel*, Norwegian *misteltein*, and Danish *mistelten*) mistletoe, from Proto-Germanic **miH-stilaz*.

mistral *n.* 1604, borrowing of French *mistral*, from Provençal *mistral*, *n.*, literally, the dominant wind, from *mistral*, *adj.*, dominant, from Latin *magistrālis* dominant, from *magister* master; for suffix see *-AL*¹.

mistress *n.* Probably before 1300 *maistresse* woman at the head of a household; borrowing of Old French *maistresse*, feminine of *maistre* master.

mite¹ *n.* tiny animal. 1373 *myte*; developed from Old English (about 1000) *mīte*; cognate with Middle Dutch *mite* mite (modern Dutch *mijt*), Middle Low German *mite*, and Old High German *mīza* mite, from Proto-Germanic **mītōn* “the cutter.”

mite² *n.* Before 1375, little bit or jot; borrowed from Middle Dutch or Middle Low German *mite* tiny animal, *MITE*¹.

miter¹ *n.* tall folded cap worn by bishops. About 1303 *mytyr*, later *mitre* (probably about 1350); borrowed from Old French *mitre*, and directly from Latin *mitra*, from Greek *mītrā* headband or turban.

miter² *n.* miter, as in *miter joint*, *square*, etc. 1678, perhaps a special use of MITER¹, in reference to the joining of the two peaks in a bishop's miter (also known in *mitrum square* for making mitered joints, perhaps as early as the 1100's), or perhaps ultimately adapted from Greek *mītos* a thread of the woof, joined at right angles to the thread of the warp in weaving. —*v.* 1731

mitigate *v.* Probably before 1425, relieve pain, abate; borrowed from Latin *mītigātus*, past participle of *mītigāre* make mild or gentle, from a lost adjective **mītigus* making mild, formed from *mītis* gentle, soft + *-igus*, from the root of *agere* do, make, act; for suffix see -ATE¹.

In some instances Middle English *mitigate* is probably a back formation from earlier *mytygacioun* mitigation. —**mitigation** *n.* Before 1376 *mytygacioun*; borrowed probably from Old French *mitigation*, and directly from Latin *mītigātiōnem* (nominative *mītigātiō*) soothing, from *mītigāre*; for suffix see -ATION.

mitosis *n.* 1887, New Latin; formed from Greek *mītos* warp thread + New Latin *-osis* act or process; so called because the chromatin of the cell nucleus appears as long threads in the first stage of mitosis.

mitt *n.* 1765, shortened form of MITTEN. The meaning of a baseball glove, is first found in 1902.

mitten *n.* About 1390 *miteyn*; earlier in a surname *Mytayn* (1248), and *mytten* (probably 1440); borrowed from Old French *mitaine* mitten, half-glove, from Old French *mīte* mitten; and blending with Medieval Latin *mītta*, perhaps from Middle High German *mittemo*, Old High German *mittamo* middle, midmost in the sense of half-glove.

mix *v.* 1538, developed as a back formation from earlier *myxte* mixed (probably before 1425); borrowed through Anglo-French *mixte*, learned borrowing from Latin *mixtus*, past participle of *miscēre* to mix, which was borrowed early by certain Germanic languages (compare Old English *miscian* and Old High German *miskan*). —*n.* About 1586; from the verb. —**mixer** 1611, person who mixes; later a machine for mixing (1876). —**mixture** *n.* Probably before 1425, borrowed from Middle French *mixture*, *mixture*, and directly from Latin *mixtura*, from *mixtus*, past participle.

mizzen *n.* 1413–20 *mesan* (as in *mesan mast*); later *myson* (1466–67); borrowed from Middle French *misaine* foresail, foremast, alteration (influenced by Italian *mezzana* mizzen) of Old French *migenne*, from Catalan *mitjana*, from Latin *mediānus* of the middle, MEDIAN.

mnemonic *adj.* 1753, either a back formation from earlier *mnemonics*, or borrowed from Greek *mnēmōnikós* of or pertaining to memory, from *mnēmōn* (genitive *mnēmōnos*) remembering, mindful, from *mnāsthai* remember; for suffix see -IC. —**mnemonics** *n.* 1721, borrowed from New Latin *mne-*

monica, from Greek *mnēmōniká*, neuter plural of *mnēmōnikós* mnemonic; for suffix see -ICS.

moan *n.* Probably before 1200 *man* complaint, lamentation; later *mon*, *mone* (before 1250); developed from Old English **mān* complaint (from Proto-Germanic **main-*), related to *mānan* complain, moan; also, tell, intend; whence obsolete English *mean*¹ complain. The meaning of sound of suffering is first recorded in 1673. —*v.* About 1250 *monen* to lament, mourn; developed from *mon* lamentation. The meaning of make a mournful sound is first recorded in 1724.

moat *n.* 1300 *mote* mound or embankment; later, ditch surrounding a castle (before 1376); borrowed from Old French *mote* or Medieval Latin *mota* mound, fortified height; of uncertain origin.

mob *n.* 1688, disorderly crowd or rabble, shortened form of earlier *mobile* (pronounced *mob'ilē*) the common people, the populace, rabble (1676); borrowed from Latin *mōbile vulgus* fickle common people; *mōbile*, neuter of *mōbilis* fickle, movable, MOBILE. —*v.* 1709, from the noun. —**mobster** *n.* 1917, from *mob*, *n.* + *-ster*.

mobile *adj.* 1490, borrowing of Middle French *mobile*, learned borrowing from Latin *mōbilis* movable, shortened form of **movibilis*, from *movēre* to MOVE. —*n.* Probably before 1430, outermost sphere of the universe; borrowed from Latin *mōbilis*. 1549, a prime mover (in philosophical works); later, a body in motion (before 1676); borrowed from Middle French *mobile* and reborrowed from Latin *mōbilis*. The meaning of a mobile sculpture (*mō'bēl*), is first recorded in 1949; from the adjective, influenced by *mobile sculpture* (1936). —**mobility** *n.* Probably before 1425 *mobilitē* capacity for motion; borrowed from Middle French *mobilité*, from Latin *mōbilitātem* (nominative *mōbilitās*) capacity to move, from *mōbilis* mobile; for suffix see -ITY.

mobilize *v.* 1838, put into circulation; borrowed from French *mobiliser*, from *mobile* movable, MOBILE; for suffix see -IZE. The meaning of call (troops) into active service, is first recorded in 1853. The sense of put (forces, energy, resources) into service, is found in 1871. —**mobilization** *n.* 1799, a putting into circulation; borrowed from French *mobilisation*, from *mobiliser* mobilize; for suffix see -IZATION.

moccasin *n.* 1612, borrowed from Algonquian, probably of a Virginia tribe (compare Powhatan *mākāsīn* shoe, Ojibwa *makisīn*). French *moccasin* was borrowed from English.

mocha *n.* 1773, in allusion to *Mocha*, a seaport in Southern Yemen from which mocha was originally exported. The meaning of a mixture of coffee and chocolate, used as a flavoring, is first recorded in 1849.

mock *v.* Probably before 1430 *mokken* to deceive; later *mocken* to make fun of (probably about 1450); borrowed from Middle French *mocquer* deride, jeer, from Old French, of uncertain origin (sometimes said to represent a Vulgar Latin **muccāre* to wipe the nose in the sense of a derisive gesture; others suggest comparison with Germanic forms, such as Middle Dutch *mocken* to mumble, Middle Low German *mucken* to mumble,

grumble; perhaps ultimately of imitative origin). —**adj.** 1548, adjective use of earlier *mokke*, n., act of mocking, jest, trick (about 1425); from the verb. —**mockery** n. Probably before 1430 *mokerye*; borrowed from Middle French *moquerie*, from Old French, from *moquer* to mock; for suffix see -ERY.

modal *adj.* 1569, (in logic) involving affirmation of a proposition; borrowed from Middle French *modal*, and directly from Medieval Latin *modalis* of or pertaining to a mode, from Latin *modus* measure, manner, *MODE*. The meaning of pertaining to mode or form, is first recorded in 1625; the sense in grammar first appears in 1798. —**modality** n. Before 1617, quality of being modal; borrowed from French *modalité*, or directly from Medieval Latin *modalitatem* (nominative *modalitas*) a being modal, from *modalis* modal, see *MODAL*; for suffix see -ITY. The meaning of a particular mode, method, or procedure, is first recorded in 1957.

mode¹ n. manner. About 1380 *moedes*, pl., melodies, songs; later *mode* grammatical mood; *MOOD*² (about 1450); borrowed from Latin *modus* measure, rhythm, song, manner; related to *meditārī* to think or reflect upon, consider. The meaning of manner in which a thing is done, is first recorded in 1667.

mode² n. current fashion. About 1645; borrowed from French *mode*, learned borrowing from Latin *modus* manner, *MODE*¹. —**modish** *adj.* 1660, formed from English *mode*² + -ish.

model n. 1575, a likeness made to scale; borrowed from Middle French *modèle*, from Italian *modello* a model, mold, from Vulgar Latin **modellus*, diminutive of Latin *modulus* measure, standard, diminutive of *modus* manner, measure, *MODE*¹. The meaning of a thing or person to be imitated is first recorded in 1639, suggested in the earlier sense of a person or thing that is the likeness of another (1593). —**v.** 1604, to present as in a model; borrowed from French *modeler*, or developed from the noun in English. —**adj.** 1844, from the noun.

modern n. device used in telecommunications to convert digital signals to analog form and vice versa. 1961, formed from *mo(dulator)* + *dem(odulator)*.

moderate *adj.* 1392 *moderat*, borrowed from Latin *moderātus*, past participle of *moderārī* to regulate, from a pre-Latin stem **medes-* (compare *modestus* *MODEST*); for suffix see -ATE¹. —**v.** Probably before 1425 *moderaten*, probably from *moderate*, *adj.*, by influence of Latin *moderātus*, past participle. The meaning of regulate or preside over (a debate, etc.), is first recorded in 1577. —**n.** 1794, from the adjective. —**moderation** n. Probably before 1425 *moderacioun* quality of being moderate; borrowed from Middle French *modération*, from Latin *moderātiōnem* (nominative *moderātiō*), from *moderārī*; for suffix see -ATION. —**moderator** n. Before 1398 *moderatur*, borrowed from Latin *moderātor*, from *moderārī*; for suffix see -OR².

modern *adj.* 1500–20, now existing, extant; later, of present and recent times (1585); borrowed from Middle French *mod-*

erne, and directly from Late Latin *modernus*, (probably patterned on *hodiernus* of today) from Latin *modo* just now, in a (certain) manner, from *modō*, ablative case of *modus* manner, *MODE*¹. —**n.** 1585, from the adjective. —**modernism** n. (1737) Use of *modernism* as a cover term for the movement or style away from classical or traditional modes in art, architecture, literature, etc. is first recorded in 1929. —**modernistic** *adj.* (1909) —**modernize** v. (1748)

modest *adj.* 1565, probably a back formation from *modesty*, and in some instances borrowed from Middle French *modeste*, or directly from Latin *modestus* modest, moderate, in due measure, from a pre-Latin stem **medes-*; related to *modus* measure, manner, *MODE*¹. —**modesty** n. 1531, moderation; also, the quality of being modest (1553); borrowed from Middle French *modestie*, or directly from Latin *modestia* moderation, from *modestus* moderate; for suffix see -Y³.

modicum n. About 1470 (Scottish), borrowing of Latin *modicum*, neuter of *modicus* moderate, from *modus* measure, manner, *MODE*¹.

modify v. About 1385 *modifyen* to alter, amend; borrowed from Old French *modifier*, learned borrowing from Latin *modificāre* to limit, restrain, from a lost adjective **modificus* regulating, forming according to rule (*modus* measure, manner, *MODE*¹ + the root of *facere* to make); for suffix see -FY. —**modification** n. 1502, a bringing into a particular mode; borrowed from Middle French *modification*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *modificātiōnem* (nominative *modificātiō*) a measuring, from *modificāre*; for suffix see -ATION. The meaning of a partial alteration is first recorded in 1774.

modular *adj.* 1798, (in mathematics) borrowed from New Latin *modularis*, from *modulus* small measure; see *MODULE*; for suffix see -AR. The meaning of having to do with interchangeable units, is first recorded in 1936.

modulate v. 1615, probably a back formation from *modulation*, perhaps influenced by Latin *modulātus*, past participle of *modulārī* regulate, measure rhythmically. —**modulation** n. Before 1398 *modulacioun* act of making music, air or melody; borrowed from Old French *modulation*, or directly from Latin *modulātiōnem* (nominative *modulātiō*) rhythmical measure, singing and playing, melody, from *modulārī*; for suffix see -ATION.

module n. 1586, scale or allotted measure; later, standard for measuring (before 1628); borrowed through Middle French *module*, or directly from Latin *modulus* small measure, diminutive of *modus* measure, manner, *MODE*¹; for suffix see -ULE. The meaning of any interchangeable part, is first recorded in 1955.

mogul¹ n. powerful person. 1678, from *Mogul* Mongol, as conqueror of India (1588); borrowed from Persian and Arabic *mughal*, *mughul*, alteration of *Mongol* member of an Asiatic people.

mogul² n. elevation on a ski slope. 1961, probably borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare dialectal Norwegian

muge, *mugje*, feminine *muga* a heap or mound); the form suggests influence of English *mogul*¹.

mohair *n.* 1619, alteration (by association with *hair*) of earlier *mocayare* (1570); borrowed from Middle French *mocayart*, and from obsolete Italian *mocaiarro*, both from Arabic *mukhayyar* cloth of goat hair; literally, selected or choice, from *khayyara* he chose.

moire *n.* 1660, watered mohair, later, watered silk; borrowing of French *moire* fabric having a wavelike appearance, especially watered mohair; earlier *mouaire*, probably alteration of English MOHAIR.

moist *adj.* 1373, borrowed from Old French *moiste* damp, alteration (influenced by Latin *musteus* juicy from *mustum* fresh, MUST²) of Vulgar Latin **mucidus* moldy, altered from Latin *mucidus* slimy, moldy, musty, from *mucus* slime, MUCUS. —**moisten** *v.* 1580 (implied in *moistened*); formed from English *moist* + *-en*¹. Middle English *moisten* (about 1325, borrowed from Old French *moistir* and *enmoistir*) would have developed into the form *moist* in modern English, but was replaced after 1500 with a new formation based on the adjective. —**moisture** *n.* About 1350 *moysture*; borrowed from Old French *moisture*, *moistour*, from *moiste* moist; for suffix see -URE. —**moisturize** *v.* 1945, formed from *moisture* + *-ize*.

mol *n.* See MOLE⁴.

molar¹ *n.* tooth for grinding. About 1350, borrowed from Latin *molāris dēns* grinding tooth, from *mola* millstone; for suffix see -AR. —**adj.** 1626, from the noun.

molar² *adj.* one mole or gram molecule of a substance. 1902, formed from English MOLE⁴ + *-ar*.

molasses *n.* 1582 *melasus*, borrowed from Portuguese *melaço*, from Late Latin *mallaceum* new wine, MUST², from Latin *mel* (genitive *mellis*) honey. The spelling with *o* in the form *molasses*, is unaccounted for.

mold¹ *n.* hollow shape for casting. Probably before 1200 *molde* fashion, form, nature, character; later *mold* pattern on which something is made (before 1300); borrowed from Old French *molde*, *molle* mold, measure, from Latin *modulus* measure, model, diminutive of *modus* manner, MODE¹. —**v.** About 1350 *molden* to form, knead (dough) into shape; from the noun. —**molding** *n.* 1327, kneading, shaping; later, architectural ornamentation (1643).

mold² *n.* fungus growth. Before 1400 *molde*, probably developed from *mouled*, *moulde*, past participle of *moulen* to grow moldy (about 1390; earlier *muhelin*, before 1200); cognate with Old Icelandic *mygla* (Swedish *mögla*, Danish *mugle*) grow moldy; possibly related to *mugga* drizzle; see MUGGY. —**v.** Probably before 1500 *moulden*; from the noun; replacing *moulen* (about 1390). —**moldy** *adj.* 1570, formed from *mold*, *n.* + *-y*¹; replacing *mowly* (before 1398); formed from *moulen* grow moldy + *-y*¹.

mold³ *n.* loose earth. Old English (before 725) *molde* earth, soil, dust; cognate with Old Frisian *molde* earth, soil, Middle

Dutch *monde*, Old High German *molta*, Old Icelandic *mold* (Swedish *mull*, Norwegian *mold*), and Gothic *mulda*, from Proto-Germanic **muldō*. —**moldboard** *n.* 1508, formed from *mold*³ + *board*, *n.*; replacing earlier *moldebredd* (1343); formed from *molde* *mold*³ + *bredd* board.

molder *v.* 1531, probably a frequentative form of *mold*³ loose earth.

mole¹ *n.* spot on the skin. 1373 *moyle* stain; later *mole* spot on the skin (before 1398); developed from Old English *māl* spot, mark, mole (about 1000); cognate with Old High German *meil* spot or mark (modern German *Mal*), and Gothic *mail* wrinkle, from Proto-Germanic **mailan*.

mole² *n.* burrowing mammal. 1362 *mol*; later *molle*, *molde* (about 1400), probably related to Old English *molde* earth, soil; see MOLD³ loose earth. Corresponding forms are found in Old Frisian *moll* mole, Middle Low German *mol*, *mul*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *mol*. The sense of an intelligence agent entrenched in legitimate activities before spying, is first recorded in 1976. —**molehill** *n.* (about 1450)

mole³ *n.* pier or breakwater. Before 1548, borrowed from Middle French *môle* breakwater, from Italian *molo*, from Medieval Greek *mōlos* from Latin *mōlēs* mass, massive structure, barrier.

mole⁴ or **mol** *n.* molecular weight. 1902, borrowed from German *Mol*, shortened form of *Molekül*, from French *molécule*, from New Latin *molecula* MOLECULE.

molecule *n.* 1794, borrowed from French *molécule* (1674), from New Latin *molecula* a molecule, diminutive of Latin *mōlēs* mass, barrier. New Latin *molecula* is recorded in English contexts as early as 1678. —**molecular** *adj.* 1823, formed perhaps through influence of French *moléculaire*, from New Latin *molecula* molecule + English *-ar*.

molest *v.* About 1385 *molesten*, borrowed from Old French *molester*, and directly from Latin *molestāre* to disturb, trouble, annoy, from *molestus* troublesome, related to *mōlēs* trouble or barrier. —**molestation** *n.* Probably about 1400 *molestacioun*, borrowed from Old French *molestation* from *molester* molest, and directly from Medieval Latin *molestationem* (nominative *molestatio*), from Latin *molestāre*; for suffix see -ATION.

moll *n.* 1567, feminine personal name; later, a prostitute (1604), and a female companion of a thief (1823); developed as a shortened form of *Molly*.

mollify *v.* 1392 *mollifien* to soften; borrowed from Old French *mollifier*, or directly from Late Latin *mollificāre* make soft, mollify, from *mollificus* softening (Latin *mollis* soft + the root of *facere* make); for suffix see -FY.

mollusk *n.* 1783 *mollusque*, borrowing of French *mollusque*, learned borrowing from New Latin *Mollusca*, an order in biological classification, from Latin *mollusca*, neuter plural of *molluscus* thin-shelled, from *mollis* soft. The spelling *mollusk* is first recorded in English in 1839.

mollycoddle *n.* 1849, from *Molly*, proper name + *coddle*. —*v.* 1870, from the noun.

molt *v.* 1591, alteration of Middle English *mouten* (before 1400); developed from Old English *-mūtian* (as in *bemūtian* to exchange), from Latin *mūtāre* to change. The modern spelling with *-l-* developed on the analogy of words like *assault* and *fault*, in which the *l* was inserted to attaining supposedly correct spelling. —*n.* 1815, from the verb.

molten *adj.* About 1150 *molten* dissolved by water; later *molten* made liquid by heat (about 1300), from past participle of *melten* to MELT.

molybdenum *n.* 1816, silver-white metallic chemical element, New Latin, alteration of earlier *molybdena* any of several ores of lead (1693), from Latin *molybdaena*, from Greek *molybdaina*, from *molybdos* lead.

mom *n.* 1894, shortened form of earlier *momma* (1884), alteration of MAMMA¹. —**mommy** *n.* 1902, alteration of earlier MAMMY. British has similar formations in *mum* (1823) and *mummy* (1839).

moment *n.* About 1380, borrowed from Old French *moment*, or directly from Latin *mōmentum* movement, movement of time, instant, moving power, consequence, importance, contraction of **movimentum*, from *movēre* to MOVE; for suffix see -MENT. —**momentarily** *adv.* 1654–66, for a moment; formed from English *momentary* + *-ly*¹. The meaning of at any moment, is first recorded in 1928. —**momentary** *adj.* About 1460 *momentare*; borrowed from Latin *mōmentārius*, from *mōmentum* moment; for suffix see -ARY. —**momentous** *adj.* 1656, formed from English *moment* importance + *-ous*. An earlier meaning of having momentum, is first recorded in 1652.

momentum *n.* 1699, borrowing of Latin *mōmentum* movement, moving power.

mon- a form of *mono-* before a vowel, as in *monaural*.

monarch *n.* Probably before 1439 *monarke*; later *monarcha* (before 1449; borrowed from Middle French *monarque*, or directly from Late Latin *monarcha*, from Greek *monárchēs*, *mónarchos* (mónos alone, single + *árchein* to rule). —**monarchy** *n.* Probably before 1350 *monarchie*; borrowed from Old French, from Late Latin *monarchia*, from Greek *monarchiā* absolute rule, from *monárchēs*, *mónarchos* monarch; for suffix see -Y³.

monastery *n.* About 1400 *monasterye*; borrowed from Old French *monastere*, and directly from Late Latin *monastērium*, from Late Greek *monastērion* a monastery, from Greek *monázēin* to live alone + *-tērion* place for (doing something).

monastic *adj.* About 1449 *monastike*; borrowed from Middle French *monastique*, or directly from Late Latin *monasticus*, from Late Greek *monastikós* solitary, pertaining to a monk, from Greek *monázēin* to live alone; for suffix see -IC. —*n.* 1632, from the adjective. —**monasticism** *n.* 1795, formed from *monastic* + *-ism*.

Monday *n.* Probably before 1200 *monedæi*; developed from

Old English (about 1000) *mōnandæg*, *mōndæg*, literally, day of the moon (*mōnan*, genitive of *mōna* MOON + *dæg* DAY), corresponding to Old Frisian *mōnadei* Monday, Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *mānendach* (modern Dutch *Maandag*), Old High German *mānetag* (modern German *Montag*), and Old Icelandic *mānadagr* (Swedish *måndag*, Danish, and Norwegian *manadag*), all translations of Latin *lūnae diēs* day of the moon.

monetary *adj.* 1802–12, borrowed, perhaps through influence of French *monétaire*, from Late Latin *monētārius* pertaining to money; originally, of the mint, from Latin *monēta* mint, coinage; see MONEY; for suffix see -ARY. —**monetarism** *n.* 1969, from *monetarist*, on the analogy of such pairs as *capitalist*, *capitalism*; for suffix see -ISM. —**monetarist** *n.* 1963, formed from English *monetary* + *-ist*. Earlier, found as adjective, meaning “of a monetary character or on a monetary basis” (1914).

money *n.* About 1250 *moonay*; later *mone* (about 1300), and *moneie* (before 1325); borrowed from Old French *moneie*, from Latin *monēta* mint, coinage, from *Monēta* a cult title of the goddess Juno in whose temple at Rome money was coined; hence any place used as a mint. —**moneyed** *adj.* 1457 *monyed*; formed from the past participle of earlier *monien* to supply with money (1450), from *moneie* money. —**monies** *n. pl.* About 1300 *mones* coins. The meaning of sums of money is first recorded in 1625.

monger *n.* Before 1200 *mangare*; later *mongere* (1274); developed from Old English (before 975) *mangere*; borrowed from Latin *mangō* (genitive *mangōnis*) trader, dealer, from Greek **mángōn* related to *márganon* contrivance, means of enchanting; for suffix see -ER¹. The combining form *-monger* (as in *fishmonger*, *newsmonger*) is found in Middle English, as early as 1193 (*haymonger*). —*v.* 1928, in the figurative sense of spread (gossip or other evil); from the noun.

mongoose *n.* 1698, borrowed from an Indic language (compare Marathi *mangūs* mongoose), apparently ultimately from Dravidian (compare Telugu *mangisu* mongoose, Kanarese *mungisi*).

mongrel *n.* About 1460, heraldic term for a kind of dog, probably one of mixed breed, developed from earlier *mong* mixture (probably before 1200), and *mange* (about 1175); developed from Old English (about 700) *gemang*, *gemong* mingling; for suffix compare PICKEREL. —*adj.* 1576, from the noun.

monition *n.* About 1400 *monicioun* warning, borrowed from Old French *monition*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *monitiōnem* (nominative *monitiō*) warning, reminding, from *monēre* to warn; see MONITOR; for suffix see -TION.

monitor *n.* 1546, borrowing of Latin *monitor* one who reminds, admonishes, or checks, from *monēre* admonish, warn, advise, related to *memini* I remember, I am mindful of, and *mēns* MIND; for suffix see -OR². —*v.* 1818, to guide; from the noun. —**monitory** *adj.* 1586 *monitorie*, developed from earlier noun *monytorie* letter of admonition (1437); borrowed from Medieval Latin *monitoria* admonition, from Latin *mon-*

itōrius admonishing, from *monēre* admonish; for suffix see -ORY.

monk *n.* Before 1121 *munc*; later *munk* (probably before 1220), and *monk* (before 1300); developed from Old English *munuc* (before 899); borrowed from Late Latin *monachus* monk; originally, a religious hermit, from Late Greek *monachós* monk, from Greek, *adj.*, individual or solitary, from *mónos* alone, single.

monkey *n.* 1530, possibly borrowed from Middle Low German *Moneke* (a term conceivably introduced by itinerant German entertainers), perhaps developed as an allusion to *Moneke*, son of Martin the Ape in the medieval beast epic *Reynard the Fox*; or perhaps borrowed directly from Italian *monna* or Spanish *mona* monkey + *-key*, a probable diminutive form. —*v.* 1859, to mimic; later, to fool, play (1881); from the noun.

mono- a combining form meaning one, sole, single, occurring in words adopted from existing Greek compounds, such as *monogram*, *monologue*, *monopoly*; also used to form words in English, mostly of a technical or scientific character, such as *monosyllable*, *monopetalous*, and often combined (instead of *uni-*) with a Latin element, as in *monocellular*. Borrowed from Greek *mono-*, from *mónos* single, alone.

monochrome *n.* 1662, borrowed from Medieval Latin *monochroma*, from Greek *monóchrōmos* of a single color (*mono-* single + *chrōma*, genitive *chrōmatos*, color, complexion, skin). —*adj.* 1849, from the noun.

monocle *n.* 1886, borrowing of French *monocle*, learned borrowing from Late Latin *monoculus* one-eyed (*mono-* one, single, from Greek + *oculus* EYE).

monogamy *n.* 1612, borrowed from French *monogamie*, learned borrowing from Late Latin *monogamia*, from Greek *monogamíā*, from *monógamos* marrying only once (*mono-* single, one + *gámos* marriage); for suffix see -GAMY.

monogram *n.* 1696, borrowed through French *monogramme*, or directly from Late Latin *monogramma*, from Late Greek *monógrammon* a character of several letters in one design, from neuter of *monógrammos*, *adj.*, consisting of a single letter (*mono-* one, single + *grámma* letter, something written).

monograph *n.* 1821, formed from English *mono-* single + *graph* something written, replacing *monography* (1773), formed from English *mono-* + *-graphy*.

monolith *n.* 1848, borrowed from French *monolithe*, learned borrowing from Latin *monolithus*, *adj.*, consisting of a single stone, from Greek *monólithos* (*mono-* single + *lithos* stone). The sense of a rigid or unyielding political state, party, or organization, is first recorded in 1940, perhaps suggested by the earlier use of this sense in *monolithic*. —**monolithic** *adj.* 1825, consisting of a monolith, probably formed in English from French *monolithe* + English *-ic*. The sense of like a monolith, massive, and unyielding, is first recorded in 1920.

monologue *n.* 1668, a dramatic soliloquy; borrowing of French *monologue*, from Late Greek *monólogos* speaking alone

(*mono-* alone, single + *lógos* speech, word). The general sense of a long speech or harangue, is first recorded in 1859.

monomer *n.* 1914, formed from English *mono-* one, single + suffixal *-mer*, as in *polymer*.

monomial *n.* 1706, formed from English *mon-* single + *-omial*, abstracted by a false division of *binomial* as if from *bin-* (as in *binary*, *binocular*, and Latin *binī* two at a time) + *-omial*. —*adj.* 1801, from the noun.

mononucleosis *n.* 1920, formed in English from *mononuclear* having one nucleus (1886, *mono-* one + *nuclear*) + New Latin *-osis* abnormal condition.

monoplane *n.* 1907, formed from English *mono-* single + (*aero*)plane.

monopoly *n.* 1534, borrowed from Latin *monopólium*, from Greek *monopólion* right of exclusive sale (*mono-* single + *pólein* to sell). —**monopolistic** *adj.* 1883, formed from English *monopolist* (1601) + *-ic*. —**monopolize** *v.* 1611, formed from English *monopoly* + *-ize*.

monotheism *n.* 1660, formed from English *mono-* single + *the-* god (variant of *theo-*) + *-ism*. —**monotheist** *n.* 1680, derived from English *monotheism*, on the pattern of such pairs as *atheism*, *atheist*. —**monotheistic** *adj.* (1846)

monotony *n.* 1706, borrowed, perhaps through French *monotonie* (1671), from Greek *monotonía*, from *monótonos* monotonous, of one tone (*mono-* one + *tónos* TONE). —**monotone** *n.* 1644, borrowed from Greek *monótonos* monotonous. —**monotonous** *adj.* 1778, borrowed from Greek *monótonos*; for suffix see -OUS.

monoxide *n.* 1869, formed from English *mon-* one + *oxide*.

Monseigneur or **monseigneur** *n.* 1610, French title of honor equivalent to my lord (*mon* my + *seigneur* lord); see SENIOR.

Monsignor or **monsignor** *n.* 1670, title given to certain dignitaries in the Roman Catholic Church; borrowed from Italian *monsignore*, formed after French *monseigneur* MONSEIGNEUR with Italian *signore* lord.

monsoon *n.* 1584, borrowed through early modern Dutch *monsoen*, from Portuguese *monção*, from Arabic *mawsim* appropriate season (for a voyage, pilgrimage, etc.), from *wasama* he marked.

monster *n.* Before 1325 *monstre* abnormal or malformed animal; borrowed from Old French *monstre*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *mōstrum* monster, monstrosity, omen, portent, sign; perhaps related (as from earlier **monistrom*) to *monēre* to warn. Related to DEMONSTRATE. —**monstrosity** *n.* 1402 *monstruosité*; later *monstrosity* (1555); borrowed, probably from Middle French *monstruosité*, from Medieval Latin *monstruositas*, from Latin *mōnstruōsus* monstrous; for suffix see -ITY. —**monstrous** *adj.* About 1380 *monstruous* unnatural, hideous; later *monstrous* (probably before 1430); borrowed from Old French *monstruos*, and directly as a

learned borrowing from Latin *mōnstruōsus* (in Late Latin *mōstrōsus*), from *mōnstrum*; for suffix see -OUS. The meaning of huge, enormous, is first recorded in 1500–20, and that of outrageously wrong or absurd, in 1573–80.

montage *n.* 1929, borrowing of French *montage* a mounting, from Old French *monter* to go up, MOUNT¹.

month *n.* Before 1110 *monthe*, also *moneth* (probably before 1200 through the 1600's); developed from Old English (probably about 750) *mōnath*; *mōnath* cognate with Old Frisian *mōnath* month, Old Saxon *mānoth*, Middle Dutch *mānet* modern Dutch *maand*), Old High German *mānōd* (modern German *Monat*), Old Icelandic *mānadr* (Swedish *månad*, Norwegian and Danish *måned*), and Gothic *mēnōths*; from Proto-Germanic **mēnōth-* (related to *mēnōn*-moon, developing out of the calculation of a month's duration from full moon to full moon). —**monthly** *adv.* (1533–34), *adj.* (1572); formed from English *month* + *-ly*¹ (*adv.*) and *-ly*² (*adj.*).

monument *n.* About 1280, tomb or memorial; borrowed, perhaps through Old French *monument*, and directly from Latin *monumentum* monument, something that reminds, from *monēre* to remind, warn; for suffix see -MENT. —**monumental** *adj.* 1604, formed from English *monument* + *-al*¹.

mooch *v.* 1440 *mychyn* to pilfer, steal; later *mowchen* (before 1460); borrowed from Old French *muchier*, *mucier* to hide, conceal, of uncertain origin. It is also possible that *mooch* developed from Middle English *muchen* to hoard, be stingy (1303); probably originally, keep coins in one's nightcap, from *mucche* nightcap; borrowed from Middle Dutch *muste* cap or nightcap; ultimately from Medieval Latin *almucia*, of uncertain origin.

The meaning of sponge off others is first recorded in 1857, probably from the sense of loaf, sneak (1851).

mood¹ *n.* state of mind or feeling. Probably about 1150 *mōd* mind, heart as governing thoughts; later *mood* (about 1250); developed from Old English *mōd* mind, heart, spirit, courage (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *mōd* mind or thought, Middle Dutch *moet* mood or emotion (modern Dutch *moed* courage or spirit), Old High German *muot* (modern German *Mut*), Old Icelandic *mōðr* anger or grief (Swedish and Danish *mod*, Norwegian *mot* courage), and Gothic *mōths* anger or courage from Proto-Germanic **mōdā-*. —**moody** *adj.* Before 1200 *modi* brave, proud, high-spirited; developed from Old English *mōdig* (about 725, in *Beowulf*), from *mōd* spirit, courage + *-ig* *-y*¹. The meaning of often having gloomy moods is first recorded in 1593.

mood² *n.* form of a verb 1573, alteration (influenced by *mood*¹) of Middle English *mode* form of a verb (about 1450); borrowed from Old French *mode*, and directly from Latin *modus*; see MODE¹ manner.

moon *n.* Before 1135 *mone*; later *moone* (about 1380); developed from Old English *mōna* (before 725); cognate with Old Frisian *mōna* moon, Old Saxon *māno*, Middle Dutch *māne*

(modern Dutch *maan*), Old High German *māno* (modern German *Mond*), Old Icelandic *māni* (Swedish, Danish, and Norwegian *måne*), and Gothic *mena*, from Proto-Germanic **mēnōn*. —**v.** 1601, expose to moonlight; later, pass (time) idly (1836), and move listlessly (1848); from the noun. —**moonbeam** *n.* (1590) —**moonlight** *n.* About 1300 *Mone lith*; later as a surname *Monelight* (1337); formed from *mone* moon + *lith* light. —**v.** 1957, back formation from *moonlighter* one who holds a second job, especially at night (1954), or *moonlighting* practice of a moonlighter (1955). —**moonshine** *n.* 1500, moonlight; later, smuggled or illicit alcoholic liquor (1785); and illicitly distilled whiskey (1875).

moor¹ *v.* put or keep (a ship, etc.) in place. Probably before 1200 *moren* to take root; later, to fix or fasten (about 1380), probably related to Old English *mārels* mooring rope, and possibly **māeran* to moor, which would correspond with Middle Dutch *māren*, *mēren* to tie up, moor (modern Dutch *meren*), Old High German *marawan* to join, Low German *vermoren* to moor, and Old Frisian *mere* strap. —**mooring** *n.* 1420 *moring* process of making a ship secure, from gerund of *moren* to moor. —**moorings** *n. pl.* 1774, place where a ship is moored.

moor² *n.* open land. 1150 *mor-*, in compound *morsecge* sedge from a marsh; later *mor* wasteland or marshland (probably before 1200); developed from Old English *mōr* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Saxon *moer* swamp, Middle Low German *mōr* (modern German *Moos*), Middle Dutch *moer*, Old High German *muor* swamp or sea, from Proto-Germanic **mōra-*. Related to MERE² lake.

Moor *n.* Before 1393 *More*, borrowed from Old French *More*; later *Maure*, or directly from Medieval Latin *Mōrus*, from Latin *Maurus*, from Greek *Μαῦρος* inhabitant of *Mauritania*, an ancient country in North Africa.

From the Middle Ages through the 1600's, Moors were commonly supposed to be black or very dark in color, and hence the word is often found as a substitute for "Negro."

moose *n.* 1613, borrowed probably from Algonquian (compare Narragansett *moos*, apparently from *moosu* he strips off, in reference to the habit of stripping bark as food).

moot *n.* Before 1121 *mot*; developed from Old English (probably about 750) *gemōt* meeting (to discuss judicial and political affairs); from Proto-Germanic **(za-)mōtan*, cognate with Old Saxon and Old Icelandic *mōt* meeting, Old High German *muoz*; see MEET¹, *v.* The modern spelling with *-oo-* is found before 1475. The meaning of a discussion of a hypothetical case by law students is first recorded in 1531. —**adj.** Before 1650 *moot point*, from earlier attributive use of the noun, as in *moot case* hypothetical case used in a law-student discussion (1577–87).

mop *n.* 1496 *mappe* bundle of yarn, cloth, or wool for cleaning or spreading pitch on a ship's planking; borrowed through dialectal French (Walloon) *mappe* napkin, or directly from Latin *mappa* napkin; see MAP. The spelling *mop* is first recorded in 1665; however, if it is implied in *moppet* rag doll, it is found in *moppe* (1440). —**v.** 1709 *mop up*; from the noun.

mope *v.* 1568, implied in *moping* wandering aimlessly; later, be sad or spiritless (about 1590); perhaps of imitative origin, as found in Low German *mopen* to sulk, and Dutch *moppen* to grumble or grouse.

moped *n.* 1956, borrowing of Swedish *moped*, acronym formed from *mo(tor)* + *ped(al)*.

moppet *n.* 1601, formed from Middle English *moppe* little child, baby, doll (1440) + *-et*, diminutive suffix. Middle English *moppe* also meaning simpleton or fool (about 1330), is perhaps cognate with Low German *mop*, *mops* simpleton.

moraine *n.* 1789, borrowing of French *moraine*, from dialectal French (Savoy) *morēna* mound of earth, from Provençal *morre* snout, muzzle, from Vulgar Latin **murrum* round object, of uncertain origin.

moral *adj.* About 1340, borrowed from Old French *moral*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *mōrālis* of morals or manners, from *mōs* (genitive *mōris*) one's disposition, in plural *mōrēs* customs, manners, morals; for suffix see -AL¹. —**n.** Before 1500, from the adjective. The plural *morals* is first recorded about 1613. —**moralistic** *adj.* 1865; formed from English *moralist* + *-ic*. —**moralize** *v.* About 1375 *moralizee* instruction in morals; borrowed from Old French *moralité*, and from Late Latin *mōrālītātē* (nominative *mōrālītās*) manner, character, from Latin *mōrālis*. —**moralize** *v.* Probably before 1400 *moralizen*; borrowed from Old French *moraliser*, from *moral* *moral*, and directly from Medieval Latin *moralizare*, from Latin *mōrālis*; for suffix see -IZE.

morale *n.* 1752, moral principles or practice; borrowed from French *morale* morality or good conduct, from feminine of Old French *moral* MORAL.

The meaning in regard to confidence (especially of military troops), is first recorded in 1831, and derived from French *morale* morality, by confusion with *moral* mental or moral condition, from Old French *moral*, *adj.*

morass *n.* 1655, reborrowing from Dutch *moeras* marsh or fen, alteration (influenced by Middle Dutch *moer* MOOR²) of Middle Dutch *maras*, *marasch*, from Old French *marais* marsh, and Old Provençal *maresc*, from Frankish; possibly representing West Germanic **marisk-*, from Proto-Germanic **mariskaz* like a lake, like the sea, from **mari* sea. West Germanic **marisk-* is the form from which also developed Medieval Latin *mariscus*, and now obsolete English *marish* marsh.

Modern English *morass* replaced earlier *mareis* marshland, swamp (recorded before 1338, and earlier as a proper name, 1130, 1189); borrowed from Old French *marais*, *mareis*.

moratorium *n.* 1875, legal authorization to delay payments, New Latin *moratorium*, from neuter of Late Latin *mōrātōrius* tending to delay, from Latin *mōrārī* to delay, from *mora* pause, delay; originally, a standing there thinking.

morbid *adj.* 1656, of disease, diseased; borrowed through French *morbid*, or directly from Latin *morbidus*, from *morbus* disease. —**morbidity** *n.* 1721, formed from English *morbid* + *-ity*.

mordant *adj.* 1474 *mordent*, borrowed from Middle French *mordant*, present participle of *mordre* to bite, from Vulgar Latin **mordere*, from Latin *mordēre* to bite or sting.

more *adj.* About 1125 *mare*; later *more* (before 1250); developed from Old English (before 725) *māra* greater or more, used as the comparative of *micel* great, MUCH, and related to *mā* more (*adv.* and *adj.*).

Old English *māra* and *mā* (originally adverbs) are cognate with Old Frisian *māra* more, *adj.* and *mā*, *mē* more, *adv.*; Old Saxon *mēro*, *adj.* and *mēr*, *adv.*; Middle Dutch *mēre*, *adj.* and *mee*, *adv.* (modern Dutch *meer*); Old High German *mēro*, *adj.* and *mēr*, *adv.* (modern German *mehr*); Old Icelandic *meiri*, *adj.* and *meir*, *adv.* (Norwegian, Swedish, and Danish *mer*); and Gothic *maiza*, *adj.* and *mais*, *adv.* —the adjective from Proto-Germanic **maizōn*, —the adverb from **mais*. —**adv.** Before 1129 *mare*; later *more* (about 1250); developed from Old English (about 1000) *māre*, from neuter of *māra*, *adj.* —**n.** 1128 *mare*; later *more* (about 1250); developed from late Old English (before 1100) *māre*, from neuter of *māra*, *adj.*

mores *n. pl.* 1907, borrowing of Latin *mōrēs* customs, manners, morals; see MORAL.

morganatic *adj.* 1727–41, borrowed through French *morganatique*, or directly from New Latin *morganaticus* of the morning, from the Medieval Latin phrase *matrimonium ad morganaticam*, literally, marriage of the morning, in which the word *morganaticam* probably derives from Old High German **morgangeba* (found in *morganegiba*), in Middle High German *morgengābe* morning gift (corresponding to Old English *morgengifu* morning gift). The gift is traditionally the wife's only share in her husband's possessions.

morgue *n.* 1821, borrowed from French *Morgue*, building in Paris where bodies were exposed for identification; originally, place where new prisoners were viewed for establishing their identification among keepers (probably French *morgue* haughtiness; originally, a sad expression, solemn look, from Old French *morguer* look at solemnly, from Vulgar Latin **murricāre* to make a face, pout, from **murrum* muzzle, snout).

moribund *adj.* 1721, borrowed from French *moribund*, learned borrowing from Latin *moribundus* dying, subject to death, from *morī* to die; see MURDER.

Mormon *n.* 1830, in allusion to *Mormon*, prophet and author of the Book of Mormon, last leader of the Nephites (one of certain ancient peoples in America).

morn *n.* About 1175 *maregen* morning; later *morewen*, *morn* (about 1250); developed from Old English *margen*, dative *mārne* (in Mercian, before 830); earlier *morgen*, dative *morgne* (about 725, in *Beowulf*).

The Old English forms *margen* (from Proto-Germanic **marjanaz*), and *morgen* (Proto-Germanic **murjanaz*) are cognate with Old Frisian *morgen*, *mergen* (Proto-Germanic **marjanaz*) morning, Old Saxon *morgan*, Middle Dutch *morgen* (modern Dutch *morgen*), Old High German *morgan* (modern German *Morgen*), Old Icelandic *morginn*, *morgunn* (Swedish *morgon*, Norwegian and Danish *morgen*).

morning *n.* About 1250 *morning*, *morewening*; later *morning* (about 1330); formed from Middle English *morn*, *morewen* MORN + *-ing*¹; on the same pattern as *evening*. —**adj.** 1535, from the noun.

morocco *n.* 1727–41, in allusion to *Morocco*, country in northwestern Africa, where it was first made.

moron *n.* 1910, originally a technical term; borrowing of Greek (Attic) *mōron*, neuter of *mōros*, Greek *mōros* foolish or dull. —**moronic** *adj.* 1926, formed from *moron* + *-ic*.

morose *adj.* 1565, borrowed from Latin *mōrosus* morose, peevish, fastidious, from *mōs* (genitive *mōris*) habit or custom; see MORAL; for suffix see *-ose*¹.

morpheme *n.* 1925, borrowing of French *morphème*, from Greek *morphē* form; patterned on French *phonème* phoneme.

morphine *n.* 1828, borrowing of French *morphine* or German *Morphin*, in allusion to Latin *Morpheus* the Roman god of dreams; so called from the drug's sleep-inducing properties; for suffix see *-ine*². *Morphine* replaced the earlier New Latin *morphia* (1818), also formed from Latin *Morpheus*.

morphology *n.* 1830, borrowed from German *Morphologie*, formed from Greek *morphē* form + German *-logie* *-logy*.

morris dance 1458 *moreys daunce*; earlier *morys Moorish* (1434); borrowed from Old French *morris*, earlier *moreis* MOOR.

morrow *n.* About 1250 *morewe*; later *morwe* (about 1300); shortened variant of *morewen* *morrow*, MORN.

morsel *n.* About 1280, borrowing of Old French *morsel* small bite, diminutive of *mors* a bite, from Latin *morsus* (genitive *morsus*) biting or bite, from *mordere* to bite.

mortal *adj.* About 1370, causing death, deadly; also, grievous; later, subject to death (about 1380); borrowed from Old French *mortal*, *mortel* destined to die, and directly from Latin *mortalis* subject to death, from *mors* (genitive *mortis*) death; for suffix see *-al*¹. —**n.** 1526, mortal thing or substance; from the adjective. —**mortality** *n.* About 1400 *mortalite*, borrowed from Old French *mortalité*, learned borrowing from Latin *mortalitatem* (nominative *mortalitās*) state of being mortal, from *mortalis* mortal; for suffix see *-ity*.

mortar¹ *n.* mixture of cement. About 1250 *morter* cement; later *mortar* (1367); borrowed from Old French *mortier*, from Latin *mortarium* bowl for mixing or pounding. —**mortar-board** *n.* 1854, academic cap, resembling a square mason's board for carrying mortar, formerly known as *mortar cap* (1686, and *morter* 1604), probably developed from the French *mortier* a cap once worn by high French officials.

mortar² *n.* bowl for pounding. About 1150 *morter*; later *mortar* (1381); in part developed from Old English (about 1000) *moretere*, and in part borrowed through Old French *mortier*; both forms from Latin *mortarium* bowl for mixing or pounding, and the material prepared in it.

mortar³ *n.* short cannon. 1558, found in *morter piece*; bor-

rowed from Middle French *mortier* short cannon, from Old French, bowl for mixing or pounding, from Latin *mortarium* bowl for mixing or pounding.

mortgage *n.* Before 1393 *morgage* a pledge, also, a pledge of property (about 1400); borrowed from Old French *morgage* and *mort gaige*, literally, dead pledge (*mort* dead + *gaige* pledge; so called because the debt becomes void or "dead" when the pledge is redeemed). Old French *mort* derived from Vulgar Latin **mortus* dead, from Latin *mortuus*, past participle of *mori* to die. —**v.** 1530, from the noun. The *t* was introduced in English by writers aware of the Latin origin.

mortician *n.* 1895, American English; formed from *mort(uary)* + *-ician* (as in *physician*).

mortify *v.* Before 1382 *mortefien* to kill; later *mortifien* to subdue (bodily desires) by abstinence; borrowed from Old French *mortifier* from Late Latin *mortificāre* cause death, from *mortificus* producing death (Latin *mors*, genitive *mortis*, death + the root of *facere* to make). The meaning of humiliate, is implied in *mortification* (1645). —**mortification** *n.* About 1390 *mortificacioun* suppression of bodily desires; borrowed from Old French *mortification*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Late Latin *mortificatiōnem* (nominative *mortificatiō*) a killing, destruction, from *mortificāre* to kill; for suffix see *-ation*. The meaning of humiliation is first recorded in 1645.

mortise *n.* About 1390 *morteys*; later *mortaise* (before 1450); borrowed from Old French *mortaise*, possibly from Arabic *murtazz* fastened, past participle of *razza* cut a mortise in. —**v.** Before 1450 *morteysen*; from the noun.

mortuary *n.* Probably 1383 *mortuarie* gift to a parish priest from a deceased parishioner; earlier, in a Latin context (1330); borrowed through Anglo-French *mortuarie*, Old French *mortuaire*, and directly from Medieval Latin *mortuarium*, from neuter of *mortuarius* pertaining to the dead, from Latin *mortuus*, past participle of *mori* to die; for suffix see *-ary*. The place where bodies are kept until burial is first recorded in 1865.

mosaic *n.* Probably before 1400 *musycke* process of making a mosaic; borrowed from Old French *mosaïque*, *mosaïque* mosaic work, from Italian *mosaico*, *mosaico*, from Medieval Latin *mosaicum* mosaic work, work of the Muses, neuter of *mosaicus* of the Muses, from Latin *Musa* MUSE; so called from the medieval mosaics dedicated to the Muses. Late Greek *mouseion*, and Late Latin *mūsvum* mosaic work, influenced formation of Medieval Latin *mosaicum*.

Mosaic *adj.* 1662, of Moses or the laws attributed to him in the Bible; borrowed, perhaps through French *Mosaïque* (1542), or directly from New Latin *Mosaicus*, from Latin *Mōsēs* Moses, from Greek *Mōsēs*; for suffix see *-ic*.

mosey *v.* 1829, of uncertain origin (perhaps an alteration abstracted from dialectal English *mose about* go about in a dull, stupid manner).

mosque *n.* 1717, alteration of earlier *muskee*, *moskee*, borrowed from Middle French *mosquée*, from Italian *moschea*, *moscheta*, from Spanish *mezquita*, from *masjid* temple, a trans-

literation from Arabic, from *sajada* he worshiped. The Middle English *moseak* and *moseache* (probably before 1425), are of obscure development.

mosquito *n.* About 1583, borrowed from Spanish *mosquito* little gnat, diminutive of *mosca* fly, from Latin *musca* fly.

moss *n.* Probably about 1125 *mose*; later *mosse* (1350–51); in part developed from Old English (975) *mos* bog, related to *mēos* moss; and in part, borrowed from: 1) a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *mosi* moss, bog) and 2) Medieval Latin *mossa* moss, from a Germanic source (compare Old High German *mos* moss, bog). Old English *mos* from Proto-Germanic **musan* is cognate with Middle Low German *mos* moss, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *mos*, Old High German *mios*, *mos* moss (modern German *Moos* moss), and Old Icelandic *mosi* moss, bog (Danish and Norwegian *mose*, Swedish *mossa*).

most *adj.* Probably about 1175 *mest*; later *moste*, *most* (before 1250); developed from Old English (about 950) *māst* greatest number, amount, or extent; earlier *mæst* (before 725); cognate with Old Frisian *māst* most, Old Saxon *mēst*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *meest*, Old High German and modern German *meist*, Old Icelandic *mestr* (Norwegian, Swedish, and Danish *mest*), and Gothic *maists*; from Proto-Germanic **mais-taz*, corresponding to a superlative form derived from the Germanic root that is the source of Old English *mā*, *māra* MORE. —**adv.** Probably about 1200 *mest*; later *most* (about 1250); developed from Old English (about 893) *māst*, *mæst*; from the adjective.

—**most** a suffix forming superlatives of adjectives and adverbs, and meaning greatest in amount, degree, or number, as in *foremost*, *inmost*, *topmost*. Middle English, alteration (influenced by *most*) of *-mest*; found in Old English *-mest*, a so-called double superlative formed from *-mo*, *-ma* + *-est* superlative suffixes.

mote *n.* About 1300 *mote*, *mot* speck; developed from Old English (about 1000) *mot*; cognate with Middle Dutch *mot* sand or dust (modern Dutch *mot* peat dust), and Frisian *mot*, of unknown origin.

motel *n.* 1925, blend of *motor* and *hotel*.

moth *n.* About 1225 *mohthe*; later *mothe* (1373); developed from Old English (about 1000 *moththe*, and *mohthe* about 950); perhaps cognate with Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *motte*, *mutte* moth (modern Dutch *mot*), Middle High German *motte* (modern German *Motte*), and Old Icelandic *motti*; or perhaps related to Old English *matha* MAGGOT.

mother¹ *n.* female parent. About 1125 *moder*; later *mother* (probably before 1425); developed from Old English (before 725) *mōdor*; cognate with Old Frisian *mōder* mother, Old Saxon *mōdar*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *moeder*, Old High German *muoter* (modern German *Mutter*), and Old Icelandic *mōðhir* (Swedish, Danish, Norwegian *moder*, *mor*), from Proto-Germanic **mōðær*.

As with *father*, the spelling *-ther* (≠*FHER*) for Middle English *-der* dates from the beginning of the 1500's, though the

pronunciation with (ʦH) probably existed earlier. —**adj.** Probably about 1200 *moder*; from the noun. —**v.** 1542, be the mother of; from the noun. The meaning of take care of is first recorded in 1863. —**motherly** *adj.* About 1220 *moderliche*, Old English (about 1000) *mōdorlic*; *adv.*, *moderly*, about 1433; from the adjective.

mother² *n.* sticky substance found in vinegar. 1538, dregs or scum; probably a special use of *MOTHER*¹, found in parallel French phrase *mère de vinaigre* and the German *Essigmutter*. It is also possible that this word was influenced by, if not borrowed from, Middle Dutch *modder* mud or mire; cognate with Middle Low German *modder* mold, decay, sludge, and *modde* thick mud (in ditches); see *MUD*.

motif *n.* 1848, borrowing of French *motif* dominant idea, theme, motive, from Old French, see *MOTIVE*.

motile *adj.* 1864, back formation from *motility*. —**motility** *n.* 1835–36, borrowed from French *motilité* capability of moving (1827), from Latin *mōt-* (past participle stem of *movēre* MOVE) + *-ilitē*, as in *mobilité* mobility.

motion *n.* About 1385 *mocioun* suggestion, proposal; later, process of moving (before 1398); borrowed from Old French *motion*, learned borrowing from Latin *mōtiōnem* (nominative *mōtiō*) a moving, an emotion, from *movēre* to MOVE; for suffix see *-TION*. —**v.** 1476, to request, petition, propose; from the noun. The meaning of make a movement (as in *motion for silence*) is first recorded in 1747.

motivate *v.* 1863, formed from English *motive*, *n.* + *-ate*¹, perhaps after French *motiver*; compare also German *motivieren*. —**motivation** *n.* 1873, formed from English *motivate* + *-ion*.

motive *n.* Before 1376 *motif* something moved or brought forward as an argument or assertion; later, reason for acting (before 1439); and *motive* (before 1443); borrowed from Old French *motif*, *n.*, from *motif* (feminine *motive*), *adj.*, moving, and borrowed directly from Medieval Latin *motivus* moving, impelling, from Latin *mōtus*, past participle of *movēre* to MOVE. —**adj.** 1392 *motif*, *motive*; borrowed from Old French *motif*, *adj.*, and directly from Medieval Latin *motivus*, *adj.*

motley *adj.* About 1380 *motley* variegated; possibly borrowed from Anglo-French *motteley*, probably from Old English *mot* speck, *MOTE*. —**n.** 1371 *motle* cloth of more than one color; later *motley* (1394); from the same source as the adjective.

motor *n.* 1447 *motour* controller or prime mover, in reference to God; borrowed from Latin *mōtor* mover, from *movēre* to MOVE; for suffix see *-OR*². The meaning of an agent or force that produces mechanical motion is first recorded in 1664, and that of a machine that supplies motive power in 1856. —**adj.** 1824, from the noun. —**v.** 1896, take in an automobile; 1897, travel by automobile; from the noun.

mottle *v.* 1676, implied in *mottled*, *adj.*; probably back formation from *motley*, *adj.*, but found in earlier *motleyd*, *adj.*, clothed in *motley*. —**n.** 1676, probably back formation from *motley*, *n.*

motto *n.* 1589, legend attached to a heraldic design; borrowed from Italian *motto* a saying or motto, from Late Latin *mutum* grunt or word, from Latin *mutire* to MUTTER.

mound *v.* 1515, to fence in; later, to enclose with an embankment (1600, probably from the noun); of uncertain origin. The meaning of heap up is first recorded in 1859. —*n.* 1551, fence or hedge; probably from the verb. The sense of an embankment was probably influenced by association with MOUNT² and from that meaning developed the sense of a heap of earth or stones (1726).

mound¹ *v.* ascend. Probably before 1300, borrowed from Old French *monter*, *munter*, from Vulgar Latin **montāre*, from Latin *mōns* (genitive *montis*) mountain, MOUNT². The meaning of to set or place in position is first recorded in 1539. —*n.* 1739, something on which a thing is mounted, a support; later, a horse for riding (1856); from the verb. An obsolete meaning amount (about 1390) may be borrowed from Old French *munt*.

mound² *n.* mountain. Before 1300 *mount*; in part borrowed through Anglo-French *mount*, Old French *mont* mountain; and in part developed from Old English (probably about 750 *munt* mountain); both Old French and Old English borrowed from Latin *mōns* (genitive *montis*) mountain.

mountain *n.* Probably before 1200 *montaine*, *mountayne*; borrowed from Old French *montaigne* mountain, from Vulgar Latin **montānea* mountain or mountain region, from feminine of **montāneus* of a mountain, mountainous, from Latin *montānus* mountainous, from *mōns* (genitive *montis*) mountain, MOUNT²; for suffix see -AN. —*adj.* 1373, from the noun. —**mountaineer** *n.* 1610, formed from English *mountain* + *-er*. —**mountainous** *adj.* About 1384, formed from *mounteyne* mountain + *-ous*; perhaps by influence of Old French *montagneux*.

mountebank *n.* 1577, peddler of quack medicine; traditionally thought of as standing on a wagon or platform to appeal to his audience; borrowed from Italian *montambanco*, *montimbanco*, contracted form of *monta in banco* mountebank; literally, mount on bench (*monta*, imperative of *montare* to mount and *banco*, variant of *banca* bench). The sense of charlatan, quack is first recorded in 1589.

mourn *v.* Probably before 1200 *mornen*, *murnen*; later *mournen* (about 1250), developed from Old English (before 725) *murnan* to mourn; also, be anxious, be careful; cognate with Old Saxon *mornian* to mourn, Old High German *mornēn*, Old Icelandic *morna*, and Gothic *mairnan*, from Proto-Germanic **murnanan*. —**mourner** *n.* About 1395 *mournere*; formed from *mournen* mourn + *-er* *-er*¹. —**mournful** *adj.* Probably before 1450, formed from *morne*, *n.*, mourning, grief (before 1300) + *-ful* *-ful*.

mouse *n.* About 1325 *mous*; earlier, in surname *Mous* (about 1280), and *Muse* (1154–63); developed from Old English (before 700) *mūs*; cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *mūs* mouse, Middle Dutch *muus* (modern Dutch *muís*), Old High German *mūs* (modern German *Maus*), and Old Icelandic *mūs*

(Swedish, Danish, and Norwegian *mus*), from Proto-Germanic **mūs*. See also MUSCLE. The plural *mice* is found in Middle English *myse* (1373), earlier *myys* (about 1303); developed from the Old English plural (before 900) *mȳs* (compare Old High German *mūsi*, *miuse*, Old Icelandic *mýss*). —*v.* Probably about 1150 *musen*; later *mowsyn* (1440); from the noun. —**mousetrap** *n.* (about 1475) —**mousy** *adj.* (1812)

mousse *n.* 1892, borrowing of French *mousse*, from Old French, froth, scum, from Late Latin *mulsa* mead, from Latin *mulsum* honey wine, mead, from neuter of *mulsus* mixed with honey, related to *mel* honey. The meaning of a preparation for the hair is first recorded in the 1970's.

moustache *n.* See MUSTACHE.

mouth *n.* About 1250 *mouth*; developed from Old English *mūth* (before 830); cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *mūth* mouth, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *mond*, Old High German *mund* (modern German *Mund*), Old Icelandic *mudhr*, *munnr* (Swedish *mun*, Danish *mund*, Norwegian *munn*), and Gothic *munths*, from Proto-Germanic **munthaz*. —*v.* Before 1325, *mouthen*; later *mouthen* (about 1378); from the noun.

move *v.* About 1275 *moven*; borrowed through Anglo-French *movir*, Old French *moveir*, *moivre*, from Latin *movēre* move. —*n.* 1656, the right or the time to move in a game; from the verb. The meaning of an act of moving is first recorded in 1827. —**movable** or **moveable** *adj.* About 1380 *moveable* causing motion; also, capable of movement (before 1382); formed from *moven* move + *-able*. —**movement** *n.* About 1380 *moevement*, borrowed from Old French *movement*, *mouvement*, from *moveir* to move; and formed from Middle English *meven*, *v.* + *-ment*.

movie *n.* 1912 (but referred to in the reports of social workers as early as 1908), shortened and altered form of *moving picture* (1896); for suffix see -IE. —*adj.* 1913 *movie actor*, attributive use of the noun.

mow¹ *v.* cut down. Probably about 1150 *mowen* cut down (grass); later, destroy at a sweep (before 1400); developed from Old English *māwan* (before 899); cognate with Middle Low German *meien*, *meigen* to mow, Middle Dutch *maeyen* (modern Dutch *maaien*), and Old High German *māen* (modern German *māhen*), from Proto-Germanic **māwanan* (or **māwanan*). —**mower** *n.* Before 1325 *mouwer*, formed from *mouen* + *-er*¹; but found earlier as a surname *Mawere*, formed from Old English *māwan*.

mow² *n.* place where hay is stored. Probably before 1300, stack of hay or grain; developed from Old English (about 1000) *mūga*, *mūwa* a heap; earlier *mūha* (before 800), from Proto-Germanic **mūzōn*, and cognate with Old Icelandic *mūgi*, *mūgr* crowd or heap (dialectal Norwegian *muge* heap or pile, dialectal Swedish *moa* to crowd together), Middle High German *moche* lump.

moxie *n.* 1930, courage, nerve, energy, initiative, in allusion to earlier *Moxie*, a trademark for a bitter-tasting nonalcoholic

drink that originated as a patent medicine about 1876, advertised as a drink "that will build up your nerve."

Mr. pl. Messrs. 1447–48, abbreviated form of *maister* master. The plural is a borrowing and abbreviated form of French *messieurs*, plural of *monsieur*.

Mrs. pl. Mmes. 1615, abbreviated form of *mistress*. The plural is a borrowing and abbreviated form of French *mesdames*, plural of *madame*.

Ms. pl. Mses. or Ms.'s 1949, considered a blend of *Miss* and *Mrs.*

much *adj.* Probably before 1200 *muchē*; also *miche* (about 1200), shortened forms of *muchel*, *michel* much; developed from Old English (before 725) *micel* great in amount or extent; cognate with Old Saxon *mikil* great or large, Middle Low German *michel*, Old High German *mihhil*, Old Icelandic *mikill* (Swedish *mycken*, Danish *meget*, Norwegian *my(kj)e*), and Gothic *mikils*, from Proto-Germanic **mekilaz*. —**adv.** Probably about 1200 *muchē*; later *miche* (before 1382), from *muchel*, *adj.* —**n.** Probably before 1200 *muchē*; later *miche* (before 1382), from *muchel*, *adj.*

mucilage *n.* 1392 *mussillage* gummy substance; also *muscillage* (before 1400); borrowed from Medieval Latin *musculago*, *micilago*, from Late Latin *mūcillāgō* musty or moldy juice, from Latin *mūcēre* be moldy or musty, from *mūcus* MUCUS. The sense of an adhesive is first recorded in 1859. —**mucilaginous** *adj.* Probably before 1425, borrowed from Medieval Latin *musculaginosus*, from Late Latin *mūcillāgīnōsus*, from *mūcillāgō* *mucilage*; for suffix see -OUS.

muck *n.* About 1250 *muc* filth, manure; later *muk* (probably before 1325); probably borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *myki*, *mykr* cow dung). —**v.** About 1375 (Scottish) *mukken* to remove manure, clean out; from *muk*, *n.* The sense of make dirty, is first recorded in 1832. The idiom *muck about* (or *around*) is first recorded in 1856.

muckluck or **mukluk** *n.* 1868, sealskin; later, sealskin boot (1898); borrowed from Eskimo *maklak* large seal, sealskin boot. Since the 1960's the word has acquired the meaning of canvas boots and also slipper socks.

muckraker *n.* 1906, formed from *muckrake* + *-er*¹. *Muckrake* a person who seeks to find scandal (1872) is an allusion to use in Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*, 1684, in which a man pursues worldly gain by raking filth. Theodore Roosevelt used Bunyan's metaphor in a speech in 1906, also possibly conscious of the meaning of *muckrake*, to describe persons who seek to expose corruption. —**muckrake** *v.* 1910, back formation from *muckraker*.

mucus *n.* 1661, replacing earlier *musilage*, *mussillage* (1392), and borrowed from Latin *mūcus*, *mucosus* slime, mucus, mold, related to *ēmungere* sneeze out, blow one's nose, and *mūcēre* be moldy or musty. —**mucous** *adj.* 1646, replacing *musilaginous*; borrowed from Latin *mūcōsus* slimy, moldy, from *mūcus* mucus; for suffix see -OUS.

mud *n.* 1340 *mudde*, in the surname *Muddepenyng*; probably borrowed from Middle Low German *mudde* and Middle Dutch *modde* thick mud; cognate with Middle High German *mot* bog, peat, Swedish *modd* mud, mire, from Proto-Germanic **muð-*. —**muddy** *adj.* 1330 *mody*, in the place name *Modyputte* muddy pit; formed from English *mud* + *-y*¹. The sense of obscure, vague, is first recorded in 1611.

muddle *v.* 1596, to mottle or obscure colors, stir up sediment; perhaps a frequentative form of MUD or possibly borrowed from early modern Dutch *moddelen* to make water muddy, a frequentative form of *modden* make muddy, from *modde* mud. The sense of make confused is first recorded in 1687. —**n.** 1818, from the verb.

muff¹ *n.* covering for keeping both hands warm. 1599, borrowed from Dutch *mof* a muff, from French *moufle* mitten, from Old French *moufle* thick glove, from Medieval Latin *muffula* a muff; of uncertain origin.

muff² *v.* to bungle. 1841 (implied in *muffling*), from earlier *muff* awkward person (1837), perhaps from *muff*¹, in the sense of "one who keeps his hands in a muff."

muffin *n.* 1703, possibly borrowed from Low German *muffen*, plural of *muffe* small cake, from Middle Low German.

muffle *v.* Probably before 1425 *muffelen* to conceal; perhaps borrowed from Middle French *mofler* to stuff, from Old French *mofle*, *moufle* thick glove, MUFF¹ (compare Old French *enmoufle* wrapped up). The meaning of wrap in something to soften the sound is first recorded in 1761. —**n.** 1570, thing that muffles; from the verb. The meaning of a muffled sound is first recorded in 1886. —**muffler** *n.* 1535–36, a covering for the face and neck; formed from English *muffle*, *v.* + *-er*¹. The meaning of something to deaden sound is first recorded in 1856 and specifically that of an automobile muffler in 1895.

mufti¹ *n.* Muslim judge. 1586 *muphtie* official head of the state religion in Turkey; also, Muslim official who assists a judge; borrowed from Arabic as a transliteration *mufti* judge, active participle of *afā* to give, conjugated form of *fatā* he gave a (legal) decision.

mufti² *n.* ordinary clothes, not a uniform. 1816, perhaps a special use of *mufti*¹, in reference to the informal clothing worn by off-duty officials, as suggested by the costume formerly traditional to the stage role of a mufti, consisting of dressing gown, cap, and slippers.

mug *n.* 1570, bowl, pot, jug; perhaps borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Swedish *mugg* mug, jug, Norwegian *mulge* pitcher). The sense of a person's face is first recorded in 1708, possibly alluding to drinking mugs in the shape of a grotesque human face. —**v.** 1818, to strike the face; from the noun sense of face. The meaning of attack, is first recorded in 1846, and that of attack to rob, in 1864. The sense of exaggerate one's facial expressions is found in 1855. —**mugger** *n.* 1865, formed from English *mug* to attack and rob (1864) + *-er*¹.

muggy *adj.* 1731, probably developed from *mugen* to drizzle (probably about 1390); borrowed from a Scandinavian source

(compare Norwegian *mugg* drizzle, mildew, mold, Old Icelandic *mugga* drizzle, mist, related to *njúkr* soft); for suffix see -Y¹.

mugwump *n.* 1832, an important person; borrowed from Algonquian (Natick) transcribed as *mugquomp* great man (1633); a Republican who refused to support the party candidate, James G. Blaine, for President; hence, a self-important person who stays aloof from party politics.

mulatto *n.* 1595, borrowed from Spanish and Portuguese *mulato*, literally, young mule, from *mulo* mule, from Latin *mūlus* (feminine *mūla*) MULE¹; so called possibly in allusion to the hybrid origin of a mule.

mulberry *n.* Before 1300 *murberie*; later *mulbery* (about 1350); in part developed from Old English *mōrberie*, and in part borrowed from Middle High German *mül-beri*, alteration of *mūr-beri*. Both English and German forms were formed from Latin *mōrum* mulberry + either Old English *berie* or Old High German *beri* BERRY.

mulch *n.* 1657, probably a noun use of Middle English *molsh* soft, moist (probably 1440), variant of earlier *melsche*, *melissche* (before 1398); developed from Old English *melsc*, *milisc* mel-low, sweet. —*v.* 1802, from the noun.

mulct *v.* 1611, borrowed from French and Middle French *mulcter* to fine or punish, learned borrowing from Latin *multāre*, false archaism for *multāre* punish or fine, from *multa* penalty or fine. Modern English *mulct* replaced *multen* (in use probably before 1425); borrowed from Latin *multāre*. The sense of defraud, is first recorded in 1748.

mule¹ *n.* offspring of a donkey and horse. About 1150 *mule*, in part developed from Old English *mūl* (before 830), and in part borrowed from Old French *mul* (feminine *mule*); both from Latin *mūlus* (feminine *mūla*) a mule. —**muleteer** *n.* 1540–41, borrowed from Middle French *muletier*, from *mulet*, diminutive of Old French *mul* MULE¹; for suffix see -EER. —**mulish** *adj.* (1751)

mule² *n.* loose slipper. 1562, borrowed from Middle French, from Latin (*calceus*) *mulleus* red high-soled shoe (worn by Roman patricians).

mull¹ *v.* ponder. 1873, perhaps a figurative use developed from Middle English *mullyn* grind to powder, pulverize (1440), from earlier *molle* dust, ashes, rubbish (before 1400); *mul* (about 1303); probably borrowed from Middle Dutch *mul* grit, loose earth; cognate with Middle Low German *mul* (modern German *Müll*) dust, and Old Icelandic *mylja* to crush, related to *mylna* MILL² machine for grinding grain.

mull² *v.* make (wine, beer, etc.) into a sweetened and spiced hot drink. 1607 (implied in *mulled*, past participle of *mull*); perhaps borrowed from obsolete Dutch *mol* a kind of white, sweet beer, related to Flemish *molle* a kind of beer.

mullah *n.* 1613, Muslim religious teacher or scholar; borrowed from Turkish *molla*, in Persian and Hindu *mullā*, from a transcription of Arabic *mawlā* master.

mullein or **mullen** *n.* 1373 *molay*, *moleyne*; borrowed through

Anglo-French *moleine*, perhaps from Old French *mol* soft, from Latin *mollis*, see MELT.

mullet *n.* 1440 *molett*; earlier, in Anglo-French context, 1393; borrowed from Old French *mulet* and directly from Medieval Latin *mulletus*, from Latin *mullus* red mullet, from Greek *mýllos* a marine fish.

mulligatawny *n.* 1784, borrowed from Tamil *milagutanṇi*, literally, pepper water (*milagu* pepper + *tanṇir* cool water, itself a compound of *taṇ* cool + *ṇir* water).

mullion *n.* 1567, alteration by metathesis of *n* and *l* in Middle English *moyniel* (1330–32); later *moniel* (1379–80), *munell* (1426–27); borrowed from Anglo-French *moinel*, noun use of *moienel*, *meienel*, *adj.*, middle, from Old French *meien* intermediate, MEAN³. From the 1500's to the middle 1800's existence of the variant *munion* shows a long-standing uncertainty about form.

multi- a combining form meaning: 1 many or several, as in *multicolored*, *multilingual*. 2 many times, as in *multimillionaire*. Middle English; borrowed from Latin *multi-*, from *multus* much or many.

multifarious *adj.* 1593, reborrowing of Latin *multifārius* manifold, from *multifāriam* in many places or parts (*multi-* many + *-fāriam* parts, as in *bifāriam* in two parts, in two ways); for suffix see -OUS.

Earlier and separate borrowings in Middle English from Latin include the forms *multiplarie*, *adj.* (before 1449); borrowed from Latin *multifārius*, *adj.*, and *multiplary*, *adv.* (1436); borrowed from Late Latin *multifāriē*, probably also from Latin *multifārius*, *adj.*

multiple *adj.* 1647, involving many parts; borrowing of French *multiple*, from Late Latin *multiplus* manifold (Latin *multi-* many + *-plus* -FOLD). —*n.* 1685, from the adjective.

multiply *v.* Probably about 1150 *multeplier* to cause to increase; later *multiplen* to perform arithmetical multiplication (before 1398); borrowed from Old French *multiplier*, from Latin *multiplicāre* to increase, from *multiplex* (genitive *multiplicis*) having many folds, many times as great in number (*multi-* many + *-plex*, related to *plicāre* to fold). —**multiplication** *n.* Probably about 1350 *multiplicatione*; borrowed from Old French *multiplication*, from Latin *multiplicātiōnem* (nominative *multiplicātiō*), from *multiplicāre*; for suffix see -ATION. —**multiplicity** *n.* About 1454 *multiplicitate*; borrowed from Middle French *multiplicité*, from Late Latin *multiplicitās* manifoldness, from Latin *multiplus*; for suffix see -ITY.

multitude *n.* About 1340, borrowed from Old French *multitude*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *multitūdō* (genitive *multitudinis*) a great number, crowd, from *multus* much, many; for suffix see -TUDE. —**multitudinous** *adj.* 1629, formed from Latin *multitudin-* (in *multitudinis*, genitive of *multitūdō*) multitude + English suffix -ous.

mum *adj.* 1521, developed from Middle English *mum*, *n.*, inarticulate sound made with closed lips (about 1405); earlier *mom* (before 1376); of imitative origin. —**interj.** hush!

silence! 1568, probably from the adjective. The expression *mum's the word* is first recorded before 1704.

mumble *v.* About 1325 *momelen* (perhaps meaning to talk with one's mouth full); later, to speak indistinctly (about 1350); probably of imitative origin, similar to Middle Dutch *mommen* to mumble. —**n.** 1902, from the verb.

mumbo jumbo 1896, from earlier *Mumbo-Jumbo* idol supposedly worshiped in Africa (1738); borrowed perhaps from Mandingo *mama* ancestor + *dyumbo* pompom-wearer.

mummer *n.* About 1405 *mummer* one who conceals the truth in silence; later, actor in a pantomime (1429); probably a fusion of: 1) a borrowing from Middle French *momeur* mummer, from *momer* mask oneself, from *momon* mask; and 2) development in Middle English *mommen* to mutter, be silent (about 1390), from or related to *mum*, *adj.*; for suffix see -ER¹.

mummy *n.* 1392 *mummie* medicinal preparation made from bone or tissue of mummies; borrowed from Medieval Latin *mumia*, from Arabic, transcribed as *mūmiyāh* embalmed body from Persian *mūmiyā* asphalt, from *mūm* wax. The meaning of embalmed body is first recorded in 1615.

mumps *n. pl.* 1598, from the plural of obsolete *mump* a grimace (1592), of uncertain origin, but probably connected with the sense of grimace caused by swelling of the face, and *mum* because soreness of the throat makes speaking difficult.

munch *v.* Before 1325 *mocchen* to eat greedily, chew audibly; later *muchten* (about 1385); perhaps influenced by *mangen* to eat; borrowed from Old French *mangier*, from Latin *manducare* to chew. —**munchies** *n. pl.* 1959, food or snack; formed from *munch*, *n.* + -ie + -s.

mundane *adj.* Probably about 1451 *mondayne* of this world, earthly; borrowed from Middle French *mondain*, learned borrowing from Latin *mundānus* belonging to the world, from Latin *mundus* universe, world; for suffix see -ANE.

municipal *adj.* About 1540, of the affairs of a state; later, of a city or town (1600); borrowed from Middle French *municipal*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *municipālis* of a citizen or free town, from *municipes* (genitive *municipis*) citizen, inhabitant of a town (*mūnus* office, duty + -*ceps*, related to *capere* assume, take); for suffix see -AL¹. —**municipality** *n.* 1790, borrowed from French *municipalité*, from Middle French *municipal*; for suffix see -ITY.

munificence *n.* About 1425 *munyficence*, borrowed from Middle French *munificence*, learned borrowing from Latin *mūnificentia*, from the comparative stem *mūnificent-* of *mūnificus* generous (*mūnus*, genitive *mūneris*, gift or service, duty, office + -*ficus*, related to *facere* perform); for suffix see -ENCE. —**munificent** *adj.* 1583, from *munificence*, patterned on *magnificence*, *magnificent*; for suffix see -ENT.

munition *n.* Before 1533, *monysyon* fortification; also, provision as (in *monysyons of warre*); earlier *municion* a right or privilege (1448); borrowed from Middle French *municion* fortification, and directly from Latin *mūnitiōnem* (nominative

mūnitiō) a defending, fortification, from *mūnīre* to fortify, from *moenia* defensive walls; related to *mūrus* wall; for suffix see -TION.

muon *n.* 1953, elementary atomic particle, shortened form of earlier *mu-meson*; (1952), formed from Greek *mu* letter of the Greek alphabet (u) + English *meson*.

mural *adj.* Probably before 1439, borrowed from Latin *mūrālis* of a wall, from *mūrus* wall; for suffix see -AL¹. Latin *mūrus* is probably from Old Latin *moerus*, *moirus*, related to *moenia* defensive walls. —**n.** 1921, shortened form of *mural painting*, from *mural*, *adj.*

murder *n.* Probably before 1200 *morthre*; later *murthre* (before 1250), and *murdre* (before 1300); developed from Old English *morthor* secret killing of a person, unlawful killing (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Gothic *maúrth* murder, from Proto-Germanic **murthran*. A synonymous word from the same root as the source of Old English *morthor* is found in Old English, Old Frisian and Old Saxon *morth* murder, Middle Dutch *moort* (modern Dutch *moord*), Old High German *mord* (modern German *Mord*), and Old Icelandic *mordh*, from Proto-Germanic **murtha-*.

The spelling with *d* in Middle English *murdre*, probably developed from the influence of Anglo-French *murdre*, from Old French *mordre*, and Medieval Latin *murdrum*, from Germanic. —**v.** Probably before 1200 *murthren*; later *murden* (before 1300); from the noun. —**murderer** *n.* 1340, developed from earlier *murtherer* (before 1325); probably in part borrowed from Old French *mordre*, *murdeour* and Medieval Latin *murdrarius*, and in part developed from the verb.

murk *n.* About 1303 *myrke*, probably borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *myrkr* darkness, from *myrkr* dark; cognate with Old English *mirce*, *mierce* dark, and Old Saxon *mirki*). The spelling *murk* is first recorded in 1601. —**murky** *adj.* (1340)

murmur *n.* About 1380 *murmure* continuous noise, grumbling; borrowed from Old French *murmure* and directly from Latin *murmur* a humming, muttering, rushing, probably of imitative origin. Similar formations are found in Old High German *murmurōn*, *murmūlōn* to murmur, and German *murmeln*, reduplicated forms of an imitative root (represented by Old Icelandic *murra* to murmur, Middle Low German *murren*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *morren*, and Old English *murcian* to complain, grieve). —**v.** Before 1325 *murmuren*; borrowed from Old French *murmurer* and directly from Latin *murmurare*, from *murmur*, *n.*

muscatel *n.* 1535, variant of *muskadell* (probably before 1400); borrowed from Medieval Latin *muscatellum*, *muscadellum*, probably from Provençal *muscat* with the fragrance of musk, musky, from *musc* musk, from Late Latin *musculus* musk.

muscle *n.* 1392 *mucell*; later *muscle* (probably before 1425); borrowed from Latin *mūsculus* a muscle; literally, little mouse, diminutive of *mūs* MOUSE; so called from the resemblance between some muscles and the shape of a mouse; also, sometimes referred to the rippling motion of a muscle and that of a

mouse. —**v.** 1913, use muscles or strength; from the noun. —**muscular** adj. 1681, formed from Latin *mūsculus* muscle + English *-ar*.

mouse *v.* 1340 *musen*, borrowed from Old French *muser* to ponder or loiter; literally, stay with one's nose in the air, from *mouse* muzzle, from Gallo-Romance **mūsa* snout, of uncertain origin.

Muse *n.* About 1380, borrowed from Old French *Muse*, and directly from Latin *Mūsa*, from Greek *Mōīsa*.

museum *n.* 1615, in reference to the university building erected by Ptolemy in Alexandria; later, a study (about 1645); borrowing of Latin *Mūsēum* library or study, from Greek *Mouseion* place of study, library or museum; originally, a seat or shrine of the Muses, from *Mōīsa* Muse. Early use in English was in the sense of a library, study, or place of learning (until 1973 the *British Museum* included an active library). The meaning of a building to display objects, is first recorded in *Ashmolean Museum* in Oxford (opened 1683).

mush¹ *n.* boiled corn meal. 1671, variant of *mash*¹ soft mixture. —**mushy** adj. (1839)

mush² *v.* travel through snow, usually with a dog sled. 1862 *mouche*, perhaps from the command *mush on!*; possibly an alteration of French *marchons!* let us advance, imperative of *marcher* to MARCH¹.

mushroom *n.* 1440 *muscheron*; later *musseroun* (about 1450); borrowed through Anglo-French *musherun*, Old French *moisseron*, from Late Latin *musirionem* type of mushroom, of uncertain origin. —**adj.** 1599, from the noun. —**v.** 1747, from the noun. The spelling *mushroom* is first recorded in English in 1563.

music *n.* About 1250 *musike*, borrowed from Old French *musique*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *mūsica*, from Greek *mousikē téchnē* art of the Muses, from *Mōīsa* Muse; for suffix see *-ic*. The spelling *music* is first recorded in 1633. —**musical** adj. Probably about 1421; borrowed from Middle French *musical*, and directly from Medieval Latin *musicalis*, from Latin *mūsica* music; for suffix see *-al*¹. —**n.** About 1500, musical instrument; later, musical performance (1579); from the adjective. —**musician** *n.* About 1380 *musicyen*, borrowed from Old French *musicien*, from *musique* music; for suffix see *-ian*.

musicale *n.* 1872, borrowed from French *musicale*, shortened form of *soirée musicale* musical evening (party). An earlier appearance of the meaning as the English form *musical*, *n.*, is recorded in 1823.

musk *n.* 1394 *muske*; borrowed from Old French *musc*, and directly from Late Latin *musculus*, from Late Greek *mōschos*, from Persian, transliterated as *mushk*, from Sanskrit *mūśkā-s* testicle, formed from the ancient oblique-case form **mus-* of *mūs* MOUSE. —**musky** adj. About 1610, formed from English *musk* + *-y*¹.

muskellunge *n.* 1789 *masquenongez*, borrowed from Cana-

dian French *masquinongé*, a transcription of Algonquian (Ojibwa) *māskinonjē*, literally, big fish. Different spellings include *muskinunge* (1798), *maskinonge* (1891), and *muskellunge* (1884).

musket *n.* About 1587, borrowed from Middle French *mousquette*, from Italian *moschetto* arquebus, arrow for a crossbow; originally, a kind of hawk that looks as if speckled with flies, diminutive of *mosca* fly, from Latin *musca*; for suffix see *-et*.

Old guns were often named after animals; for example *falcon* and *falconet* (1496, 1559, light cannons), *basilisk* (1577, a large cannon), *serpentine* (about 1450, ship's gun). The word appears in such a context in English as the name of the sparrow hawk, before 1398. —**musketeer** *n.* 1590, re-formed later from English *musket* + *-eer*; but originally borrowed from Middle French *mousquetaire*, from *mousquette* musket; for suffix see *-eer*.

muskrat *n.* 1607 (erroneous *muskat*); later *muskrat* (1688), alteration (by association with *musk* and *rat*) of earlier *musquash*; a transcription of Algonquian (probably Powhatan) *muscascus*, literally, it is red; so called because of the animal's color.

Muslim or **Moslem** *n.* 1615, borrowed from a transliteration of Arabic, a believer in the Mohammedan faith; literally, one who submits (to the faith), from the root of *aslama* he resigned; see ISLAM. Related to SALAAM.

muslin *n.* 1609 *Muslina* a kind of linen cloth, said to be brought to Aleppo from *Musola*, later *Muzlin* (1682); borrowed from French *mousseline*, from Italian *mussolina*, from *Mussolo* Mosul, a city in Iraq where muslin was made, also a name for the cloth; from Arabic transcribed as *Mausil*; for suffix see *-ine*².

muss *v.* 1837, possibly a variant of *mess*, in the sense of a disturbance or row; or an extension of earlier *muss* a scramble or scrambling (1591).

mussel *n.* 1298–99 *moscle*; 1307 *muscle*, also *muskel* (1307); developed from Old English (before 1000) *muscle*, *musle*; earlier *musscel* (before 850); borrowed from Vulgar Latin **muscula*, from Latin *mūsculus* mussel, (also) MUSCLE.

The spelling *mussel*, differentiated from *muscle*, is first recorded in 1610, but was not fully established before the 1870's.

must¹ *v.* have to. Before 1131 *moste* (past tense of *moten*); later *muste* (about 1250); developed from Old English *mōste* (about 725, in *Beowulf*), past tense of *mōtan* have to, be able to; cognate with Old Frisian *mōta* have to, Old Saxon *mōtan*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *moeten*, Old High German *muozan* (modern German *müssen*), from Proto-Germanic **mōtanan*. —**n.** 1892, from the verb. —**adj.** 1912, obligatory, from the noun.

must² *n.* new wine. Old English *must* (before 899); borrowed from Latin *vīnum mustum* fresh wine, neuter of *mustus* fresh or new.

must³ *n.* musty condition, mold. 1602, perhaps back formation from MUSTY.

must⁴ *n.* 1878, dangerous excitement or frenzy, as that of a male elephant; noun use of earlier *must*, *adj.* (1871); borrowed from Hindi, transcribed as *mast* intoxicated, in rut, from Persian.

mustache or **moustache** *n.* 1585, borrowed from French *moustache*, from Italian *mostaccio*, *mostachio*, from Medieval Greek *moustákeion*, diminutive of Doric Greek *mýstax* (genitive *mýstakos*) upper lip, mustache.

The meaning is recorded earlier in English *mustachio*, *n.* (1551) as a borrowing directly from Italian *mostachio* mustache.

mustang *n.* 1808, borrowed from Mexican Spanish *mestengo* animal that strays, from earlier Spanish *mestengo* wild, stray, ownerless; literally, of the *mesta*, from *mesta* association of cattle ranchers who divided strays or unclaimed animals, from Latin *mixta* mixed, feminine past participle of *miscere* to MIX.

mustard *n.* 1190 *Mustard*, in a surname; also *mostard* (1289); borrowed from Old French *mustarde*, *mostarde*, from *moust*, from Latin *mustum* MUST² new wine (so called because the condiment was originally prepared by adding must to ground seeds of the plant).

muster *v.* Before 1325 *musteren* to display, reveal, appear, be present; later, to assemble, in reference to troops (1440); borrowed from Old French *mostrer*, from Latin *mōnstrāre* to show, from *mōnstrum* omen, sign. —*n.* assembly, collection. About 1378 *moustre* and *mustre* (before 1425) display, collection; also *mostre* (about 1400) assembling of troops; borrowed from Old French *mostre*, from *mostrer*, *v.*

musty *adj.* 1530, perhaps a variant of earlier *moisty* moist or damp (1398); also, new, in reference to ale (about 1390); formed from English *moist* + *-y¹*.

mutable *adj.* About 1380, borrowed, possibly by influence of Old Provençal *mutable*, from Latin *mūtābilis* changeable, from *mūtāre* to change; for suffix see -ABLE.

mutagen *n.* 1946, formed from Latin *mūtāre* to change + English *-gen* thing that produces.

mutant *n.* 1901, borrowed from Latin *mūtāntem* (nominative *mūtāns*) changing, present participle of *mūtāre* to change. —*adj.* 1903, from the noun.

mutation *n.* About 1380 *mutacion* act or process of changing; borrowed from Old French *mutacion*, and directly from Latin *mūtātiōnem* (nominative *mūtātiō*) a changing, from *mūtāre* to change; for suffix see -ATION.

Application in biology to change which results in new genetic characteristics, is first recorded in 1894. —**mutate** *v.* 1818, to change; later, to undergo genetic mutation (1913); a back formation from *mutation*, though use in 1818 is a borrowing from Latin *mūtātus*, past participle of *mūtāre*.

mute *adj.* About 1385 *muwet*, *mewet* silent, speechless; later *muet* (about 1408); borrowed from Old French *muet*, diminutive of *mut* and *mu*, and directly from Latin *mūtus* silent, dumb. —*n.* About 1378 *mute*, from the adjective. —*v.* 1883, from the adjective.

mutilate *v.* 1534, probably, in part, developed from *mutilate*, *adj.*, mutilated (1532), borrowed from Latin *mutilātus*; and in part, borrowed directly from Latin *mutilātus*, past participle of *mutilāre* to cut or lop off, from *mutilus* maimed; for suffix see -ATE¹. —**mutilation** *n.* 1525, act of disabling or wounding in a limb; borrowed perhaps from Middle French *mutilation*, and directly from Late Latin *mutilātiōnem* (nominative *mutilātiō*), from Latin *mutilāre*; for suffix see -ATION.

mutiny *n.* 1567, discord or contention; later, open rebellion (1579), formed from obsolete English *mutine* to revolt + *-y³*. Early modern English *mutine* was borrowed from Middle French *mutiner* to revolt, from *mutin*, *meutin* rebellious, from *meute*, *muete* a revolt, movement, from Vulgar Latin **movita* a military rising or revolt, from feminine past participle of *movēre* to MOVE. —*v.* 1584, from the noun. —**mutineer** *n.* 1610, borrowed from French *mutinier*, from Middle French *mutin* rebellious. The term finally replaced earlier *mutine* (1581, in this sense) 1595. —**mutinous** *adj.* 1578, either formed from English *mutin* mutiny + *-ous*; or borrowed from Middle French *mutineus*, from *mutin* rebellious, for suffix see -OUS.

mutt *n.* 1901, a stupid or foolish person; later, a dog, especially a mongrel (1906). The meaning of a stupid person is probably a shortened form of *muttonhead* (1803); that of a mongrel dog, may be of independent derivation.

mutter *v.* Before 1333 *moteren* to mumble; later *muttren* (probably before 1450); borrowed from Latin *muttūre* to mutter. —*n.* 1634, from the verb.

mutton *n.* Probably before 1300 *motoun*; later *mutton* (about 1450); borrowed from Old French *moton*, *mouton* ram, wether, sheep, and from Medieval Latin *mul-tonem*, from Gallo-Romance **multōnem* ram, probably from the accusative of Gaulish **multō* (compare Old Irish *molt* wether, Middle Breton *mout*, and Welsh *mollt*).

mutual *adj.* 1539, borrowed from Middle French *mutuel*, from Latin *mūtūus* reciprocal; related to *mūtāre* to change, exchange.

muzzle *n.* About 1385 *mosel* a halter for an animal; later, snout (about 1410), and *musel* (probably before 1421); borrowed from Old French *musel*, from *mouse* muzzle, from Gallo-Romance **mūsa* snout, of unknown origin.

The meaning of end of a firearm, is first recorded in 1566. —*v.* Probably before 1430 *moselyn*; later *musellen* (before 1450); from the noun. The sense of force to keep quiet, is first recorded in 1611.

my *adj.* Probably about 1200 *mī* belonging to me; variant form before consonants of *mīn* MINE¹. —**interj.** exclamation of surprise. 1825, probably a shortened form of *my God!*

my- the form of *myo-* before a vowel, as in *myalgia* a muscular pain.

mycelium *n.* 1836, New Latin, from Greek *mýkēs* mushroom, fungus + New Latin *-lium*, as in *epithelium*.

mycology *n.* 1836, borrowed from New Latin *mycologia* study

of fungi, from Greek *mýkēs* fungus + connective -o- + -logiā -logy.

myna or **mynah** *n.* 1769, borrowed from Hindi *mainā* a starling, from Sanskrit *madana-s* love or passion, with numerous special senses, one of which is "bird," found only in lexicons.

myo- a combining form meaning muscle, as in *myocardium* the heart muscle, *myoneural* having to do with muscle and nerve. Borrowed from Greek *myo-*, combining form of *mýs*, genitive *mýs* mouse, muscle.

myopia *n.* 1727–52, New Latin, from Late Greek *mŷōpiā* near-sightedness, from *mŷōps* near-sighted (*mŷein* to shut + *ōps*, genitive *ōpós* EYE). —**myopic** *adj.* near-sighted. 1800, formed from English *myopia* + -ic.

myriad *n.* 1555 *myriade* ten thousand; borrowed from Middle French *myriade*, from Late Latin *mýrias* (genitive *mýriadis*) ten thousand, from Greek *mýriás* (genitive *mýriádos*) ten thousand, from *mýrios* innumerable, countless. —**adj.** Before 1800, from the noun.

myrrh *n.* About 1150 *mirra*; developed from Old English *myrre* (before 830); borrowed from Latin *myrrha*, from Greek *mýrrha*, from a Semitic source (compare Akkadian *murrā* myrrh, Hebrew *mōr*, and Arabic *murr*).

myrtle *n.* 1392, Middle English *mirtille* fruit of the myrtle, borrowed from Old French *mirtile*, from Medieval Latin *myrtillus*, diminutive of Latin *myrtus* myrtle tree, from Greek *mýrtos*, from the same (Semitic) source as Greek *mýrrha* MYRRH.

mystery¹ *n.* secret. Before 1333 *mysterye* secret or hidden thing, religious doctrine beyond human understanding; borrowed from Latin *mystērīum*, from Greek *mystērion* secret rite or doctrine, from *mýstēs* one who has been initiated, from *mŷein* to shut the eyes (only those initiated were permitted to witness secret rites). The detective story is first recorded in English in 1908. —**mysterious** *adj.* 1616, probably borrowed from French *mystérieux*, from *mystère* mystery, from Latin *mystērīum*; for suffix see -OUS.

mystery² *n.* Archaic. craft, trade. About 1390 *mysterye* minis-

try, service; later *mystrie* an art, handicraft (before 1400); borrowed from Medieval Latin *misterium*, alteration of Latin *ministerium* office, MINISTRY by influence of Latin *mystērīum* MYSTERY¹. The medieval *mystery plays* were so named because they were often performed by members of craft guilds.

mystic *adj.* Before 1382 *mistike* spiritually symbolic; borrowed from Old French *mistique*, and directly from Latin *mysticus*, from Greek *mystikós* secret, mystic, from *mýstēs* one who has been initiated; see MYSTERY¹ secret. The meaning of pertaining to occult practices, is first recorded in 1615. —**n.** 1679, from the adjective. An earlier sense of symbolic meaning or interpretation, is recorded before 1333. —**mystical** *adj.* About 1471 *mystical* enigmatic, obscure, symbolic; formed from English *mystic*, *adj.* and *n.* + -ical. The meaning of having a spiritual significance or value, is first recorded in 1529. —**mysticism** *n.* 1736 formed from English *mystic*, *adj.* and *n.* + -ism.

mystify *v.* 1814, borrowed from French *mystifier* (*mistique* mystic, from Latin *mysticus* mystic + -fier -fy). —**mystification** *n.* 1815, borrowing of French *mystification*, from *mystifier* mystify; for suffix see -IFICATION.

mystique *n.* mystic quality or air. 1891, borrowing of French *mystique*, *n.*, a mystic; from the adjective, from Latin *mysticus* MYSTIC.

myth *n.* 1830, in part borrowed through French *mythe* (1818), and directly from New Latin *mythus*, from Greek *mýthos* speech, thought, story, myth; and in part probably a back formation from earlier *mythology* and perhaps *mythical*. The earlier form *mythus*, never became established in English but gave way to the popular *myth*. —**mythical** *adj.* 1678, formed in English from Late Latin *mýthicus* legendary, from Greek *mýthikós*, from *mýthos* myth + English -AL¹. —**mythological** *adj.* 1614, formed from English *mythology* + -ical. —**mythology** *n.* Before 1420 *methologie* the exposition or interpretation of myths; later *mythologie* (about 1450); borrowed through Middle French *mythologie*, and directly from Late Latin *mýthologia*, from Greek *mýthologíā* legendary lore, from *mýthos* myth; for suffix see -LOGY. The meaning of a body of myths, is first recorded in 1781.

N

nab *v.* 1686, variant of earlier *nap* (1673), as in *kidnap*; possibly borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Norwegian *nappe* to catch, snatch, Swedish *nappa*, and Danish *nappe* to pinch, pull), and perhaps reinforced by Middle English *napand* grasping, greedy (before 1460).

nabob *n.* 1612, Anglo-Indian, borrowed from Hindi *nabāb*, from Arabic, transliterated as *nuwūb*, plural of *nā'ib* deputy.

nacre *n.* 1598, mollusk yielding mother-of-pearl; borrowed from Middle French, from earlier Italian *naccaro*, possibly borrowed from Arabic, transliterated as *nāqūr* hunting horn, which the mollusk resembles in shape.

nadir *n.* 1391, borrowed from Medieval Latin (and possibly Old French) *nadir*, from Arabic, transliterated as *nazīr* opposite to (the zenith).

nag¹ *v.* annoy by complaints. 1825, to nibble; 1828, annoy; perhaps borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *nagga* to complain, Icelandic *nagg* grumbling, dialectal Norwegian and Swedish *nagga* to nibble, irritate).

nag² *n.* old horse. Probably before 1400 *nagge* small riding horse or pony, of uncertain origin (corresponding to Dutch *negge* small horse, perhaps related to Middle Dutch *nijgen*, *nighen* to neigh).

nail *n.* Probably before 1200 *nail*; probably about 1200 *neil*; developed from Old English *-negl* metal peg, found in *scōhnegl* shoe nail, before 800; earlier *nægel* fingernail, toenail (before 725); both cognate with Old Frisian *neil* nail, Old Saxon *nagal*, Middle Dutch *nāghel* (modern Dutch *nagel*), Old High German *nagal* (modern German *Nagel*), and Old Icelandic *nagl* fingernail (Swedish *nagel*, Danish *negl*), from Proto-Germanic **nazlaz*. —*v.* Probably before 1200 *neilen*, *nailen*; developed from Old English *næglian* (about 950); cognate with Old Saxon *neglian* to nail, Old High German *negilen*, Old Icelandic *negla* (Swedish *nagla*, Danish *nagle*), and Gothic *ganagljan*, from Proto-Germanic **3a-nazlijanan*.

naive *adj.* 1654, borrowing of French *naïve*, feminine of *naïf*, from Old French *naïf* native or natural, from Latin *nātivus* rustic, NATIVE. —**naiveté** *n.* 1673, borrowing of French *naïveté*, from Old French *naïveté* native disposition.

naked *adj.* Probably before 1200 *naked*; developed from Old English *nacod* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Fri-

ian *naked* naked, Middle Dutch *nāket* (modern Dutch *naakt*), Old High German *nackot*, *nackat* (modern German *nackt*), Gothic *nagaths*, from Proto-Germanic **nakwaðaz*, and Old Icelandic *nøkkevidhr*, from Proto-Germanic **nakweðaz*.

namby-pamby *adj.* 1745, weakly simple or sentimental, from the earlier nickname *Namby Pamby*, in allusion to *Am-brose Philips*, English poet ridiculed in a farce of that name (1726) for verses addressed to infants. —*n.* Before 1764, from the adjective.

name *n.* About 1125 *name*, developed from Old English *nama* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); also *noma* (before 725); both forms cognate with Old Frisian *nama* name, Old Saxon *namo*, Middle Dutch *nāme* (modern Dutch *naam*), Old High German *namo* (modern German *Name*), Old Icelandic *nafn* (Swedish *namn*, Danish *navn*), and Gothic *namō*, from Proto-Germanic **namōn*. —*v.* About 1200 *namen*; developed from Old English (about 1000) *namian*; from the noun. —**namely** *adv.* Probably before 1200, chiefly or especially; also, that is to say; formed from Middle English *name* + *liche* -ly¹.

nanny *n.* 1795, children's nurse, earlier in *nanny-house* a brothel (before 1700); probably from the name *Nanny*, a nickname of *Anne*.

nanny goat 1788, from *Nanny*, a nickname of *Anne*.

nano- or **nanno-** a combining form meaning: 1 one billionth, as in *nanoequivalent*, *nanosecond*, *nanometer*. 2 very small, dwarf, as in *nanoplankton*, *nannofossil*. Borrowed from Greek *nānos*, *nānnos* dwarf.

nap¹ *v.* take a short sleep. Probably before 1200 *nappen*; developed from Old English (before 900), *hnappian* to doze, sleep lightly; *hneappian* (before 830); cognate with Old High German *hnaffazan* to nap (modern German dialect *nafzen*), and Norwegian *napp* nap, of unknown origin. —*n.* About 1353 *nappe*, from the verb.

nap² *n.* surface of cloth. 1440 *nopepe*; borrowed from Middle Dutch *nope* nap, tuft of wool; cognate with Middle Low German *nope* tuft of wool, Old Swedish *niupa* to pinch, Gothic *dishniupan* to tear, and Old English *hnoppian* to pluck, *āhnēopan* pluck off. The spelling *nap* appeared in 1589, perhaps influenced by Middle French *nape* tablecloth, from Old French (see *NAPKIN*).

napalm *n.* 1942, formed from English *na(ph)thene* + *palm(itic)* acids; so called because the aluminum salts of these acids are used in the manufacture of the chemical that thickens gasoline. —*v.* 1950, from the noun.

nape *n.* Probably before 1300, of uncertain origin (perhaps related to Old French *hanap* a goblet, with reference to the concavity at the base of the skull).

naphtha *n.* 1572, borrowing of Latin *naphtha*, from Greek *náphtha*, originally, an inflammable liquid issuing from the earth. The word is also recorded in Middle English (about 1384), as *napte*, but was borrowed through Old French *napte*, from Latin *naphtha*; however, this form did not survive in English.

napkin *n.* 1384–85 *napkein*, *napekin*; formed in Middle English from Old French *nape* tablecloth (from Latin *mappa* napkin) + Middle English *-kin* *-kin*.

narc or **narco** *n.* 1960 *narco*, 1967 *narc*, shortened form of *narcotics agent*; earlier as a shortened form of *narcotics hospital* (1955) and of *narcotics addict* (1958).

narcissism *n.* 1905, borrowed from German *Narzissismus*, from *Narziss* Narcissus, the beautiful youth in Greek mythology who fell in love with his own reflection in a spring and was changed into the plant narcissus; for suffix see *-ISM*. —**narcissist** *n.*, *adj.* 1930, formed from English *narcissism* + *-ist*. —**narcissistic** *adj.* 1916, formed from English *narcissism* on the analogy of such pairs as *egotism*, *egotistic* and *optimism*, *optimistic*; for suffix see *-IC*.

narcissus *n.* 1548, borrowing of Latin *narcissus*, from Greek *nárkissos*, probably from a pre-Greek Aegean word, but associated by folk etymology (from the plant's sedative effect) with Greek *nárkē* numbness; see *NARCOTIC*.

narcolepsy *n.* 1880, borrowed from French *narcolepsie*, formed in French from Greek *nárkē* numbness + *lēpsis* seizure.

narcosis *n.* 1693, New Latin *narcosis*; formed from Greek *nárkōsis*, from *narkōn* to benumb; for suffix see *-OSIS*.

narcotic *n.* About 1385 *narcotik*, borrowed through Old French *narcotique*, *n.*, from *narcotique*, *adj.*, and directly from Medieval Latin *narcoticum*, from Greek *narkōtikós* making stiff or numb, narcotic, from *narkōn* to benumb or make unconscious, from *nárkē* numbness, *cramp*; for suffix see *-IC*. —**adj.** 1601, borrowed through French *narcotique*, or possibly German *narkotisch* (1525), and directly from Medieval Latin *narcoticus*, *narcoticum*.

narrate *v.* 1656, probably a back formation from *narration*, possibly influenced in formation by Latin *narrātus*, past participle of *narrāre*; for suffix see *-ATE*¹. —**narration** *n.* Probably before 1425 *narracioun*; borrowed from Old French *narration* and directly from Latin *narrātiōnem* (nominative *narrātiō*), a relating, narrative, from *narrāre* relate, recount, explain; for suffix see *-ATION*.

narrative *adj.* About 1450 *narratyf*; borrowed from Middle French *narratif*, from Late Latin *narrātīvus* suited to narration,

from Latin *narrāre* NARRATE; for suffix see *-ATIVE*. —*n.* 1561; probably from the adjective, and in some instances borrowed from Middle French *narrative*, originally feminine of *narratif*, *adj.*

narrow *adj.* 1137 *nareu*; later *narow* (before 1400); developed from Old English *nearu* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Saxon *narū* narrow, Dutch *naar*, Old High German *narwa* (modern German *Narbe*) scar, from Proto-Germanic **narwaz*. —*n.* Probably before 1200 *nearewe* narrow part, place or thing; later *narwe* (probably about 1300); from the adjective. —*v.* Before 1338 *narwen*, developed from Old English (before 1000) *nearwian*, from *nearu*, *adj.*

narwhal *n.* 1658 *Narh whale*; later *Narwhale* (1747); alteration (by association with English *whale*) of Danish and Norwegian *narhval* or Swedish *narval*, related to Icelandic *náhvallur*, from Old Icelandic *náhvallr* (*nā* corpse + *hval* WHALE from resemblance of the whale's whitish color to that of a corpse).

nary *adj.* 1746, alteration and further contraction of *ne'er a*, a shortened form of *never a*. An earlier form of *ne'er a* is recorded in Middle English *ner a* (about 1325).

nasal *adj.* 1656, probably borrowed from French *nasal*; formed from Latin *nāsus* nose + French *-al* *-al*¹; or adopted from Medieval Latin *nasalis*, from Latin *nāsus* NOSE; for suffix see *-AL*¹. The word may also have survived in English medical terminology from Middle English *nasale* (probably before 1425); borrowed from Medieval Latin *nasalis*. —*n.* 1669, nasal sound, from the adjective; earlier, nosepiece on a helmet (probably about 1300), borrowed *nasal*, *nasel*, from Old French *nes* nose, from Latin *nāsus*, but this meaning probably remained separate, and the sense of a nasal sound was created from later use of the adjective.

nascent *adj.* Before 1624, borrowed, perhaps by influence of earlier French *naissant*, from Latin *nāscēntem* (nominative *nāscēns*), present participle of *nāscī* be born; for suffix see *-ENT*.

nasturtium *n.* About 1150 *nasturcium*; borrowing of Latin *nasturtium*, *nasturtium*; perhaps a compound, by popular etymology in reference to the plant's somewhat pungent smell, of *nāsus* NOSE + *torquēre* to twist.

Earliest use referred to a plant of the mustard family, such as watercress. The plant with showy flowers is first recorded in 1704.

nasty *adj.* About 1390 *nasti* dirty, foul, probably an alteration of Old French *nastre* bad, strange, shortened from earlier *villenastre* infamous, bad, formed from *vilein* VILLAIN + *-astre* pejorative suffix (from Latin *-aster*; compare *POETASTER*); for suffix see *-Y*¹.

Possibly *nasty* was reinforced by a borrowing from a Scandinavian source (compare the stem **nasc-* possibly in Swedish dialect *naskug* dirty, nasty).

natal *adj.* About 1385 *natal*, borrowed from Latin *nātālis* pertaining to birth or origin, from *nātus*, past participle of *nāscī* be born; for suffix see *-AL*¹.

nation *n.* Probably before 1300 *nacioun* a country under one

government, group of people of common descent; borrowed from Old French *nation*, and directly from Latin *nātiōnem* (nominative *nātiō*) nation, stock, race; also, birth, from *nāscā* be born; for suffix see -TION. —**national** adj. 1597, borrowed from Middle French *national*, from Old French *nation* nation; for suffix see -AL¹. It is also probable that in some instances *national* was formed from English *nation* + *al*¹. The noun meaning “citizen of a nation” is first recorded in the plural (1887). —**nationalism** n. 1836, doctrine of divine election of nations; later, devotion to one’s own nation (1844); formed from English *national* + -ism; and, in some instances possibly borrowed from French *nationalisme* (*national* + -isme -ism). —**nationalist** n. 1715, formed from English *national* + -ist. —**nationality** n. 1691, national quality or character; later, condition of membership in a particular nation (1828); formed from English *national* + -ity, and in some instances possibly borrowed from French *nationalité* (*national* + -ité -ity).

native adj. About 1385 *natif* innate, natural, belonging to a person because of his birth; later *native* born in bondage (probably before 1425); borrowed from Old French *natif* (feminine *native*), and directly from Latin *nātīvus* innate, produced by birth, natural, from *nāscā*, *gnāscā* be born, related to *gignere* beget; for suffix see -IVE. —**n.** About 1460 *natife* person born in bondage, from the adjective. In some instances the noun was borrowed from Medieval Latin *nativus*, noun use of Latin *nātīvus* innate. The meaning of a person born in a certain place is first recorded in 1535, and that of a person who lives in a place, as opposed to visitors and foreigners (1603).

nativity n. Probably before 1200 *nativite* the birth of Christ; later *nativite* (about 1400); borrowed from Old French *nativité* birth, from Late Latin *nātivitātem* (nominative *nātivitās*) birth, from Latin *nātīvus* born, NATIVE; for suffix see -ITY. The word also appears as *nativiteith* (1105), borrowed from Old French *nativited*, from Late Latin *nātivitātem* (nominative *nātivitās*).

natter v. 1829, northern English dialect, variant of earlier *gnatter* to chatter, grumble (1806–07); earlier, to nibble away (1747); of uncertain origin; for suffix see -ER⁴. —**n.** 1866, from the verb.

natty adj. 1785, perhaps alteration of earlier *nettie* neat, natty (1573), from Middle English *net* pure, fine, elegant (see NET²) + -ie -y¹.

natural adj. About 1250, borrowed from Old French *naturel*, *natural*, and directly from Latin *nātūrālis*, from *nātūra* NATURE; for suffix see -AL¹. —**n.** Before 1325 *naturel* a natural ability or capacity; from the adjective. The meaning of a person with a natural gift or talent is first recorded in 1925. —**natural history** (1587) —**naturalism** n. Before 1641, action arising from natural instincts; later, close adherence to nature or reality in art and literature (before 1850); formed from English *natural* + -ism. —**naturalist** n. 1587, one who studies natural rather than spiritual things; formed from English *natural* + -ist. The meaning of a student of natural history is first recorded in 1600. —**naturalize** v. 1559, implied in *naturalized*; formed from English *natural* + -ize, and perhaps, in some instances, borrowed from Middle French *naturaliser*, from Old French

natural, *naturel* *natural* + -iser -ize. —**natural law** (probably about 1425) —**natural science** (before 1393)

nature n. About 1275, bodily processes, restorative powers of the body; later, innate character or disposition (about 1380), and inherent creative power or impulse (about 1385); borrowed from Old French *nature*, and directly from Latin *nātūra* birth, character, from *nāscā* be born; see NATIVE.

The meaning of the features and products of the earth is first recorded in 1662. *Nature* in the sense used in *human nature* is found in 1526.

naught or **nought** pron. 1123 *naht*; 1175 *noht*; later *noght* (before 1325), *nought* (about 1385), *naught* (about 1390); developed from Old English *nōwiht*, n. (literally) no thing (about 830), a compound of *nā*, *nō* NO + *wiht* thing, creature, being (see WIGHT). Similar compounds appear in Old Saxon *neowiht* nothing, Old High German *niwihit*, *neowihit*, and Gothic *ni waihts* nothing. —**n.** Before 1325 *noght*; later *naught* (about 1380); developed from Old English *nōwiht*.

naughty adj. About 1378 *naughty* needy, having nothing, also *noghty* evil, immoral (1380); formed from Middle English *noght* nothing, evil, NAUGHT + -y -y¹. The meaning of not obedient is first recorded before 1633, and the milder sense of somewhat improper in 1536.

nausea n. Probably before 1425, borrowed from Latin *nausea* seasickness, from Ionic Greek *nausīē* seasickness, nausea, disgust (compare Attic Greek *nautiā*), from *naútēs* sailor, from *naūs* ship. —**nauseate** v. 1640, to feel nausea; later, to cause nausea (1654); formed from English *nausea* + -ate¹, after Latin *nauseāre* to be seasick, from *nausea*; for suffix see -ATE¹. —**nauseous** adj. 1604, inclined to nausea; later, causing nausea (1612); probably formed from English *nausea* + -ous, after Latin *nauseōsus*, from *nausea*; for suffix see -OUS.

nautical adj. 1552, borrowed, perhaps by influence of Middle French *nautique*, from Latin *nauticus* pertaining to ships or sailors, from Greek *nautikós*, from *naútēs* sailor, from *naūs* ship; for suffix see -ICAL.

nautilus n. 1601, borrowed from Latin *nautilus* a kind of marine snail, from Greek *nautiflos*, originally, sailor, from *naútēs* sailor, from *naūs* ship.

naval adj. Probably before 1425 *nauall* pertaining to a ship or ships; later *naval* of a navy (probably before 1439); borrowed perhaps from Old French *naval*, and directly from Latin *nāvēlis* pertaining to a ship or ships, from *nāvis* ship.

nave¹ n. long, narrow main part of a church. 1673, borrowed from Medieval Latin *navis* nave of a church, from Latin *nāvis* ship. The semantic connection between a ship and a church is uncertain.

nave² n. hub of a wheel. Before 1325, developed from Old English *nafu*, *nafa* (before 899); cognate with Middle Dutch *nave*, *naef* hub (modern Dutch *naaf*), Old High German *naba*, *napa* (modern German *Nabe*), Old Icelandic *naf* (Swedish *naf*, Danish *nav*), from Proto-Germanic **naþō*.

navel *n.* Probably about 1200 *navele*; developed from Old English *nafela* (before 900); earlier *nabula* (before 800); cognate with Old Frisian *navla* navel, Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *nāvel* (modern Dutch *navel*), Old High German *nabalo* (modern German *Nabel*), Old Icelandic *nafl* (Swedish and Danish *navle*), from Proto-Germanic **nabalan*.

navigate *v.* 1588, probably a back formation from *navigation*, and in part, borrowed from Latin *navigātus*, past participle of *navigāre*; for suffix see -ATE¹. —**navigable** *adj.* 1464, borrowed from Old French *navigable*, and probably directly from Latin *navigābilis* pertaining to sailing, from *navigāre*. —**navigation** *n.* 1533, borrowed through French *navigation*, or directly from Latin *navigātiōnem* (nominative *navigātiō*), from *navigāre* to sail, sail over, go by sea, sail or steer a ship, from a lost adjective **navigus* steering or driving the ship, from *nāvis* ship + the root of *agere* to drive; for suffix see -ATION. —**navigator** *n.* 1590, borrowed from Latin *navigātor* a sailor, from *navigāre*; for suffix see -OR².

navvy *n.* 1832–34, a laborer on an artificial waterway, such as a canal, or on a railway; an altered and abbreviated form of earlier *navigator* a laborer employed in excavating a canal or artificial waterway (1775).

navy *n.* Before 1338, borrowed from Old French *navie* fleet or ship, from Latin *nāvigia*, plural of *nāvīgium* vessel, boat, from *nāvis* ship.

nay *adv.* Before 1325 *nai*; borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *nei*, a compound of *ne* not + *ei* ever, AY¹). —**n.** Probably before 1300 *nay*, from the same source as the adverb.

Nazi *n.* 1930, borrowing of German *Nazi*, a shortened and altered form of *Nationalsozialist* National Socialist, German Workers' Party, led by Hitler from 1920. —**adj.** 1930, from the noun. —**Nazism** *n.* 1934, formed from English *Nazi* + *-ism*, perhaps by influence of French *Nazisme* (1930).

Neanderthal *adj.* 1861, borrowed from German *Neanderthal*, *Neandertal* Neander valley, a gorge near Düsseldorf, western Germany, where the first fossils of these humans were identified in 1856. —**n.** 1923, from the adjective.

neap *adj.* 1479 *neep*; developed from Old English (about 725) *nēp-*, as in *nēpflōd* neap flood. —**n.** 1584, from the adjective.

near *adv.* Probably before 1200 *neor* close by, near; later *ner* (about 1250); developed from Old English *nēar* closer, nearer (about 725, in *Beowulf*), comparative of *nēah*, *nēh* NIGH. Cognate comparatives of Old English *nēar* include Old Frisian *nīar* nearer, Old Saxon and Old High German *nāhōr*, Middle Dutch *naer*, modern German *näher*, Old Icelandic *nær*, and Gothic *nēhwis*.

In Middle English *near* came to be used as a positive form, from which the new comparative *nearer* developed in the 1500's possibly influenced by the Old Icelandic comparative *nær*, as in *ganga nær* go nearer (to), *standa nær* stand nearer (to), in which "nearer" can also be translated as "near." —**adj.** About 1300 *ner*, from the adverb. —**v.** 1513, from the adverb or adjective.

neat¹ *adj.* tidy. 1542, free of impurities; 1546, trim or smart, later, tidy (1577); borrowed from Anglo-French *neit*, Old French *net* clear, pure, from Latin *nitidus* gleaming, from *nitēre* to shine. The informal sense of very good, pleasant, attractive, is first recorded in 1934 in American English.

neat² *n. pl.* or *sing.* cattle, oxen (found now in *neat's-foot* oil, 1579). Probably before 1200 *net*, *nete*; developed from Old English (before 830) *nēat*; cognate with Old Frisian *nāt* cattle, Old Saxon *nōt*, Old High German *nōz*, and Old Icelandic *naut*, from Proto-Germanic **nautan*.

nebula *n.* Before 1449 *nebule* cloud or mist; borrowed from Latin *nebula* cloud or mist; 1661, film covering the eye, a reborrowing of Latin *nebula*; cognate with Greek *nephelē*, *néphos* cloud. The astronomical meaning of a cloudy cluster of stars, gases, etc. was first recorded in 1727–38. —**nebular** *adj.* 1837 *nebular hypothesis* the theory that the solar system developed from a nebula; later, consisting of or relating to a nebula (1856); from the noun; for suffix see -AR. —**nebulous** *adj.* Probably before 1425, cloudy or foggy, borrowed from Latin *nebulōsus* cloudy, misty, foggy, from *nebula* mist; for suffix see -OUS. The sense of vague or indistinct, is first recorded in 1831. A variant *nebulose* is recorded as early as 1440, but never achieved wide use.

necessary *adj.* About 1380, *necessarie* needed, required, essential; borrowed, perhaps in some instances through Old French *nécessaire*, and directly from Latin *necessārius*, from *necesse* unavoidable, indispensable, necessary; originally, no backing away (*ne-* not + pre-Latin **cessis* withdrawal, an abstract noun to *cēdere* withdraw); for suffix see -ARY. —**n.** About 1340 (plural *necessaris* needs); borrowed from Latin *necessāria*, from neuter plural of *necessārius*, *adj.* The singular form *necessarie* is first recorded probably before 1425. —**necessitate** *v.* 1628, borrowed perhaps by influence of French *nécessiter*, from Medieval Latin *necessitatus*, past participle of *necessitare* to compel, from Latin *necessitātem* (nominative *necessitās*) necessity, *necesse* necessary; replacing earlier Middle English *necesseden*, *necessen* (1380); borrowed from Late Latin *necessāri* to be made necessary, from Latin *necessārius*, *adj.*; for suffix see -ATE¹. —**necessity** *n.* About 1380 *necessite*, borrowed from Old French *necessité*, learned borrowing from Latin *necessitātem* (nominative *necessitās*) compulsion, need for attention; for suffix see -ITY.

neck *n.* Probably about 1225 *nekke*; later *necke* (about 1250); developed from Old English *hnecca* neck, back of the neck (before 899); cognate with Old Frisian *hneke* neck, back of the neck, Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *necke* (modern Dutch *nek*), from Proto-Germanic **Hnekkōn*, earlier **kneknōn*; also cognate with Old High German *hnac* neck (modern German *Nacken* neck, *Genick* nape), and Old Icelandic *hnakki*, *hnakker* neck, nape (Danish *nakke*, Swedish *acke*). —**v.** 1825, originally northern English dialect, to clasp around the neck, fondle; from the noun. —**neckerchief** *n.* About 1384, *neckercheuys* or *necke couercheues* neckerchieves; later *nekyrchefe* (1483); formed from Middle English *nekke* neck + *kerchef*, *koverchief* kerchief. —**necklace** *n.* About 1590, formed from English *neck* + *lace* cord, string.

necrology *n.* 1727–38, borrowed from New Latin *necrologia*, from Greek *nekros* dead body + Latin *-logia* -logy.

necromancy *n.* 1550, alteration of Middle English *nygro-maunce* (probably before 1300); also about 1303 *nygromauncy*; borrowed from Old French *nigramancie*, *nigremance*, and directly from Medieval Latin *nigromantia*, from Late Latin *necromantia* divination from an exhumed corpse, from Greek *nekromantēla* (*nekros* dead body + *mantēla* divination, oracle, from *mantēlesthai* to prophesy, from *mantis* prophet); for suffix see -Y³.

The spelling (*nigro-*) developed from association with Latin *niger* black, necromancy being the black art. The modern spelling was an attempt to "correct" the spelling by returning to Late Latin *necromantia*.

necrosis *n.* 1665, borrowed probably from Greek *nekrosis*, from *nekroōn* make dead, from *nekros* dead body.

nectar *n.* 1555, borrowing of Latin *nectar* the drink of the gods in mythology, from Greek *néktar* (often taken to be a compound, formed from *nek-* death + *-tar* overcoming). The sweet liquid found in many flowers, is first recorded in 1609.

nectarine *n.* 1664, earlier *nectrine* (1657), and *nectarya* (1616), noun use of earlier *nectarine*, *adj.*, of or like nectar (1611); formed from English *nectar* + *-ine*¹.

need *n.* Probably about 1200 *nede* want, necessity; developed from Old English *nied* necessity, compulsion, want (before 901, West Saxon), earlier *nēd* (probably about 750, Mercian); cognate with Old Frisian *nēd* need, want, Old Saxon *nōd*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *nood*, Old High German *nōt* (modern German *Not*), Old Icelandic *naudhr* (Norwegian *naud*/*nød*, Danish *nød*, Swedish *nöd*), and Gothic *nauths* (genitive *naudais*), from Proto-Germanic **naudis*. —*v.* Probably about 1200 *neden*, developed from Old English (about 960) *nēodian* be necessary, from *nēd* need. —**needs** *adv.* 1131 *nedes*, from *nede*; found in Old English *nēde*, *nēd*. —**needy** *adj.* Before 1225 *nedy* needing or wanting things, poor; formed from Middle English *nede* need + *-y* -y¹.

needle *n.* Probably about 1200 *nedle* instrument used for sewing; developed from Old English *naethlae*, *nethle*, *nedlæ* (about 700); cognate with Old Frisian *nēdle*, *nēlde* needle, Old Saxon *nāthla*, Middle Dutch *naelde* (modern Dutch *naald*), Old High German *nādala*, *nālda* (modern German *Nadel*), Old Icelandic *nāl* (Swedish, Danish, and Norwegian *nål*), and Gothic *nēthla*, from Proto-Germanic **nēthlō*, from the base **nē-* to sew, as in Middle Low German *neien* to sew, Middle Dutch *naeyen* (modern Dutch *naaien*), and Old High German *nājan* (modern German *nähen*). —*v.* Before 1715, to sew or pierce with or as with a needle, from the noun. The meaning of provoke to anger, goad, is first recorded in 1881, probably developed from the sense of haggle in making a bargain (1812). —**needlework** *n.* (before 1382)

nefarious *adj.* 1609, borrowed from Latin *nefarius* wicked, abominable, from *nefas* crime, wrong, impiety, something not according to divine law (*ne-* not + *fas* right, lawful, divine decree, related to *fari* speak); for suffix see -OUS.

negate *v.* 1623, probably a back formation from *negation*; and borrowed from Latin *negātus*, past participle of *negāre* deny, say no, from Old Latin *neg-*, variant of *nec* not (as in *nec-opināns* unsuspecting), related to *nē* not, NO; for suffix see -ATE¹.

—**negation** *n.* Probably before 1425 *negacioun* denial; borrowed from Old French *negacion*, and directly from Latin *negātiōnem* (nominative *negātiō*) denial, from *negāre*; for suffix see -ATION. —**negative** *adj.* Probably about 1400 *negatyff*; later *negative* (about 1445); probably borrowed through Old French *negatif* (feminine *negative*), and directly from Latin *negātivus*, from *negāre*; for suffix see -ATIVE. —*n.* Probably about 1383, negative command, prohibition; borrowed through Old French *negatif*, *n.* and *adj.*, and directly from Latin *negātivus*. The photographic film image is first recorded in 1853. —*adv.* no. 1955, originally used for clarity in radio communication.

neglect *v.* 1529, borrowed from Latin *neglēctus*, past participle of *neglegere*, variant of *neglegere* (Old Latin *nec* not + *legere* pick up, select).

The word also occurs in Middle English as a verbal adjective *neglecte* ignored, neglected (probably before 1425); borrowed from Middle French *neglect*, or directly from Latin *neglēctus*. This form disappeared after 1724, replaced by *neglected* (1600). —*n.* act of neglecting. 1588, from the verb.

negligee *n.* 1756, a kind of loose gown worn by women in the 1700's; borrowing of French *négligée*, from feminine past participle of *négliger* to neglect, from Latin *neglegere* to NEGLECT.

Modern use is a revival first recorded in 1930.

negligence *n.* About 1340 *negligens*; later *negligence* (1351, borrowed from Old French *negligence*), and *negligence* (about 1386, borrowed from Latin *neglegentia*). Latin *neglegentia*, *neglegentia* carelessness, heedlessness, are from *neglegentem* (nominative *neglegēns*), present participle of *neglegere* to NEGLECT; for suffix see -ENCE. —**negligent** *adj.* Before 1382 *negligent*; also *negligent* (probably 1383, borrowed from Latin *neglegentem*, nominative *neglegēns*, *neglegēns*), and *negligent* (probably before 1400; borrowed from Old French *negligent*). Latin *neglegēns*, *neglegēns* are forms of the present participle of *neglegere* to NEGLECT; for suffix see -ENT.

negligible *adj.* 1829, formed from English *neglig(ence)* or *negli(gent)* + *-ible*. French *négligeable*, earlier *négligible* (1834), is probably a borrowing from English.

negotiate *v.* 1599, probably a back formation from *negotiation*; for suffix see -ATE¹. —**negotiable** *adj.* 1758, legally transferable; later, that can be talked over (1794); probably borrowed from earlier French *négociable* (1675), but also formed from English *negotiate* + *-able*. —**negotiation** *n.* 1425 *negociacion* a dealing with people; borrowing of Old French *negociacion*, and borrowed directly from Latin *negōtiātiōnem* (nominative *negōtiātiō*), from *negōtiārī* carry on business, from *negōtium* business (*neg-* not + Latin *ōtium* ease, leisure); for suffix see -ATION.

Negro *n.* 1555, black-skinned person from Africa or of African descent; borrowed from Spanish or Portuguese *negro* black, Negro, from Latin *niger* black. —*adj.* 1594, from the noun.

neigh *v.* Probably before 1300 *nayghen*; later *neighen* (before 1382); developed from Old English *hnægan* (about 1000); probably of imitative origin. —**n.** 1513, from the verb.

neighbor *n.* 1117 *nehhebuere*, later *neighebuore* (about 1390); developed from Old English, West Saxon *nēahgebūr* nearby dweller (before 899), and Anglian *nēahgebūr* (about 950). Old English *nēahgebūr* (*nēah* near, *NIGH* + *gebūr* dweller) corresponds to Middle Dutch *nāghebuur*, *nābuur* neighbor (modern Dutch *nabuur*), Old Saxon *nābūr*, Old High German *nāhgibūr*, Middle High German *nāchbūr* (modern German *Nachbar*), and Old Icelandic *nābúi* (Danish and Norwegian *nabo*); Old English *gebūr* is related to *būr* dwelling; see BOWER. —**v.** Before 1586, from the noun. —**neighborhood** *n.* Probably before 1425 *neighboreheed*, *neighborhood* friendly relations between neighbors; formed from Middle English *neighebuore* neighbor + *-hode* *-hood*.

neither *conj.* About 1150 *næther* not either; later, *neither* (about 1200); developed from Old English *nāwther* (before 899), contraction of *nāhwæther* not of two (*nā* NO + *hwæther* which of two; see *WHETHER*). The spelling *neither* was patterned on *either*. —**pron.** About 1250 *neither*, developed from Old English *nāwther*, *pron.* and *conj.* —**adj.** Probably before 1350 *nethyr*; later *neither* (about 1400); probably from the pronoun.

nematode *adj.* 1861, borrowed from New Latin *Nematoda* the class or phylum name, from the stem of Greek *nēma* (genitive *nēmato*) thread + *-ode*, in the nature of. —**n.** 1865, from the adjective.

Nemesis or **nemesis** *n.* 1597 *Nemesis*, in allusion to *Nemesis* the Greek goddess of retribution or vengeance (1576); borrowed from Greek *Nēmesis*, related to *nēmein* distribute, allot.

neo- a combining form meaning new, recent, as in *neoclassical*, *neocolonialism*. Borrowed from Greek *neo-*, combining form of *néos* NEW.

neodymium *n.* 1885, New Latin; formed from *neo-* new + (*di*) *dymium*; so called because the supposed element didymium was found to consist of two elements; for suffix see *-IUM*.

neolithic or **Neolithic** *adj.* 1865, formed from English *neo-* new + *-lith* stone + *-ic*.

neologism *n.* 1800, borrowed from French *néologisme* (*néo-* new + *log-*, from Greek *lógos* word + French *-isme* *-ism*). It is possible that *neologism* was also formed in English from *neolog-*, found in earlier formations as *neological* (1754), *neologist* (1785), and *neology* (1797).

neon *n.* 1898, New Latin; borrowed from Greek *néon*, neuter of *néos* NEW.

neophyte *n.* Before 1400 *neophite* a new convert, novice; borrowed from Late Latin *neophytus*, from Greek *neóphytos*, literally, newly planted (*néos* NEW + *-phytos* planted, from *phýein* cause to grow, beget, plant).

nephew *n.* Before 1250 *neweu* kinsman; later *neveu* nephew, grandson (about 1300), and *nephew* (probably before 1400); borrowed from Old French *neveu* grandson, descendant, from

Latin *nepōtem* (nominative *nepōs*) sister's son, grandson, descendant.

The native word *neve* nephew (developed from Old English *nefa* nephew, grandson) is attested throughout the Middle English period and is last recorded about 1540. It is cognate with Old Icelandic *nefi* nephew, relative, Old High German *nevo* (modern German *Neffe*) nephew, Middle Dutch *nēve* (modern Dutch *neef*), Old Saxon *nebo*, and Old Frisian *neva*, from Proto-Germanic **nēfōn*.

nephritis *n.* 1580, borrowed from Late Latin *nephritis*, from Greek *nephritis*, from *nephros* kidney + *-itis* inflammation; earlier, Middle English *nefresis* (before 1398); borrowed from Medieval Latin *nefresis*, from Late Latin *nephritis*.

nepotism *n.* 1662, privileges of a pope's nephew; borrowed from French *népotisme*, from early modern Italian *nepotismo*, from *nepote* nephew, learned borrowing from Latin *nepōtem* (nominative *nepōs*) grandson, NEPHEW.

neptunium *n.* 1941, New Latin; formed from *Neptune* the planet + *-ium* (chemical suffix); so called because neptunium follows uranium in the periodic table as the planet Neptune follows Uranus in the solar system.

nerd *n.* 1965 (but in oral use before 1955), probably an alteration of earlier slang *nert* stupid or crazy person (1940's), itself an alteration of *NUT*.

nerve *n.* About 1385 *nef* sinew, tendon; later *nerve* a nerve (before 1400); borrowed from Old French *nef* sinew, tendon, nerve, and directly from both Medieval Latin *nervus* nerve and Latin *nervus* sinew, tendon. Latin *nervus*, with metathesis *rv* for *ur* of a pre-Latin **neuros*, is cognate with Greek *neûron* sinew or tendon; later, nerve.

The sense of strength, vigor is first recorded in the plural *nerves* in 1603, that of courage, boldness in 1809, and that of impudence or cheek in 1887. —**nervous** *adj.* 1392, of or related to the nerves, containing nerves or sinews; borrowed from Latin *nervōsus* sinewy, from *nervus* sinew; for suffix see *-OUS*. The meaning of suffering from a disorder of the nerves is first recorded in 1734, and that of restless, agitated in 1740.

-ness a suffix forming nouns meaning: 1 quality, state, or condition of being, as in *blackness*, *preparedness*. 2 action or behavior, as in *carefulness*. 3 an instance of being or involving some quality or condition, as in *kindness*. Middle English *-ness*, *-nes*, developed from Old English *-ness*, *-nes*, *-nyss*, *-nys*; cognate with Old Frisian *-nesse*, *-nisse*, Old Saxon *-nesse*, *-nissi*, *-nussi*, Middle Dutch *-nisse*, *-nesse* (modern Dutch *-nis*), and Old High German *-nissa*, *-nassi*, *-nussi* (modern German *-nis*).

The initial *n* in the suffix was originally part of the stem of the preceding word as found in Gothic where the suffix is *-assus*, as in *ibnassus* evenness (*ibn* even + *-assus* *-ness*).

nest *n.* Old English *nest* bird's nest, snug retreat (probably about 750); cognate with Middle Low German *nest* bird's nest, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *nest*, and Old High German *nest* (modern German *Nest*), from Proto-Germanic **nistaz*. —**v.** Probably before 1200 *næstien*; later *nesten* (probably before 1300); from the noun; replacement of Old English (before

830) *nistan*; cognate with Middle Dutch, Old High German, and modern German *nisten* to nest, from Proto-Germanic **nistjanan*.

nestle *v.* About 1300 *nestlen* build a nest, settle; developed from Old English (about 1025) *nestlian* build a nest, from *nest* NEST, and cognate with Middle Dutch, modern Dutch, and Middle Low German *nestelen* to build a nest.

The meaning of settle comfortably or snugly is first recorded in 1687, and that of press or lie close, as if in a nest, about 1696.

nestling *n.* About 1399, probably formed from English *nest* + *-ling*.

net¹ *n.* mesh. Old English (before 830) *net*; cognate with Old Saxon *netti* net, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *net*, Old High German *nezzi* (modern German *Netz*), Old Icelandic *net* (Danish *net*, Norwegian *nett*, Swedish *nät*), Gothic *nati*, from Proto-Germanic **natjan*, related to **nōt*- whence Old Icelandic *nōt* trawling net. —*v.* Before 1425 *netten*; from the noun.

net² *adj.* remaining after deductions. Probably before 1300 *net* worthy, pure, fine, elegant; borrowed from Old French *net* clean, pure, bright. The meaning of remaining after deductions is first recorded in 1418, probably borrowed from Italian *netto* remaining after deductions. —*v.* 1758, from the adjective. —*n.* 1910, from the adjective.

nether *adj.* About 1200 *nether* lower; developed from Old English (before 971) *neothra*, earlier *niothera* (before 830); from *nither*, *niothor* (adv.) down, downwards (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *nithera* (adj.), *nither* (adv.) down, downwards, Old Saxon *nitheri* (adj.), *nithar* (adv.), Middle Dutch *nēder* (adv.), modern Dutch *neder*, *neer*, Old High German *nidari*, *nidaro* (adj.), *nidar* (adv.), modern German *nieder* (adj. and adv.), and Old Icelandic *nedhri*, *nedharri* (adj.), *nidhr* (adv.), from Proto-Germanic **nitheraz*.

nettle *n.* Before 1200 *netle*; later *nettle* (before 1300); developed from Old English (before 800) *nete*; cognate with Old Saxon *netela* nettle, Middle Dutch *nētel* (modern Dutch *netel*), Old High German *nezzila* (modern German *Nessel*), and Norwegian *nesle*, *netle*, from Proto-Germanic **natilōn*, diminutive of **natōn*, the source of Old High German *nazza* nettle. —*v.* Probably before 1400 *netlen* irritate, provoke, sting with nettles; from the noun.

neur- the form of *neuro-* before vowels, as in *neural*, *neuritis*.

neural *adj.* 1839–47, formed from English *neur-* + *-al*¹.

neuralgia *n.* 1822–34, New Latin *neuralgia*, formed from Greek *neûron* nerve + *álgos* pain.

neuritis *n.* 1840, formed from English *neur-* + *-itis*.

neuro- a combining form meaning nerve, nerve tissue, or nervous system, as in *neurobiology*, *neuromuscular*. Borrowed from Greek *neuro-*, combining form of *neûron* nerve.

neurology *n.* 1681 *neurologie*, borrowed from New Latin *neurologia*, from *neuro-* nerve + *-logia* -logy.

neuron *n.* 1891, borrowed from German *Neuron*, from Greek *neûron* sinew, cord, (later) nerve.

neuropterous *adj.* 1802, borrowed from New Latin *Neuroptera* the order name, formed from Greek *neûron* vein, tendon, nerve + *pterón* wing; for suffix see -OUS.

neurosis *n.* 1776–84, disorder or disease of the nervous system; New Latin *neurosis*, formed from Greek *neûron* nerve + New Latin *-osis* abnormal condition.

The meaning of a mental disorder is first recorded in 1871.

neurotic *adj.* 1775, acting upon the nerves; later affected by neurosis (1887); formed in English from Greek *neûron* nerve + English *-otic*, as in *hypnotic*, *erotic*. —*n.* 1896, from the adjective; earlier, a drug having an effect on the nervous system (1661).

neuter *adj.* Before 1398 *neutir*, *neutre*; borrowed through Old French *neutre*, and directly from Latin *neuter* (*ne-* not, *no* + *uter* either), probably a loan translation of Greek *oudéteros* neither, neuter. —*n.* About 1450 *neutre*, from the adjective. —*v.* 1903, from the noun or adjective.

neutral *adj.* 1471 *neuteral* composed of contrasting elements; borrowed through Middle French *neutal*, or directly from Latin *neutrālis* of neuter gender, from *neuter* NEUTER; for suffix see -AL¹.

The meaning of on neither side in a quarrel or war is first recorded in English in 1549, probably adopted from Medieval Latin. The sense in chemistry of having neither acid nor alkaline properties, is first recorded in 1661; and that in electricity of neither positive nor negative in charge, in 1837. —*n.* About 1449, probably from the adjective. —**neutrality** *n.* About 1475, neutral position; borrowed from Middle French *neutralité*, or directly from Medieval Latin *neutralitatem* (nominative *neutralitas*) a neutral condition, from Latin *neutrālis* of neuter gender, neutral; for suffix see -ITY. —**neutralize** *v.* Before 1665, remain neutral; (implied in *neutralizer* 1628); borrowed from French *neutraliser*, from *neutre* neuter, from Latin *neuter*; for suffix see -IZE.

neutrino *n.* 1934, borrowed from Italian *neutrino*, formed from *neutrone* neutron + *-ino* (diminutive suffix).

neutron *n.* 1921, from English *neutr(al)* + *-on*, as in *electron*, *proton*. Much earlier (1899) it was used to mean “combination of a normal electron and a hypothetical positive electron.”

never *adv.* 1137 *nevre*, later *never* (probably about 1150); developed from Old English (before 725) *næfre*, a compound of *ne* not, *no* + *æfre* ever. —**nevermore** *adv.* (1123) —**nevertheless** *adv.* (before 1325)

new *adj.* Probably about 1200 *new*; developed from Old English *nēowe*, *nīowe* (before 830); earlier *nūwe* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *nie*, *nī* new, Old Saxon *niuwī*, Middle Dutch *nieuwe*, *nūwe*, *nīe* (modern Dutch *nieuw*), Old High German *niuwī* (modern German *neu*), Old Icelandic

nȳr (Swedish and Danish *ny*), and Gothic *niujis*; from Proto-Germanic **newjaz*. —**adv.** About 1307 *newe* recently; earlier *nywe* again, anew (about 1280); developed from Old English *niwe* recently (before 971), from the Old English adjective. —**newly** adv. Before 1325 *newli*; developed from Old English *niwlice* (before 899), from *niwe*, adj. + *-liche*. —**new moon** (Old English, about 1000) —**New Testament** (before 1398) —**New World** the Americas (1555). —**New Year** (probably about 1200, in *New Yeres Day*)

newel *n.* 1362 *nowell*, borrowed from Old French *novel*, *noel* knob, newel, from Vulgar Latin **nōdellus* little knot, diminutive of Latin *nōdulus*, itself diminutive of *nōdus* knot.

newfangled *adj.* Possibly before 1470 *neufanglyd* very fond of novelty; from earlier *neufangel* (about 1250), formed from Middle English *neu* NEW + *-fangel* (a form occurring only in this compound), from the root of Old English *fōn* to capture (see FANG). *Newfangled* in the sense of lately come into fashion, novel, is first recorded before 1533.

news *n.* Before 1382 *newes* new things; plural of earlier *new*, *newe* new thing (about 1200); from *new*, adj., NEW. The meaning of tidings is first recorded probably before 1437. —**newspaper** *n.* (1670)

newt *n.* Before 1425 *newte*, from the misdivision of *an ewte* as *newte*. *Ewte* is a variant of Middle English *evete* EFT.

newton *n.* 1904, named after the English mathematician and physicist Isaac Newton.

next *adj.* Probably before 1200 *nexte*, *nexte* nearest or closest; developed from Old English *nēht-* (about 725); *nēhta*, *nȳhta* (about 725, West Saxon, in *Beowulf*), *nēsta* (before 830, Anglian); superlative forms of West Saxon *nēah*, Anglian *nēh* NIGH; see -EST. Cognate superlatives include Old Frisian *nēst* nearest, Old Saxon *nāhist*, Middle Dutch *naest* (modern Dutch *naast*), Old High German *nāhost*, *nāhisto* (modern German *nächst*), and Old Icelandic *næstr* (Danish *næst*, Norwegian *nest*, Swedish *näst*). —**adv.** Probably before 1200 *nest* most recently, just, and *nexte*, in the nearest position, soonest, last; developed from Old English (before 900) *nēht*, *nēht* nearest, next, last; superlative forms of *nēah*, *nēh* NIGH; and reinforced in Middle English by development from the adjective. —**prep.** Probably before 1200 *nest* nearest to; later *next* (probably before 1300); developed from Old English (before 900) *nēht*, *nēht*, from the adverb, and reinforced in Middle English by development from the adverb.

nexus *n.* 1663, connection, link, borrowing of Latin *nexus* (genitive *nexūs*), from *nectere* to bind.

niacin *n.* 1942, formed from *ni(cotinic) ac(id) + -in²*. *Niacin* was coined, principally as a commercialism, to replace the term *nicotinic acid*.

nib *n.* 1585, beak or bill; originally Scottish variant of *neb* (about 700, in Old English); cognate with Middle Low German *nebbe* beak, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *nebbe*, and Old Icelandic *nef*, Danish *næb*, Swedish *näbb*, Norwegian *nebb*,

from Proto-Germanic **nabjan*. The meaning of point of a pen appeared in 1611.

nibble *v.* 1500–20, from *nebyllen* to peck at, nibble at (before 1460); perhaps borrowed from Low German *nibbeln* or *knibbeln* to nibble, gnaw. —**n.** 1658, act of nibbling; later, small bite (1838); from the verb.

nice *adj.* Probably before 1300 *nyce* foolish or ignorant; borrowed from Old French *nice* silly, from Latin *nescius* ignorant (*ne-* not; see NO + *scire* know). Several other senses occur in Middle English, including: timid (before 1300), fussy or fastidious (probably about 1380), dainty, delicate (about 1405). The extended meanings of precise, careful, punctilious, are first recorded in the 1500's and the current popular meanings of agreeable or delightful, in 1769, and that of kind or thoughtful in 1830.

nicety *n.* 1369 *nicete* foolishness, borrowed from Old French *niceté* (nice silly + *-ité* -ity). The meaning of minute distinction, subtle point (usually plural in form), is first recorded in 1589, and that of precision or accuracy in 1660.

niche *n.* 1611, borrowing of French *niche*, from Italian *nicchia* niche, nook, from *nicchio* seashell, probably from Latin *mitulus* mussel (the change from *m* to *n* has not been fully explained).

The figurative meaning of a place or position for which a person is suited is first recorded in 1726. The ecological meaning of a place of an organism or species within a community is first recorded in 1927.

nick *n.* Probably before 1450 *nik*; of uncertain origin, but possibly influenced by Middle French *niche* niche. The figurative expression *in the nick of time*, is first recorded in 1643. —**v.** 1523, from the noun.

nickel *n.* 1755, borrowing of Swedish *nickel*, shortened form of *kopparnickel* the copper-colored ore from which nickel was first obtained. Swedish *kopparnickel* was a half-translation of German *Kupfernickel*, literally, copper demon (*Kupfer* COPPER¹ + *Nickel* demon, goblin, rascal). The ore was called "copper demon" because it resembled copper but yielded none; compare the etymology of COBALT.

The meaning of a coin made partly of nickel appeared in 1857 but was not applied to a five-cent piece before 1881.

nickelodeon *n.* 1888, motion-picture theater, a blend of *nickel* (the coin) and *-odeon*, as found in *Melodeon* music hall (1840, ultimately from Greek *ōideion* building for musical performances); also applied to a jukebox that played a record for a nickel (1938).

nickname *n.* 1440 *neke name*, from a *neke name*, misdivision of original *an eke name*, literally, an additional name. Middle English *eke* addition or increase, developed from Old English (894) *ēaca* an increase, related to *ēacian* to increase, EKE. —**v.** 1536, to misname; later, give a nickname to (1567–69); from the noun.

nicotine *n.* 1819 *nicotin*; later *nicotine* (1839); borrowing of French *nicotine*, from New Latin *Nicotiana* the tobacco plant, from Jean Nicot, French ambassador to Portugal who intro-

duced tobacco into France about 1560; for suffix see -INE². —**nicotinic** adj. 1873, shortened from *nicotinic acid* formed when nicotine is oxidized; formed from *nicotine* + -ic + *acid*, as a loan translation of German *Nikotinsäure*.

nictitate *v.* 1822–34 to wink, in *nictitating membrane* inner eyelid (1713); borrowed from Medieval Latin *nictitatus*, past participle of *nictitare*, frequentative form of Latin *nictāre* wink, blink; for suffix see -ATE¹. An earlier *nictate* (1691, borrowed from Latin *nictāre*) is now heard in place of *nictitate*.

niece *n.* About 1300 *nece*; borrowed from Old French *niece*; earlier *niepce*, from Latin *neptia*, from *neptis* granddaughter, niece, related to *nepōs* grandson, NEPHEW. *Niece* replaced native Middle English *nifte* niece; developed from Old English *nift*, from Proto-Germanic **neftiz*.

nifty *adj.* 1868, perhaps a shortened and altered form of *magnificent*; for suffix see -Y¹.

niggard *n.* About 1384 *nygard*; possibly from earlier *nig* stingy (about 1300); borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *hnögr* stingy, from Proto-Germanic **Hnauw-jaz*); for suffix see -ARD. Old Icelandic *hnögr* is cognate with Old English *hneaw* stingy, niggardly, which did not survive in Middle English, and with Middle High German *nouwe* careful, exact (modern German *genau*), Middle Low German *nouwe* small, tight, narrow, and Middle Dutch *nauwe* (modern Dutch *nauw*), from Proto-Germanic **Hnauwaz*. —**adj.** Probably before 1400 *nygard*, from the noun. —**niggardly** *adj.* 1561, formed from English *niggard*, *n.* + -ly².

niggle *v.* 1619, possibly borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare dialectal Norwegian *nigla* be busy with trifles, perhaps related to the source of English NIGGARD).

The meaning of criticize, nag, annoy, is first recorded in 1886, and earlier in the specific sense of complain of trifles from ill temper or bad humor (1844).

The participial adjective *nigging* is first recorded in 1599, and may imply a verb form before 1619.

nigh *adv., adj.* Probably before 1200 *nih*; later *neigh* (before 1325); *nygh* (1369); developed from Old English, West Saxon *nēah*, (about 725, in *Beowulf*), and Anglian *nēh* (about 830), of which the comparative form was *nēar* NEAR, and the superlative form was *nēhst* NEXT. Phonetic changes obscured the relationship of the comparative and the superlative forms of *nigh*, so that new forms, *nigher* and *nighest*, developed in the late 1300's.

Cognates of Old English *nēah*, *nēh* include Old Frisian *nei*, *nī* nigh, Middle Dutch *na*, *nae* (modern Dutch *na*), Old Saxon and Old High German *nāh* (modern German *nah*), Old Icelandic *nā-* (in combinations like *nā-būi* neighbor), and Gothic *nēhu*, *nēhwa*.

night *n.* Before 1250 *nigt* *nigt*; later *night* (about 1300); developed from Old English *niht*, which shows replacement of the vowel of older West Saxon *neah*, Anglian *neht*, *neht* by that of oblique cases (genitive *nihte*, dative *niht*). Cognates of Old English *neah*, *neht* include Old Frisian, Middle Dutch, and modern Dutch *nacht* night, Old Saxon and Old High German

naht (modern German *Nacht*), Old Icelandic *nätt*, *nött* (Norwegian and Swedish *natt*, Danish *nat*), and Gothic *nahts*. For development of the spelling with -ght, see FIGHT.

nightingale *n.* About 1250 *nigtingale*, later *nyghtyngale* (about 1380); alteration of *nyhtegale* (probably before 1250); developed from Old English (about 700) *naectigalæ*; cognate with Old Saxon and Old High German *nahtagala*, *nahtigala* (modern German *Nachtigall*), and Middle Dutch *nachtegale*, *nachtegaal* (modern Dutch *nachtegaal*), from Proto-Germanic **naht-* night + **galōn* to sing, related to Old English *giellan* YELL. The appearance of the medial -n- has no etymological significance.

nightmare *n.* About 1300 *nigt-mare* an evil female spirit afflicting sleepers with a feeling of suffocation; later *nytmare* (about 1350), and *nyghte mare* (1440) a compound of *nigt* night + *mare* goblin that causes nightmares, incubus, found in Old English *mare*, developed from *mera*, *mære* (before 700); cognate with Middle Dutch *mare*, *maer* incubus, Old High German *mara*, Middle High German *mar*, *mare* (dialectal modern German *Mahr* nightmare), and Old Icelandic *mara* incubus (Swedish *mara* nightmare, Danish and Norwegian *mare* incubus, nightmare), from Proto-Germanic **marōn*.

The sense of any bad or frightening dream is first recorded in 1829, and that of a very distressing experience, in 1831.

nihilism *n.* Before 1817, borrowed from German *Nihilismus*, formed from Latin *nihil* nothing, NIL + German -ism -ism.

-nik a suffix used to designate a person associated with or characterized by a thing or expression, usually with a jocular or derisive intent, as in *beatnik*, *folkenik* (folk-song devotee), *no-goodnik*, *peacenik*. Borrowed from Yiddish -*nik*, as in *nudnik* a bore, from Russian -*nik*, a common personal suffix, as in *kolkhoznik* member of a kolkhoz.

nīl *n.* 1833, borrowing of Latin *nīl*, contraction of *nihil*, *nihilum* nothing (*ne-* not + *hilum* small thing, trifle).

nimble *adj.* Before 1325 *nemel*; later *nymyl* (before 1440), and *nymbyll* (1496); developed probably from Old English (about 1000) *nāemel* quick to grasp (related to *niman* to take), and from Old English (before 1000) *numol*, from the participial stem *num-* of *niman*; for suffix see -LE². Old English *niman* is cognate with Old Frisian *nima* to take, Old Saxon *niman*, Old High German *neman* (modern German *nehmen*), Old Icelandic *nema*, and Gothic *niman*, from Proto-Germanic **nemanan*. The *b* in *nimble* is analogous to the *b* in *bramble*.

nimbus *n.* 1616, bright cloud surrounding a god; borrowing of Latin *nimbus* cloud, perhaps related to *nebula* cloud, mist. The meaning of a halo is first recorded in 1727–38. The meteorological sense of a kind of rain cloud is first recorded in 1803.

nincompoop *n.* 1706, alteration (probably influenced by *ninny*) of earlier *nicompoop* (before 1676); of uncertain origin.

nine *adj.* Probably before 1200 *nihene*; later *niene* (before 1250), *nine* (before 1300); developed from Old English (about 840) *nigen*; cognate with Old Frisian *nigun*, *niugun* nine, Old

Saxon *nigun*, Middle Dutch *nēghen* (modern Dutch *negen*), Old High German *niun* (modern German *neun*), Old Icelandic *nīu* (Swedish *nio*, Danish and Norwegian *ni*), and Gothic *niun*, from Proto-Germanic **niwun*. —**nineteen** adj. About 1300 *nintene*, later *nynetene* (before 1338); developed from Old English (before 1000) *nigontēne* (*nigon* nine + *-tēne* -teen, from *tēn* TEN). —**ninety** adj. About 1250 *nigenti*; later *ninty* (about 1300); developed from Old English (about 1000) *nigontig* (*nigon* nine + *-tig* group of ten, -TY¹). —**ninth** adj. About 1300 *nynthe*; developed from Old English *nigonthe* (*nigon* nine + *-tha* -TH²); for suffix see FIFTH and -TH.

ninny *n.* 1593, perhaps derived from a misdivision and shortening of an *inno(cent)* as a *ninny*; for suffix see -Y².

niobium *n.* 1845, New Latin *niobium*, from Latin *Niobē* (from Greek *Niōbē* Niobe, daughter of Tantalus) + New Latin *-ium*; so called because niobium occurs in nature with the element tantalum.

nip¹ *v.* to bite suddenly. Probably before 1387 *nyppen*; probably borrowed from Middle Low German *nīpen* to nip; cognate with Middle Dutch *nīpen* to pinch (modern Dutch *nippen*), and Old Icelandic *hnippa* to prod. —**n.** 1549, from the verb.

nip² *n.* small drink of alcohol. 1796, a shortened form of earlier *nipperkin* small measure of spirits (1671, possibly of Dutch or Low German origin), reinforced by the sense of a fragment or bit pinched off (1606, perhaps mistakenly associated with *nip*¹). —**v.** 1887, from the noun.

nipple *n.* 1538, alteration of earlier *neble* (1530), probably diminutive of *neb* (probably about 1200, bill, beak, or snout; found in Old English, about 725).

nirvana or **Nirvana** *n.* 1836, borrowing of Sanskrit *nirvāṇa* -a blowing out or becoming extinguished, extinction, disappearance (*nir-*, *nir-* out + *rana* blowing).

nit *n.* About 1350 *nete*; later *nit* (1373); developed from Old English (about 700) *hnutu*; cognate with Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *nete* nit (modern Dutch *neet*), and Old High German *hniz*, (modern German *Nisse*), from Proto-Germanic **Hnitō*. —**nit-pick** *v.* 1962, search for petty faults; back formation from earlier *nitpicker* (1951).

niter *n.* About 1400 *nitre* sodium carbonate; borrowing of Old French *nitre*, learned borrowing from Latin *nitrum*, from Greek *nítron*, from Egyptian *ntr*. The meaning "saltpeter" appeared in the 1600's. —**nitrate** *n.* 1794, borrowed from French *nitrate*, from *nitre*; for suffix see -ate²; and probably in some instances formed from English *nitric* + -ate². —**nitric** adj. 1794, borrowed from French *nitrique*, from Old French *nitre* niter; for suffix see -ic; and in some instances formed from English *niter* + -ic. —**nitrous** adj. 1601, reborrowed, perhaps through influence of French *nitreux*, from Latin *nitrōsus*, from *nitrum* niter; for suffix see -OUS. An earlier form *nitrose* is found in Middle English, probably before 1425; borrowed from Latin *nitrōsus*.

nitrogen *n.* 1794, borrowing of French *nitrogène*, formed from Greek *nítron* NITER + French *-gène* -gen, producing; the

French word elements translate as "niter-producing," because nitrogen was discovered in the analysis of nitric acid. The term was coined in 1790, though the gas had been first produced from air in 1772 and named "mephitic air."

nitroglycerin or **nitroglycerine** *n.* 1857, formed from English *nitro-*, combining form for nitric acid + *glycerin*.

nitty-gritty *n.* 1961 *knitty-gritty*; American English (said to be originally used chiefly by black jazz musicians), of uncertain origin (perhaps ultimately connected with *nit* and *grits* finely ground corn). —**adj.** 1966, from the noun.

nitwit *n.* 1922, probably formed from earlier *nit* nothing (1895, from dialectal German or Yiddish *nit*, from Middle High German; see NIX¹ nothing) + *wit*; perhaps influenced in meaning by *nit*.

nix¹ *n.* nothing, none. 1789, probably a borrowing of German *nix*, dialectal variant of *nichts* nothing, from Middle High German *nihtes*, from genitive of *niht*, *nit* nothing, from Old High German *niwiht* (*ni*, *ne* no + *wiht* thing, creature); compare NAUGHT. —**adv.** 1909, from the noun. —**v.** 1903, from the noun.

nix² *n.* water fairy in German legends. 1833, borrowing of German *Nix*, from Old High German *nihhus* water spirit, water monster; cognate with Middle Dutch *nicor* (modern Dutch *nikker*) malevolent water spirit, Old Icelandic *nykr* water goblin, hippopotamus, and Old English *nicor* monster, water spirit, hippopotamus. —**nixie** *n.* 1816, borrowed from German *Nixe* (Old High German *nihhussa*), feminine of *Nix*.

no *adv.* About 1150 *no*; developed from Old English (before 725) *nā* never, no (*ne* not, no, + *ā* ever). Old English *ne* is cognate with Old Frisian, Old Saxon, and Old High German *ne*, *ni* not, Old Icelandic *ne*, *nē*, and Gothic *ni*, from Proto-Germanic **ne*. Compounds similar to Old English *nā* are found in Old Frisian *nā*, *nō* never, no, Old Saxon and Old High German *neo*, *nio* (modern German *nie*) never, Old Icelandic *nei* no. —**adj.** Before 1131 *no*, variant of Middle English *non*, developed from Old English *nān*, adj.; see NONE. As an adjective, the form *no* was originally used only before consonants. —**n.** Probably before 1300, from the adverb; later 1588, readapted from the adverb. —**nowhere** *adv.* Probably before 1200 *nowher*, developed from Old English *nāhwær* (971), *nōhwær* (before 1050). —**n.** 1831.

nobelium *n.* 1957, New Latin *nobelium*, formed from the name *Nobel* + *-ium* in reference to Alfred Nobel, and to the Nobel Institute for Physics, where work on the element was done.

nobility *n.* Probably about 1350 *nobelte* honor, majesty; later *nobilite* noble birth, rank, or character, also people of the noble class (before 1387); borrowed from Old French *nobilité*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *nōbilitātem* (nominative *nōbilitās*), from *nōbilis* well-known, prominent, NOBLE; for suffix see -ITY.

noble *adj.* Probably before 1200 *noble*; borrowed from Old French *noble*, learned borrowing from Latin *nobilis*; earlier

gnōbilis renowned, well known, noble, related to *nōscere*, *gnōscere* to come to KNOW.

The extended sense of worthy of honor or respect is first recorded probably before 1300.—**n.** About 1300, from the adjective.—**nobleman** *n.* Probably before 1200 *noble man* man of noble birth; later, *nobleman* (about 1300).

nobody *pron.* About 1303 *nobody* no person, no one (*no*, *adj.*, not any + *bodi* body).

nock *n.* Before 1398 *nokke*; probably related to Middle Dutch *nocke* projection, point, tip (modern Dutch *nok* yardarm), Low German *nock* tip of a sail, and Old Icelandic *hnykill* knot, swelling (Swedish *nock* pin, peg, Norwegian *nokke* and Icelandic *hnykur* peak).

nocturnal *adj.* 1485, borrowed from Middle French *nocturnal*, or directly from Late Latin *nocturnālis*, from Latin *nocturnus* belonging to the night, from *nox* (genitive *noctis*) night; for suffix see -AL¹.

nocturne *n.* 1862, borrowed from French *nocturne*, noun use of Old French *nocturne* nocturnal, learned borrowing from Latin *nocturnus* NOCTURNAL.

The term *nocturne* was coined about 1814 by John Field, who wrote nocturnes to which those of Chopin are said to owe much in form and spirit, though Chopin's works popularized the term.

Nocturne, *nocturn* also appears in Middle English, probably before 1200, with the meaning of a group of Psalms used in the nocturns (a division of the office of matins); borrowed from Medieval Latin *nocturna*, from Latin *nocturnus*; see NOCTURNAL.

nod *v.* About 1390 *nodden* nod the head in drunkenness, sleepiness, gloominess, etc.; later, make a quick bow of the head in salutation, assent, etc. (1440, implied in the gerund *noddynge*); of unknown origin, but perhaps cognate with Old High German *hnotōn* to shake, (from Proto-Germanic **Hnūdōjanan*), Middle High German *notten* move about, and Old Icelandic *hnjóðha* to push, hit, rivet.—**n.** 1440, from the verb.

node *n.* Probably before 1425, a knot or lump in the flesh; borrowed from Latin *nōdus* knot. The meaning of point of intersection is first recorded in 1665.—**nodal** *adj.* 1831, formed from English *node* + -al¹.

nodule *n.* Probably before 1425, a knot or lump in the flesh; later, small lump of some mineral (1695); borrowed from Latin *nōdulus* small knot, diminutive of *nōdus* knot.

Noel *n.* Probably about 1390 *Nowel* feast of Christmas; about 1395, cry of joy at the birth of Christ, especially in carols of the Annunciation and Nativity; earlier, in the surname *Noel* (1130); borrowed from Old French *noel* the Christmas season, variant of earlier *nael*, from Latin *nātālis* natal, in reference especially to the natal day of Christ, from *nātus*, past participle of *nāscī* be born. A later form (1811) was borrowed separately from modern French *noël*, from Old French *noel*.

noggin *n.* 1630, a small cup or mug; later, a small drink of

liquor (1693); of unknown origin. Connection with *nog* a kind of strong ale (now chiefly in the compound *eggnog*) is possible.

The informal meaning of the head, is first recorded in 1866.

noise *n.* Probably before 1200 *noise* sound of a musical instrument; later *nowse* loud speech, outcry (about 1225), and *noyse* loud or unpleasant sound (about 1300); borrowed from Old French *noise* uproar or brawl, possibly from Gallo-Romance **nausea* annoyance, discomfort, from Latin *nausea* disgust.—**v.** About 1380, *noysen* to praise; from the noun.—**noisy** *adj.* 1693, formed from English *noise*, *n.* + -y¹, and gradually replacing *noiseful*, first recorded before 1382.

noisome *adj.* Before 1382 *nozesum* harmful, troublesome; later *noyesom*, *noysom* (probably before 1425); formed from Middle English *noye* harm, misfortune (shortened form of *anoi* annoyance, from Old French, from *anoier* ANNOY) + -som -some¹.

nomad *n.* 1555 *Nomades*, wandering groups in Arabia; later *Nomad* member of a tribe that wanders in search of pasture (1587); borrowed possibly from Middle French *nomade*, and directly from Latin *Nomas* (genitive *Nomadis*), from Greek *nomás* (genitive *nomádos*) roaming, roving, grazing, related to *nomós* pasture.—**nomadic** *adj.* 1818, probably borrowed from Greek *nomadikós* pastoral, from *nomás* (genitive *nomádos*) roaming; also probably formed from English *nomad* + -ic.

nomenclature *n.* 1610, name; later, set of names (1664); borrowed from French *nomenclature*, or directly from Latin *nōmenclātūra*, from *nōmenclātor* namer (*nōmen* name + -clātor caller, from *calāre* call out); for suffix see -URE.

nominal *adj.* Before 1500 *nominalle* of nouns; later, of names (1620); borrowed from Latin *nōminālis* pertaining to a name or names, from *nōmen* (genitive *nōminis*) name; for suffix see -AL¹. The meaning of being so in name only, is first recorded in 1624.

nominate *v.* 1545, to name; later, to name as a candidate for office (1560); probably a back formation from *nominatōn*, and a shift in function from *nominate* named, called (about 1450), past participle; borrowed from Latin *nōminātus*, past participle of *nōmināre* to name, from *nōmen* (genitive *nōminis*) name; for suffix see -ATE¹.—**nominatōn** *n.* About 1412 *nominatōn* mention of a name; later *nominatōn* act of naming as a candidate (1430); borrowed from Middle French *nominatōn*, and directly from Latin *nōminatōnem* (nominative *nōminatō*), from *nōmināre* to name; for suffix see -ATION.—**nominative** *adj.* Before 1387 *nominatyf*, borrowed from Old French *nominatif*, learned borrowing from Latin *nōminatīvus*, from *nōmināre* to name; for suffix see -ATIVE.—**nominee** *n.* 1664, person named for something; later, person named as a candidate for office (1688); formed from English *nomin(ate)* + -ee.

non- a prefix meaning: 1 not or lack of, as in *nonalcoholic*, *nonaggression*, *nonswimmer*, *non-European*. 2 not real, sham, pretended, as in *nonart*, *nonbook*, *nonevent*. *Non-* is found in Middle English probably before 1200 with the meaning "not," in such formations as *non-kinnes* (*none cunnes*) no kind of, *non-*

power (about 1378), *nonsute* (1308–9, in law); developed from Middle English *non*, *adj.*, from Old English *nān*, and borrowed through Anglo-French *noun-*, Old French *non-*; both from Latin *nōn-*, from *nōn* not, not a, from unaccented Old Latin *noenum*, *ne oinom* not one (*ne* not, and *oinom*, neuter of *oinos* one).

nonagenarian *n.* 1804, formed in English from Latin *nōn-āgenārius* containing ninety (in Late Latin, *n.*, a person ninety years old, from *nōnāgenī* ninety each, *nōnāginīā* ninety, from *nōnus* ninth) + English suffix *-ian*. —**adj.** 1893, from the noun.

nonagon *n.* 1688, formed irregularly in English from Latin *nōnus* ninth + English *-agon*, as in *pentagon*.

nonce *n.* Probably before 1200 *for the nones*, alteration by misdivision of *for then anes* for the one, in reference to a particular purpose or occasion. —**adj.** 1884, from the noun.

nonchalant *adj.* 1813; earlier, as two words *non* *chalent* (before 1734); borrowed from French *nonchalant*, from present participle of *nonchaloir* be indifferent to, have no concern for (*non-* not + *chaloir* have concern for, care for); for suffix see *-ANT*. —**nonchalance** *n.* 1678, borrowed from French *nonchalance*, from *nonchalant* nonchalant; for suffix see *-ANCE*.

nonconformity *n.* 1618, formed from English *non-* + *conformity*. —**nonconformist** *n.* (1619)

nondescript *adj.* 1683, formed from English *non-* + Latin *dēscriptus*, past participle of *dēscribere* DESCRIBE. —**n. 1693, from the adjective.**

none *pron.* Probably about 1150 *non*; later *none* (probably before 1200); developed from Old English (probably about 750) *nān* not one, not any (*ne* not; see *NO* + *ān* one compare *NONCE*). —**adv.** Before 1200 *non*; later *none* (about 1300); from the pronoun.

nones or **Nones** *n. pl.* Probably before 1430, plural of *none* the fifth canonical hour, originally fixed for the ninth hour after sunrise, or about 3 P.M. (before 1225), and earlier *non* the office of *nones* (probably before 1200). The two forms are also recorded in the sense of midday: *non*, probably before 1200, and *nones*, about 1378; see *NOON*.

nonpareil *adj.* About 1450 *nounparale*, borrowed from Middle French *nonpareil* (*non-* not + *pareil* equal). —**n.** 1593, from the adjective. The meaning of a kind of candy is first recorded in 1697.

nonplus *n.* 1582, a state of perplexity; borrowed from Latin *nōn plūs* no more, no further. —**v.** 1591, from the noun.

nonresidence *n.* Probably about 1378 *noun* *residence*; later *non* *residence* (1425); probably borrowed from Medieval Latin *non-residentia* (*non-* + *residentia*; see *RESIDENCE*). —**nonresident** *n.* 1425; formed from English *non-* + *resident*.

nonsense *n.* 1614, formed, perhaps by influence of French *nonsens*, from English *non-* + *sense*. —**nonsensical** *adj.* 1655, formed from English *nonsense* + *-ical*.

noodle¹ *n.* ribbonlike dough. 1779; borrowed from German *Nudel*, of uncertain origin.

noodle² *v.* to improvise on a musical instrument. 1937, from the noun. —**n.** 1926, probably in allusion to *noodle*¹ from the suppleness of noodles in the reference to “fancy figures in saxophone, such as triple trills [that] often crowd out the melody” (Paul Whiteman, *Jazz*).

nook *n.* Probably about 1300 *nok* recess, corner, angle; later *nok* (probably about 1380); perhaps borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare dialectal Norwegian *nok* hook, bent figure).

The adjective *nooked* having (so many) corners or angles, is found probably before 1200; for suffix see *-ED*².

noon *n.* 1140 *non* midday, 12 o'clock in the daytime; later *none* (probably before 1200); developed from Old English *nōn* the canonical hour of *nones*, or 3 P.M. (about 725, in *Beowulf*); borrowed from Latin *nōna hōra* ninth hour (of daylight by Roman reckoning, or about 3 P.M.); *nōna*, feminine singular of *nōnus* ninth.

The meaning shifted from 3 P.M. to 12 o'clock when the time of church prayers changed from the ninth to the sixth hour. The spelling *noon* first appears about 1280.

noose *n.* About 1450 *nose*; probably borrowed from Old Provençal *nous* knot, from Latin *nōdus* knot. The spelling *noose* is first recorded about 1600.

nope *adv.* 1888, spelling representation of an emphatic form of *no*, *adv.*, the letter *p* probably representing a sound of the closing of the lips after pronouncing the vowel. Compare *YEP*.

nor *conj.* About 1250, contraction of unaccented Middle English *nauther*, *nouthur* NEITHER; compare Old Frisian *nander*, *nor* neither; also sometimes said to be from *ne*, *adv.*, and *or*, *conj.*

Nordic *adj.* 1898, borrowed probably from French *nordique*, from *nord* north, from Old French *north*, from Old English *north* NORTH; for suffix see *-IC*. It is also possible that the term in French and English was influenced by German *Nordisch*, from early modern High German *nortisch* (1534). —**n.** 1901, from the adjective.

norm *n.* 1821, reborrowed from French *norme*, from Old French, from Latin *norma* carpenter's square, rule, pattern, of uncertain origin. Modern English also had an earlier form *norme* (1635) which was a borrowing of French *norme*; and the Latinate *norma* (before 1676).

normal *adj.* Before 1500, typical, common (of a verb), borrowed from Late Latin *normālis* in conformity with rule, normal, from Latin, made according to a carpenter's square, from *norma* carpenter's square, rule, *NORM*. The sense in English of usual, regular (also in Late Latin), was surely in use before its first appearance in the record in 1828. —**normalcy** *n.* 1857, mathematical condition of being at right angles; later, general condition of being normal or usual (1893); formed from English *normal* + *-cy*. —**normality** *n.* Before 1849, probably formed from English *normal* + *-ity*, perhaps by influence of

earlier French *normalité* (1834). —**normalize** v. 1865, formed from English *normal* + *-ize*.

normative adj. 1880, probably borrowed from French *normatif* (feminine *normative*), from Latin *norma* rule, NORM; for suffix see *-ATIVE*.

Norse n. 1598, probably borrowed from earlier modern Dutch *Noorsch*, adj., Norwegian (now *Noors*), from *noordsch* (now *noords*) northern, from *noord* NORTH; also perhaps in some instances borrowed from modern Danish or Norwegian *norsk*.

A parallel form *Northman* has existed in English since the time of Alfred (before 899), appearing in Old English until about 1000 and then reappearing in 1605. In Middle English the form was altered to *northern man*, appearing before 1200. —**adj.** 1768, from the noun.

north adv. Old English *north* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *north* north, Middle Low German *nort*, Middle Dutch *nort*, *noort* (modern Dutch *noord*), Old High German and modern German *nord*, and Old Icelandic *nordhr* (Norwegian and Swedish *nord*), from Proto-Germanic **nurthra-*.

The word for *north* in the Romance languages came ultimately from English: French *Nord* was a borrowing of Old English *North*, and Spanish *Norte* and Italian *Nord* were borrowed from French. —**adj.** 1131, found in Old English *north-* (about 725, in *Beowulf*), from *north*, adv. —**n.** Probably before 1200, from the adverb. —**northerly** adj. 1551, situated toward the north; from *north*, adj., on the pattern of *westerly*, *easterly*; for suffix see *-LY*². —**adv.** 1596, in a northern position or direction; for suffix see *-LY*¹. —**northern** adj. Probably before 1200, developed from Old English (about 890) *northerne* (north north + *-erne*, suffix denoting direction); cognate with Old High German *nordrōni* northern, and Old Icelandic *norðrœnn*, *nordhrœnn* Nordic. —**northward** adv. About 1300, developed from Old English (about 1016) *northweard* (north north + *-weard* -ward).

nose n. About 1150 *nose*; developed from Old English *nosu* (before 899, from Proto-Germanic **nusūs*) and cognate with Old Frisian *nose* nose, Middle Dutch *nōse* (modern Dutch *neus*), and Middle Low German *noster* nostril (modern German *Nüster*); and probably related to a similar Old English form, *nasu* nose (from Proto-Germanic **nasuz*), cognate with Middle Low German *nāse* nose, Middle Dutch *nāse*, Old High German *nasa* (modern German *Nase*), Old Icelandic *nǫs*. —**v.** 1577–87, perceive the smell of (something); later, pry or search (1648); from the noun.

nosh v. 1957, borrowed from Yiddish *nashn* nibble, from Middle High German *naschen*, from Old High German *hnas-cōn*, *nascōn* to nibble, from Proto-Germanic **Hnaskwōjanan*. —**n.** 1917, restaurant or snack bar, perhaps developed in English from a borrowing of Yiddish *nash*, from *nashn*, v.

nostalgia n. 1770, severe homesickness, New Latin *nostalgia* and Modern Greek *nostalgia*, both formed from Greek *nóstos* homecoming + *algos* pain, grief, distress.

The transferred sense of wistful yearning for a past or earlier time, is first recorded in 1920. —**nostalgic** adj. 1806,

caused by nostalgia; later, affected with nostalgia (1869); formed from English *nostalgia* + *-ic*.

nostril n. Before 1387 *nostrille*, developed from Old English (about 1000) *nostryrl* (*nosu* nose + *thyrl* hole). An earlier formation is found probably about 1200, from *nase*, *nese*, *nose* nose + *thril* hole.

nostrum n. 1602, patent medicine; borrowed from Latin *nostrum remedium* our remedy; presumably prepared by the person presenting it. Latin *nostrum* is the neuter form of *noster* our, ours, from *nōs* we. The meaning of special or favorite remedy, panacea, is first recorded in 1749.

nosy or **nosey** adj. 1620, having a prominent nose; later, inquisitive (1882); formed from English *nose*, n. + *-y*¹. An independent formation *nasee* having a big nose (before 1338) was borrowed through Anglo-French, from Old French *nasé*, ultimately from Latin *nāsus* nose.

not adv. About 1250 *not*; later *nat* (1303); unstressed variants of *noht*, *naht* *not*, in no way, NAUGHT.

notable adj. About 1340 *notabile*, *notabil* worthy of notice; later *notable* (about 1390); borrowed from Old French *notable* and directly from Latin *notābilis* noteworthy, extraordinary, from *notāre* to note; for suffix see *-ABLE*. —**n.** notable person. About 1447, probably from the adjective in English.

notary n. About 1303 *notarye* secretary; later, notary or clerk; borrowed probably through Old French *notarie*, and directly from Latin *notārius* shorthand writer, clerk, secretary, from *nota* shorthand character, letter, NOTE; for suffix see *-ARY*. —**notarize** v. 1935, formed from *notary* + *-ize*.

notation n. 1570, explanation of a word; later, note or annotation (1584); borrowed through Middle French *notation*, and directly from Latin *notātiōnem* (nominative *notātiō*) a marking, notation, explanation, from *notāre* to NOTE; for suffix see *-ATION*. The meaning of representation of quantities, or values by symbols or signs, is first recorded in 1706.

notch n. 1577, probably alteration (by a misdivision of an *otch* as a *notch*) of Middle French *oche* notch, from Old French *ochier*, *oschier* to notch; of uncertain origin. —**v.** 1597, cut (hair) unevenly; later, make notches in (1600); from the noun. A Middle English verb *ochen* to cut or slash, corresponding to the noun form **och* or **otch*, is recorded probably before 1400 and was borrowed from Old French *ochier*, *oschier*.

note n. Probably before 1300 *note* musical note; also, mark or sign (about 1380); borrowed from Old French *note*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *nota* a mark, sign, letter, note, very possibly an alteration of Old Latin **gnata* under the influence of *gnōscere* to recognize (Latin *nōscere* come to know). The meaning of a record of the gist or substance of something, is first recorded probably before 1400. It is also possible that in some instances, the noun developed from the earlier verb use. —**v.** Probably before 1200 *noten* to take mental note of; later, to record in writing (before 1325); borrowed from Old French *noter* to notice, from Latin *notāre* to mark, remark on, note, from *nota* a note.

—**noted** *adj.* Probably about 1380, formed from *noten* note + *-ed* *-ed*¹.

nothing *n.* Probably about 1175 *nothing*; later *nothing* not any thing (probably before 1200); found in Old English (about 1000) *nāthing*, *nān thing* (*nān* not one, see **NONE** + *thing* **THING**). The sense of an insignificant thing, trifle, is first recorded in 1601. —**adv.** Probably before 1200 *nothing*; later *nothing* (about 1250); from the noun. —**adj.** 1961, insignificant, worthless; from the noun.

notice *n.* About 1412 *notise* acquaintance; also 1415 *notice* knowledge, information; borrowed from Middle French *notice*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *nōtitia* a being known, fame, knowledge, from *nōtus* known, past participle of *nōscere* come to **KNOW**. —**v.** About 1410 *notisen* notify, proclaim; probably from the noun. The meaning of observe, perceive is first recorded in 1757.

notify *n.* About 1385 *notifien* take notice of, observe; also, about 1390, inform or indicate; borrowed from Old French *notifier* make known, from Latin *nōtificāre* make known, from a lost adjective **nōtificus* making known, from *nōtus* known, see **NOTICE** + the root of *facere* make; for suffix see *-FY*. —**notification** *n.* About 1380 *notificacioun*, borrowed from Old French *notification*, from Medieval Latin *notificationem* (nominative *notificatio*), from Latin *nōtificāre* make known, notify; for suffix see *-ATION*.

notion *n.* Before 1398 *nocioun* concept, conception; later *notien* inclination, desire (1450); borrowed from Latin *nōtiōnem* (nominative *nōtiō*) concept, from *nōscere* come to **KNOW**; for suffix see *-TION*. —**notional** *adj.* 1597, formed from English *notion* + *-al*¹; also recorded in Middle English *notional* (before 1398); borrowed from Medieval Latin *notionalis*, from Latin *nōtiōnem* (nominative *nōtiō*).

notorious *adj.* 1548–49, borrowed from Medieval Latin *notorius* well-known, commonly known, from Latin *nōtus* known, past participle of *nōscere* come to **KNOW**; for suffix see *-OUS*. —**notoriety** *n.* 1592, borrowed through Middle French *notoriété*, or directly from Medieval Latin *notorietatem* (nominative *notorietas*) condition of being well-known, from *notorius* well-known; for suffix see *-TY*².

notwithstanding *prep.* Probably about 1378 *not-withstandinge* not prevented by, in spite of (*not* + *withstanding*, present participle of *withstand* prevent, oppose; loan translation of Medieval Latin *non obstante* being no hindrance). —**adv.** 1425 *notwithstanding*; from the preposition. —**conj.** although. Before 1420, from the preposition.

nougat *n.* 1827, borrowing of French *nougat*, from Provençal *nougat* cake made with almonds, from Old Provençal *nogat*, from *noga*, *nuga* nut, from Vulgar Latin **nuca*, from Latin *nux* (genitive *nucis*) **NUT**.

nought *pron., n., adj., adv.* See **NAUGHT**.

noun *n.* Before 1398, borrowed through Anglo-French *noun* name, noun, Old French *nom*, *non*, from Latin *nōmen* name, noun.

nourish *v.* Probably before 1300 *norisshen* to bring up (a young person), to raise; also about 1300 *norischen* to feed; borrowed from Old French *norris-* (found in *norrissement*), stem of *norrir*, *nurrir*, from Vulgar Latin **nutrire*, from Latin *nūtrire* to feed, nurse, foster, support, preserve; for suffix see *-ISH*².

—**nourishment** *n.* Probably before 1300 *norisement* nurture, fostering; later *nurshement* fuel (before 1382) and *norisschement* food, sustenance (1413); borrowed from Old French *norrissement*, from *norris-*, stem of *norrir* nourish; for suffix see *-MENT*.

nova *n.* 1877, New Latin, from Latin *nova*, feminine singular of *novus* **NEW**, used with *stēlla* star (a Latin feminine noun). The original use of *nova* in English was to denote a new star or nebula not previously recorded.

novel¹ *adj.* new. About 1450 *novel* new, young; later *novell* recent, strange (before 1500); borrowed from Middle French *novel* new, fresh, recent, from Old French, learned borrowing from Latin *novellus* new, young, recent, diminutive of *novus* **NEW**. —**novelty** *n.* About 1384 *novelte* newness, innovation; borrowed from Old French *noveleté* newness, from *novel* new; for suffix see *-TY*².

novel² *n.* story. 1566, one of the tales or short stories in a collection; later, long work of fiction (1639); borrowed from Italian *novella* short story news, from Latin *novella* new things, neuter plural or feminine of *novellus* **NOVEL**¹. —**novelist** *n.* 1728, formed, probably by influence of Italian *novellista*, from English *novel*² + *-ist*.

November *n.* Probably about 1200 *novembre*, borrowed from Old French *novembre*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *November*, from *novem* **NINE** (ninth month of the Roman calendar, which began with March; see **DECEMBER**). The Old English name was *Blōtmōnath* month of sacrifice (for time when early Saxons made provision for winter by sacrificing many animals they then butchered).

novena *n.* 1853, borrowing of Medieval Latin *novena*, feminine of Latin *novēnus* ninefold, from *novem* **NINE**.

novice *n.* 1340 *novice*, *novis* beginner, probationer in a religious order; borrowed from Old French *novice*, *novisse*, from Medieval Latin *novicius*, noun use of Latin *novicius* (of a slave) newly imported, inexperienced, from *novus* **NEW**. —**novitiate** *n.* 1600, borrowed from French *noviciat*, from Medieval Latin *noviciatus*, from *novicius* novice; for suffix see *-ATE*¹.

novocaine or **novocain** *n.* 1905, originally a trademark; formed in English from Latin *novus* new + English *-caine*, abstracted from *cocaine*.

now *adv.* Probably before 1200 *now*; later *now* (about 1250); developed from Old English (before 725) *nū*; cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *nū* now, Middle Dutch *nū* (modern Dutch *nu*), Old High German *nū*, *nu* (modern German *nun*), Old Icelandic *nū* (Swedish *nu*), and Gothic *nu*. —**conj.** About 1250 *now*, *now*; developed from Old English (before 725) *nū*; from the adverb. —**adj.** About 1385 *now* current; from the adverb. Probably before 1300 *now*, from the adverb.

nowadays *adv.* Before 1376 *nowadayes*, (*now* NOW + *adaye*s during the day).

noxious *adj.* Before 1500 *noxius*, borrowing of Latin *noxius* hurtful, injurious; later *noxious* (1612); re-borrowed from Latin *noxius*, from *noxa* hurt, damage, related to *nocēre* to hurt, and *nex* slaughter; for suffix see -IOUS.

nozzle *n.* Before 1450 *noselle* socket on a candlestick, diminutive of *nose* NOSE; for suffix see -LE¹. The meaning of small spout is first recorded in 1683.

nth *adj.* 1852 *to the nth* to the utmost, figurative use of the mathematical term indicating an indefinite number; formed from *n*, abbreviation for *number* + -th².

nuance *n.* 1781, borrowed from French *nuance*, slight difference, shade of color, from *nuer* to shade, from *nue* cloud, from Gallo-Romance **nūba*, from Latin *nūbēs* cloud, related to *obnūbere* to veil; for suffix see -ANCE.

nub *n.* 1594, husk of silk; later, knob, lump (1727); variant of dialectal *knub* (1570), probably variant of KNOB. The figurative meaning of a point or gist of anything is first recorded in 1834.

nubbin *n.* 1692, stunted ear of corn, diminutive of NUB. The sense of a small piece is first recorded in 1857.

nubile *adj.* Before 1642, borrowed from French *nubile*, or directly from Latin *nūbilis* marriageable, from *nūbere* take as a husband.

nuclear *adj.* 1846, of or like the nucleus of a cell, formed from English *nucleus* + -ar, probably by influence of French *nucléaire*. The use of *nuclear* in physics with reference to an atomic nucleus or nuclei is first recorded in 1914.

nucleic acid 1892, probably a translation of German *Nukleinsäure* (*Nuklein* substance obtained from cell nuclei + *Säure* acid). English *nucleic* was formed from *nucleus* + -ic.

nucleo- a combining form meaning nucleus, as in *nucleoplasm*, or nucleic acid, as in *nucleoprotein*. Adapted from New Latin *nucleus* nucleus, from Latin *nucleus* kernel.

nucleon *n.* 1923, a proton; formed from *nucle-*, abstracted from *nucleus* + -on, as in *electron*. The meaning of any nuclear particle was first recorded from 1939. —**nucleonics** *n.* 1945, a blend of *nucleon* and -onics, probably abstracted from *electronics*; for suffix see -ICS.

nucleus *n.* 1708, part of the head of a comet; later, central part, core (1762); re-borrowed from Latin *nucleus*, *nuculeus* kernel, formed from *nucula* little nut, diminutive of *nux* (genitive *nucis*) NUT. The word also appeared in Middle English as *nucle* kernel (probably before 1425); borrowed from Latin *nucleus*.

The first recorded reference to the nucleus of a cell is found in 1831. The meaning in physics, "part of an atom," is first recorded in 1844; however, the sense of a positively charged central part of an atom was introduced in 1912.

nude *adj.* 1531, (in law) unsupported, not formally attested;

later, mere, plain, simple (1551); borrowed from Latin *nūdus* NAKED. The meaning "unclothed, uncovered" is recorded in 1611. —**n.** 1708, loan translation of French *nu*, from Latin *nūdus* naked. —**nudism** *n.* 1929, borrowed from French *nudisme* (Latin *nūdus* naked + French -isme -ism). **Nudist** appeared at the same time, borrowed from French *nudiste* or formed from English *nude*, *nud(ism)* + -ist. —**nudity** *n.* 1611, borrowed from French *nudité*, or directly from Late Latin *nūditatem* (nominative *nūditās*), from Latin *nūdus* nude; for suffix see -ITY.

nudge *v.* 1675, perhaps borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Norwegian *nugge* and *nyggje* to jostle, rub, Icelandic *nugga* to rub, massage, and Swedish *gnaga* to nibble, GNAW). —**n.** 1836, from the verb.

nugatory *adj.* 1603, worthless; also 1605, invalid; borrowed from Latin *nūgātorius* worthless, futile, from *nūgātor* (genitive *nūgātōris*) jester, trifler, from *nūgārī* to trifle, from *nūgae* (genitive *nūgārum*) trifles.

nugget *n.* 1852, lump of native gold, perhaps from dialectal *nug* lump, of uncertain origin.

nuisance *n.* About 1400 *nusaunce* injury, trouble; later, *nuy-sance* annoyance or inconvenience (1412); borrowed through Anglo-French *nusaunce*, from Old French *nuisance*, *noisance* (formed after Medieval Latin *nocentia* an injury, hurt), from Old French *nuis-*, stem of *nuire* to harm, from Vulgar Latin **nocere*, corresponding to Latin *nocēre* to hurt; for suffix see -ANCE.

null *adj.* 1563–67, borrowed through Middle French *null*, and directly from Latin *nullus* not any, none (*ne-* not, *no* + *ūllus* any, diminutive of *ūnus* ONE).

nullify *v.* 1595, borrowed from Late Latin *nullificāre* to make nothing, from a lost adjective **nullificus* making null (from Latin *nullus* not any; see NULL + the root of *facere* make); for suffix see -FY. —**nullification** *n.* 1798, action taken by a state to nullify a federal law; borrowed from Late Latin *nullificātiōnem* (nominative *nullificātiō*) a making as nothing, from *nullificāre*; for suffix see -ATION. An earlier meaning "reduction to nothing" is found in 1630.

numb *adj.* Before 1400 *nomme* deprived of motion or feeling, paralyzed; later *nomyn* (1440) and *nome* (before 1460); from the past participle of *nimen* to take, seize, developed from Old English *niman*; see NIMBLE. Though the form *numb* (with *b* added to conform to such spellings as *comb*, *limb*, and *dumb*) is recorded as early as 1642, it did not become established till the 1700's. The old spelling *num* is retained in the compound *numskull*. —**v.** 1553, formed after participial *nummed* (*num*, *adj.* + -ed²).

number *n.* Probably before 1300 *noumbre* sum, total, amount, number; later *numbre* (about 1300) and *number* (about 1475); borrowed through Anglo-French *noumbre*, Old French *nombre*, and directly from Latin *numerus* a number, quantity. —**v.** Probably before 1300 *noumbren* to count, ascertain the number of; later *numberen* (about 1425); borrowed from Old

French *nombrer*, *numbrer*, from Latin *numerāre*, from *numerus* a number.

numeral *adj.* Before 1398, of or expressing a number; borrowed from Late Latin *numeralis* of or belonging to a number, from Latin *numerus* number; for suffix see -AL¹. —**n.** 1530, word expressing a number; later, figure standing for a number (1686); from the adjective.

numerate *v.* 1721, developed from earlier *numerate* numbered, counted (probably before 1425); borrowed from Latin *numeratus*, past participle of *numerare* to number; for suffix see -ATE¹. —**numerator** *n.* 1575, borrowed, perhaps by influence of Middle French *numérateur*, from Late Latin *numerator* counter, numberer, from Latin *numerare* to number; for suffix see -OR².

numerical *adj.* 1628, of a number or numbers; formed in English, perhaps by influence of French *numérique*, from Latin *numerus* number + English -ical.

numerous *adj.* Probably before 1425, borrowed from Latin *numerōsus*, from *numerus* number; for suffix see -OUS.

numismatics *n.* 1829–32, from earlier *numismatic*, *adj.*, of coins (1792); borrowed from French *numismatique*, from Late Latin *numisma* (genitive *numismatis*) coin, currency; for suffix see -ICS. Late Latin *numisma*, a variant of *nomisma*, was influenced in development of meaning by Latin *nummus* coin, money, from Greek *nomimos* customary, legal; but the Late Latin form *nomisma* derives from Greek *nomisma* current coin, usage, anything approved by usage, from *nomizein* have in use, from *nomos* custom. —**numismatist** *n.* 1799, formed in English from Late Latin *numisma* (genitive *numismatis*) coin, currency + English -ist.

numskull or **numbskull** *n.* 1717, the head; later, blockhead (1724); formed from English *num*, NUMB + *skull*.

nun *n.* Probably before 1200 *nunne*; later *nonne* (about 1300) and *nun* (before 1450); found in Old English *nunne* (before 899); borrowed from Late Latin *nonna* nun, tutor (feminine of *nonnus* monk), originally a term of address to elderly persons, possibly from children's speech, reminiscent of English *nana* and its variants. In Middle English and through the 1500's the form *nonne* was common, borrowed from Old French *nonne*, from Latin *nonna*. —**nunnery** *n.* Probably about 1280 *nonnerie* nunhood; also *nunnerie* convent of nuns (before 1300); formed from Middle English *nonne*, *nunne* nun + -erie -ery.

nuptial *adj.* 1490 *nupcyalle*, borrowed from Middle French *nuptial*, or directly from Latin *nuptiālis* pertaining to marriage, from *nuptiae* wedding, from *nupta*, feminine past participle of *nūbere* take as a husband. —**nuptials** *n. pl.* About 1555, from the adjective.

nurse *n.* Before 1382 *nurse* foster parent, tutor; contraction of earlier *nurice* wet nurse, person who takes care of a young child (probably before 1200), also *nurice*, *norice* (about 1250); borrowed from Old French *norrice*, *nurice*, from Vulgar Latin **nutricia*, from Late Latin **nutricia* nurse, governess, tutoress, from Latin, feminine of *nūtricius* that suckles, nourishes, from *nūtrix* (genitive *nūtriciis*) wet nurse, from *nūtrire* to suckle,

NOURISH. The meaning of a person who takes care of the sick is first recorded in English in 1590. —**v.** 1526 *nourse* to bring up (a child); later *nurse* to suckle (1535); alteration of Middle English *nurshen* nourish (before 1382), *norischen* (probably before 1300); see **NOURISH**. The meaning of foster, promote, is first recorded before 1542 and that of take care of (a sick person), in 1736.

nursery *n.* Probably about 1300 *noricerie* room set apart for young children with their nurse; later *norserie* (before 1400); borrowed from Old French *nourricerie*, formed from Old French *norrice*, *nurice* nurse + -erie -ery. The meaning of a place where young plants are raised, is first recorded in 1565.

nurture *n.* Probably before 1300 *norture*; later *nurture* (about 1330); borrowed from Old French *norture*, *nurture*, partially a learned development adapted from Late Latin *nūtritura* a nursing, suckling, from Latin *nūtrire* to nourish, suckle; for suffix see -URE. —**v.** Probably before 1400, implied in past participle *nurtrid*; later *norturen* (about 1410); from the noun.

nut *n.* Probably about 1125 *nute*, developed from Old English (about 700) *hnutu*; cognate with Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *not* nut (modern Dutch *noot*), Old High German *nuz*, *hnuz* (modern German *Nuss*), and Old Icelandic *hnót* (Norwegian *nøtt*, Swedish *nöt*), from Proto-Germanic **Hnut-*.

The meaning of a small piece of metal with a threaded hole to attach to a bolt, is first recorded in 1611. The meaning of a crazy person or crank is first recorded in 1903. —**nuts** *adj.* 1846, crazy, from earlier *be nutts upon* be very fond of (1785), possibly from earlier *nuts*, *n. pl.*, any source of pleasure (1617). —**nutty** *adj.* Probably about 1421 *notty* nutlike, formed from Middle English *nute*, *note* nut + -y -y¹. The meaning of crazy is first recorded in 1898, probably by influence of *nuts* crazy.

nutmeg *n.* Probably before 1300 *notemuge*; later *notemege*, *nutmuge* (about 1450); alteration and partial translation of Old North French or Anglo-French **noiz mugue*, Old French *nois muguete*, alteration of *nois muscade* nut smelling like musk (*nois* nut, from Latin *nux*).

It is also probable that the formation in English was influenced by, or in some instances a loan translation and alteration of Medieval Latin *nux maga*, *nux mugata*.

nutrient *adj.* 1650, borrowed from Latin *nūtrientem* (nominative *nūtriens*), present participle of *nūtrire* nourish; for suffix see -ENT. —**n.** 1828–32, from the adjective.

nutrition *n.* Probably before 1425 *nutricioun*, *nutricion*; borrowed through Old French *nutrition*, and directly from Latin *nūtritiōnem* (nominative *nūtritiō*) a nourishing, from *nūtrire* nourish, suckle; see **NOURISH**; for suffix see -TION. —**nutritious** *adj.* 1665, borrowed from Latin *nūtricius*, from *nūtrix* (genitive *nūtriciis*) a nurse, from *nūtrire* nourish; for suffix see -OUS. —**nutritive** *adj.* 1392 *nutritif*, *nutritive* of nutrition, giving nourishment; borrowed from Old French *nutritif* (feminine *nutritive*), and directly from Late Latin *nūtritivus*, from Latin *nūtrire* nourish; for suffix see -IVE.

nuzzle *v.* Probably about 1425 *noselen* to bend down, grovel,

bring the nose towards the ground; probably a back formation from earlier *noselyng* on the nose, prostrate, formed from Middle English *nose* + *-ling*.

The meaning of burrow with the nose is first recorded in 1530, and that of lie snug, appeared in 1597, influenced by *nestle*.

nylon *n.* 1938, coined as a generic term. According to Du Pont the word is a formation of *nyl-* + English *-on*, as in *rayon* and *cotton*.

nymph *n.* About 1385 *nympe* or *nimpe* (before 1393); borrowed from Old French *nimpe*, and directly from Latin *nympha* nymph, bride. The sense of a young woman, girl is first recorded in 1584, probably by influence of similar meanings of Greek *nýmphē*.

nymphomania *n.* 1775, New Latin; formed from Greek *nýmphē* nymph + *manía* madness, mania; perhaps influenced by earlier French *nymphomanie*.

O

o or **O** *interj.* See **OH**.

-o- a connecting vowel used to join parts of a compound, as in ethnic and language names such as *Anglo-Saxon*, and *Franco-American*; in scientific terms, such as *oceanography*, *odontology*, and *lobotomy*; and in various new and nonce formations, such as *industrio-political*, *meritocracy*, *laundromat*, etc. Formed on the analogy of Greek compounds, in which the combining stem usually ended in *-o*, as in *acropolis*, *democracy*, *mythology* and in similar adaptations in Latin.

Because it often appears before *-logy*, this form is often considered to be *-ology*. The same analysis is made of *-cracy*, *-meter*, etc., producing *plutocracy* and *galvanometer*.

oaf *n.* 1625 *oph*, earlier *auf* or *aulf* (1621), but also *oaf*- in *oafish* (1610); borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *álfr* silly person; see **ELF**).

oak *n.* Before 1200 *oc*, later *ok*, *ooc* (about 1250); developed from Old English (about 700) *āc* oak tree; cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *ēk* oak tree, Middle Dutch *eike* (modern Dutch *eik*), Old High German *eih* (modern German *Eiche*), and Old Icelandic *eik* (Swedish *ek*, Norwegian *eik*, *ek*, Danish *eeg*), from Proto-Germanic **aikes*. —**adj.** Probably before 1300 *ok*, *oc*, from the noun. —**oaken** *adj.* 1393 *oken*, formed from *ok* oak + *-en*².

oakum *n.* 1422–23 *okam*, *okom*, developed from Old English (about 1000) *ācumba* flax fibers separated by combing (*ā-* out + *cemban* to comb, from *camb* a COMB); cognate with Old High German *āchambi*, Middle High German *akambe*, from Proto-Germanic **us-kambōn*.

oar *n.* Before 1300 *or*, *ore* pole for rowing; developed from Old English *ār* (897); cognate with Old Icelandic *ār* oar (Swedish *åra*, and Danish *åre*), from Proto-Germanic **airō*. —**oarlock** *n.* 1350 *orlok*, formed from *or* oar + *lok* lock¹.

oasis *n.* 1616 *Oasis* fertile area in the Libyan desert; borrowed from French *oasis*, and directly from Late Latin *oasis*, from Greek *Óasis*, probably from Hamitic (compare Coptic *wahe*, *ouahe* dwelling place, oasis, from Egyptian *wh'-t* kettle-shaped depression).

oat *n.* Before 1250 *ote* (plural *otes*, *oten*) the cereal plant or its grain; developed from Old English (about 1000) *āte* grain of the oat plant (plural *ātan*), of unknown origin. The common Germanic name of this cereal is **Habran-*, appearing in Middle English as *haver* (probably borrowed from Scandinavian) and not found in Old English. —**oatmeal** *n.* 1393 *otemele*, formed from *ote* oat + *mele* meal².

oath *n.* About 1300 *oth* solemn promise or affirmation, act of swearing; later, profane oath, curse (probably about 1350); developed from Old English *āth* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *ēth* oath, Middle Dutch *eet* (modern Dutch *eed*), Old High German *eid*, Middle High German *eit*, *eid* (modern German *Eid*), Old Icelandic *eidhr* (Swedish, Norwegian, and Danish *ed*), and Gothic *aiths*, from Proto-Germanic **aithaz*.

ob- a prefix meaning: 1 against, hindering, as in *obliterate*, *obdurate*; 2 toward, to, by, as in *obtrude*, *obvert*; 3 on, over, as in *obtuse*, *obduct*; 4 down, away, as in *obese*, *obituary*. Borrowed from Latin *ob-* from *ob*, prep., against, toward, before. In combination *ob-* also becomes *oc-* before *c*, as in *occupy*; *of-* before *f*, as in *offend*; and *op-* before *p*, as in *oppress*.

In opposite terms *ob-* assumes the sense “inversely” or “in the opposite direction,” apparently *ob-* of New Latin *obverse* obversely.

obdurate *adj.* About 1450; borrowed from Latin *obdūrātus*, past participle of *obdūrāre* harden (*ob-* against + *dūrāre* harden); for suffix see **-ATE**¹. —**obduracy** *n.* 1597, formed from English *obdurate* + *-cy*.

obedient *adj.* Probably before 1200; borrowed from Old French *obedient*, learned borrowing from Latin *oboedientem* (nominative *oboediens*), present participle of *oboedire* OBEY; for suffix see -ENT. —**obedience** *n.* Probably before 1200, borrowed from Old French *obedience*, learned borrowing from Latin *oboedientia* (nominative *oboediens*), present participle of *oboedire*; for suffix see -ENCE.

obeisance *n.* Before 1382 *obeisance* obedience, deference, respectful bow; borrowed from Old French *obeissance* obedience, from *obeissant*, present participle of *obēir* obey, from Latin *oboedire* OBEY; for suffix see -ANCE.

obelisk *n.* 1569 *obelisk*, borrowed probably from Middle French *obélisque*, and directly from Latin *obeliscus* obelisk, small spit, from Greek *obelískos*, diminutive of *obelós* a spit, pointed pillar.

obese *adj.* 1651, a back formation from earlier *obesity*, but in some instances borrowed from Latin *obēsus* fat, that has eaten itself fat, stout, from past participle of **obedere* devour (*ob-* away + *edere* EAT). —**obesity** *n.* 1611 *obesity*, borrowed from French *obésité*, and directly from Latin *obēsītās*, from *obēsus* obese; for suffix see -ITY.

obey *v.* Probably before 1300 *obeyen*; borrowed from Old French *obēir*, from Latin *oboedire* give ear, pay attention to, obey (*ob-* to + *audire* listen, hear).

obfuscate *v.* 1536, developed from earlier *obfuscate*, *adj.* (1531) and borrowed from Latin *obfuscātus*, past participle of *obfuscāre* (*ob-* over + *fuscāre* darken, from *fuscus* dark); for suffix see -ATE¹. —**obfuscation** *n.* 1608, formed from English *obfuscate* + *-tion*, and borrowed from Latin *obfuscātiōnem* (nominative *obfuscātiō*), from *obfuscāre* obfuscate; for suffix see -ATION.

obit *n.* Before 1382, *obite*, probably before 1400 *obit* death, day of death; borrowed from Old French *obit*, or directly from Latin *obitus* death; see OBITUARY.

In modern usage *obit* is popularly regarded as a clipped form of *obituary*.

obituary *n.* 1706, borrowed, perhaps through influence of French *obituaire*, from Medieval Latin *obituarium*, from Latin *obitus* (genitive *obitūs*) a going to meet, encounter, death, from stem *obi-* of *obire* go to meet, as in *mortem obire* meet death (*ob-* against + *ire* go); for suffix see -ARY. Compare OBIT.

object *n.* Before 1398 *object* tangible thing; borrowed from Old French *object*, and directly from Medieval Latin *objectum* thing put before (the mind or sight), neuter of Latin *objectus*, past participle of *obicere* to present, oppose, cast in the way of (*ob-* against + *-icere*, combining form of *jacere* to throw).

The meaning of a thing aimed at, purpose, goal, is first recorded probably before 1425.—**v.** Probably about 1400 *objecten*; borrowed from Old French *objecter*, *objeter*, and directly from Latin *objectāre* to cite as grounds for disapproval, frequentative form of *obicere* to oppose.

objection *n.* Before 1387 *objection*, borrowed from Old French *objection*, and directly from Medieval Latin *obiecōnem* (nominative *obiecō*), from Latin *obicere* to oppose, OBJECT.

—**objectionable** *adj.* 1781, formed from English *objection* + *-able*.

objective *adj.* 1620, formed in English from *object* + *-ive*, patterned on Medieval Latin *objectivus*, from *objectum* OBJECT. The meaning of impersonal, unbiased is found in 1855, probably influenced by German *objektiv*.—**n.** 1738, something objective to the mind. The meaning “goal or aim” is first recorded in English in 1881, probably influenced by *objective point*, as a military term (1864), and reinforced by French *objectif* (1869).—**objectivity** *n.* 1803, formed from English *objective* + *-ity*.

oblade¹ *adj.* flattened at the poles. 1705, New Latin *oblatus* stretched, carried toward; fashioned from Latin *ob-* and *lātus*, as abstracted from Latin *prōlātus* lengthened (*lātus*, past participle of *ferre* bring).

oblade² *n.* person devoted to religious work. 1864, borrowed from Medieval Latin *oblatus*, noun use of Latin *oblātus*, a form serving as past participle of Latin *offerre* to OFFER; for suffix see -ATE³.

oblation *n.* Before 1400 *oblacion*; borrowed from Old French *oblacion*, and directly from Late Latin *oblātiōnem* (nominative *oblātiō*) an offering, presenting, gift, from Latin *oblātus*, see OBLATE²; for suffix see -ATION.

oblige *v.* 1541, to pledge as security; later, bind morally or legally (1668); developed from Middle English *oblige*, *adj.*, bound, obliged (probably before 1425); borrowed from Latin *obligātus*, past participle of *obligāre* (*ob-* to + *ligāre* to bind); for suffix see -ATE¹. Also possibly a back formation from *obligation*.

—**obligation** *n.* About 1300 *obligacion* binding pledge; borrowed from Old French *obligacion*, and directly from Latin *obligātiōnem* (nominative *obligātiō*) a bond, pledge, from *obligāre* to bind, oblige; for suffix see -ATION. —**obligatory** *adj.* About 1400 *obligatorie* creating an obligation; borrowed from Old French *obligatoire*, and directly from Late Latin *obligatōrius* binding, from Latin *obligāre*; for suffix see -ORY.

oblige *v.* Probably about 1280 *oblegen* bind by a promise, contract, duty, etc.; also *obligen* (about 1300); borrowed from Old French *obligier*, learned borrowing from Latin *obligāre* OBLIGATE.

oblique *adj.* Probably before 1425 *oblique*, *oblīque* slanting; figurative, indirect; borrowed from Middle French *oblique*, and directly from Latin *oblīquus* (*ob-* against + root *liqu-*, *lic-* to bend, as in *liquis* oblique, *licinus* bent upward).

obliterate *v.* 1600, borrowed from Latin *obliterātus*, *oblitterātus*, past participle of *obliterāre*, *oblitterāre* cause to disappear, efface (*ob-* against + *littera*, *littera* letter), abstracted from the phrase *oblitterās scribere* write across letters, strike out letters; for suffix see -ATE¹. The borrowing from Latin may have been influenced by Middle French *oblitérer*, from Latin *obliterāre*.

oblivion *n.* Before 1393, borrowed from Old French *oblivion*, and from Latin *obliviōnem* (nominative *obliviō*) forgetfulness, from *oblīvīscā* forget; originally, even out, smooth over (*ob-* over + the root of *lēvis* smooth); for suffix see -ION. —**oblivious**

adj. About 1450 *oblyvuous*, borrowed from Latin *obliviōsus* forgetful, from *obliviō* oblivion; for suffix see -OUS.

oblong adj. Probably before 1425, borrowed from Latin *oblongus* somewhat long (*ob-* to or toward, functioning as an intensive + *longus* LONG¹, adj.). —**n.** Before 1608, from the adjective.

obnoxious adj. 1581, subject to authority; later, subject to something harmful (1597); borrowed from Latin *obnoxiosus*, from *obnoxius* subject, exposed to harm (*ob-* to, toward + *noxa* hurt, harm, punishment); for suffix see -OUS. The meaning of offensive or hateful (1675), influenced by *noxious*.

oboe n. 1724; borrowing of Italian *oboe*, from Middle French *hautbois* (found as *hautboy*, *hautboiz*, in English, 1575) a compound of *haut* high + *bois* wood; so called from the instrument's high notes and wooden construction.

obscene adj. 1593, disgusting, foul; borrowed from Middle French *obscène*, learned borrowing from Latin *obscēnus* offensive, especially to modesty; originally, boding ill; perhaps a back formation from **obscēnāre* to bring filth upon (*ob-* onto + **cēnum* filth, compare *caenum* filth). —**obscenity** n. 1589, borrowed from French *obscénité*, from Latin *obscēnitatem* (nominative *obscēnitās*) moral impurity, from *obscēnus* offensive; for suffix see -ITY.

obscure adj. Probably before 1400, borrowed from Old French *obscur*, *oscur* dark, dim, not clear, and directly from Latin *obscurus* covered over, dark, obscure (*ob-* over + *-scūrus* covered). —**v.** Probably before 1425 *obscuren*, from the adjective. —**obscurity** n. About 1477 *obscuryte* dimness, condition of being imperfectly comprehended or known; borrowed from Middle French *obscurité*, variant of Old French *oscurté*, from Latin *obscuritatem* (nominative *obscuritās*), from *obscurus* obscure; for suffix see -ITY.

obsequious adj. About 1477 compliant, obedient (implied in *obsequyousnesse*); borrowed, perhaps through influence of Middle French *obsequieux*, from Latin *obsequiosus* compliant, obedient, from *obsequium* compliance, dutiful service (*ob-* after + *sequi* follow); for suffix see -OUS.

observance n. About 1250 *observaunce* precept, rule, custom; borrowed from Old French *observance*, or directly from Latin *observantia* act of keeping customs attention, from *observantem* (nominative *observāns*), present participle of *observare* OBSERVE; for suffix see -ANCE. —**observant** adj. 1594, quick to notice; probably formed from English *observe* + *-ant*, after *observance*, modeled on the pattern of *importance*, *important*, and reinforced by Latin *observantem* (nominative *observāns*), present participle of *observare*.

observation n. Before 1382 *observacioun* act of keeping customs, performance of religious rites; later, act of seeing and noting (1557); borrowed from Old French *observation*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *observātiōnem* (nominative *observātiō*), from *observare* OBSERVE; for suffix see -ATION.

observatory n. 1676, borrowed from French *observatoire*,

from *observer*, from Old French *observer* to OBSERVE; for suffix see -ORY.

observe v. About 1390 *observeen* follow in practice, keep to; borrowed from Old French *observer*, from Latin *observare* watch over, look to, attend to, guard (*ob-* over + *servare* to watch, keep). The meaning "see and note omens" appeared in 1391, but the sense "watch, perceive, notice" was not common until the mid 1500's. —**observer** n. 1555, formed from English *observe* + *-er*¹.

obess v. 1503, besiege; later, beset, haunt, harass (1531); borrowed from Latin *obessus*, past participle of *obsidere* besiege, occupy; literally, sit opposite to (*ob-* against + *sedere* SIT). —**obsession** n. 1513, act of besieging; later, a being beset or haunted (1605); persistent influence or idea (1680); borrowed from Middle French and modern French *obsession*, learned borrowing from Latin *obsessiōnem* (nominative *obsessiō*), from *obsess-*, past participle stem of *obsidere* besiege; for suffix see -ION. —**obsessive** adj. 1911, formed from English *obess* + *-ive*.

obsidian n. 1656, borrowed possibly from earlier French *obsidiane* (1600), and directly from Latin *obsidiānus*, misreading of *obsidiānus lapis* stone of *Obsius*, a Roman alleged by Pliny to have found this or a similar rock in Ethiopia.

obsolescent adj. 1755, borrowed from Latin *obsolescentem* (nominative *obsolescens*), present participle of *obsolescere* fall into disuse; for suffix see -ESCENT. —**obsolescence** n. Before 1828, formed from English *obsolescent*, on analogy of *evanescent*, *evanescence*, etc.; for suffix see -ESCENCE.

obsolete adj. 1579, borrowed from Latin *obsoletus*, past participle of *obsolescere* fall into disuse (probably *ob-* away + **-solēscere*, formed on *solēre* to be used to, be accustomed).

obstacle n. About 1340 *obstakel*; later *obstacle* (about 1385); borrowed from Old French *ostacle*, *obstacle* hindrance, or directly from Latin *obstaculum*, from *obstare* stand opposite to, block, hinder (*ob-* against + *stare* to STAND); for suffix see -CLE.

obstetrics n. 1819, midwifery; formed from English *obstetric* + *-s* (plural suffix), after Latin *obstetricia* (neuter plural) midwifery, from *obstetrīx* (genitive *obstetricis*) midwife; literally, one who stands opposite to (the woman giving birth), from *obstare* stand opposite to; see OBSTACLE; for suffix see -ICS. —**obstetric** adj. 1742, borrowed from Latin *obstetricius* pertaining to a midwife, from *obstetrīx* midwife; for suffix see -IC. —**obstetrician** n. 1828, formed in English on the pattern of *physician*.

obstinate adj. Probably 1387 *obstinat*; borrowed from Latin *obstinātus*, past participle of *obstinare* persist, stand stubbornly (*ob-* by + *-stinare*, earlier **-stanare*, related to *stare* to STAND); for suffix see -ATE¹. —**obstinacy** n. Before 1393 *obstinacie*, borrowed from Medieval Latin *obstinacia*, *obstinatia*, from Latin *obstinātus*, past participle; for suffix see -ACY.

obstreperous adj. About 1600, borrowed from Latin *obstrep-*

erus clamorous, from *obstrepere* drown with noise, oppose noisily (*ob-* against + *strepere* make a noise); for suffix see -OUS.

obstruct *v.* 1611, block or close up, probably a back formation from *obstruction*. The sense of hinder is first recorded in English in 1647, probably to correspond to the same sense in *obstruction* (1601). —**obstruction** *n.* 1533, fact of blocking a passage; borrowed from Latin *obstructionem* (nominative *obstructio*), from *obstruere*, past participle stem of *obstruere* block up, hinder (*ob-* against + *struere* to pile, build); for suffix see -ION.

obtain *v.* About 1412 *opteenen* get or acquire; later *obteynen* (probably before 1425); borrowed from Middle French *optenir*, *obtenir*, or directly from Latin *optinere*, *obtinere* hold, acquire (*ob-* to + *tenere* to hold).

obtrude *v.* About 1555, borrowed from Latin *obtrudere* thrust into, press upon (*ob-* toward + *trudere* to thrust). —**obtrusive** *adj.* 1667, formed from Latin *obtrusus*, past participle stem of *obtrudere* obtrude + English -ive.

obtuse *adj.* Probably before 1425; later, stupid (1509), borrowed from Middle French *obtus* (feminine *obtuse*), learned borrowing from Latin *obtus* blunted, dull, past participle of *obtundere* to beat against, dull (*ob-* against + *tundere* to beat).

obverse *adj.* Before 1656, turned toward the observer, frontal; borrowed from Latin *obversus*, past participle of *obvertere* to turn toward or against (*ob-* toward + *vertere* to turn). The sense of being a counterpart to something is found in 1875. —**n.** 1658, from the adjective.

obviate *v.* 1598, borrowed from Late Latin *obviatus*, past participle of *obviare* act contrary to, go against, from Latin *obvius* that is in the way, that moves against; for suffix see -ATE¹.

obvious *adj.* 1586, frequently met with or found; borrowed from Latin *obvius* that is in the way, presenting itself readily, commonplace, from *obviam*, adv. in the way (*ob* against + *viam*, accusative of *via* way); for suffix see -OUS. The meaning of plainly clear is first recorded in English in 1635.

oc- a form of the prefix *ob-* before *c* in words of Latin origin, as in *occupy*. The form is due to assimilation of *b* to the following consonant (*c*).

ocarina *n.* 1877, borrowing of Italian *ocarina*, diminutive of *oca* goose (so called from its shape), from Vulgar Latin **avica*, back formation from Latin *avicula* small bird, diminutive of *avis* bird.

occasion *n.* Before 1382 *ocasyoun*, *occasion* opportunity, favorable juncture, cause; borrowed through Old French *occasion*, or directly from Latin *occāsiōnem* (nominative *occāsiō*) opportunity, favorable moment, from *occāsum*, past participle of *occidere* fall down, go down (*oc-* down, away + *cadere* to fall); for suffix see -SION. The meaning of a particular time or event is first recorded in 1568. —**v.** About 1445 *occasionen*; from the noun. —**occasional** *adj.* Before 1398 *ocasyonal*, formed from Middle English *ocasyoun*, *occasion* + -al¹, possibly by influence of Late Latin *occāsiōnālīter* occasionally.

Occident *n.* About 1375, part of the sky or the world in

which the sun sets, the West; borrowed from Old French *occident*, or directly from Latin *occidentem* (nominative *occidēns*) part of the sky in which the sun sets; originally, *adj.*, setting, present participle of *occidere* fall down, go down; for suffix see -ENT. Compare ORIENT. —**Occidental** *adj.* About 1400, westerly or western; borrowed from Old French *occidental*, or directly from Latin *occidentālis* of the West, from *occidentem*, present participle; for suffix see -AL¹.

occipital *adj.* 1541, borrowed from Middle French *occipital*, from Medieval Latin *occipitalis*, from Latin *occiput* (genitive *occipitis*) back of the skull (*oc-* against, behind + *caput* HEAD); for suffix see -AL¹.

occlude *v.* 1597, borrowed from Latin *occludere* shut up, close up (*oc-* against, up + *cludere* to shut, CLOSE¹). —**occlusion** *n.* About 1645, borrowed from Latin *occlūsiōnem*, from *occludere* occlude; for suffix see -SION.

occult *adj.* 1533, concealed, kept secret; later, beyond ordinary knowledge (1545); from the verb in English, also borrowed from Middle French *occulte*, and directly from Latin *occultus* hidden, past participle of *occulere* cover over, conceal (*oc-* over + *-culere*, related to *cēlāre* to hide). —**occultation** *n.* Probably before 1425 *occultation*; borrowed from Latin *occultātiōnem* (nominative *occultātiō*), from *occulare* hide, conceal, frequentative form of *occulere* cover over; for suffix see -ATION. The sense of concealment of one celestial body by another is first recorded in 1551.

occupant *n.* 1596, one who takes possession of something having no owner; probably borrowed from Middle French *occupant*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *occupantem* (nominative *occupāns*), present participle of *occupare* OC-CUPY; for suffix see -ANT. —**occupancy** *n.* 1596, condition of being an occupant; probably formed from English *occupan(t)* + -cy, simultaneously with *occupant* on the pattern of *militant*, *militancy*.

occupation *n.* Before 1325 *occupacioun* act of holding or possessing lands or goods; later, business, employment (probably 1348); borrowed from Old French *occupation*, from Latin *occupātiōnem* (nominative *occupātiō*) a taking possession, business, employment, from *occupare* OCCUPY; for suffix see -ATION.

occupy *v.* Before 1325 *occupien* keep busy; also, take possession of, hold (implied in *occupation*); irregular borrowing from Old French *occupere*, or directly from Latin *occupare* take over, seize, possess, occupy (*oc-* over + **-capare*, intensive form of *capere* to grasp, seize; see CAPTIVE).

The final -ien in Middle English (which developed into -y in modern English) cannot be explained from the Old French *occupere*. It is possible that the change took place in Anglo-French (which has *occupiours* for *occupiers*) but this may be itself a borrowing from English.

occur *v.* 1527, meet with, encounter; also, happen (1538); borrowed, perhaps through influence of Middle French *occurre*, *occurrir* happen unexpectedly, from Latin *occurrere* run to meet, run against, befall, present itself, occur (*oc-* against,

toward + *currere* to run). —**occurrence** *n.* 1539, probably borrowed from Middle French *occurrence* unexpected happening, from *occurrir* happen unexpectedly; for suffix see -ENCE.

ocean *n.* About 1300 *ocean* the main or great sea; borrowed from Old French *ocean*, *ocean*, learned borrowing from Latin *oceanus*, from Greek *ōkeanos* the great stream or river supposed to surround the disk of the earth. —**oceanic** *adj.* 1656 *oceanick*, probably borrowed from French *océanique*, from *ocean* ocean + *-ique* -ic.

oceanography *n.* 1859, formed from English *ocean* + *-o-* + *-graphy*. French *océanographie* occurred in Middle French in 1584 but was rare before 1876.

ocelot *n.* 1775, borrowing of French *ocelot*, from Nahuatl *ocelotl* jaguar.

ocher or **ochre** *n.* 1296 *ocre*; later *ocra* (before 1398); borrowing of Old French *ocre* and Late Latin *ōcra*; both from Latin *ōchra*, from Greek *ōchrā*, from *ōchros* pale yellow.

-ock a suffix forming diminutives, as in *bullock*, *hillock*, etc. Middle English *-ok* developed from Old English *-oc*, *-uc*.

o'clock About 1720, contraction of earlier *of the clock* (1647), from Middle English *of the clokke* (1389).

oct- or **octa-** variants of OCTO-, as in *octet*, *octagon*. Borrowed from Greek *okt-*, *okta-*, from *oktō* EIGHT.

octagon *n.* 1660, borrowed from Latin *octagōnos*, from Greek *oktágōnos* (*okta-* eight + *gōnía* angle, related to *góny* KNEE). Another form *octogon* (1656) was borrowed from French *octogone*. —**octagonal** *adj.* 1812–16, formed from English *octagon* + *-al*.

octane *n.* 1872, formed from English *oct-* eight + *-ane*, as in *methane*. The reference to eight in *octane* pertains to the number of carbon atoms (C₈) in the hydrocarbon.

octave *n.* Probably before 1425 (plural) *octaves* period of eight days after a festival, the eighth day of this period; borrowed from Middle French *octave*, or directly from Medieval Latin *octava*, from Latin *octāva diēs* eighth day, feminine of *octāvus* eighth, from *octō* EIGHT. An earlier Middle English form, *utaves* (before 1325), came by way of Anglo-French from Old French *oitieve*, from Latin *octāva*.

The meaning in music is first recorded in 1656, borrowed perhaps from French and replacing the English *eighth*, *n.*, Middle English *eyghte* (before 1450).

octet or **octette** *n.* 1880 *octet*, formed from English *oct-* eight + *-et*, patterned on *duet*, *quartet*, etc.

octo- a combining form of Latin *octō* and sometimes of Greek *oktō* EIGHT, as in *octopus* and *octosyllable*. Also, *oct-* before vowels. The Greek form is more frequently *okta-* *octa-*.

October *n.* Old English (about 1050) *october*, borrowed from Latin *Octōber*, from *octō* EIGHT, this being originally the eighth month of the ancient Roman calendar; for the ending *-ber* see DECEMBER. The Julian calendar (46 B.C.) changed October to the tenth month.

octogenarian *n.* 1815, formed with the English ending *-an* from French *octogénaire* aged eighty, learned borrowing from Latin *octogēnārius* containing eighty, from *octogēni* eighty each, from *octō* EIGHT.

octopus *n.* 1758, New Latin *Octopus* the genus name, from Greek *oktōpous* eight-footed (*oktō* EIGHT + *pous* FOOT).

ocular *adj.* About 1503, borrowed from Late Latin *oculāris* of the eyes, from Latin *oculus* EYE; for suffix see -AR. The borrowing was perhaps influenced by Middle French *oculaire*, from Late Latin *oculāris*. —**n.** 1835, from the adjective. —**oculist** *n.* 1615, borrowed from French *oculiste*, formed from Latin *oculus* eye + French *-iste* -ist.

odd *adj.* About 1280 *odde* left over, single, unique; borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *oddi* third or odd number; also genitive *odda* in *oddadadr* third or odd man). Old Icelandic *oddi* is related to *oddr* point of a weapon, and cognate with Old High German *ort* angle, point (modern German *Ort* place), Middle Dutch *ort* point, edge (modern Dutch *oord* place), Old Saxon and Old Frisian *ord* point or tip (also found in Old English *ord*, which did not survive), from Proto-Germanic **uzdaz* pointed upwards.

The sense of peculiar or strange is first recorded in 1588.

—**oddy** *n.* 1713, formed from English *odd* + *-ity*.

—**odds** *n.* pl. 1796, formed from English *odd* + *-ments*, plural of *-ment*. —**odds** *n.* pl. 1500–20, formed from English *odd*, *adj.* (taken as a noun) + *-s*, plural suffix.

ode *n.* 1588, borrowed from Middle French *ode*, learned borrowing from Late Latin *ōdē* lyric song, from Greek *ōidē*, Attic contraction of *aoīdē*, from *aeidein* sing; probably by dissimilation from earlier **a-we-wd-ēen*, related to *audē* voice, tone, sound.

odious *adj.* Before 1382 *odious*, borrowed from Old French *odieux*, or directly from Latin *odiōsus* hateful, from *odium* hatred, ODIUM; for suffix see -OUS.

odium *n.* 1602, borrowed from Latin *odium* ill-will, hatred, offense, related to *ōdī* I hate (infinitive *ōdisse*).

odometer *n.* 1791, borrowed from French *odomètre*, from Greek *hodōmetron* (*hodōs* way + *mētron* MEASURE).

odontology *n.* 1819, borrowed from French *odontologie*, formed from Greek *odont-* (stem form of Ionic *odōn* TOOTH) + French connective *-o-* + *-logie* -logy, study of.

odor *n.* Before 1300 *odur*, *odour*; later *odor* (before 1325); borrowed from Old French *odor*, *odur*, and directly from Latin *odor* smell, scent, related to *olēre* to smell of, emit a smell, earlier **odēre*. —**odoriferous** *adj.* Probably before 1475, formed in English from Latin *odōrifer* odoriferous (*odor* odor + *-fer* bearing, from *ferre* to BEAR² carry) + English suffix *-ous*. —**odorous** *adj.* Probably before 1425, borrowed from Medieval Latin *odorosus*, from Latin *odōrus* having a smell, from *odor* smell; for suffix see -OUS.

of *prep.* 1100 *of* of, from; later *off* (about 1250); developed from Old English (about 700) *of*, unstressed form of *æ*, *prep.* and

adv., away or away from; cognate with Old Frisian *of*, *af*, prep. and adv., from, Old Saxon *af*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *af* off, Old High German *aba* away, away from (modern German *ab* off, from), Old Icelandic and Gothic *af*, from Proto-Germanic **aba*. Related to OFF and AB-¹.

of- a form of the prefix *ob-* before *f* in words of Latin origin, as in *offer*. The form is due to assimilation of *b* to the following consonant (*f*).

off *adv.* Before 1121 *of* off, *of*; later *offe* (probably before 1200); developed from Old English (before 971) *of*, adv., away; see OF.

Off was originally the same word as *of*. In the 1100's, however, it began to appear as *off*, *offe*, a variant spelling which came to be used as the emphatic form, that is, as the adverb, while *of* was retained in the weakened senses, in which the preposition is usually without stress and becomes (*əv*). —**prep.** 1100 *of* away from; developed from Old English (before 855) *of*. The meaning "not on" is first recorded in 1688. —**adj.** 1666, farther; later, not at work (1826); from the adverb. —**n.** 1599, shortened form of *offing* (not recorded before 1627); also before 1669, from the adjective.

offal *n.* Before 1398 *offall*, a blended compound of *off* + *fall*, *n.*, in the sense of that which falls off (the butcher's block). Compare German *Abfall* and Dutch *afval*, with the same meaning as *offal*.

offend *v.* Probably 1350–75 *offendien* sin against, displease, do wrong; later *offenden* (about 1378); borrowed from Old French *ofendre*, and directly from Latin *offendere* strike against, stumble, commit a fault, displease (*of-* against + *-fendere* to strike). —**offender** *n.* 1472–75, lawbreaker, criminal; formed from Middle English *offenden* offend + *-er*¹, and in part an alteration of *offendour* (about 1412); probably borrowed from Anglo-French.

offense *n.* Probably 1350–75 *offens*; later *offence* (about 1380); borrowed from Old French *ofense* injury, wrong, annoyance, and directly from Latin *offensa* an offense, injury, from feminine past participle of *offendere* OFFEND. —**offensive** *adj.* 1547–64, used for attack; later, annoying or insulting (1576); borrowed through Middle French *offensif* (feminine *offensive*), and directly from Medieval Latin *offensivus*, from past participle stem of Latin *offendere* offend; for suffix see -IVE. —**n.** 1720, position or attitude of attack; from the adjective.

offer *v.* Before 1121 *offren* to present as a sacrifice, bestow in worship; later *offeren* (before 1325); developed from Old English *ofrian* (before 830); borrowed from Late Latin *offerre* present in worship, from Latin *offerre* present, bestow, bring before (*of-* to + *-ferre* bring, carry). Other early borrowings in Germanic of Late Latin *offerre* include Old Frisian *offria* present as a sacrifice, Old Saxon *offrōn*, Middle Dutch *offeren*, and Old Icelandic *offra*.

The general sense of present or proffer (before 1420) was reinforced by Old French *offrir*, from Latin *offerre*. —**n.** 1433 *offre*, borrowed from Old French *ofre*, *offre*, from *offrir* to offer, from Latin *offerre*.

offertory *n.* About 1350 *offertori* verses sung or chanted dur-

ing the offertory; borrowed from Medieval Latin *offertorium* place where offerings were brought, from Latin *offerre* to OFFER; for suffix see -ORY.

The meaning of a part of a religious service is first recorded in 1539 and that of a collection of money in 1862.

office *n.* About 1250 *offiz* official post or employment; later *office* duty, function, service (probably before 1300); borrowed from Old French *office*, or directly from Latin *officium* service, duty, function, business, alteration of **opo-fakyom* (*opus* work + *facere* perform). The meaning of a place for conducting business is first recorded about 1395.

officer *n.* Before 1338, person holding a public, church, or government office; later, agent, minister (1384); borrowed from Old French *officier*, from Medieval Latin *officiarius* an officer, from Latin *officium* service, OFFICE; for suffix see -ER¹. The meaning of a person who commands others in the armed forces is first recorded about 1565.

official *n.* About 1330, church officer, earlier, in surname (1252); borrowing of Old French *official*, and directly as a learned borrowing of Latin *officiālis* attendant to a magistrate, public official, noun use of *officiālis*, *adj.*, of or belonging to duty, service, or office, from *officium* duty, service, OFFICE; for suffix see -AL¹. The meaning of a person in charge of some public work or duty (as a *municipal official*), is first recorded in 1555. —**adj.** 1392, performing a service; borrowed from Old French *official*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *officiālis*. The meaning of pertaining to an office or post is first recorded in 1607.

officiate *v.* 1631, perform (a religious service); later, perform the duties of a church official (1641); borrowed from Medieval Latin *officiatum*, from past participle of *officiare* perform religious services, from Latin *officium* service, OFFICE; for suffix see -ATE¹.

official *adj.* About 1720, borrowed from French *official*, from New Latin *officialis*, literally, of or belonging to an *officina* storeroom for medicines and necessities, from Latin *officina* workshop, contraction of *opificina*, from *opifex* (genitive *opificis*) worker, maker, doer (*opus* work + *-fex*, *-ficus* one that does, from *facere* perform); for suffix see -AL¹.

officious *adj.* 1565, eager to please, obliging, dutiful; borrowed, perhaps by influence of Middle French *officieux*, from Latin *officiōsus* dutiful, from *officium* duty, service, OFFICE; for suffix see -OUS. The meaning of excessively eager to offer services, meddlesome, is first recorded in 1602.

offing *n.* in the offing in the making, impending. 1779, in the distant future, from earlier nautical term *offing* the more distant part of the sea as seen from the shore (1627); formed from English *off*, adv. + *-ing*¹. The modern sense of impending, on hand, is first found in 1914.

offspring *n.* Old English (about 949) *ofspring* children or young collectively, descendants; literally, those who spring off someone (*of* OFF + *springan* to SPRING). The singular use is first recorded in 1712.

oft *adv.* (in adjective compounds, as *oft-told*). Probably about 1175 *ofte*, developed from Old English (before 725) *oft*; cognate with Old Frisian *ofta* oft, Old Saxon *oft*, *ofto*, Old High German *ofto* (modern German *oft*), Old Icelandic *opt* (modern Icelandic *oft*, Swedish *ofta*, Danish and Norwegian *ofte*), and Gothic *ufta*.

often *adv.* About 1250 *often*, extended from *ofte* OFT, probably by influence of Middle English *selden* seldom (Old English *seldan*).

ogle *v.* 1682–87, probably borrowed from Low German *oeglen*, frequentative form of *oegen* look at, from *oeg* eye; cognate with Middle Dutch *oghe* EYE.

ogre *n.* 1786 (earlier found as *Hogre*, 1713); borrowed from French *ogre*, perhaps from Old French **orc*, from Latin *Orcus* Hades or possibly formed *ogre* on an Italian dialect **orgo*, alteration of **orgo*, variant of Italian *orco* demon, monster, from Latin *Orcus*.

oh or **Oh** *interj.* Before 1548 *Oh*, spelling alteration of Middle English *O*, *o* (probably before 1200); found in Old French *ô*, *oh* and Latin *ô*, *ôh*, *interj.*, found also in Greek as *ô*, *ô*. In Old English, Latin *ô* was rendered by *lā* or *ēalā*.

ohm *n.* 1867, alteration of earlier *ohma* (1861), in allusion to the German physicist Georg S. Ohm.

-oholic a combining form meaning one having an addiction or avid devotion to a thing or a practice; abstracted from *alcoholic*; so spelled in random examples (*bloodoholic*, *cokeoholic*, *jogoholic*) but almost entirely replaced by the spelling **-AHOLIC**.

-oid a suffix meaning: like, like that of, as in *Mongoloid*, *ameboid*; thing like a —, as *spheroid*, *opioid*. Borrowed from New Latin *-oides*, contraction of Greek *-oeidēs* (-o-, stem vowel + *-eidēs* in the form of, from *eidos* form, related to *idein* to see, and *eidēnai* to know).

oil *n.* Probably before 1200 *eoile*, *eoli* olive oil; later *oille* (probably about 1225), and *olie* (about 1250); borrowed from Anglo-French *olie* and Old French *oile*, *oille*, and directly from Latin *oleum* oil, olive oil, from Greek **elaiwōn* (dialectal variant of *elaion*), from **elatiwā* OLIVE. The Middle English form displaced Old English *ele*, earlier *æle*; cognate with Old High German *oli*, from Latin *oleum*.

The meaning of any fatty or greasy substance (extracted from animals, vegetables, and parts of plants) is first recorded about 1303. The specific sense of petroleum, is first recorded in 1526.—**v.** Before 1425 *oylen* anoint; from the noun.—**oily** *adj.* 1528, formed from *oil*, *n.* + *-y*¹. An example is found in Middle English *oylei* (1392), from *oile* oil + *-i* *-y*¹.

ointment *n.* About 1280 *oynement*; later *oignement* (about 1300); borrowed from Old French *oignement*, *oingnement*, from Vulgar Latin **unguimentum*, variant of Latin *unguentum* UNGUENT.

O.K. or **OK** *adj.*, *adv.* 1839, originally an abbreviation of *oll korrekt*, one of many similar abbreviations (such as *K.G.* no go as if spelled *know go*) that arose during a vogue for using

abbreviations in 1838 and 1839 in Boston and New York City. The abbreviation was further popularized as the election slogan of the “O.K. Club,” a Democratic club of New York City formed in 1840 by supporters of Martin Van Buren, in allusion to his nickname “Old Kinderhook,” Van Buren having been born at the village of Kinderhook, New York.—**n.** 1841, from the adjective.—**v.** 1888, from the noun.

The form *okay*, representing the pronunciation of O.K., appeared in 1929, replacing the earlier spelling *okeh* (1919).

okra *n.* 1679 *ocra*, later *okra* (1696); borrowed from a West African language (compare Akan *ŋkrūmā* okra); see also GUMBO.

-ol¹ a suffix meaning: 1 containing, derived from, or like alcohol, as in *phenol*. 2 phenol, or phenol derivative, as in *thymol* (phenol obtained from oil of thyme). Abstracted from (*alcoh*)ol.

-ol² a variant form of the suffix **-OLE**, as in *cholesterol*.

old *adj.* Probably before 1200 *old*, *olde*; developed from Old English (before 725), found in Anglian *ald* and West Saxon *eald*; cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *ald* old, Middle Dutch *out* (modern Dutch *oud*), Old High German and modern German *alt*, and Crimean Gothic *alt* old, from Proto-Germanic **aldās*, originally a past participle formation from the verb stem **al-* found in Old Icelandic *ala* to nourish, bring up, Old English *alan*, and Gothic *alan* grow, nourish. Related to ALDERMAN, ELDER¹.—**n.** Before 1393, from the adjective. Also about 1250 *olde*, from earlier *ealde* (before 1150), from the Old English adjective.—**olden** *adj.* Before 1400, formed from *old*, *olde* + *-en*².—**old-fashioned** *adj.* (1596) —**Old Testament** (about 1350 *olde testament*)

-ole a chemical suffix denoting: 1 containing a five-part ring, as in *pyrrole* (liquid compound obtained mostly from coal tar). 2 belonging to the ethers, as in *anisole* (compound used in perfumes). Abstracted from Latin *oleum* OIL.

oleaginous *adj.* oily. 1634, borrowed from French *oléagineux*, from Latin *oleāginus* of the olive, from *olea* olive, alteration (influenced by *oleum* oil) of *oliva* OLIVE; for suffix see **-OUS**. This word is found once in Middle English (probably before 1425) *oliaginose*, borrowed directly from the Latin *oleāginus*.

oleander *n.* 1548, borrowed from Medieval Latin *oleander*, perhaps by influence of Middle French *oléandre*; probably an alteration of Late Latin *lorandrum*, a further alteration of Latin *rhododendron* RHODODENDRON by influence of Latin *laurea* laurel, from the resemblance of the leaves (supported by French *laurier rose*, meaning oleander). The initial *olea-* suggests the influence of Latin *olea* olive.

olein *n.* 1838, borrowing of French *oléine*, from *olé-* (from Latin *oleum* oil) + *-ine* *-ine*², patterned after *glycerin*.

oleomargarine *n.* 1873, borrowed from French *oléomargarine* (*oléine* olein + *margarine*), so called because it was regarded as a chemical combination of olein and margarine.

olfactory *adj.* 1658, borrowed from Latin *olfactorius*, from

olfact-, past participle stem of *olfacere* to get a smell of, sniff, (*olēre* give off a smell of + *facere* make); for suffix see -ORY.

oligarchy *n.* 1577 *oligarchie*; borrowed through Middle French *oligarchie*, from Greek *oligarchiā* government by the few (*oligoi* few + *árchein* to rule). Also found in *oligracie* (before 1500); borrowed from Old French *olygrachie*, variant of *oligarchie* *oligarchy*. —**oligarch** *n.* Before 1610 *olygarche*; later *oligarch* (1821); borrowed through Middle French *olygarche*; later *oligarque*, from Greek *oligárchēs* an oligarch (*oligoi* few + *árchein* to rule).

oligopoly *n.* 1895, borrowed from Medieval Latin *oligopolium*, from Greek *oligoi* few + *-pōlium*, from Latin *monopōlium* monopoly.

olive *n.* Probably before 1200, borrowed from Old French *olive*, or directly from Latin *olīva*, from Greek **elafwā*, dialectal variant of *elafā* olive tree, olive, probably borrowed from the same (Aegean, perhaps Cretan) source as Armenian *ewī* oil. —**adj.** 1657, from the noun. —**olive branch** Before 1325, branch of an olive tree; later token of peace (before 1338).

-ology a combining form meaning study or science of, originally used in jocular nonce words such as *insectology* (1803), *commonsensology* (1805), but now treated as a variant of -LOGY, with connective -o- as in *sexology*, *terminology*. 1803, abstracted from such words as *geology*, *mythology*, *philology*, in which the -o- is considered a connective, though it belonged to the preceding element as a stem-final or thematic vowel.

Olympiad *n.* 1614, a celebration of the Olympic Games, back formation from Middle English *Olympiades*, pl. (before 1422); borrowed from Middle French *olimpiade*, from Latin *Olympiadem* (nominative *Olympias*), from Greek *Olympiās*, from *Olympia* (Greek *Olympiā*) site of the Olympic Games. The form *Olympias* (from Latin) appears in Middle English before 1387.

Olympic Games Before 1603, replacing the earlier *Olympian Games* (1593), in reference to *Olympia* (Greek *Olympiā*), town in ancient Greece where the contests were held.

-oma a suffix meaning a growth or tumor, as in *carcinoma*, *lymphoma*, *melanoma*, *sarcoma*. New Latin, borrowed from Greek *-ōma* (genitive *-ōmatos*), a suffix of some nouns taken from verbs in *-ōein*, *-ōōn*.

ombudsman *n.* 1959, borrowing of Swedish *ombudsman*, literally, commission man or commissioner, corresponding to Old Icelandic *umbothsmadr* (*umboth* commission, from *um-* around and *bjōdha* to offer + *madr* man).

omega *n.* About 1400, borrowed from Medieval Greek *δ μέγα* big *o* (although the name was Classical, not Medieval); so called because the vowel was long in ancient Greek.

omelet or **omelette** *n.* 1611, borrowing of French *omelette*; earlier *amelette*, alteration of *alemette*, from *alemelle* blade of a knife or sword, probably from the misdivision of *la lemelle*, from Latin *lāmella* small, thin plate; so called from the omelet's flattened shape; for suffix see -ETTE.

omen *n.* 1582, borrowing of Latin *ōmen* foreboding.

omicron *n.* About 1400, borrowed from Medieval Greek *δ micrōn* small *o* (although the name was Classical, not Medieval); so called because the vowel was short in ancient Greek.

ominous *adj.* 1589, borrowed from Latin *ōminōsus* full of foreboding, from *ōmen* (genitive *ōminis*) foreboding, omen; for suffix see -OUS.

omission *n.* Probably 1348 *omission* neglect of duty, lack of action; borrowed from Late Latin *omissionem* (nominative *omissio*) an omitting, from Latin *omiss-*, past participle stem of *mittere* OMIT; for suffix see -ION.

omit *v.* Probably about 1422 *ommitten*, also *omitten* (probably before 1425); borrowed from Latin *omittere* lay aside, disregard, let go (*om-* by, variant of *ob-* before *m* + *mittere* let go, send).

omni- a combining form meaning all, completely, as in *omnipresent*, *omnirange*, *omnidirectional*, *omnifocal*. Borrowed from Latin *omni-*, combining form of *omnis* all.

omnibus *n.* 1829, borrowed from French (*voiture*) *omnibus* common (conveyance), from Latin *omnibus* for all, dative plural of *omnis* all.

omnifarious *adj.* 1653, borrowed from Late Latin *omnifārius* of all sorts, from Latin *omnifāriam* on all places or parts (*omni-* all + *-fāriam* parts); for suffix see -OUS.

omnipotent *adj.* Probably before 1300, borrowed from Old French *omnipotent*, *omnipotente*, or directly from Latin *omnipotentem* (nominative *omnipotēns*) *omni-* all + *potēns* powerful, POTENT. —**omnipotence** *n.* Before 1460 *omnipotens*, borrowed from Middle French *omnipotence*, from Late Latin *omnipotentia*, from Latin *omnipotentem* omnipotent; for suffix see -ENCE.

omniscience *n.* 1612, borrowed from Medieval Latin *omniscientia* (Latin *omni-* all + *scientia* knowledge). —**omniscient** *adj.* 1604, borrowed from New Latin *omniscientem* (nominative *omnisciens*), from Medieval Latin *omniscientia* omniscience.

omnivorous *adj.* 1656, learned borrowing of Latin *omnivorus* (*omni-* all + *-vorus*, from *vorāre* devour, swallow); for suffix see -OUS.

on *prep., adv.* Old English (before 800) *on*, unstressed variant of earlier (about 700) *an* in, on, into; cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *an* on, Middle Dutch *āne*, *aen* (modern Dutch *aan*), Old High German *ana* (modern German *an*), Old Icelandic *ā*, and Gothic *ana*.

In Old English as a variant of *an* the word had a wider function than it does in modern English and took on much of the function of present-day *in*.

-on a suffix meaning: 1 elementary particle, as in *neutron*. 2 unit particle of energy, as in *photon*, *fermion*. 3 unit of genetic material, as in *codon*, *operon*. Abstracted from (*i*)on, (*electr*)on, (*prot*)on, etc.

onanism *n.* 1727–41, formed in allusion to *Onan* (Genesis

38:9, who spilled his semen on the ground rather than impregnate his deceased brother's wife) + *-ism*.

once *adv.* About 1250 *ones* one time, on one occasion; earlier *anes* (1131); formed from *on*, *ane* ONE + *-es*, genitive singular ending, used adverbially. This form replaced the Old English *æne*, *adv.*, and finally displaced the Middle and early modern English *enes* about 1500.

As *ones* gradually lost a pronunciation in two syllables in late Middle English and with its final *-s* which represents a voiceless sound of *s* in *sit* the word began to be respelled with *-ce*, as in *hence*, to reflect spelling conventions. The development of the pronunciation with *w* (*wuns*) parallels ONE. —**n.** About 1300 *ones* one time; earlier *anes* (probably before 1200); from the adverb. —**conj.** Probably about 1300 *ones* once that; from the adverb. —**adj.** 1691, from the noun.

onco- a combining form meaning tumor, as in *oncology*, *oncogenesis*. New Latin adaptation of Greek *ónkos* mass or bulk.

oncogene *n.* 1969, formed from English *onco-* tumor + *gene*. —**oncogenesis** *n.* 1932, formed from English *onco-* tumor + *genesis*.

oncology *n.* 1857, formed from English *onco-* tumor + *-logy* science or study of.

oncornavirus *n.* 1970, formed from English *onco-* tumor + *RNA* (ribonucleic acid) + *virus*.

one *adj.*, *pron.* About 1200 *one*; earlier *on* (probably about 1150), developed from Old English (before 725) *ān*, *adj.*, *pron.*, and *n.* (earlier in compounds, such as, *ānmōd* of one mind, resolute, about 700). Old English *ān* is cognate with Old Frisian *ān* one, Old Saxon *ēn*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *een*, Old High German and modern German *ein*, Old Icelandic *einn* (Danish, Norwegian, and Swedish *en*), and Gothic *ains*, from Proto-Germanic **ainaz*. —**n.** Probably about 1175 *one*; later *on* (probably before 1200) the number one, developed from Old English *ān*.

The now standard pronunciation (*wun*) developed in Middle English from *ōn*, *oon*, which by the 1400's had evolved (through *ōn*, *uon*, *uōn*, *won*, *wun*) an initial sound represented by *w* in southwestern and western England. This pronunciation appears only occasionally in the spelling and is first referred to by a scholar in 1701; earlier grammarians give to *one* the sound that it had in *alone*, *atone*, *only*. The same development occurred in *once*. See also *AN*.

-one a suffix used in names of chemicals to denote certain compounds containing oxygen, as in *acetone*, *cortisone*. Adapted from Greek *-ōnē*, a feminine suffix.

onerous *adj.* 1395, borrowed from Old French (*h*)*onerous*, *onereux*, and directly from Latin *onerōsus*, from *onus* (genitive *oneris*) burden, *ONUS*; for suffix see *-OUS*.

onion *n.* 1130 *ungeon*; later *oinoin* (1225), *unyon* (1356–57), and *onyon* (1381); borrowed from Old French *oignon*, and directly from Latin *uniōnem* (nominative *uniō*) a kind of onion.

only *adj.* Probably before 1200 *anlich*; later *onelik* (before

1338), and *only* (about 1386); developed from Old English *ænlic*, *ānlic* only, unique, solitary (about 725, in *Beowulf*); formed from *ān* ONE + *-lic* *-ly*². —**adv.** About 1250 *on-like*; later *onliche* (about 1280), and *only* (about 1303); from the adjective. —**conj.** About 1384, from the adjective.

onomastic *adj.* 1716 *onomastick*, borrowed from French *onomastique*, from Greek *onomastikós* of or belonging to naming, from *onomázein* to name, from *ónoma* NAME; for suffix see *-IC*. —**onomastics** *n.* 1936, formed from *onomastic* + *-s*, as in *gymnastics*, *physics*. An earlier form is recorded as *onomastic*, *n.* (1930).

onomatopoeia *n.* 1577, borrowing of Latin *onomatopoeia* the coining of words, from Greek *onomatopoiā* the making of a name or word, from *onomatopoiós* (*ónoma*, genitive *ónomatos* word, name + *poiéin* compose, make; see *POET*). —**onomatopoeic** *adj.* 1860, borrowed from French *onomatopéique* (*onomatopée* *onomatopoeia* + *-ique* *-ic*), and formed directly from Greek *onomatopoiós* + English *-ic*.

onset *n.* 1535, attack, assault; later, a starting up, beginning (1561); formed from English *on* + *set*, *n.*

onslaught *n.* Before 1625 *anslaught*, borrowed from Dutch *aanslag* attack, from Middle Dutch *aenslach* (*aen* ON + *slach* blow, related to *slaen* SLAY). The spellings *anslaught*, and particularly *onslaught* (1654) were influenced by the obsolete English noun *slaught* slaughter, going back to Old English *sleht* SLAUGHTER.

onto *prep.* 1581 *on to* to a position on (as in *he stepped on to the stage*); recorded as a closed compound *onto* in 1819.

ontogeny *n.* 1872, development of an individual organism, formed in English from Greek *ón* (genitive *óntos*) being, present participle of *éinai* to be + *-généia* origin, from *-genēs* born.

ontology *n.* 1721, borrowed from French *ontologie*, from New Latin *ontologia*, from Greek *ón* (genitive *óntos*) being + *-logiā* *-logy*.

onus *n.* About 1640, borrowed from Latin *onus* (genitive *oneris*) load or burden. Related to *EXONERATE*, *ONEROUS*.

onyx *n.* About 1250 *oneche*, later *onix* (before 1300); borrowed through Old French *oniche*, *onix*, and directly from Latin *onyx* (genitive *onychis*), from Greek *ónyx* (genitive *ónychos*) claw, fingernail, onyx; so called from the resemblance of this mineral to the color of a fingernail.

oocyte *n.* 1895, formed from English *oo-* (combining form of Greek *oión* EGG¹) + *-cyte*.

-oon The form *-oon* is an English suffixal type used especially from the 1500's to the 1700's to add emphasis to English borrowings of French nouns ending in *-on* stressed on the final syllable, and of Italian nouns in *-one*, such as *balloon*, *bassoon*, *buffoon*, *cartoon*, *doubloon*, *macaroon*. The form may have been influenced by apparently similar French use in *pantaloon* and perhaps *dragoon*. It probably also influenced the present-day spelling *baboon*, and perhaps even Japanese *tycoon*, and is found in English formations as *spittoon*. By imitation, *-oon* may also

have been broadened in its general application to include the spellings of *lagoon*, *typhoon*, etc., just as it does *pontoon* and *harpoon*.

ooze¹ *n.* slow flow. 1340 *wose* juice, flowing liquid; developed from Old English (about 1000) *wōs* juice; cognate with Middle Low German *wōs* froth, juice, from Proto-Germanic **wōsan*. The modern spelling *ooze*, came from a dialectal alteration first recorded in the late 1500's. —**v.** Before 1387 *wosen*, from *woose* flow. —**oozy** *adj.* 1714 (but implied in earlier *ooziness*, 1684).

ooze² *n.* soft mud or slime. 1340 *wose*; earlier *waise* (before 1338); developed from Old English (before 800) *wāse* mud, mire; cognate with Old Frisian *wāse* slime, mud, Old Icelandic *veisa* slime, stagnant pool, from Proto-Germanic **waisōn*. The modern spelling *ooze*, is first recorded in the mid-1500's and was influenced by *ooze*¹. —**oozy**² *adj.* Before 1398 *wosie*; formed from Middle English *wose ooze*² + *-ie -y*¹.

op- a form of the prefix *ob-* before *p* in words from Latin, such as *opponent* (Latin *oppōnentem*, nominative *oppōnēns*). The form is due to the assimilation of *b* to the following consonant (*p*).

opacity *n.* 1560, darkness or obscurity of meaning; borrowed from French *opacité*, learned borrowing from Latin *opacitatem* (nominative *opacitās*) shadiness, shade, from *opācus* shaded, shady, dark, opaque.

opal *n.* 1598 *opale*, borrowed through French *opale*, *opalle*, learned borrowing from Latin *opalus*, supposedly from Greek *opállios*, possibly from Sanskrit *ūpala-s* gem, opal. Latin *opalus* is recorded in Middle English before 1398. —**opalescence** *n.* 1805–17; formed from English *opal* + *-escence*. —**opalescent** *adj.* 1813; formed from English *opal* + *-escent*.

opaque *adj.* Probably 1440 *opake*; borrowed from Latin *opācus* shaded, shady, dark. The current English spelling was influenced by French *opaque*, from Latin.

open *adj.* Old English *open* not closed down, raised up, open (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *epen*, *open* open, Old Saxon *opan*, Middle Dutch *ōpen* (modern Dutch *open*), Old High German *offan* (modern German *offen*), and Old Icelandic *opinn* (Swedish *öppen*, Norwegian *åpen*, Danish *åben*); not recorded in Gothic; from Proto-Germanic **upana-/upina-*, and related to *up*. —**v.** Probably before 1200 *openen*; developed from Old English (before 725) *openian*; cognate with Old Frisian *epenia* to open, Old Saxon *opanōn*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *openen*, Old High German *offanōn* (modern German *öffnen*), and Old Icelandic *opna*; derived from the Germanic source of Old English *open*, *adj.* —**opener** *n.* (1440)

opera *n.* 1644, drama that is mostly sung; borrowing of Italian *opera*, literally, a work, from Latin *opera* work, effort; related to *opus* (genitive *operis*) a work; see **OPERATE**.

The term *soap opera*, originally referring disparagingly to daytime radio drama sponsored by soap manufacturers, appeared in 1939. —**operatic** *adj.* 1749, irregularly derived from *opera*, apparently on the analogy of *drama*, *dramatic*. —**opereetta** *n.* 1770, borrowed from Italian, diminutive of *opera*.

operable *adj.* 1646, formed from English *operate* + *-able*. The sense of capable of being treated by a surgical operation (as in an *operable tumor*) appeared in 1904.

operand *n.* 1886, borrowed from Latin *operandum*, neuter gerundive of *operārī* to work, **OPERATE**.

operant *adj.* 1602, borrowed from Latin *operantem* (nominative *operāns*), present participle of *operārī* to work, **OPERATE**; for suffix see **-ANT**. The meaning in psychology of involving spontaneous behavior that produces a reinforcing effect was coined in 1937 by the American psychologist B.F. Skinner. —**n.** 1700, from the adjective.

operate *v.* 1606, probably a back formation from earlier *operation*, and borrowed from Latin *operātus*, past participle of *operārī* to work, labor (in Late Latin, to have effect, be active, cause), from *opera* work, effort, related to *opus* (genitive *operis*) a work.

—**operation** *n.* 1391 *operacioun* action, performance, working; borrowed from Old French *operation*, and directly from Latin *operātiōnem* (nominative *operātiō*), from *operārī* to work; for suffix see **-ATION**. —**operative** *adj.* Probably before 1425, borrowed from Middle French *operatif*, and directly from Late Latin *operātivus* creative, formative, from Latin *operāt-*, past participle stem of *operārī* to work, operate; for suffix see **-IVE**. —**n.** 1809–10, worker, operator; noun use of *operative*, *adj.*

The meaning “private detective” is first recorded in 1905, probably introduced by the Pinkerton Detective Agency. In the 1930's *operative* was also applied to a secret agent or spy. —**operator** *n.* 1611, borrowed from Late Latin *operātor* worker, producer, from Latin *operārī* to work, **OPERATE**; for suffix see **-OR**².

operon *n.* 1961, borrowing of French *opéron*, from *opér(ateur)* operator, in the sense of the genetic segment that regulates the structural genes in an operon + *-on* (genetic unit).

ophthalmia *n.* Before 1398 *obtalmia*; later *obtalmie* (probably before 1425); borrowing of Medieval Latin *obtalmia*, and Old French *obtalmie*, from Late Latin *ophthalmia*, or directly from Greek *ophthalmiā* region of the eyes, from *ophthalmós* eye; originally, the seeing; related to *ōps* EYE. —**ophthalmic** *adj.* 1727–41, formed from English *ophthalm(ia)* + *-ic*, in imitation of Greek *ophthalmikós* of the eye. The earlier Middle English *obtalmic* (probably before 1425) had the restricted meaning of affected with *ophthalmia*; borrowed from Medieval Latin *obtalmicus*. —**ophthalmology** *n.* 1842 (but implied earlier in *ophthalmologist*, 1834); formed in English from Greek *ophthalmós* eye + English *-ology*.

opiate *adj.* 1543, of or containing opium, narcotic; borrowed from Medieval Latin *opiatus*, from Latin *opium* OPIUM; for suffix see **-ATE**¹. —**n.** 1603, from the adjective. A single example is recorded probably before 1425, borrowed from Medieval Latin *opiatus*.

opine *v.* About 1450 *opynen*; borrowed from Middle French *opiner*, and directly from Latin *opinārī* have an opinion, suppose, think, judge, perhaps related to *optāre* to desire, choose; see **OPTION**.

opinion *n.* Before 1325, borrowed from Old French *opinion*

what one thinks, supposition, judgment, belief, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *opiniōnem* (nominative *opiniō*), related to *opinārī* think, judge, suppose, OPINE; for suffix see -ION. —**opinionated** adj. 1601, formed from earlier *opinionate*, adj. (1553, based on opinion, supposed; later, dogmatic, 1576, from *opinion* + *-ate*) + *-ed*².

opium *n.* 1392, borrowed from Latin *opium*, from Greek *ópion* poppy juice, poppy, diminutive of *opós* vegetable juice.

opossum *n.* 1610 *apossoun*, borrowed from Algonquian (Powhatan) *ápásúm* white animal. See also POSSUM.

The replacement of the original spelling with *a* by *o* is found in other words of American Indian origin, for example *tobacco* (from earlier *tabaco*).

opponent *n.* 1588, probably from the adjective. —**adj.** 1647, borrowed from Latin *oppōnentem* (nominative *oppōnēns*), present participle of *oppōnere* oppose, object to, set against (*op-* against + *pōnere* to put, set, place); for suffix see -ENT.

opportune *adj.* Probably about 1408, borrowed from Old French *oportun* (feminine *oportune*) timely, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *opportūnus* favorable, from the phrase *ob portum veniēns* coming toward a port, in reference to the wind. —**opportunism** *n.* 1870; formed in English from *opportune* + *-ism*, by influence of Italian *opportunismo*, from *opportuno* opportune + *-ismo* -ism. The term was originally used in Italian politics, and later in French politics (*opportunisme*, 1869, which also influenced the formation in English). —**opportunist** *n.* 1881, borrowed from French *opportuniste*. —**opportunistic** *adj.* (1892) —**opportunity** *n.* About 1380 *oportunyte* good fortune; also, before 1387 *opportunitate* fitness, competency, favorable time, chance, occasion; borrowed from Old French *opportunité*, and directly from Latin *opportunitātem* (nominative *opportunitās*) fitness, suitability, favorable time, from *opportūnus* opportune; for suffix see -ITY.

oppose *v.* About 1380 *opposen* confront with objections; borrowed from Old French *opposer*, a blend of Old French *poser* to place, lay down, POSE and Latin *oppōnere* oppose, object to, set against. The meaning of hinder, resist, is first recorded in 1596. —**opposable** *adj.* 1667, formed from English *oppose* + *-able*.

opposite *adj.* 1391 *opposyt*, borrowed from Old French *opposite*, learned borrowing from Latin *oppositus*, past participle of *oppōnere* set against. The meaning of contrary, different, is first recorded in 1580. —**n.** About 1385 *oposit*, borrowed from Old French *oposite*, *n.*, from *oposite*, *adj.* —**prep.** 1758, from the adjective, probably by omission of *to* in the phrase *opposite to*. —**adv.** 1817, from the adjective.

opposition *n.* About 1395 *opposicioun* the position of two heavenly bodies exactly opposite to each other; borrowed from Old French *oposicion*, *opposition*, or directly from Medieval Latin *oppositionem* (nominative *oppositio*), from Latin *oppositiōnem* (nominative *oppositiō*) act of opposing, from *opposit-*, past participle stem of *oppōnere* set against; for suffix see -ION.

The meaning of contrast is first recorded in 1581, and that of antagonism, in 1588. The meaning of a political party opposed to the party in power is found in 1704.

oppress *v.* About 1380 *oppressen* weigh down, burden; borrowed from Old French *oppresser*, from Medieval Latin *oppressare*, frequentative of Latin *opprimere* press against, crush (*op-* against + *primere* to PRESS¹ push). It is also possible that in some instances *oppress* is a back formation from earlier *oppression*.

The meaning of burden unjustly, is first recorded in 1382. —**oppression** *n.* 1334, borrowed from Old French *oppression*, *oppression*, from Latin *oppressiōnem* (nominative *oppressiō*), from *oppress-*, past participle stem of *opprimere*; for suffix see -ION. —**oppressive** *adj.* 1627–77, probably formed from English *oppress* + *-ive*, after French *oppressif* (feminine *oppressive*). —**oppressor** *n.* About 1400, also *oppressour* (1422); borrowed from Old French *oppresseur*, from Latin *oppressor*, from *opprimere* oppress; for suffix see -OR².

opprobrium *n.* 1656, reborrowing of Latin *opprobrium*, as a replacement of Middle English *opprobry* (probably before 1425), earlier borrowed from Latin *opprobrium*, from *opprobriare* to reproach, taunt (*op-* against + *probrum* reproach, infamy). —**opprobrious** *adj.* Before 1387, borrowed through Old French *opprobrieux*, and directly from Late Latin *opprobriōsus*, from Latin *opprobrium*; for suffix see -OUS.

opt *v.* 1877, borrowed from French *opter* to choose, learned borrowing from Latin *optāre* choose, desire.

optic *adj.* Probably before 1425 *optik*, *obtic*, borrowed from Middle French *oblique*, and directly from Medieval Latin *opticus* of sight or seeing, from Greek *optikós* of or having to do with sight, from *optós* seen, visible, from *op-*, root of *ópsēthai* be going to see, related to *óps* eye; for suffix see -IC. —**optical** *adj.* 1570, formed from English *optic* + *-al*¹, perhaps after Middle French *optique* or Medieval Latin *opticus* optic. —**optician** *n.* 1687, formed in English from *optic(s)* + *-ian* (as in *physician*), after French *opticien*, from Medieval Latin *optica* optics; for suffix see -IAN. —**optics** *n.* 1579 *optikes*, a plural of *optik*, *optick*, *adj.*, used as a noun in place of Medieval Latin *optica* optics, neuter plural, borrowed from Greek *tà optiká* optical matters, optics, from neuter plural of *optikós* optic; for suffix see -ICS.

optimism *n.* 1782 *Optimism*; earlier *Optimisme* (1759) name given to the doctrine that the actual world is the best of all possible worlds; originally a borrowing of French *optimisme* (1737), from New Latin *optimum* (as used by Leibnitz to mean the greatest good), from Latin *optimus* the best; see OPTIMUM; for suffix see -ISM. —**optimist** *n.* 1766, formed from English *optim(ism)* + *-ist*, after French *optimiste*. —**optimistic** *adj.* 1848, formed from English *optimist* + *-ic*.

optimize *v.* 1 act as an optimist. 1844, back formation from English *optimist* + *-ize*. 2 make the best or most of. 1857, formed from Latin *optimum* + English suffix *-ize*.

optimum *n.* 1879, borrowing of Latin *optimum*, neuter singular of *optimus* best, probably related to *ops* power, resources. —**adj.** 1886, from the noun. —**optimal** *adj.* 1890, formed from English *optimum*, *n.* + *-al*¹.

option *n.* 1604, act of choosing, borrowed from French *op-*

tion, learned borrowing from Latin *optiōnem* (nominative *optiō*) choice, free choice, related to *optāre* to desire, choose. The commercial sense of the right to buy or sell something at a certain price within a certain time, is first recorded in 1755. —**optional** adj. 1765, leaving something to choice; formed from English *option* + *-al*¹. The meaning of being a matter of choice, is first recorded in 1792.

optometry n. 1886, formed from English *optometer* (1737) + *-ry*, on the pattern of spectrometer, spectrometry; probably influenced by French *optométrie*, from *opto-* sight, from Greek *optós* seen, visible; also see *-METRY*. —**optometrist** n. 1903, formed from *optometry* + *-ist*.

opulent adj. 1601, probably, in part, a back formation from *opulence*, and, in part, borrowed from Middle French *opulent*, learned borrowing from Latin *opulentus* wealthy; see *OPULENCE*. —**opulence** n. About 1510, borrowed from Middle French *opulence*, learned borrowing from Latin *opulentia*, from *opulentus* wealthy, from *ops* wealth, power, resources.

opus n. 1809, borrowing of Latin *opus* a work.

or¹ conj. Probably about 1200 *or*, a reduced form (analogous to *e'er* from *ever*) of a fusion of: 1) *other*, conj. (probably before 1200); developed from Old English (before 1050) *other* or, from *oththe*, *oththa*; earlier *eththa* (probably before 725); and 2) *outher* (before 1121); developed from Old English (before 901) *āhwæther*, *āther*, pron.; originally the same as *either*, probably by association in such phrases of alternative condition as *either...or* (Old English *āther...oththe*), and *whether...or* (Old English *hwæther...oththe*). The Old English forms *oththe*, *oththa* are cognate with Old High German *odo*, *odar*; earlier *eddo* (modern German *oder*), Old Icelandic *edha* and Gothic *aiþthau*.

The ending *-r* appeared in late Old English perhaps through the influence of words like *either*, *neither*, and *whether*.

or² adv., prep., conj. before, variant of Middle English *er*; see *ERE*.

-or¹ a suffix meaning action or condition, especially in words from Latin, as in *error*, *horror*, *favor*, *honor*, *behavior*. Middle English *-or*, *-our*, borrowed from Old French *-eor*, *-eur*, from Latin *-or*, abstract noun suffix.

-or² a suffix meaning person or thing that does (something) as in *conqueror*, *donor*, *actor*, *accelerator*. Middle English *-or*, *-our*, borrowed through Anglo-French *-our*, *-ur*, and from Old French *-eor*, *-eur*, from Latin *-ātor*em (nominative *-ātor*) and other combinations of stem vowel and agent suffix *-tor*. In some cases, *-or* was acquired as part of *-tor* in words borrowed directly from Latin *-ātor* (stem *-ā-* + *-tor*) or adapted from French *-eur* in *-teur* in learned borrowings from Latin. The suffix is often found attached to verbs in *-ate*¹, as in *demonstrator*, *illustrator*, *generator*, etc., or to verbs in *-it*, as in *depositor*, *auditor*, or *-t*, as in *instructor*, *corrector*, etc. Occasionally it appears in the form *-sor*, as in *confessor*.

oracle n. About 1380, borrowed from Old French *oracle*, and borrowed directly from Latin *orāculum*, from *orāre* pray, plead.

—**oracular** adj. 1631, formed from Latin *orāculum* oracle + English *-ar*.

oracy n. 1965, formed from English *or(al)* + *-acy*, on the pattern of *literacy*.

oral adj. 1625, done with the mouth (but implied earlier in *orally*, 1608); perhaps later reinforced in English by French *oral*, but borrowed from Late Latin *ōrālis*, from Latin *ōs* (genitive *ōris*) mouth; for suffix see *-AL*¹. The meaning of spoken or verbal is first recorded in 1628. —**n.** 1876, shortened form of *oral examination*.

orange n. Probably about 1380 *orenge* an orange (fruit); earlier, as a surname (1296); *orange* (before 1425); borrowed from Old French *orenge*, in *pome d'orange* and in Medieval Latin *pomum de orengē*; alteration of Arabic *nāranj*, from Persian *nārang*, from Sanskrit *nāraṅgā-s* orange tree.

Loss of initial *n-* in early Old French was probably by absorption into the indefinite article in *une *n'orange* an orange; contrast Spanish *naranja* which retained the *n-*. The shift in spelling from *orange* to *orengē* may have been influenced by Old French *or* gold, in allusion to the color of the fruit, and perhaps by the name *Orange* town in southern France through which oranges were shipped north. —**adj.** 1542, from the noun (originally an attributive use, as in *orange hue*, but by 1620 used as an adjective, as in *orange velvet*).

orangutan n. 1699 *Orang-Outang*, borrowed from Dutch *orang-outang* (1631), from Malay *orang utan*, literally, man of the woods (*orang* man + *utan*, *hutan* woods).

orate v. About 1600, to pray; probably borrowed from Latin *orātus*, past participle of *orāre* pray, plead, speak before a court or assembly; for suffix see *-ATE*¹.

The meaning of make a formal speech (1669) came into common use about 1860 in the U.S. as a back formation from *oration*.

oration n. Probably before 1375 *oracion* prayer; borrowed from Late Latin *orātiōnem* (nominative *orātiō*), from Latin *orāre* pray, plead, speak before a court or assembly; for suffix see *-ATION*. The meaning of formal speech or discourse is first recorded in English in 1502.

orator n. About 1380 *orateur* spokesman or advocate; borrowing through Anglo-French *orateur*, variant of Old French *orateur*, learned borrowing from Latin *orātor* speaker, from *orāre* speak before a court or assembly, plead; for suffix see *-OR*².

oratory¹ n. formal public speaking. Before 1586, borrowed from Latin *ars oratōria* oratorical art, feminine of *orātorius* of speaking or pleading, from *orāre* speak before a court or assembly, plead; for suffix see *-ORY*. —**oratorical** adj. 1589, formed from English *orator* or *oratory* + *-ical*.

oratory² n. small chapel. Probably before 1325 *oratorie*; borrowed from Old French *oratorie*, *oratoire*, and directly from Late Latin *orātōrium* place of prayer (and specifically in reference to the Oratory of St. Philip Neri in Rome, where musical services based on older mystery plays were presented in the

1500's), from neuter of Latin *ōrātōrius* of or for praying, from *ōrāre*, see ORATORY¹.

orb *n.* About 1449 *orbe* orbit of a celestial body (possibly influenced by earlier *orbiculer*, 1440); borrowing of Middle French *orbe*, and borrowed directly from Latin *orbis* circle, disk, ring, probably related to *orbita* wheel track, rut, course, orbit. —**v.** 1600, from the noun.

orbicular *adj.* Probably 1440 *orbiculer*, borrowed from Middle French *orbiculaire*, or directly from Late Latin *orbiculāris*, from Latin *orbiculus* small orb, diminutive of *orbis* ORB.

orbit *n.* 1392 *orbita* eye socket; borrowing of Medieval Latin *orbita*; also, probably before 1425 *orbite*; borrowing of Old French *orbite*; both the Old French and Medieval Latin forms from Latin *orbita* wheel track, course, orbit. The meaning in astronomy was borrowed from Latin in 1696; application to an artificial earth satellite is first recorded in 1951. —**v.** 1946, from the noun. —**orbital** *adj.* 1541, of the eye socket; formed from English *orbit* + *-al*¹, probably after New Latin *orbitalis*, from Medieval Latin *orbita* eye socket, orbit. —**orbiter** *n.* (1954)

orchard *n.* Probably before 1200 *orchard*; developed from Old English *orċeard* fruit garden (about 1000); alteration of earlier *orċgeard* orchard, garden (before 899); perhaps a reduced form of *wortgeard*, *wyrġgeard* (*wort*, *wyrġ* vegetable, plant, root + *geard* garden, yard¹), or as a compound corresponding to Gothic *aúrġti-gards*.

The Middle English spelling with *h* may have a connection by folk etymology with the Latin *hortus* garden.

orchestra *n.* 1606, borrowed from Latin *orchēstra* place where the senate sat in a theater, from Greek *orchēstrā* space where the chorus of dancers performed in the ancient Greek theater, from *orchelsthai* to dance, intensive form of *ērchesthai* to go, come.

The meaning of a group of musicians performing at a concert, opera, etc., is first recorded in 1720, and that of a part of a theater in front of the stage 1768. —**orchestral** *adj.* 1811, formed from English *orchestra* + *-al*¹. —**orchestrate** *v.* 1880, back formation from *orchestration*; for suffix see *-ATE*¹. —**orchestration** *n.* 1864, borrowing of French *orchestration*, from *orchestrer* orchestrate + *-ation* *-ation*.

orchid *n.* 1845, borrowed from New Latin *Orchideae*, *Orchidaceae* the plant's family name, from *orchid-*, erroneously assumed as the stem of Latin *orchis* a kind of orchid, from Greek *ōrchis* (genitive *ōrchēōs*) orchid, testicle; so called from the shape of the plant's root.

ordain *v.* About 1250 *ordeynen* assign, decree, appoint, arrange; borrowed from Old French *ordener*, with the stems *ordein-*, *ordeign-*, and borrowed directly from Latin *ordināre* put in order, arrange, dispose, appoint, from *ōrdō* (genitive *ōrdinis*) ORDER.

ordeal *n.* About 1385 *ordal* a method of trial by physical test; developed from Old English (about 915) *ordæl*, *ordāl*, literally, judgment or verdict; cognate with Old Frisian *ordēl*, *urdēl* judgment or verdict, Old Saxon *urdēli*, Middle Dutch and

modern Dutch *oordeel*, and Old High German *urteili*, *urteil* (modern German *Urteil*); derived from Proto-Germanic **uzdailijan*, represented in Old English *ādāelan* to deal out, allot in shares, DEAL.

order *n.* Probably before 1200 *ordre* rank, class, sequence, arrangement; borrowed from Old French *ordre*, *orde*, from *ordene*, learned borrowing from Latin *ordinem* (nominative *ōrdō*) row, rank, series, arrangement. —**v.** Probably about 1200 *ordren* arrange, ordain; from the noun. —**orderly** *adj.* Before 1577, formed from English *order* + *-ly*¹, but earlier found as an adverb (about 1477). —**n.** 1800, military attendant who carries out orders; from the adjective, perhaps by influence of French *ordonnance* orderly.

ordinal *adj.* About 1410 *ordinel* orderly, proper, regular; borrowed from Old French *ordinel*, and directly from Late Latin *ordinālis* showing order, from Latin *ōrdō* (genitive *ōrdinis*) row, series, ORDER; for suffix see *-AL*¹. —**n.** Before 1325, borrowed from Medieval Latin *ordinale*, from Late Latin, neuter of *ordinālis*; see adjective.

ordinance *n.* Probably before 1300 *ordinaunce* decree, arrangement, regulation; borrowed from Old French *ordenance*, or directly from Medieval Latin *ordinantia*, from Latin *ordinantem* (nominative *ordināns*), present participle of *ordināre* put in order, ORDAIN; for suffix see *-ANCE*. The meaning of military supplies is first recorded about 1390, developed from the sense of preparation for war (1330); compare ORDINANCE.

ordinary *adj.* Before 1402 *ordenarye* having authority by ecclesiastical office; later *ordinarie* orderly, regular, usual, orderly (probably before 1425); borrowed from Old French *ordinarie*, *ordinaire*, and directly from Latin *ordinārius* customary, regular, usual, orderly, from *ōrdō* (genitive *ōrdinis*) ORDER; for suffix see *-ARY*.

ordination *n.* Before 1400 *ordynacyone* divine decree; later *ordinacioun* a putting in order, the ordaining of an archbishop (probably before 1425); borrowed from Middle French *ordination*, or directly from Late Latin and Latin *ordinātiōnem* (nominative *ordinātiō*) a setting in order, ordinance, from *ordināre* arrange, ORDAIN; for suffix see *-ATION*.

ordnance *n.* Before 1548, cannon, artillery, shortened variant of *ordinaunce* military supplies (about 1390); see ORDINANCE.

ordure *n.* About 1380, borrowed from Old French *ordure* filth, from *ord* filthy, from Latin *horridus* dreadful, HORRID; for suffix see *-URE*.

ore *n.* Probably before 1200 *or*, developed in part from Old English *ōra* ore or unworked metal, and in part from Old English *ār* brass, copper, bronze. Old English *ōra* is related to *ear* earth, and cognate with Low German *ūr* iron-containing ore, modern Dutch *oer*, and Old Icelandic *aurr* gravel. Old English *ār* is cognate with Old Saxon and Old High German *ēr* bronze (modern German *ehern* brazen), Old Icelandic *eir* bronze or copper, and Gothic *aiz* bronze, from Proto-Germanic **ajiz-*.

Although Old English *ār* began to be identified in meaning with Old English *ōra* in early Middle English, the forms de-

scending from both (*or, oar, ore*, from *ār*; *oor, oure, ure* from *ōra*) continued to develop until the 1600's, when the forms from *ōra* assimilated with those from *ār*. Thus modern *ore* appears to derive its meaning from Old English *ōra*, but its form from Old English *ār* brass, copper, bronze.

organ *n.* Probably before 1300 *orgne* a kind of stringed or wind musical instrument; later *organ* (before 1325); also, functional part of the body, *organ* (1392); developed from a fusion of Old English (about 1000) *organe* musical instrument, and of Old French *orgene*, *organe* musical instrument; both Old English and Old French forms are borrowed from Latin *organa*, plural of *organum*, from Greek *ōrganon* implement, musical instrument, organ of the body; related to *ērgon* WORK. It is also evident that, in some instances, the term was reborrowed in Middle English directly from Latin. —**organist** *n.* 1591, probably formed from English *organ* + *-ist* by influence of Middle French *organiste* or Medieval Latin *organista*. The term replaced Middle English *organister* (recorded probably before 1300); borrowed from Old French *organistre*, alteration of Medieval Latin *organista*.

organdy or **organdie** *n.* 1835, borrowed from French *organdi*, perhaps an alteration of *Organzi*, medieval form of *Urgench*, a city in Uzbekistan, where this kind of fabric was produced. Compare ORGANZA.

organelle *n.* 1924, borrowed from New Latin *organella*, diminutive from Medieval Latin *organum* organ of the body, from Latin *organum* instrument, ORGAN.

organic *adj.* Before 1400 *organik* having special functions, in reference to parts of the body; borrowed from Old French *organique*, *organice*, and directly from Medieval Latin *organicus*; later, serving as an organ or instrument (1517); reborrowed from Latin *organicus*, from Greek *organikós*, from *ōrganon* instrument, ORGAN; for suffix see *-ic*.

The meaning "of the bodily organs, structural" (as in *an organic disease*) does not again appear in the record of English before 1706, and may be another reborrowing from Latin. The sense "having organs or derived from organized living beings" (as in *organic matter*), is first recorded in 1778.

organism *n.* 1664, organic structure, organization; probably formed from English *organize* + *-ism*, on the model of *symbolize*, *symbolism*. The meaning of a system (as in *society as an organism*) is first recorded in 1768–74; the meaning of a living animal or plant, is first recorded in 1842.

organize *v.* 1413 *organysen* give structure to, provide with organs, borrowed through Middle French *organiser*, and directly from Medieval Latin *organizare*, from Latin *organum* instrument, ORGAN; for suffix see *-ize*. —**organization** *n.* Probably before 1425 *organizacioun* bodily structure or composition; borrowed from Middle French *organisation*, and directly from Medieval Latin *organizationem* (nominative *organizatio*), from *organizare* organize; for suffix see *-ation*. The meaning of condition of being organized is first recorded in 1790, and that of the action of organizing parts into a whole, in 1816. The meaning of a system, establishment, etc., is first recorded in 1873.

organza *n.* 1820, probably alteration of the name *Organzi*; see ORGANDY.

orgasm *n.* 1684, excitement or violent action in an organ or part; borrowed through French *orgasme* or New Latin *orgasmus*, from Greek *orgasmós* excitement, swelling, from *ōrgan* be in heat, become ripe for; literally, to swell, be excited; related to *orgé* impulse, excitement, anger.

orgy *n.* 1561 *orgies*, pl., secret rites in the worship of certain Greek and Roman gods; borrowed from Middle French *orgies*, learned borrowing from Latin *orgia*, and borrowed directly from Greek *orgia*, pl., secret rites; related to *ērgon* WORK. The singular form *orgy* is first recorded in English in 1665. —**orgiastic** *adj.* 1698, borrowed from Greek *orgiastikós*, from *orgiasies* one who celebrates orgies, from *orgiázein* to celebrate orgies, from *orgia* orgies; for suffix see *-ic*.

oriel *n.* 1360, porch, corridor, balcony, bay window; earlier, a room containing an *oriel* (1236); borrowed from Old French *oriol*, and perhaps from Medieval Latin *oriolum*, both of uncertain origin.

Orient *n.* About 1375 *Orient*, *orient* part of the sky or the world in which the sun rises, the East; borrowed from Old French *orient*, or directly from Latin *orientem* (nominative *oriēns*) part of the sky in which the sun rises; originally, *adj.*, rising, present participle of *oriiri* to rise; for suffix see *-ent*. Compare OCCIDENT. —**v. orient** 1727–41, to place or arrange facing the east; borrowed from French *orienter*, from *orient* east (from Old French). The meaning of determine the bearings of, is first recorded in English in 1842. —**Oriental** *adj.* About 1386, borrowed from Old French *oriental*, and directly from Latin *orientālis* of the East, from *orientem* the East; for suffix see *-al*¹. —**orientation** *n.* 1839, arrangement of a building, etc., to face the east or any other specified direction; possibly borrowed from French *orientation* (*orienter* to orient + *-ation* -ation), or formed from English *orient* + *-ation*. The meaning "determination of one's bearings," is first recorded in English in 1868–70.

orifice *n.* Probably before 1425, the opening of a wound; borrowed from Middle French *orifice*, and directly from Latin *ōrificium* (*ōs*, genitive *ōris* mouth, opening + *facere* make).

origin *n.* Probably before 1400 *origyne* ancestry, derivation; borrowed possibly from Old French **origine* (compare Middle French *origine*), and directly from Latin *originem* (nominative *origō*) beginning, source, birth, from *oriiri* to rise. The meaning of that from which anything arises, starting point, source, is first recorded in English in 1604. —**original** *adj.* Before 1325 *origenal* first in time, earliest; borrowed from Old French *original*, and directly from Latin *originālis*, from *originem* (nominative *origō*) origin; for suffix see *-al*¹. —**n.** About 1350, original sin; later, an original text (about 1386); borrowed from Medieval Latin *originale*. —**originality** *n.* 1742, formed from English *original* + *-ity*, probably after French *originalité*. —**originate** *v.* 1657–83, give rise to, probably a back formation from *origination* origin or derivation (1614); probably borrowed from Middle French *origination*, from Latin *originātiōnem* (nominative *originātiō*), from **origināre* originate, from

originem (nominative *origō*) origin; for suffix see -ATION.
—**originator** *n.* 1818, formed from English *originate* + -or² on the pattern of *creator*.

oriole *n.* 1776, borrowed from earlier French *oriel* (now *loriel*, from *l'oriel*), from Old French, from Latin *aureolus* golden.

ormolu *n.* 1765, borrowed from French *or moulu*, literally, ground gold (*or* gold, from Latin *aurum*, and *moulu* ground up, past participle of *moudre* to grind, from Latin *molere* to grind).

ornament *n.* Probably before 1200 *urnement* useful accessory, decoration, embellishment; later replaced by *ornament* (probably before 1350); learned borrowing from Latin *ornamentum*, Middle English *urnement* was borrowed from probable Anglo-French **urnement*, Old French *ornement*, learned borrowing from Latin *ornamentum* equipment, trappings, embellishment, from *ornare* equip, adorn; see ORNATE; for suffix see -MENT.
—**v.** 1720, from the noun. *Ornament*, *v.* is a replacement in modern English for earlier *ournen* to adorn, ornament (recorded before 1382); borrowed from Old French *orner*, from Latin *ornare*. —**ornamental** *adj.* 1646, formed from English *ornament* + -al¹, and, probably in some instances, borrowed from Latin *ornamentalis*, from *ornamentum*.

ornate *adj.* Before 1400, seemingly, decorous; later, adorned, ornamented (about 1412); borrowed from Latin *ornatus*, past participle of *ornare* adorn, fit out, contracted from earlier **ordinare*, formed from the stem *ordin-* of *ordo* ORDER (later reformed in Latin *ordinare*; see ORDAIN); for suffix see -ATE¹.

ornery *adj.* 1816, dialectal contraction of ORDINARY.

ornithology *n.* 1678, borrowed from New Latin *ornithologia* (1599), from Greek *ornīs* (genitive *ornīthos*) bird, also *órneon*; for suffix see -LOGY.

orotund *adj.* 1792–99, alteration of Latin *ore rotundō* in well-rounded phrases; literally, with round mouth (*ore*, ablative of *os* mouth; *rotundō*, ablative of *rotundus* round). The alteration of Latin *ore rotundō* by omission of -re in *ore*, adjacent to ro- of *rotundō*, is familiar in the borrowing process of English.

orphan *n.* Probably before 1300, borrowed from Late Latin *orphanus* parentless child, from Greek *orphanós* deprived, orphaned. —**adj.** 1483, from the noun. —**v.** 1814, from the noun.

ortho- a combining form meaning: 1 straight or upright, as in *orthodontics*, *orthopterous*. 2 correct or proper, as in *orthography*, *orthopedics*. Borrowed through Middle French and Latin *ortho-*, from Greek *ortho-*, stem of *orthós* straight, right, true, correct.

orthoclase *n.* 1849, borrowed from German *Orthoklas* (formed from Greek *ortho-* straight + *klásis* cleavage, from *klán* to break; so called from its crystals having two cleavages at right angles to each other).

orthodontics *n.* 1909, formed in English from New Latin *orthodontia* (1849 *ortho-* straight + Greek *odón*, genitive *odóntos* TOOTH) + -ics, as in *orthopedics*.

orthodox *adj.* About 1454 *ortodox*, and 1456 *orthodoxe*; bor-

rowed from Middle French *orthodoxe*, and directly from Late Latin *orthodoxus*, from Greek *orthodoxos* having the right opinion (*ortho-* right, true + *dóxa* opinion, praise; see DOXOLOGY).

Orthodox as the specific name of the Eastern Church is first recorded in 1772. In Jewry *Orthodox* is first recorded in 1904, from earlier *orthodox* strictly observant (1853). —**orthodoxy** *n.* 1630, borrowed from French *orthodoxie*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Late Latin *orthodoxia*, from Greek *orthodoxía* right opinion (*ortho-* right, true + *dóxa* opinion); for suffix see -Y³.

orthography *n.* 1530 *orthographie*, alteration of *ortographie* (before 1460); borrowed from Middle French *orthographie*, learned borrowing from Latin *orthographia*, from Greek *orthographiā* (*ortho-* correct + root of *gráphein* to write).

orthopedic *adj.* 1840, borrowed from French *orthopédique*, from *orthopédie* orthopedic surgery (*ortho-* straight, correct + *-pédie*, from Greek *paideiā* rearing of children, from *país*, genitive *paidós* child); for suffix see -IC.

orthopterous *adj.* 1826, formed from English *ortho-* straight + Greek *pterón* wing; so called from their usually straight and narrow forewings.

orthotic *adj.* 1955, from New Latin *orthosis*, on the analogy of *prosthesis*, *prosthetic*, from Greek *orthōsis* a making straight, from *orthoún* set straight, from *orthós* straight; see ORTHO-.

-ory a suffix forming adjectives and nouns and meaning: 1 of or having to do with, as in *illusory*. 2 characterized by, as in *compulsory*. 3 serving to, as in *preparatory*. 4 tending to or inclined to, as in *contradictory*, *conciliatory*. 5 place or establishment for, as in *depository*, *conservatory*. Middle English *-orie*, borrowed from Old North French *-ory*, *-orie*, Old French *-oir*, *-oire*, from Latin *-ōrius*, *-ōria*, *-ōrium*. English *-ory* became the conventional ending in words borrowed or adapted from Latin with suffix *-tōrius* or *-sōrius* (*-tor*, *-sor* and adjective suffix *-ius*); the neuter in *-tōrium*, *-sōrium* furnished nouns such as *dormitōrium* dormitory.

oryx *n.* Before 1382 *orix*, borrowed from Latin *oryx*, from Greek *oryx* (genitive *orygos*) antelope with pointed horns.

os- a form of the prefix *ob-* in some cases before *c* and *t* in words of Latin origin, as in *ostentation*. The form developed from the loss of *b* (or *p*) from a prehistoric lengthened variant *obs-* (or *ops-*); compare *abs-*, which survives as a lengthened variant of *ab-* (as in *abstract*).

Oscar *n.* 1936, supposedly adopted from the remark, "He reminds me of my Uncle Oscar," made in 1931 by the secretary of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences when she saw one of the statuettes; her uncle was Oscar Pierce, an American wheat and fruit grower.

oscillate *v.* 1726, probably a back formation of earlier *oscillation*, and perhaps in some instances borrowed from Latin *oscillātum*, past participle of *oscillāre* to swing, rock, from *oscillum* a swing; for suffix see -ATE¹. —**oscillation** *n.* 1658, action of oscillating; borrowed probably through French *os-*

cillation, learned borrowing from Latin *ōscillātiōnem* (nominative *ōscillātiō*), from *ōscillāre* to swing; for suffix see -ATION.

-ose¹ a suffix meaning: 1 full of, having much or many, as in *verbose*, *comatose*. 2 inclined to, fond of, as in *jocose*. Borrowed from Latin *-ōsus*. Related to *-ous*. Also a frequent variant of *-ous* in Middle English.

-ose² a suffix used to form names of sugars and other carbohydrates, as in *cellulose*, *fructose*. Borrowed from French *-ose*, abstracted from *glucose*.

osier *n.* Probably before 1300 *hosyer* willow twig, switch of osier; later, an osier (1392); borrowed from Old French *osier*, *osiere*, and directly from Medieval Latin *osera*, *osiera* willow, of uncertain origin; also possibly developed from Old English *oser*, borrowed from Medieval Latin.

-osis a suffix meaning: 1 act or process of, or state or condition of, as in *osmosis*, *hypnosis*. 2 abnormal condition, as in *neurosis*, *thrombosis*. Borrowed from Latin *-osis*, and directly from Greek *-ōsis*; formed from the addition of the common verbal abstract suffix *-sis* to *-o-* (*-ō-ein*, contracted *-oūn*, as in *sklērōsis* hardening, from *sklēro-ein*, *sklēroūn* harden), or directly to the noun or adjective stem, as in *thrombōsis* clotting, from *thrombos* a clot).

osmium *n.* 1804, New Latin, from Greek *osmē* smell, odor + New Latin *-ium*; so called from the strong odor of one of the oxides of osmium.

osmosis *n.* 1867, Latinized form of earlier *osmose* (1854), shortened form of earlier *endosmosis* (1836–39), probably formed on *endosmose* inward passage of a fluid through a porous septum (1829); borrowed from French, from *endo-inward* + Greek *ōsmós* a thrusting or pushing, from *ōthein* to push, thrust. —**osmotic** *adj.* 1854, shortened form of earlier *endosmotic* of or involving endosmosis; formed on the pattern of *sclerosis*, *sclerotic*, etc.

osprey *n.* Before 1475 *ospray*; earlier *hospray* (about 1450); borrowed from Anglo-French *ospriet* (found as a surname, 1198), from Medieval Latin *avis prede* bird of prey, from Latin *avis praedae*.

osseous *adj.* Probably before 1425 *ossous*, *ossuous* bony; borrowed from Medieval Latin *ossous*, from Latin *osseus*; later, reformed in English (1682), perhaps by influence of French *osseux*, from Latin *osseus* bony, from *os* (genitive *ossis*) bone, earlier **ost*; for suffix see -OUS.

ossifrage *n.* 1601, borrowed from Latin *ossifraga* sea eagle, osprey, feminine of *ossifragus*, literally, bone-breaker, from *ossi-fragus*, *adj.*, bone-breaking (*os*, genitive *ossis* bone + *-fragus* breaking, from the root of *frangere* to break); probably so called from the bird's great strength or its habit of dropping bones from a great height to break them.

ossify *v.* 1713, probably a back formation of *ossification*, perhaps modeled on French *ossifier*, from Latin *ossis* (genitive of *os* bone); for suffix see -FY. —**ossification** *n.* 1697, possibly formed from English *ossific* becoming bone (1676) + *-ation*.

ossuary *n.* 1658, borrowed from Late Latin *ossuārium* recepta-

cle for bones of the dead, charnel house, from neuter of Latin *ossuārius* of bones, from *ossua* bones (perhaps formed on the model of *artua* limbs), from *os* (genitive *ossis*) bone; for suffix see -ARY (def. 1).

ostensible *adj.* 1762–71, capable of being shown, presentable; borrowed from French *ostensible*, from Latin *ostēnsus*, past participle of *ostendere* to show; for suffix see -IBLE. The meaning of apparent, pretended, professed, is first recorded in 1771.

ostensive *adj.* 1605, borrowed from Late Latin *ostēnsivus* showing, from Latin *ostēnsus*, past participle of *ostendere* to show; for suffix see -IVE.

ostentation *n.* 1436 *ostentacione* portent, foreshadowing; later a showing off (before 1475); borrowed from Old French *ostentation*, and directly from Latin *ostentātiōnem* (nominative *ostentātiō*) vain display, from *ostentāre* to display, frequentative form of *ostendere* to show, stretch toward (*os-* toward + *tendere* to stretch); for suffix see -ATION. —**ostentatious** *adj.* 1658 (implied in *ostentatiousness*); formed from English *ostentation* + *-ous*.

osteology *n.* 1670 *osteologie*, borrowed from French *ostéologie*, from New Latin *osteologia*, from Greek *ostéon* bone; for suffix see -LOGY.

osteopathy *n.* 1891, said to be formed from Greek *ostéon* bone + English *-pathy*, but also probably influenced by earlier *osteopathy* disease of the bones (1857). —**osteopath** *n.* 1897, back formation from *osteopathy*.

ostomy *n.* 1957, abstracted from *colostomy* (artificial opening into the colon) and similar terms for surgical procedures, ultimately from New Latin *stoma* opening, orifice, from Greek *stóma* mouth.

ostracize *v.* 1649, formed on English *ostracism* + *-ize*, after Greek *ostrakízein* banish by ostracism, from *ostrakon* tile, potsherd, from an ancient stem **ostr-* (found in *óstreion* oyster), related to *ostéon* bone. —**ostracism** *n.* 1588, method of temporary banishment in ancient Greece by popular ballot, cast by potsherds or tiles; borrowed, possibly through Middle French *ostracisme*, and directly from Greek *ostrakismós*, from *ostrakízein* to ostracize; for suffix see -ISM.

ostrich *n.* About 1225 *ostrice*; later *ostriche* (probably about 1350); borrowed from Old French *ostrice*, *ostrusce*, and Medieval Latin *ostrica*, *ostrigius*; both the Old French and Medieval Latin from Vulgar Latin **avis strūthiō* (*avis* bird, from Latin; *strūthiō* ostrich, from Late Latin, from Greek *strouthiōn* ostrich, from *strouthōs megálē* great sparrow).

other *adj.*, *pron.* Old English *ōther* the second, other (before 899); cognate with Old Frisian *ōther* the second, other, Old Saxon *āthar*, *ōthar*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *ander*, Old High German *andar* (modern German *ander*), Old Icelandic *annarr*, and Gothic *anþar*, from Proto-Germanic **anþeraz*.

The sense of second in Germanic was replaced to avoid ambiguity (*second* in English, *zweiter* in German, etc.). The Old English, Old Saxon, and Old Frisian forms show a normal

loss of *n* before fricatives.—**adv.** Before 1121, from the pronoun. —**otherwise** *adv.* Old English *on ðihre wisan* (before 899).

otiose *adj.* 1794, ineffective, futile; later, at leisure (1850), and superfluous or useless (1866); reborrowed from Latin *ōtiosus* having leisure or ease, not busy, from *ōtium* leisure.

An earlier form is found in English *otious* at ease, idle (1614); probably borrowed from Latin *ōtiosus*, but possibly a back formation from earlier *otiosity* (1483 *ociosyte*); borrowed from Middle French *ociosité*, from Old French *ocios*, from Latin *ōtiosus*; for suffix see -ITY.

otter *n.* Before 1300 *oter*, developed from Old English (before 700) *otr*, *oter*, *otor*; cognate with Middle Low German, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *otter* otter, Old High German *ottar* (modern German *Otter*), and Old Icelandic *otr* (modern Icelandic *otur*, Norwegian *oter*, Danish *odder*, Swedish *utter*), from Proto-Germanic **utraz*.

Ottoman *adj.* 1603, borrowing of French *Ottoman*, from Italian *Ottomano*, from Arabic *‘uthmāni* of or belonging to ‘Uthman Othman, *Osman*, 1259–1326, founder of the Ottoman dynasty and empire. Earlier use is recorded in the noun form *Othmann* (1585).

ouch *interj.* 1837, probably a borrowing from Pennsylvania German *autch*, a cry of pain.

ought¹ *v.* be obliged. Before 1225 *ahten*, *aghten*, *aughten*, *oughten* be bound to, owe; earlier *ahte*, *aghte*, *aughte*, *oughte* owned, possessed, owed (before 1121), past tense of *aghen*, *oughen*, *owen*, *owen* to OWE; developed from Old English (about 950) *āhte*, past tense of *āgan* to own, possess, OWE.

Ought is an auxiliary verb that now has a present tense meaning but was originally confined to the past tense of *owe* expressing duty or obligation. In the past tense modern use is shown in *The judge did not think the defendant ought to be kept in prison*. In the present tense modern use is found in *You ought to do it*.

ought² *n.* naught, zero. 1844, alteration (possibly by misdivision of *a nought* as *an ought*) of *nought*. The meaning was probably also influenced by *ought* anything.

ounce¹ *n.* unit of weight. Before 1338 *unce* 1/2 of a pound in troy weight; later *ounce* (before 1382); borrowing of Old French *unce*, from Latin *uncia* one twelfth part (of a pound, foot, etc.), developed through numerous changes from earlier **oiniciā*, built on **oinos*, which itself developed into Latin *ūnus* ONE.

The Middle English forms borrowed from Old French replaced earlier *ynsa*, *yntsa* (1150), developed from Old English *yndse*, *ynse* (before 899); earlier *ynce*; borrowed from Latin *uncia*.

ounce² *n.* wild cat. Probably before 1300 *unce*; later, also Scottish *once* (about 1470); borrowed from Old French *once*, alteration of *lonce* (with *l* mistaken as the definite article in *lonce*), from Vulgar Latin **lunceā*, from Latin *lynx* LYNX.

our *adj.* Probably before 1200 *oure*; later *our* (probably before

1300); developed from Old English *ūre* of us (about 725, in *Beowulf*), used as the genitive of *wē* we. Old English *ūre* is a variant of *ūser*, *ūsser* our; cognate with Old Frisian *ūse* our, Old Saxon *ūsa*, Middle Dutch *onse* (modern Dutch *onze*), Old High German *unsēr* (modern German *unser*), Old Icelandic *vār*, and Gothic *unsar*, derived from the Proto-Germanic source of Old English *ūs* US. —**ours** *pron.* About 1303 *ours* (also found as *urs*, before 1325; and *oures*, about 1390; and *ouren*, *ourn*, before 1382); all from the adjective.

—**ous** a suffix forming adjectives from nouns and meaning: 1 having, having much, full of, as in *joyous*, *famous*. 2 characterized by, as in *zealous*. 3 having the nature of, as in *murderous*. 4 of or having to do with, as in *monogamous*. 5 like, as in *thunderous*. 6 committing or practicing, as in *bigamous*. 7 inclined to, as in *blasphemous*. 8 in chemical terms -ous indicates the presence of an element in a compound or ion that is of a lower valence than indicated by the suffix -ic, as in *ferrous* or *stannous*. Middle English, borrowed from Old French -ous, -os, -eus, -eux, and directly from Latin -ōsus. Related to -OSE¹. See also -IOUS.

This suffix is also often used to represent the Latin adjective ending, -us, as in Latin *omnivorus* omnivorous, or the Greek adjective ending, -os, as in Greek *anōnymos* anonymous.

oust *v.* 1420 *ousten* to dispossess; borrowed through Anglo-French *ouster*, Old French *oster* put out, keep off, remove, avert, from Latin *obstāre* stand opposite to, block, hinder (*ob*-against + *stāre* to STAND). Related to OBSTACLE. —**ouster** *n.* 1531, ejection from a possession; noun use of Anglo-French *ouster* to oust.

out *adv.* Probably before 1200 *out* away, from, forth; developed from Old English (before 725) *ūt*; cognate with Old Frisian, Old Saxon and Middle Low German *ūt* out, Middle Dutch *uit* (modern Dutch *uit*), Old High German *ūz* (modern German *aus*), Old Icelandic *ūt* (Swedish and Norwegian *ut*, Danish *ud*), and Gothic *ūt*. —**adj.** Probably before 1200 *ut* outside, outlying; later *oute* (about 1280); from the adverb. —**prep.** About 1250 *out* of, away from; from the adverb. —**n.** 1622, a being out of something; from the adverb. The informal meaning of a way out, defense, alibi, is also first recorded in 1919.

out- a prefix that has a range of uses with meanings which in part parallel the meanings of *out* as a separate word, especially: 1a adverbially with verbal nouns, as in *outburst*, *outcry*, *outgrowth*. b with participial adjectives, as in *outgoing*, *outflung*. c with adjectives, as in *outbound*. 2 with the finite verb as in *outcrop*, *outpour*. 3 adjectivally with nouns, as in *outbuilding*, *outfield*, *outpatient*, sometimes yielding an adjectival or adverbial compound, as in *outboard*. 4 prepositionally, as in *outdate*, *outdoor*, *outlaw*. 5 frequently forming transitive verbs meaning: a to do longer or more than, as in *outlive*, *outsleep*. b to surpass, to do better than, as in *outdistance*, *outguess*, *outgeneral*. For etymology, see OUT. —**outhouse** *n.* (before 1325, a shed; 1819, a privy) —**outlandish** *adj.* About 1300 *outlandisse* foreign, alien; developed from Old English (about 1000) *ūtlandisc*, from *ūtland* foreign land. —**outlet** *n.* a river mouth (about 1250). —**outright** *adv.* completely, entirely (about 1300); *adj.* direct, downright (1532).

outage *n.* period of interrupted service, as of electric power or gas. 1903, formed from *out*, adv. + *-age*, on the model of *shortage*.

outer *adj.* About 1380 *outter*, *outer* (1385), a new comparative formed from *out* + *-er*² (by analogy with *inner*) replacing *utter* (before 1325), and *uttre* (probably before 1200); developed from Old English *ūterra*, *ūtera*, comparative of *ūt* OUT. The new comparative was formed when Middle English *uttre*, *utter* ceased to show relationship to *out* and developed the meaning of complete or total (before 1400), resulting in English UTTER¹, *adj.* — **outer space** (1901)

outlaw *n.* About 1300 *outlawe*; developed from Old English *ūtlaga* (about 1000); borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *ūtlagi* outlaw, from *ūtlagr*, *adj.*, outlawed, banished) — *v.* About 1300 *outlawen*; developed from Old English *ūtlagian*, from *ūtlaga*, *n.* — **outlawry** *n.* About 1395 *outlawerie*, alteration (influenced by *outlawe*) of Anglo-Latin *utlagaria* and Anglo-French *utlagarie*, both from Old English *ūtlaga* outlaw; for suffix see *-RY*.

outrage *n.* Probably before 1300, violent behavior, excess, extravagance; borrowing of French *outrage* (*outr* beyond + *-age* *-age*). Present-day use of *outrage* is popularly associated with *rage*, as if the word were formed from *out* + *rage*. — **outrageous** *adj.* About 1300 *utrageous* violent, unrestrained, excessive; later *outrageous* (about 1390); borrowed from Old French *outrageus*, from *outrage* outrage; for suffix see *-OUS*.

outside *n.* 1505, *outer side* (*out*, adv. + *side*). — *adj.* 1634, from the noun. — *prep.* 1826, from the noun. — *adv.* 1813, from the noun. The phrase *outside of*, meaning with the exception of (as in *outside of art he has no interests*), is first recorded in 1859. — **outsider** *n.* (1800)

outward *adj.* Probably before 1200 *utward*; later *outward* (before 1382); developed from Old English *ūteward* (893); earlier *ūtanward* (before 725, a compound of *ūte*, *ūtan* outside, from *ūt* OUT + *-ward* *-ward*). — *adv.* Probably before 1200 *utward*; later *outward* (about 1300); developed from Old English (about 950) *ūtaword*; from the adjective.

ouzel or **ousel** *n.* Before 1325 *osel*; developed from Old English (about 700) *ōsle* blackbird, corresponding to Old High German *amusla*, *ams(a)la* blackbird (modern German *Amsel*) from Proto-West-Germanic **amuslōn*.

oval *adj.* 1577, borrowed from Middle French *ovale*, or directly from Medieval Latin *ovalis* of or pertaining to an egg, from Latin *ōvum* EGG¹; for suffix see *-AL*¹. — *n.* 1570, borrowed from Middle French *ovale*, *n.*, oval figure or *ovale*, *adj.*, egg-shaped; both from Medieval Latin *ovalis* egg-shaped, oval.

ovary *n.* 1658, borrowed from New Latin *ovarium* ovary (in Medieval Latin *ovaria* the ovary of a bird), from Latin *ōvum* EGG¹, for suffix see *-ARY*.

ovation *n.* 1533, borrowed possibly from Middle French *ovation*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *ovā-*

tiōnem (nominative *ovātiō*) a triumph, rejoicing, from *ovāre* exult, rejoice, triumph; for suffix see *-ATION*.

oven *n.* Before 1200 *oven*; developed from Old English *ofen* furnace, oven (about 725); cognate with Old Frisian, Middle Low German, Middle Dutch, and modern Dutch *oven* oven, Old High German *ovan* (modern German *Ofen* stove), Old Icelandic *ofn*, and Gothic **aúhns* (accusative *aúhn*), from Proto-Germanic **úHnaz*, a simplification of **úHw naz*.

over *prep., adv.* 1135 *over* above, upon, throughout, across, beyond; *over* (after 1380); developed from Old English (before 725) *ofer*; cognate with Old Frisian *over*, *uver* (*prep.* and *adv.*) *over*, Old Saxon *oþar*, *ubar*, Middle Low German, Middle Dutch, and modern Dutch *over*, Old High German *ubar*, *prep.*, *ubiri*, *adv.* (modern German *über*, *prep.* and *adv.*), from Proto-Germanic **ubéri*; Old Icelandic *yfir* (Danish and Norwegian *over*, Swedish *över*), and Gothic *ufar*, *prep.*, from Proto-Germanic **úferi*. — *adj.* Probably before 1200 *over*, *were* upper, higher, outer; developed from Old English (before 899) *uferra*, comparative of *ofer*, *adv.*

over- a prefix meaning: 1 above, as in *overhead*. 2 higher in rank, as in *overlord*. 3 across, as in *overseas*. 4 too much, too, as in *overcrowded*, *overburden*. 5 above normal, as in *oversize*, *overtime*. 6 outer, as in *overcoat*. Middle English, developed from Old English *ofer-* (as in *ofercuman* overcome, *oferdōn* overdo, *ofermicel* overmuch), from *ofer*, *prep.* and *adv.* Old English *ofer-* (like its cognates Gothic *ufar-*, Old High German *ubar-*, and Old Icelandic *yfir-*) was used in combination with verbs, nouns, adjectives, adverbs, and derivatives of phrases. — **overcast** *adj.* (about 1300, of weather) — **overdo** *v.* (about 1000, Old English *oferdōn*) — **overflow** *v.* (before 899, Old English *oferflōwan*) — **overgrown** *adj.* Before 1398, from *overgrouen*; *v.* probably about 1390. — **overlay** *v.* (before 1325) — **overlook** *v.* (1369) — **overlord** *n.* (probably about 1200) — **overnight** *adv.* (about 1303) — **override** *v.* (probably before 1300) — **overrun** *v.* (about 1250); *adj.* (before 1349) — **overseas** *adv., adj.* (1583, from earlier *oversea*, 1104) — **oversee** *v.* (before 899, Old English *ofersēon*) — **overseer** *n.* (before 1382) — **overshadow** *v.* (about 725, Old English *ofersceaduian*) — **oversight** *n.* (before 1325) — **overspread** *v.* (probably before 1200) — **overtake** *v.* (about 1225) — **overthrow** *v.* (probably before 1300) — **overturn** *v.* (probably before 1200)

overage *n.* 1945, formed from English *over*, adv. + *-age*, on the model (and as the opposite) of *shortage*.

overboard *adv.* Probably before 1300 *over bord*; developed from Old English (about 1000) *ofor bord*; *ofer*, *ofer* over; *bord* the side of a ship.

overcome *v.* Probably before 1200 *ouercumen*; later *ouercome* (about 1300); developed from Old English *ofer-cuman* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); also, to reach, overtake (before 800); formed from *ofer-* over + *cuman* come.

overt *adj.* About 1330 *overt* unfastened, open, evident, uncovered; borrowed from Old French *overt*, past participle of *ovrir*

to open, from regional Vulgar Latin **ōperire*, alteration of Latin *aperire* to open, uncover.

overture *n.* 1249–50 *overture* opening, aperture; later, proposal, offer (1427); borrowed from Old French *overture* opening, proposal, from Vulgar Latin **ōpertūra*, alteration of Latin *apertūra* opening, from *aperire* to open, uncover; for suffix see -URE. The introductory orchestral piece, is first recorded in English in 1667.

overweening *adj.* Before 1338 *overwenyng*, present participle of *overwenen* be conceited, presume (about 1303); formed from *over* + *wenen* expect, think; for suffix see -ING².

overwhelm *v.* Before 1338 *overwhelmen* overthrow, overturn; formed from *over* + *whelmen* to turn upside down. The meaning of overcome in mind is first recorded in 1535.

oviduct *n.* 1757, borrowed from New Latin *oviductus* (*ovi*-, combining form of Latin *ovum* egg¹ + *ductus*, genitive *ductūs*, a leading; see DUCT).

oviparous *adj.* 1646, borrowed from Latin *oviparus* that produces eggs (*ovum* egg¹ + *-parus*, from *parere* bring forth); for suffix see -OUS.

ovoid *adj.* 1828, borrowed from French *ovoïde* (from Latin *ovum* egg¹ + French *-oïde* -oid).

ovulation *n.* 1848, formed from New Latin *ovulum* OVULE + English *-ation*. —**ovulate** *v.* 1888, back formation from *ovulation*; for suffix see -ATE¹.

ovule *n.* 1830, borrowed from French *ovule*, and directly from New Latin *ovulum*, literally, small ovum, diminutive of Latin *ovum* egg¹; for suffix see -ULE.

ovum *n.*, pl. **ova** 1706, borrowing of Latin *ovum* egg¹.

owe *v.* Probably about 1200 *aghen* to possess, have, own, have to pay, have an obligation to; later *owen* (about 1250); developed from Old English (before 725) *āgan* (past tense *āhte*). Old English *āgan* is cognate with Old Frisian *āga* possess, have, Old Saxon *ēgan*, Old High German *eigan*, Old Icelandic *eiga*, and Gothic *aigan*, from Proto-Germanic **aizanan*.

In the 1400's a new past tense *owed* replaced the earlier *oughte* (Old English *āhte*), which became English OUGHT¹.

owl *n.* Probably before 1300 *oule*; later *owle* (about 1385); developed from Old English (before 800) *ūle*; cognate with Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *ūle* owl (modern Dutch *uil*), Old High German *ūwila* (modern German *Eule*), and Old Icelandic *ugla*, derived from a word imitative of the owl's sound.

own¹ *adj.* of or belonging to oneself or itself. Probably about 1150 *owen*; later *owne* (probably before 1325); developed from Old English (before 725) *āgen*; cognate with Old Frisian *ēgen* own, Old Saxon *ēgan*, Middle Dutch *eighen* (modern Dutch *eigen*), Old High German *eigan* (modern German *eigen*), and Old Icelandic *eiginn*; all derived from Proto-Germanic **aizanas*, past participle of **aizanan* to possess, the source of Old English *āgan* to have, own, OWE.

own² *v.* possess. 1607, formed in part from OWN¹, *adj.*, and in part a back formation from *owner*, earlier *owener* (1399), *oghener* (1340), formed from *ahnien*, *ohnen* take possession of, appropriate + *-er¹*. Middle English *ahnien* (probably before 1200) developed from Old English *geāgnian* (about 725); its cognates include Middle Dutch *eigenen*, *egenen* take or put in possession of, appropriate, own, Old High German *eiginēn* (modern German *eigenen*), and Old Icelandic *eigna*; related to *eiginn* OWN¹.

Though the original Middle English verb dropped from use about 1300, it was restored indirectly through back formation from the derivative *owner*, when the verb *owe* in its original sense "possess" was becoming obsolete. —**ownership** *n.* 1583, formed from English *owner* + *-ship*.

ox *n.* Probably before 1200 *oxe* (plural *oxen*); developed from Old English *oxa* (plural *oxan*), before 830; cognate with Old Frisian *oxa* ox, Old Saxon *ohso*, Middle Dutch *osse* (modern Dutch *os*), Old High German *ohso* (modern German *Ochse*), Old Icelandic *oxi*, *uxi*, and Gothic *auhsa*, from Proto-Germanic **uHsōn*. —**oxtail** *n.* Old English *oxan tægl* (693)

oxalic acid 1791, borrowed from French *acide oxalique*, from Latin *oxalis* sorrel² (plant with sour leaves), in which the acid is found, from Greek *oxalis*, from *oxys* sour, sharp; for suffix see -IC.

oxford *n.* About 1890, short for earlier *Oxford shoes* (1847), and *Oxford-cut shoes* (in 1721), from the name of the university town of Oxford, England.

oxide *n.* 1790, borrowing of French *oxide* (now *oxyde*), formed from French *ox*(*ygène*) oxygen + (*ac*)ide acid. —**oxidation** *n.* 1791, borrowing of French *oxidation* (now *oxydation*), from *oxider* oxidize, from *oxide* oxide; for suffix see -ATION. —**oxidize** *v.* 1802 (implied in *oxidizable*); formed from English *oxide* + *-ize*.

Oxonian *n.* About 1540, formed from Medieval Latin *Oxonia* + English *-an*. Medieval Latin *Oxonia* is a Latinized form of Middle English *Oxford* (probably about 1475); earlier *Ocsenford* (about 1190); developed from Old English (912) *Oxnaford*, literally, ford of oxen. —**adj.** 1644, from the noun.

oxygen *n.* 1790, borrowed from French *oxygène*, formed from Greek *oxys* acid, sharp + French *-gène* something that produces. The French word was intended to mean literally "acidifying principle, acid-producer," because oxygen was considered to be the essential element in the formation of acids. —**oxygenate** *v.* 1790, borrowed from French *oxygéner*, from *oxygène* oxygen; for suffix see -ATE¹.

oxymoron *n.* 1657, borrowing of Greek *oxýmōron*, noun use of the neuter of *oxýmōros*, *adj.*, pointedly foolish (*oxys* sharp + *mōros* stupid).

oyez or **oyes** *interj.* About 1425 *oyes*; borrowed from Anglo-French *oyez* hear ye!, Old French *oiez* from the Latin subjunctive *audiātis*, plural imperative of *oir*, Anglo-French *oier* to hear, from Latin *audire* to hear.

oyster *n.* 1321, in the compound *oystermonger*, earlier in the

place name *Oystregate* (1259); borrowed from Old French *oistre*, from Latin *ostrea* oyster, from the plural of *ostreum* oyster, from Greek *óstreon*, related to *óstrakon* hard shell, and *ostíon* bone.

ozone *n.* 1840, borrowed from German *Ozon*, from Greek *ózon*, neuter present participle of *ózein* to smell (so called from its pungent odor).

P

pabulum *n.* 1678, borrowed from Latin *pābulum* fodder, food.

pace *n.* About 1280 *pas* way of life, course of action; later, speed or gait (probably before 1300), and *pace* a step or a pace (probably 1348); borrowed from Old French *pas*, and directly from Latin *passus* (genitive *passūs*) a step, from *pandere* to stretch, spread out. —**v.** 1513, walk with regular steps, from the noun.

pachyderm *n.* 1838, borrowed from French *pachyderme*, from Greek *pachýdermos* thick-skinned (*pachýs* thick + *dérma* skin).

pacific *adj.* Before 1548 *pacifique*, borrowing of Middle French *pacifique*, learned borrowing from Latin *pācificus* peaceful, peace-making, from *pāx* (genitive *pācis*) peace + the root of *facere* make; for suffix see -FIC.

The spelling *pacific* (lower case) is implied in *pacifiable*, (1621), after the Latin form. The word in the form *Pacificum* (1555) for the name *Pacific Ocean* was borrowed from Medieval Latin *Pacificum* (from neuter of Latin *pācificus* pacific); so called by Magellan because at the time of his voyage he found it relatively free of violent storms. —**pacification** *n.* 1437, borrowing of Middle French *pacification* act of making peaceful, from Latin *pācificātiōnem* (nominative *pācificātiō*), from *pācificāre* PACIFY; for suffix see -ATION.

pacifism *n.* 1902, borrowed from French *pacifisme*, from *pacifique* pacific + *-isme* -ism. —**pacifist** *n.* 1906, borrowed from French *pacifiste*, from *pacifisme* + *-iste* -ist.

pacify *v.* Before 1475 *pacifien*, borrowed from Middle French *pacifier*, from Old French, make peace, learned borrowing from Latin *pācificāre* to make peace, pacify, from *pācificus* PACIFIC; for suffix see -FY. —**pacifier** *n.* 1533, formed from English *pacify* + *-er*¹. The nipple-shaped device for a baby is first recorded in 1904.

pack¹ *n.* bundle. Probably before 1200 *packe*, and 1228 *pak*; earlier, in a surname *Pakbyndere* (1191); possibly borrowed from Middle Dutch *pac*, *pack* bundle, Middle Low German *pak*, or early Middle Flemish *pac* (compare also Old Icelandic *pakki*), of unknown origin.

The meaning of a number of animals kept or hunting together is first recorded before 1450, and that of a set of playing cards, about 1597. —**v.** About 1378 *packen*; later *packen* (probably before 1387); from the noun, possibly influenced by Anglo-French *empaker*, Medieval Latin *paccare*, Middle Dutch *packen*, all meaning pack. —**packer** *n.* (1351, earlier in a surname *Pakkere*, 1254).

pack² *v.* conspire or plot. Before 1529, of uncertain origin (sometimes said to be an alteration of *pact*, enter into a pact, 1535; verb use of *pact*, *n.*).

package *n.* 1611, the packing of goods, later, bundle or parcel (1722); formed from English *pack*, *v.* + *-age*. —**v.** 1928, from the noun. —**adj.** 1952 *package deal* an offer or transaction agreed to as a unit, from the noun.

packet *n.* Probably before 1450 *pekette* a small package; earlier as a surname *Paket* (1176); probably formed from Middle English *pak* bundle + *-et*, *-ette* diminutive suffix, perhaps modeled on Anglo-French *pacquet*. French *pacquet* derives perhaps from Old French *pacquet*, from Germanic **pak*, probably related to Middle Dutch *pak*.

pact *n.* 1429, borrowing of Middle French *pacte* agreement, treaty, compact, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *pactum*, from neuter past participle of *paciāre* to covenant or agree, related to *pangere* to fix, fasten.

pad¹ *n.* thick mass. 1554, bundle of straw to lie on; of unknown origin. The meaning of something soft, like a cushion, recorded before 1700, probably developed from the earlier sense of a soft, stuffed saddle (1570).

The writing or drawing pad of paper is first recorded in 1865. —**v.** 1827, from the noun.

pad² *v.* to walk. 1553, possibly borrowed from Middle Dutch *paden* walk along a path, make a path (cognate with Low German *padjen* to pad, and East Frisian *padden*), from *pad*, *pat* PATH (also found in Middle English *pæd* path).

paddle¹ *n.* short oar. 1407 *padell* spadelike implement with a handle; borrowed from Medieval Latin *padela*, *padula*, of un-

certain origin, but compare Latin *patella* pan, plate (diminutive of *patina*); see *PATEN*.

The meaning "a short oar," is first recorded in 1624 and that of a flipper in 1835. —*v.* 1677, from the noun.

paddle² *v.* move about in water 1530; of uncertain origin, but probably cognate with Low German *paddeln* tramp about, from *padjen* to tramp, *PAD*²; for suffix see *-LE*³.

paddock *n.* 1622 *paddock*, variant of Middle English *parrock* (found as a place name, 1253) and *parrok* (1283); developed from Old English (about 700) *pearroc*, *pearuc* enclosed space, fence; probably cognate with Middle Low German *perke*, *parke* paddock, Middle Dutch *parc*, *parric*, and Old High German *pfarrih*, *pferrih* enclosed space, from Proto-Germanic **parru-kaz*. It has also been suggested that Old English *pearroc* was borrowed from Medieval Latin *parricus*.

paddy *n.* 1623, rice in the husk (earlier *batte*, 1598); borrowed from Malay *padi* rice. The rice field is first found in *paddy field* (1762).

padlock *n.* 1478–79 *padlokke*, from *pad* (of uncertain meaning) + *lokke*, *lok* lock. —*v.* 1645, from the noun.

padre *n.* 1584, borrowing of Italian, Spanish, or Portuguese *padre*, from Latin *patrem* (nominative *pater*) FATHER.

paean *n.* 1592, a hymn or chant of deliverance in ancient Greece; later, song of praise, joy or triumph (1599); borrowing of Latin *paean*, from Greek *paian* hymn to Apollo, from *Paian*, a name of Apollo.

pagan *n.* Probably before 1400 *paygan* heathen; later *pagan* (probably before 1425); borrowed from Late Latin *pāgānus* pagan, from Latin, villager, rustic, civilian, from *pāgus* rural district, originally one limited by markers; related to *pangere* to fix, fasten.

The meaning "heathen" of Late Latin *pāgānus* may derive from the Latin meaning "villager," since ancient idol worship lingered on in rural areas after Christianity had been generally accepted in the towns and cities of the Roman Empire. —*adj.* 1422, borrowed from Late Latin *pāgānus*, *adj.*; and probably from the noun in English. —**paganism** *n.* 1433, formed from Middle English *pagan* + *-ism*.

page¹ *n.* sheet of paper. 1589, borrowed from Middle French *page*, reduced form of Old French *pagine*, *pagene*, learned borrowing from Latin *pāgina* page; related to *pāgella* small page and to *pangere* to fasten.

The form *page* replaced Middle English *pagyn* page, leaf of a book (before 1398), *pagine* a document (before 1250), and *pagne* (probably before 1200); borrowed from Old French *pagine*, *pagene*, and directly from Latin *pāgina*. —*v.* 1628, from the noun.

page² *n.* boy servant. Probably before 1300, youth preparing to be a knight; later, a boy servant (about 1300); borrowing of Old French *page*, possibly from Italian *paggio*, Medieval Latin *pagius* servant, perhaps ultimately from Greek *paidon* boy, lad, diminutive of *pais* (genitive *paidós*) child.

pageant *n.* 1386–87 *pagyn* a play in a cycle of mystery plays; also 1392–93 *pagent* a wheeled platform as a stage for a mystery play; borrowed from Medieval Latin *pagina*, from Latin *pāgina* page¹ (of a book).

The sense development came through "a play in a cycle of mystery plays," possibly developed from the meaning of a manuscript page of a play, and from the meaning "a moveable platform," which can be related to Latin *pangere* to fasten. The meaning of showy parade, elaborate spectacle appeared in 1805. —**pageantry** *n.* 1608, pageants collectively; later, splendid show, pomp (1651); formed from English *pageant* + *-ry*.

paginate *v.* 1884, probably a back formation from earlier *pagination*; for suffix see *-ATE*¹. —**pagination** *n.* 1841, probably borrowed from French *pagination* (Latin *pāgina* page + French *-ation*).

pagoda *n.* 1634, earlier *pagode* (1582); borrowing of Portuguese *pagode*, perhaps from Tamil *pagavadi*, from Sanskrit *bhāgavati* goddess, feminine of *bhāgavant*- blessed, from *bhāga*-s good fortune.

pail *n.* 1336–37 *payle* container; probably borrowed from Old French *paielle*, *pæle* warming pan, liquid measure, bath, possibly from Latin *patella* small pan or dish, diminutive of *patina* broad shallow pan; or perhaps from Medieval Latin *pagella* a measure from Latin, measure of a vineyard, a diminutive from Latin *pāgina* space a page or column of writing takes, originally, something fixed.

Since Old English *pægel* wine vessel, gill (about 1000) is far removed from the Middle English, no connection probably exists.

pain *n.* About 1280 *peyne* pain, punishment, penalty; also *pain*, *paine* (probably before 1300); borrowed from Old French *peine*, from Latin *poena* punishment, penalty, from Greek *poine* punishment.

The plural form *pains*, in the sense of great care or effort is first recorded in 1528. —*v.* Probably about 1300 *peynen* to exert, strain, strive; later, to cause pain (about 1375); borrowed from Old French *peinir*, variant of *pener*, from *peine* pain. —**painful** *adj.* Before 1349 *peynful*, formed from Middle English *peine* pain + *-ful*. —**painstaking** *adj.* 1556 found in English phrase *paynes taking*.

paint *v.* Probably before 1200, implied in *peintunge* a painting; later *peinten* to paint, decorate (about 1250), and *painten* (before 1325); borrowed from Old French *peintier*, *pointier*, from *peint*, *point*, past participles of *peindre*, *pointre* to paint, from Latin *pingere* to paint. —*n.* 1290–91 *peinte* in *peinteselde* paint shop; from the verb.

painter¹ *n.* one who paints. 1220, in the surname *Peintur*, and 1240 *Paintur*; borrowed from Old French *peintour*, from Vulgar Latin **pinctor*, alteration (influenced by Latin *pingere* to paint) of Latin *pictor*, from *pingere* to paint; for suffix see *-ER*¹.

painter² *n.* rope for tying a boat. 1336–37 *peyntour*, probably borrowed from Old French *pentoir*, *penteur* cordage for hang-

ing, from *pendre* to hang, from Vulgar Latin **pendere*, from Latin *pendere*; see PENDANT.

painter³ *n.* panther or cougar. 1764, alteration of Middle English *panter* PANTHER.

pair *n.* About 1250 *peire*; later *pair* (before 1325); borrowed from Old French *paire*, *peire*, and directly from Latin *paria* equals, neuter plural of *pār* (genitive *paris*) a pair, counterpart, equal; noun use of *pār*, adj., equal. —*v.* 1603, be a match for; also 1607, arrange in a pair; from the noun.

paisley or **Paisley** *n.* 1834, in allusion to *Paisley*, town in southwestern Scotland, where such cloth was originally made. —*adj.* 1900, from the noun.

pajamas *n.pl.* 1800 *pai jamahs* loose trousers tied around the waist, worn by Muslims and adopted by Europeans, especially for night wear; later *pajamas* (1845); alteration with *-s*, as in *trousers*; borrowed from Hindi *pājāma*, *pāijāma*, probably from Persian *pāējāmah*, literally, leg clothing (*pāē* leg + *jāmah* clothing).

pal *n.* 1681–82 *pall*, borrowed from Romany (of England) *pal* brother, comrade; variant of Romany (of continental Europe, especially Turkey) *pral*, *plal*, *phral*, probably from Sanskrit *bhrātā* brother. The *l* remains unaccounted for. —*v.* 1879, from the noun.

palace *n.* Probably about 1225 *palais*; later *palace* (about 1475); borrowing of Old French *palais*, *pales*, and borrowed directly from Medieval Latin *palacium* a palace, also borrowed directly from Latin *palātium*, from *Palātium* the Palatine Hill in Rome, in reference to the house of Augustus Caesar situated there, and to the splendid residence later built there by Nero.

paladin *n.* 1592, one of the twelve knights in attendance on Charlemagne; borrowing of Middle French *paladin* a warrior, from Italian *paladino*, from Medieval Latin *palatinus* or from Latin *palātinus* palace official, noun use of *Palātinus* of the palace (see PALATINE).

palanquin or **palankeen** *n.* 1588, borrowed through Italian *palanchino*, and later probably directly from Portuguese *palanquim*, from Malay and Javanese *palangki*, ultimately from Sanskrit *palyanka-s*, *paryanka-s* couch, bed, litter (*pari* around + *āncati* it bends, curves, related to *ankā-s* a bend, hook, angle¹).

palate *n.* 1382 *palet* roof of the mouth; later *palate* sense of taste (before 1398); borrowed from Old French *palat*, *palet*, *palé*, and directly from Latin *palātum* roof of the mouth. —**palatable** *adj.* 1669, formed from English *palate* + *-able*. —**palatal** *adj.* 1828–32; borrowing of French *palatal*, from Latin *palātum* palate; for suffix see *-AL*¹; also possibly formed from English *palate* + *-al*¹.

palatial *adj.* 1754, borrowed from French *palatial* magnificent, and formed from Latin *palātium* PALACE + English suffix *-al*¹.

palatine *adj.* 1436, borrowed from Old French *palatin*, *palantien*, and directly from Medieval Latin and Latin *palātinus* of the palace, from *palātium* PALACE; for suffix see *-INE*¹.

—**palatinate** *n.* About 1580. a state of the Holy Roman Empire; formed from English *palatine* + *-ate*¹.

palaver *n.* Probably before 1735, borrowed from Portuguese *palavra* word, speech, talk, alteration (by metathesis of *r* and *l*) from Late Latin *parabola* speech, discourse, from Latin *parabola* comparison. The meaning of unnecessary or idle words, mere talk is first recorded in 1748. —*v.* 1733, from the noun, despite the earlier date, as there is no verb use in Portuguese.

pale¹ *adj.* wan. Before 1325, earlier in a surname *Pail* (1225, perhaps confused with Old French *paile*, 1100's); borrowed from Old French *pale*, *paile*, a book word from Latin *pallidus* pale, pallid, wan, from *pallēre* be pale. —*v.* About 1380 *pale* make pale, turn pale; probably borrowed from Old French *paleir*, *palir*, from *pale*, *adj.*, and possibly also from the adjective in English.

pale² *n.* stake or picket. Before 1200 *pal*, later *pale* (before 1338); borrowed from Old French *pal*, *pel*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *pālus* stake (earlier **paclos*), related to *pangere* to fix or fasten; see PACT. —*v.* Before 1338, borrowed from Old French *paler*, from *pal*, *n.*, and directly from Latin *pālāre* support with stakes, from *pālus*, *n.* —**paling** *n.* About 1390, decorating with stripes; later, enclosing with a fence (1469); from *pale*, *v.*

paleo- a combining form meaning old, ancient, especially in scientific terms referring to early, primitive phenomena, as in *paleolithic*, *paleontology*. Borrowed from Greek *palaio-*, combining form of *palaíos* old, ancient, from *pálai* long ago, far back.

paleography *n.* 1822, formed from English *paleo-* + *-graphy*, after French *paléographie*.

paleolithic or **Paleolithic** *adj.* 1865, formed from English *paleo-* + *-lith* stone + *-ic*.

paleontology *n.* 1838, probably borrowed from French *palé-ontologie*, formed from *paléo-* + Greek *ón* (genitive *óntos*) being + French *-logie* *-logy*. —**paleontologist** *n.* 1871, formed from English *paleontology* + *-ist*.

palette *n.* 1622, borrowing of French *palette*, from Old French *palet* small shovel or blade, diminutive of *pale* shovel, oar blade, from Latin *pāla* spade, shoulder blade, perhaps related to *pālus* stake, PALE²; for suffix see *-ETTE*.

palfrey *n.* Probably before 1200 *palefrei*, and *palfrey* (probably before 1300); earlier, as a surname *Pallefrei* (1166); borrowing of Old French *palefrei*, and borrowed directly from Medieval Latin *palafredus*, formed by dissimilation of *r* to *l* in Late Latin *paraverēdus* post horse for outlying districts, originally extra horse (from Greek *pará* beside, secondary + Latin *verēdus* post horse).

palindrome *n.* About 1629, borrowed from Greek *palíndromos* a recurrence, literally, a running back (*pálin* again, back + *drómos* a running).

palisade *n.* 1600, borrowed from French *palissade* a palisade, from Provençal *palissada*, from *palissa* a stake or paling, from Gallo-Romance **palicea*, from Latin *pālus* stake, PALE².

pall¹ *n.* cloth spread over a coffin. Probably before 1200 *palle*, *pal* a fine cloth or covering; later, shroud for a corpse or cloth for a coffin (about 1400); developed from Old English *paell* rich cloth, cloak, altar cloth (before 899); borrowed from Latin *pallium* cloak, covering, related to *palla* robe, cloak.

The sense of a dark, gloomy covering or mood (as in a *pall of despair*) is found in 1742. —**pallbearer** *n.* 1707 *pall bearer* one who holds the corners of the pall at a funeral; formed from English *pall¹*, *n.* + *bearer*.

pall² *v.* become tiresome. Probably before 1325 *pallen* become faint or grow feeble, possibly a shortened form of *appallen* to dismay, fill with horror or disgust; see **APPALL**. The meaning of make or become tiresome, is first recorded in 1700.

palladium¹ *n.* safeguard. 1600, figurative use of earlier *Palladium* sacred image of the Greek goddess *Pallas Athena* (1585), and *Palladion* (about 1385); borrowing of Latin *Palladium*, and Greek *Palládion*, neuter of *Palládios* of *Pallas*, from *Pallás* (genitive *Palládos*) *Pallas Athena*, whose statue was in the citadel of Troy and on which the safety of the city was supposed to depend.

palladium² *n.* metallic chemical element. 1803, New Latin, from *Pallas*, an asteroid discovered in 1802 and named after *Pallas Athena*, the Greek goddess of wisdom, from Greek *Pallás* (genitive *Palládos*); for suffix see -IUM.

pallet¹ *n.* bed of straw. 1370 *palet*; later *paillet* (about 1385); borrowed through Anglo-French *paillet*, *paillete* straw, bundle of straw, Old French *paillete* chaff, from *paille* straw, from Latin *palea* chaff.

pallet² *n.* flat blade. Probably before 1425 *palet* flat instrument for depressing the tongue; borrowed from Old French *palette* small shovel or blade, diminutive of *pale* shovel, from Latin *pāla* spade, related to *pālus* stake, **PALE²**.

palliate *v.* Probably before 1425 *palliaten* to alleviate the symptoms of a disease; borrowed from Medieval Latin *palliatus*, from Late Latin, past participle of *palliāre* cover with a cloak, conceal, from Latin *pallium* cloak; for suffix see -ATE¹.

—**palliative** *adj.* 1425 *palliatif*; borrowed perhaps from Medieval Latin *palliativus* under a cloak, covert, perhaps a Latinization of Old French *palliatif*, or directly from Middle French *palliatif*, both forms from Late Latin *palliātus*, past participle of *palliāre* cover with a cloak, conceal; for suffix see -IVE. —**n.** 1724, from the adjective.

pallid *adj.* 1590, borrowed from Latin *pallidus* pale, from *pallēre* be pale.

pallor *n.* About 1400 *pallour*; borrowed from Old French *palar* paleness, and directly from Latin *pallor*, from *pallēre* to pale; for suffix see -OR¹.

palm¹ *n.* inside of the hand. Probably before 1300 *palme*; later *paume* (about 1300); borrowing of Old French *palme*, *paume*, from Latin *palma* palm of the hand. —**v.** 1673, from the noun.

palm² *n.* tree. Before 1200 *palm*; reborrowed through Old French *palme*, *paume*; and developed from Old English *palma*

(before 830); both borrowed from Latin *palma* palm tree, palm of the hand (see **PALM¹**); so called from the shape of the tree's leaves.

palmate *adj.* 1760, borrowed, perhaps by influence of French *palme*, from Latin *palmatus* marked with the palm of the hand, from Latin *palma* **PALM¹** (of the hand); for suffix see -ATE¹.

palmetto *n.* 1583 *palmito*, borrowing of Spanish *palmito* a dwarf fan palm tree, diminutive of *palma* palm tree, from Latin *palma* **PALM²**. The variant form *palmeto* 1624, was influenced by the Italian diminutive suffix -etto.

palmistry *n.* About 1450 *palmestrie*; formed from *palme* **palm¹** of the hand + -estrie, of uncertain origin (probably a blend of -estre, as in Middle English *webbestre* weaver, and of -rie, -erie, as in Middle English *archerie* archery). The spelling of the suffix changed gradually to -istry, so that *palmistry* now looks misleadingly like a derivative of the modern *palmist*. —**palmist** *n.* 1886, probably a back formation from *palmistry*.

palomino *n.* 1914, borrowing of American Spanish *palomino* cream-colored horse, from Spanish, young dove, perhaps from Italian *palombino* dove-colored, from Latin *palumbinus* of wood pigeons, from *palumba* wood pigeon; the horse so called from its dovelike coloring.

palooka *n.* 1925, inferior or average boxer of uncertain origin; its coinage ascribed to Jack Conway, an American journalist. The sense of a big, but stupid or awkward person, possibly derives from Joe *Palooka*, brawny but naive and awkward boxing champion, hero of a comic strip (by cartoonist Ham Fisher).

palpable *adj.* About 1380, plain, evident, obvious; borrowed from Old French *palpable*, and directly from Late Latin *palpabilis* that may be touched or felt, from Latin *palpare* touch gently, stroke; for suffix see -ABLE.

The literal meaning "capable of being touched, tangible" is first recorded in 1387 after the appearance of the figurative sense.

palpate *v.* 1849–52, probably a back formation from *palpation*, perhaps by influence of Latin *palpatus*, past participle of *palpare* touch gently, stroke; for suffix see -ATE¹. —**palpation** *n.* 1483 *palpacion*, borrowed possibly through Middle French *palpation*, from Latin *palpationem* (nominative *palpātiō*) stroking, flattery, from *palpare* touch gently.

palpitate *v.* 1623, borrowed from Latin *palpitātum*, past participle of *palpitare* to throb or flutter, a frequentative form of *palpare* touch gently, stroke; for suffix see -ATE¹; also probably a back formation from *palpitation*. —**palpitation** *n.* Probably before 1425 *palpitacioun*; borrowed probably through Middle French *palpitation*, learned borrowing from Latin *palpitationem* (nominative *palpitiō*), from *palpitare* throb or flutter; for suffix see -ATION.

palsy *n.* About 1300 *palasie*; later *palsie* (before 1325); borrowed through Anglo-French *parlesie*, Old French *paralisie*, learned borrowing from Latin *paralysis* **PARALYSIS**.

palter *v.* 1601, of uncertain origin. *Palter* was popularized by Shakespeare, though earlier use is recorded in 1538, spelled *paulter* mumble, babble; in 1577, meaning shift or alter (in position); and in 1588, meaning jumble or patch up. The form of *palter* is that of a frequentative in *-er* (see *-ER*⁴), but no underlying verb to *palt* with a corresponding meaning has been found, and no adequate connection with *paltry* has been established.

paltry *adj.* 1570, probably attributive use of *paltry* worthless thing (1556); associated with dialectal *palt*, *pelt* trash (1567); cognate with Middle Low German and East Frisian *palte* rag, Middle Dutch *palt* broken or torn fragment, Danish *pjalt*, and Swedish *palta* rag; for suffix see *-RY*.

Alternatively, it has been suggested that *paltry*, *adj.*, was borrowed directly from Low German or East Frisian *paltrig* ragged, torn, derived from *palte* rag.

pampas *n. pl.* 1704, borrowing of Spanish *pampas*, plural of *pampa*, from Quechua (Peru) *pampa* a plain.

pamper *v.* About 1390 *pampren* indulge, especially with food; later *pamperen*; probably borrowed from Middle Dutch (compare Flemish *pamperen* cram with food, overindulge, pamper, and dialectal German *pampen* to cram).

pamphlet *n.* About 1385 *pamflet*, borrowed from Anglo-Latin *panfletus*, *pamfletus*, probably a generalized use of *Pamphilus*, popular name of "Pamphilus, seu de Amore" (Pamphilus, or About Love, a short Latin love poem of the 1100's), from Greek *pámphilos* loved by all (*pan-* all + *philos* loving, dear); for suffix see *-ET*. The specific application of *pamphlet* to a brief work dealing with some question of current interest is first recorded in 1592. —**pamphleteer** *n.* 1642, formed from English *pamphlet* + *-eer*. —**v.** 1715, from the noun.

pan¹ *n.* dish. About 1150 *panna*; later *panne* (probably before 1300) and *pan* (1404); developed from Old English *panne* (before 899); earlier *ponne* (before 800, Mercian dialect), and *-ponne*, *-panne* (about 700, in compounds such as *fyrponne*, *fyrpanne* fire pan). Old English *panne*, *ponne* was inherited from West Germanic **panna* (compare Old Frisian *panne* pan, Old Saxon *panna*, Old Icelandic *panna*, Old Low German *panna* and Old High German *phanna*), probably an early borrowing from Vulgar Latin **patna*, from Latin *patina* shallow pan, dish. —**v.** 1839 *pan out* wash (gravel) in a pan to separate the gold; from the noun. The sense of yield results, turn out (as in *let's see how things pan out*) is first recorded in 1868, and that of criticize severely, in 1911. —**pancake** *n.* Before 1400 *pankakus*, a Latin-ate form; earlier as a surname *Panecak*, *Panekake* (1283).

pan² *v.* to follow with a camera. 1913, shortened from *pan-oramic*, especially in the term *panoramic camera* (1878). —**n.** 1922, from the verb.

pan- a combining form meaning all, whole, all-inclusive, as in *Pan-American*, *panchromatic*, *pandemic*. Borrowed from Greek *pan-*, combining form of Greek *pás* (neuter *pán*, masculine and neuter genitive *panτός*) all.

panacea *n.* 1548, borrowed from Latin *panacēa* an all-healing herb, from Greek *panákeia* cure-all, from *panakēs* all-healing

(*pan-* all + *-akēs*, from *ákos* cure). An earlier use (probably about 1425) refers to the medicinal herb; borrowed from Latin.

panache *n.* 1553 *pinnach*, borrowed from Middle French *pennache* tuft of feathers, from Italian *pennaccio*, variant of *pennachio*, from Late Latin *pinnāculum* small wing, gable, peak; see PINNACLE.

The sense of display, swagger, verve, flamboyance, is first recorded in 1898, borrowed from French *panache*.

pancreas *n.* 1578 *panchreas*; later *pancreas* (implied in *pancreatic*, 1665–66); borrowed from Greek *pánkreas* sweetbread, *pancreas* (*pan-* all + *kréas* flesh). —**pancreatic** *adj.* 1665–66, formed from Greek *pankreat-* (stem of *pánkreas* pancreas) + English *-ic*.

panda *n.* 1835, a raccoonlike mammal of the Himalayas, lesser panda; borrowed from French *panda*, apparently from one of the names of this animal in Nepal. The first reference in English to the black-and-white bearlike mammal of Tibet and China (the Giant Panda) is found in 1901.

pandemic *adj.* 1666, formed in English from Greek *pándēmos* pertaining to all the people (*pan-* all + *dēmos* people) + English *-ic*, modeled on *epidemic*. —**n.** 1853, from the adjective.

pandemonium *n.* 1779, place of wild uproar; transferred use of New Latin *Pandemonium*, name of the palace built by Satan as the central part of hell (coined in 1667 from Greek *pan-* all + Late Latin *daemonium* evil spirit, from Greek *daimōnion* divine power, from *daimōn* lesser god); for suffix see *-IUM*.

pander *n.* 1598, spelling alteration (influenced by *-erl*) of earlier *pandar* (1530), from Middle English *Pandare* (about 1385); borrowed from Latin *Pandarus*, from Greek *Pándaros* a name used by Boccaccio (in the Italian form *Pandaro*) for the man who procured for Troilus the love of Cressida. An isolated example of a provider of pleasure is recorded about 1450. —**v.** 1602, from the noun.

pandowdy *n.* 1830, perhaps from obsolete dialectal English *pandoulde* custard, formed from English *pan¹* + *doulde*, related to dialectal English *dowl* mix dough in a hurry.

pane *n.* About 1250 *pane* garment, such as a cloak; later, part of a garment (probably before 1300); side of a building, section of wall (about 1380), a window glass (1466); borrowed from Old French *pan* piece or panel, from Latin *pannus* piece of cloth, garment.

panegyric *n.* 1603, as attributive noun (1603), possibly from the adjective (a shortened form of *panegyric*, 1592–93), but also probably influenced by *panegyre* a eulogy (1603), and possibly by French *panégyrique*; borrowed from Latin *panēgyricus*, from Greek *panēgyrikòs* (lógos) (a speech) given in a public assembly, from *panēgyris* public assembly (*pan-* all + *ágyris* place of assembly, Aeolic form of *agorá*); for suffix see *-IC*.

panel *n.* Before 1325, saddle cloth, piece of cloth; borrowing

of Old French *panel* saddle cushion, piece of cloth, from Vulgar Latin **pannellus*, diminutive of Latin *pannus* piece of cloth.

From the sense in Latin and Old French of piece of cloth, Anglo-French developed the legal sense of piece of paper listing jurors, jury list, jury, which is also recorded in Middle English, about 1378. The meaning of part or division (about 1450) is found in the special application of distinct part of the surface of a wall, door, etc., in 1600. —**v.** 1451 *panellen* put on a jury list; from the noun. The meaning of furnish with panels is first recorded in 1633. —**panelist** *n.* 1952, American English; formed from *panel*, *n.* + *-ist*.

pang *n.* 1526, a brief sharp spasm of pain (in the phrase *pang of death*); of uncertain origin. The figurative meaning of a sudden sharp mental pain or anguish (as in the *pangs of love*) is first recorded in 1570.

panhandle *v.* 1903, back formation from earlier *panhandler* beggar (1897, *pan* + *handler*). —**n.** 1851, anything that suggests the handle on a pan, a geographical area; as formed from *pan* + *handle*.

panic *n.* 1627, contagious emotion supposedly induced by Pan; from the adjective. The meaning of unreasoning fear is first recorded in 1708. —**adj.** 1603, as found in *panic fear*, borrowed from French *panique*, from Greek *Pānikós* of Pan, from *Pān* Greek god causing contagious fear in herds and crowds. —**v.** 1827, from the noun. —**panicky** *adj.* 1869, formed from English *panic*, *n.* + *-y*¹.

panicle *n.* 1597, borrowed from Latin *pānicula*, diminutive of *pānus* swelling, ear of millet; for suffix see *-CLE*.

pannier *n.* 1290 *paner* a large basket; about 1300 *panier*, borrowed from Old French *panier*, *panniere*, from Latin *pānārium* bread basket, from *pānis* bread.

panoply *n.* 1576, borrowed from Greek *panoplīā* complete suit of armor, from *pan-* all + *hōplā*, *pl.*, arms. First recorded use in English is in the sense of complete equipment or array. The meaning of any splendid array is first found in 1829.

panorama *n.* 1789 *Panorama* a picture of a landscape or other scene presented on a revolving cylindrical surface; formed from English *pan-* all + Greek *hōrāma* a view, from *horān* to look, see.

The sense of a comprehensive survey (as in the panorama of science and art) is found in 1801. —**panoramic** *adj.* 1813, formed from *panorama* + *-ic*.

pansy *n.* About 1450 *pancy*; later *pensee* (before 1475); borrowed from Middle French *pensée*, *pense*, *panse* a pansy; literally, thought, remembrance, from feminine past participle of *penser* to think, from Latin *pēnsāre* weigh, consider.

pant *v.* About 1350 *panten* breathe hard and quickly; borrowed perhaps as a shortened form from Old French *pantaisier*, probably from Vulgar Latin **pantasiāre* be oppressed with a nightmare, struggle for breath during a nightmare, from Greek *phantasiōn* have or form images, subject to hallucinations,

from *phantasiā* appearance, image, fantasy. —**n.** 1500–20, from the verb.

pantaloon *n.* 1661, a kind of tights, from an association with *Pantaloun*, *Pantaloon* (1590), a character in early Italian comedy shown wearing tight trousers. The name of this stage character came into English from Middle French *Pantalón*, from Italian *Pantalone*, *Pantaleone*, originally San *Pantaleone* Saint *Pantaleon*, a Christian martyr; for ending see *-OON*. By 1800 *pantaloon* was applied to any trousers, from French *pantalón*. The modern *pants* is a shortened form of *pantaloon*.

pantheist *n.* 1705, formed from English *pan-* all + *the-* god (variant of *theo-*) + *-ist*. —**pantheism** *n.* 1732, borrowed from French *panthéisme* (1712, formed from English *pantheist* + French *-isme* *-ism*). —**pantheistic** *adj.* 1732, formed from English *pantheist* + *-ic*.

pantheon *n.* 1549 *Pantheon*, alteration of earlier *Panteon* (before 1425, temple for all the gods, built in Rome by Agrippa); borrowed from Greek *Pántheon* (*hierón*) (shrine) of all the gods; *pántheon*, neuter of *pántheios* (*pan-* all + *theíos* of or for the gods, from *theós* god). The sense of any group of exalted persons or things (as in the *pantheon of science*) is first recorded in 1596.

panther *n.* Before 1250 *panter* leopard; borrowed from Old French *pantere*, and directly from Latin *panthēra*, from Greek *pánthēr*.

The spelling *panthere* (from which modern *panther* was formed) is found in 1484; probably borrowed from Latin *panthēra*.

panties *n.pl.* 1845, pair of drawers for men, diminutive of *PANTS*; for suffix see *-Y²*. The underpants for women or children is first recorded in 1908.

pantograph *n.* 1723 *pentograph*; borrowed from French *pentographe*, *pentographe*, formed from Greek *panto-* all + French *-graphe* *-graph*.

pantomime *n.* 1615, a mimic actor, mime; probably influenced in form by French *pantomime*, but also found earlier as *pantomimus* (implied in plural *pantomimi* 1589); borrowing of Latin *pantomimus* mime, dancer, from Greek *pantomimos* imitator of all (*panto-* all + *mimos* imitator). The meaning of a drama or play performed without words is first recorded before 1735. —**v.** 1768, from the noun.

pantry *n.* 1275, as a surname *Paneterie*; later *pantrie* room in which bread and other provisions are kept (before 1325), and *pantrye* (about 1350); borrowed through Anglo-French *panetrie*, from Old French *paneterie* bread room, and directly from Medieval Latin *panataria*, *panetrie* office or room of a servant who has charge of the food (literally, bread), from Latin *pānis* bread; for suffix see *-RY*.

pants *n.pl.* 1840, formed by shortening of *PANTALOONS*. —**pant** *n.* 1893, back formation from *pants*. —**pantsuit** *n.* 1966; earlier *pants suit* (1964).

panzer *adj.* 1940, borrowed as a shortened form of German

Panzerdivision armored unit, from *Panzer* tank; literally, armor, from Middle High German *panzier*, from Old French *panciere* armor for the belly, from *pance* belly, from Latin *pantex* (genitive *panticis*) belly. —**n.** 1943, from the adjective.

pap **n.** Before 1399, borrowed from Old French *papa* watered gruel (also found in Middle Dutch *pappe* pap, Middle Low German *pappe*, Spanish and Portuguese *papa*, and Italian *pappa*); probably also borrowed from Medieval Latin *pappa*, from Latin *pappa* word in children's language for food. It is also possible the word is associated with *pap* a nipple of a woman's breast, found in Middle English *pappe* (probably before 1200); borrowed from Latin *papilla* nipple. The meaning of watered-down or oversimplified ideas is first recorded in 1548.

papacy **n.** Before 1393 *papacie*, borrowed from Medieval Latin *papacia* papal office, from Late Latin *pāpa* POPE; for suffix see -CY.

papal **adj.** Before 1393, borrowed from Old French *papal*, and directly from Medieval Latin *papalis* of the pope, from Late Latin *pāpa* POPE; for suffix see -AL¹.

paparazzo **n.**, pl. **paparazzi** 1961, borrowing of Italian *paparazzo*, in allusion to the surname of a free-lance photographer in the Italian motion picture *La Dolce Vita* (1959).

papaw **n.** 1624 *papaw*, unexplained variant of PAPAYA. The word originally referred to the papaya fruit or tree; it was used in 1760 to designate the papaw tree.

papaya **n.** 1598, the fruit of a tropical American tree; later, the tree itself (1613); borrowed from Spanish *papaya*, probably from Arawakan (West Indies) *papaya*.

paper **n.** 1364 *paper* writing material; also 1389 *papir*; borrowed through Anglo-French *paper*, from Old French *papier*, learned borrowings from Latin *papyrus* paper; see PAPHYRUS. The meaning of a newspaper is first recorded in English in 1642. —**adj.** of paper. 1592, from the noun. —**v.** 1594, to put down on paper; also 1599, to cover with paper; from the noun.

papier-mâché **n.** 1753, borrowing of French *papier-mâché* (Old French *papier* PAPER + *mâché* compressed or mashed, from past participle of *mâcher*, literally, to chew, from Late Latin *masticare* MASTICATE).

papilla **n.** 1693, a nipple; later, small, nipplelike projection (1713); borrowing of Latin *papilla* nipple of the breast, diminutive of *papula* swelling, pimple.

papoose or **pappoose** **n.** 1634, borrowed from Algonquian (Narragansett) *papoos* child; literally, very young.

paprika **n.** 1896, borrowing of Hungarian *paprika*, from Serbo-Croatian *pāpar* pepper, from Latin *piper* PEPPER.

papyrus **n.** About 1395 *papyrus*, borrowed from Latin *papyrus* the paper plant, paper as a writing material made from it, from Greek *pápyros* any plant of the paper plant genus.

par **n.** 1622, equality of value between currencies; later, equality of value or standing, equal footing (1662); borrowed from Latin *pār* equal, (as noun) that which is equal. The meaning of

average or usual amount, or condition (found in below *par*, up to *par*) is first recorded in 1767. The sense in golf is first recorded in 1898–1900 and is probably from the sense in finance, in *par value* meaning "value at *par*." —**adj.** 1861, from the noun.

par- the form of *para*¹ before vowels where the prefix is part of a borrowed word, as in *parenthesis*, *paresis*, and before *h* in *parhelion*, although in Greek (*parēlion*, from *hēlios* the sun) and in Latin (*parēlion*) the *h* was not written; but *para-* keeps its full form in recent compounds such as *para-hydrogen* and *para-influenza*.

para¹ a prefix meaning: 1 alongside of, beside, as in *parathyroid*. 2 closely related, as in *paraldehyde*. 3a resembling, as in *paratyphoid*. b supplementary or subsidiary, as in *paramedical*. c beyond, as in *parapsychology*. 4a alteration, change, as in *paraphrase*. b beside the mark, amiss, wrong, as in *paresis*. 5 comparison as in *parabola*. Borrowed from Greek *para-* (before vowels *par-*), from the preposition *pará* beside, near, from.

para² a combining form meaning: 1 defense or protection against as in *parasol* a protection against the sun, *parachute* a protection against a fall. 2 shortened form of parachute, as in *paratroops*. Borrowed from French, from Italian *para-*, stem of *parare* parry, protect against, from Latin *parāre* prepare, related to *parere* bear, beget.

parable **n.** About 1250 *parabol* a proverb; later, an allegory, comparison (about 1340), and *parable* (before 1382); borrowed from Old French *parable*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *parabola* comparison, from Greek *parabolē* a comparison, *parable* (*para-* alongside + *bolē* a throwing, casting, related to *ballein* to throw).

parabola **n.** 1579, New Latin; from Greek *parabolē* parabola, application; so called because a parabola is produced by "application" of a given area to a given straight line.

parachute **n.** 1785, borrowing of French *parachute* (*para-* defense against + *chute* a fall). —**v.** 1807, from the noun. —**parachutist** **n.** 1888, formed from English *parachute* + -ist.

parade **n.** 1656, display, assembling of troops for display borrowed from French *parade* display, show, military parade, from Middle French *parade* (influenced in meaning by *parer* arrange, prepare, adorn), from the meaning of the act of stopping a horse, borrowed from Spanish *parada* a stopping, from *parar* to stop, place, from Latin *parāre* prepare, provide; for suffix see -ADE. —**v.** 1686 (implied in *parading*), to assemble troops for display; from the noun.

paradigm **n.** 1483, borrowed from Late Latin *paradigma* pattern, example, from Greek *parádeigma*, from *paradeiknynai* show side by side, compare (*para-* beside + *deiknynai* to show). —**paradigmatic** **adj.** 1662, shortened form of *paradigmatical* (1577); formed in English from Greek *paradeigmatikós* serving as a pattern or example, from *parádeigma* + -ical.

paradise **n.** Before 1200 *paradise*, *paradis* the Christian heaven, place or condition of bliss; borrowed from Old French *paradis*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Late Latin *paradisus*,

from Greek *parádeisos*, from an Iranian source (compare Avestan *pairīdāēza* enclosure or park, a compound of *pairi*-around + *dāēza*-wall).

Greek *parádeisos*, used to describe an enclosed park, orchard, or hunting preserve in Persia, was later used in the Septuagint for the Garden of Eden, and in the New Testament (and by various early Christian writers) for heaven.

paradox *n.* 1540, statement contrary to common opinion; borrowed, perhaps through Middle French *paradoxe*, from Latin *paradoxum* paradox, from Greek *parádoxon*, from neuter of *parádoxos* contrary to expectation, incredible (*para*-contrary to + *dóxa* opinion, praise). The meaning of a statement that may be true but seems contradictory is first recorded 1569.

paraffin *n.* 1838, borrowed from German *Paraffin*, formed from Latin *parum* not very, too little + *affinis* associated with, bordering upon; so called from paraffin's low affinity for other substances.

The word is also found in Middle French *paraffine* resin, pitch, in the mid-1500's, and 1611 with the sense of "mineral resin," suggesting an earlier borrowing of the Latin elements, and an influence on the later form in German.

paragon *n.* Before 1548; borrowed from Middle French *paragon* a model, from Italian *paragone*, originally, touchstone to test gold, from *paragonare* to test on a touchstone, compare, from Greek *parakonán* to sharpen, whet (*para*- on the side + *akónē* whetstone).

paragraph *n.* Before 1500 *paragraf* distinct part of a composition, chapter, or book (originally marked by a division sign such as ¶ or ¶); later *paragraph* (1525); borrowed from Middle French *parapgraphe*, Old French *paragrafe*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Medieval Latin *paragrapheus* sign for a section of a discourse, etc., from Greek *parágraphos* short stroke (in the margin) marking a break in sense, from *paragráphein* write by the side (*para*-beside + *gráphein* to write). The forms *paragraf*, *paragraph* replaced earlier *paraf* (recorded about 1395), borrowed from Medieval Latin *paraffus*, *paraphus*, shortened form of *paragrapheus*. —*v.* 1601, to sign; later, write paragraphs about (1764), and divide into paragraphs (1799); from the noun.

parakeet *n.* 1621 borrowed from Spanish *periquito*, probably a diminutive of *Perico*, a diminutive of *Pedro*. An earlier *parroket* (1581) was borrowed from Middle French *parroquet*, *perroquet*, from Old French, perhaps a diminutive of *Pierre* Peter.

parallax *n.* 1580, borrowed from Middle French *parallaxe*, from Greek *parállaxis* change, alternation, inclination of two lines meeting at an angle, from *parállassein* to alter, make things alternate (*para*-beside + *allássein* to change).

parallel *adj.* 1549, borrowed from Middle French *parallèle*, and directly from Latin *parallelus*, from Greek *parállēlos*, from *pará allēlois* beside one another (*pará* beside and *allēlois* each other). —*n.* 1551, from the adjective. The sense of a counterpart, equal, is first recorded in 1599. —*v.* 1598, bring into comparison; from the adjective. The meaning of be a parallel to, is first

recorded in 1601. —**parallelogram** *n.* 1570, borrowed from Middle French *parallélogramme*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *parallēlogrammum*, from Greek *parallēlógrammon* from neuter of *parallēlógrammos* bounded by parallel lines (*parállēlos* parallel + *grammē* line).

paralysis *n.* 1525, borrowing of Latin *paralysis*, from Greek *parálýsis*, literally, loosening, from *paralyein* disable, enfeeble (*para*-beside + *lyein* loosen, untie). —**paralytic** *adj.* Probably about 1380 *parlatyk*; later *paralitik* (before 1398); borrowed from Old French *paralitique*, from Latin *paralyticus*, from Greek *paralytikós*, from *parálýsis* paralysis; for suffix see -IC. —**paralyze** *v.* 1804, borrowed from French *paralyser*, from Old French *paralisie* paralysis, learned borrowing from Latin *paralysis*.

paramecium *n.* 1752, New Latin *Paramecium* the genus name, formed from Greek *paramékēs* oblong, oval (*para*-on one side + *mēkos* length, related to *makrós* long); for suffix see -IUM.

paramedic¹ *n.* medical corpsman who parachutes. 1951, formed from *para*-² parachute + *medic*.

paramedic² *n.* medical technician. 1970, back formation from earlier *paramedical*, *adj.*, 1921, related to medicine in an auxiliary capacity (*para*-¹ + *medical*).

parameter *n.* 1656, a constant right line in a conic section; borrowed from New Latin *parametrum*, formed from Greek *para*-beside, subsidiary + *métron* MEASURE.

A meaning of a measurable factor which helps to define a particular system, is first recorded in the 1920's, and from this developed (partly by influence of *perimeter*) the widely used nontechnical sense of a boundary, limit, or characteristic factor, in the 1950's.

paramount *adj.* 1531, above others, supreme; borrowed from Anglo-French *paramont*, *peramont* above, formed from Old French *par* by + *amont* up, a *mont* upward.

paramour *n.* Before 1325, a term for Christ or the Virgin Mary; later, a term equivalent to darling, sweetheart (before 1375), and mistress, concubine, lover (about 1390); all noun uses of the adverbial phrase *par amour* passionately, with very strong love or desire (before 1300); borrowed through Anglo-French *par amour*, from Old French *par amor* by or through love (*par*, from Latin *per* by, through, and *amour*, from Latin *amōrem*, accusative of *amor* love).

paranoia *n.* 1891, New Latin; earlier *paranea* (1811); from Greek *paránoia* mental derangement, madness, from *paránoos*, *paránous* mentally ill, insane (*para*-beside, beyond + *nóos*, *noús* mind). —**paranoid** *adj.* 1904, formed from New Latin *paranoia* + English -oid.

parapet *n.* 1590, breast-high wall to protect soldiers; borrowed from Middle French *parapet* a breastwork, from Italian *parapetto* (*para*-defense + *petto* breast, from Latin *pectus*).

paraphernalia *n. pl.* 1651, a woman's property besides her dowry; borrowed from Medieval Latin *paraphernalia*, neuter

plural of *paraphernalis*, adj., from Late Latin *parapherna* a woman's property besides her dowry, from Greek *parápherna*, neuter plural (*para-* beside + *pherné* dowry, related to *phérein* to carry). The meaning of equipment, apparatus, is found in 1791.

paraphrase *n.* 1548, expression of a statement in other words; borrowed from Middle French *paraphrase*, learned borrowing from Latin *paraphrasis* a paraphrase, from Greek *paráphrasis*, from *paraphrázein* to tell in other words (*para-* beside + *phrázein* to tell). —**v.** 1606, borrowed from French *paraphraser*, from Middle French *paraphrase*, *n.*

paraplegia *n.* 1657, New Latin, from Ionic Greek *paraplēgíē* paralysis of one side of the body, from *paraplēssein* strike at the side, *paraplēssesthai* be stricken on one side (*para-* beside + *plēssein* to strike). The New Latin form may have been modeled on Middle French *paraplégie*, from Greek. —**paraplegic** adj. 1822–34, formed from English *paraplegia* + *-ic*, as if borrowed from Ionic Greek *paraplēgikós*, from *paraplēgíē*. —**n.** 1890, from the adjective.

parasite *n.* 1539, person who lives on others, hanger-on; borrowed from Middle French *parasite*, learned borrowing from Latin *parasitus*, and borrowed directly from Greek *parasitos* person who eats at the table of another, noun use of adjective, feeding beside (*para-* beside + *sitos* food). The animal or plant that lives on another is first recorded in English in 1727–41. —**parasitic** adj. 1627, shortened form of *parasitical* (1577–87); borrowed from Latin *parasiticus*, from Greek *parasitikós*, from *parasitos* parasite; for suffix see *-ICAL*.

parasol *n.* 1616, borrowing of French *parasol*, from Italian *parasole* (*para-* para-², defense against + *sole* sun, from Latin *sōlem*, nominative *sōl*).

paratrooper *n.* 1941, formed from *para*-² parachute + *trooper*.

parboil *v.* 1381 *parboilen* to boil partially; later, to boil thoroughly (1440); borrowed from Old French *parboillir*, *parbolir*, *parbouillir*, and directly from Medieval Latin *perbullire* boil thoroughly (Latin *per-* thoroughly + *bullire* to boil¹). The meaning of boil partially was by mistaken association with *part*.

parcel *n.* About 1303 *parcelle* part, portion, division; later *parcel* (before 1376); borrowing of Old French *parcelle*, *parcel* a small piece, particle, parcel, from Vulgar Latin **particella*, diminutive of Latin *particula* PARTICLE.

The meaning of a package is first recorded in English in 1465, and is preceded by the sense of bundle, about 1436. —**v.** 1584–85, from the noun.

parch *v.* Before 1338 *parchen* burn, lay waste; earlier in a surname *Parchehare* (1246–47); before 1382, to roast or dry; of uncertain origin (possibly from *perchen*, variant of *perishen* perish).

parcheesi or **parchesi** *n.* 1800 *pachees*, borrowed from Hindi *pachīsī*, from *pachīs* twenty-five (highest throw of the dice), from the compound of Sanskrit *pāñca* FIVE + *viṃśati*-s twenty. The common spelling was originally *pachisi*; the spelling

parcheesi (with intrusive *r*) became more frequent as a trademark after 1892.

parchment *n.* About 1250 *parchemyne* skin of sheep, etc., prepared as writing material; earlier, in a surname *Perchamunt* (1200); borrowed from Old French *parchemin*, *perchemin*, alteration (with *ch* for *g*) of Late Latin *pergamēnum*, from Late Greek *pergamēnōn*, in allusion to *Pérgamon* Pergamum, Greek city where parchment was supposedly first made. It is also possible that a Gallo-Romance form **particaminum* developed from a blend of Late Latin *pergamēnum* with Latin *parthica* in *parthica pellis* Parthian leather. The late Middle English *parchement* (1438, with added *t*) was influenced by Medieval Latin *pergamēnum* from Late Latin *pergamēnum*.

pard¹ *n.* Archaic. leopard, panther. Probably before 1300 *perde* later *parde* (before 1325); borrowed from Old French *parde*, and directly from Latin *pardus*, from Greek *párdos* male panther, from the same source (probably Iranian) as Sanskrit *prāḍaku*-s leopard, tiger, snake, and Persian *palang* panther. Also found in rare Old English *pard*.

pard² *n.* Dialect. partner. 1850, shortened form of earlier *pardener*, *pardner* (1795).

pardon *v.* 1433 *pardonēn* forgive; borrowed from Old French *pardonēn*, *pardonner* to grant, forgive, and directly from Vulgar Latin **perdonāre* to give wholeheartedly (from Latin *per-* thoroughly + *dōnāre* give, present). —**n.** Probably before 1300 *pardoun* forgiveness; about 1300 *pardon*; borrowed from Old French *pardon*, from *pardonēn* to grant, pardon, and directly from Vulgar Latin **perdonum*.

pare *v.* Probably before 1300 *paren* cut, trim, or shave off the outer part of; borrowed from Old French *parer* arrange, prepare, trim, and directly from Latin *parare* prepare; related to *parere* produce, bring forth, give birth to.

paregoric *n.* 1704, soothing medicine for intestinal upset, from earlier adjective, soothing (1684); borrowed perhaps through French *parégorique*, from Late Latin *parēgoricus*, from Greek *parēgorikós* soothing, from *parēgoreîn* speak soothingly to, from *parēgoros* consoling (*para-* beside + the root of *agoreûein* speak in public); for suffix see *-IC*.

parenchyma *n.* 1651, borrowed, perhaps through influence of French *parenchyme*, from Greek *parénchyma* anything poured in, from *parencheîn* pour in beside (*para-* beside + *énchyma* infusion, *en-* in + *chýma* what is poured, from *cheîn* to pour). It was formerly supposed that blood vessels poured into the tissues of organs.

parent *n.* Before 1410 *parens*, pl.; borrowed from Latin nominative *parēns*; later *parent* (1413), and as a surname *Parent* (1185); borrowing of Old French *parent*; from Latin *parentem* father or mother, ancestor, a noun use of past active participle of *parere* bring forth, give birth to, produce. —**v.** 1663, be a parent of, beget; from the noun. Use of the verbal noun, *parenting* is first recorded in the 1950's. —**parentage** *n.* descent from parents. 1490, probably borrowed from Middle French *parentage*; also

possibly formed from Middle English *parent* + *-age*. —**parental** adj. 1623, formed from English *parent* + *-al*¹.

parenthesis *n.* 1550, explanatory or qualifying comment in a passage; borrowed, by influence of Middle French *parenthèse*, from Late Latin *parenthesis* addition of a letter or syllable in a word, from Greek *parénthesis* a putting in beside, from *paréntithénai* put in beside (*para-* beside + *en-* in + *tithénai* put, place). —**parenthetical** adj. 1624, from Medieval Greek *parénthetos* interpolated; for suffix see *-ICAL*.

parhelion 1647, in plural *parhelies*; 1648, New Latin *parhelion* (with *h* from Greek *helios* sun), from Latin *parēllion*, from Greek *parēllion* a mock sun (*para-* beside + *hēlios* sun).

pariah *n.* 1613, member of a low caste in southern India; borrowed from Portuguese *pariá*, or directly from Tamil *paraiyar*, plural of *paraiyan* drummer (the caste's hereditary duty at festivals), from *parai* large festival drum. The meaning of a social outcast is first recorded in 1819.

parietal adj. Probably about 1425, borrowed from Late Latin *parietālis* of walls, from Latin *pariēs* (genitive *parietis*) wall; for suffix see *-AL*¹. —**n.** Probably about 1425, noun use of Latin *parietālis*, adj.

pari-mutuel *n.* 1881, borrowing of French *pari-mutuel* mutual wager (*pari* wager, from *parier* to bet, from Latin *pariāre* to settle a debt, from *pār*, genitive *paris* equal + *mutuel* mutual, from Latin *mūtūus* *MUTUAL*).

parish *n.* About 1300 *parochie* district with its own church; also, members of that district; later *parosshe* (about 1325), and *parish* (about 1330); probably, in part, a back formation of earlier *paroschien*, *parysshen* parishioner; and, in part, borrowed from Old French *paroisse*, *parroche*, learned borrowing from Late Latin *parochia* a diocese, alteration of Late Greek *paroikiā* a diocese or parish, from confusion of Greek *párochos* provider to traveling officials, and *pároikos* a sojourner; earlier, neighbor (*para-* near + *oikos* a house); for suffix see *-ISH*. —**parishioner** *n.* 1465 *parishioner*, earlier *parysshen* member of a parish (about 1303), and *paroschien* (probably before 1200); formed from Old French *paroissien*, *parrochien* parishioner, from *paroisse*, *parroche* parish + Middle English *-er*¹.

parity *n.* 1572, equality of rank; borrowed from Middle French *parité*, or directly from Late Latin *paritās* equality, from Latin *pār*, adj. (genitive *paris*) equal; for suffix see *-ITY*.

park *n.* About 1300 *parc*, *parke* park, enclosed tract of land; earlier, in *parkselver* fee paid for maintaining enclosed land (1222); borrowed from Old French *parc*, possibly from West Germanic **parrik* or **parrak* (compare Old High German *pfarrh*, and Old English *pearnuc* enclosure). —**v.** 1526 (implied in *parking*) enclose in a park; from the noun. The meaning of put (a vehicle) in a certain place is first recorded in 1844.

parka *n.* 1813; earlier *parki*, pl. (1780); borrowed from Aleut *parka*, from Russian *párka* a pelt or jacket made from pelt, from Samoyed.

parlance *n.* 1579–80, speech, especially debate; borrowed

from Middle French *parlance*, from Old French *parlaunce*, *parlance*, from *parler* to speak; see *PARLEY*.

parlay *v.* 1828 *paralee*, alteration of earlier *paroli* (1701); borrowed from French, of unknown origin. The meaning of exploit to advantage is first recorded in 1942.

parley *n.* Probably before 1449, conversation or discussion; later, conference (1581); borrowed from Middle French *parlée*, from feminine past participle of Old French *parler* to speak, from Late Latin *parabolāre*, from *parabola* speech or discourse, from Latin *parabola* comparison; see *PARABLE*. —**v.** 1570, to speak; later, discuss terms (1600); from the noun. Earlier *parlen* to speak, confer (about 1378), is probably a separate borrowing from Old French *parler* to speak.

parliament *n.* Probably before 1300 *parlement* formal council, lawmaking body; borrowing of Old French *parlement*, from *parler* to speak, see *PARLEY*; for suffix see *-MENT*. The spelling *parliament*, *parliament* (about 1400), was formed after Medieval Latin *parliamentum*, also found in Anglo-Latin. —**parliamentary** adj. 1616, formed from English *parliament* + *-ary*.

parlor *n.* Probably before 1200 *parlur* window through which to make confession or hold audience; sitting room (about 1378); borrowed from Old French *parlur*, *parlëur*, *parlëor*, from *parler* to speak see *PARLEY*; for suffix see *-OR*². The sense as in *ice cream parlor*, is first recorded in 1884. —**adj.** 1910, advocating views from a safe distance (as in *a parlor radical*), from the noun.

parochial adj. 1393 *parochiell*; 1400 *parochial*; borrowed from Anglo-French *parochiel*, and from Old French *parochial*, from Late Latin *parochiālis* of a parish, from *parochia* *PARISH*; for suffix see *-AL*¹. The sense of limited or narrow is first recorded in 1856.

parody *n.* 1598, borrowed from Latin *parōdia* parody, from Greek *parōidiā* burlesque poem or song (*para-* beside, parallel to + *ōidē* song, ODE); for suffix see *-Y*³. —**v.** Before 1745, from the noun.

parole *n.* Before 1616, promise given by a prisoner of war not to escape; borrowing of French *parole* word, speech, formal promise, from Gallo-Romance **paraula* speech or discourse, from Latin *parabola* a comparison. The sense of conditional release of a prisoner before serving a full term is first recorded in 1908. —**v.** 1716, pledge one's word; later, put a prisoner of war or other combatant on parole (1853); from the noun.

paroxysm *n.* Probably before 1425 *paroxism* periodic attack of a disease; borrowed from Medieval Latin *paroxysmus* irritation, fit of a disease, from Greek *paroxysmós*, from *paroxýnein* to irritate, goad (*para-* beyond + *oxýnein* sharpen, goad, from *oxýs* sharp, pointed). The sense of any sudden attack, fit, is first recorded in 1604.

parquet *n.* 1816, borrowing of French *parquet*, *parchet* wooden flooring, compartment, enclosed portion of a park, diminutive of Old French *parc* *PARK*; for suffix see *-ET*. The noun in English was influenced by verb use. —**v.** 1678, borrowed from French *parqueter*, from *parquet*, *n.*

parricide¹ *n.* person who kills his parent or other near relative. 1554, borrowed from Middle French *parricide*, learned borrowing from Latin *parricida*, *pāricida* (**pārus* relative + *-cida* killer).

parricide² *n.* the act of killing a parent or near relative. 1570, borrowed from Middle French *parricide*, learned borrowing from Latin *parricidium*, *pāricidium* (**pārus* relative + *-cidium* killing).

parrot *n.* About 1525, perhaps borrowed from dialectal Middle French *perrot*, from a variant of the man's name *Pierre* Peter; see **PARAKEET**. —**v.** repeat without understanding. 1596, from the noun.

parry *v.* 1634, ward off a weapon or blow; borrowed from French *parer* imperative of *parer* ward off, from Italian *parare*, from Latin *parāre* make ready, prepare. The sense of evade, turn aside, is first recorded in 1718. —**n.** 1705, from the verb.

parse *v.* Before 1553, probably verb use of Middle English *pars* part of speech (probably before 1300); borrowed perhaps through Old French *pars*, plural of *part* part, and directly from Latin *pars* in the school question *Quae pars orationis?* What part of speech?

parsimony *n.* Probably before 1425 *parcimony*; borrowed from Latin *parsimonia* sparingness, frugality, from *pars-*, the stem of *pari*, perfect tense of *parcere* to spare, save + *-mōnia*, suffix signifying action, condition. —**parsimonious** *adj.* 1598, probably formed from English *parsimony* + *-ous*.

parsley *n.* Before 1300 *persely*, a fusion of Old English (about 1000) *petersilie* and Old French *peresil*, *persil*, from Medieval Latin *petrosilium*, altered from Latin *petroselinum*, from Greek *petroselinon* (*pētros* rock, stone + *selinon* celery). The Old English *petersilie* probably came from a West Germanic form (compare Old High German *petarsile*, Middle Dutch *petersilie*, borrowed from Medieval Latin *petrosilium*).

parsnip *n.* 1533 *parsnepe*; earlier *persenepe* (before 1500); alteration of *pasnepe* (1373); borrowed from Old French *pasnaie*, from Latin *pastināca* parsnip or carrot. In Middle English *pasnepe*, the ending was altered to *nepe* turnip, found in Old English (Anglian *nēp*, West Saxon *nāp*; borrowed from Latin *nāpus* turnip) because the parsnip was considered a kind of turnip.

parson *n.* About 1250 *persone*; earlier, in a surname *Persun* (1197); about 1300 *parson*; borrowing of Old French *persone* curate, parson, from Medieval Latin *persona* parson, and borrowed directly from Latin *persōna* PERSON.

Ecclesiastical use of Latin *persōna* parson may refer to a clergyman as the legal "person" holding property of the church; or a dignitary, in the role of the parish clergyman, ministerial duties being discharged by a resident vicar.

—**parsonage** *n.* About 1378 *parsonage* a benefice granted to a parson; also *personage*; borrowed from Old French *personage*, *personnage* benefice of a parson (*persone* parson + *-age*), and from Medieval Latin *personagium* parsonage, benefice. The meaning of a house for a parson is first recorded in English in 1486.

part *n.* About 1250 *part* division, portion; borrowed from Old French *part*, from Latin *pars* (genitive *partis*) part. Old English *part* part of speech, borrowed from Latin, is considered rare and did not survive. —**v.** Probably before 1200 *parten* to depart, separate oneself; later to divide into parts, separate (before 1300); borrowed from Old French *partir*, from Latin *partire*, from *pars* (genitive *partis*) part, *n.* —**adj.** 1597, from the noun. —**adv.** 1513, from the noun.

partake *v.* 1561, to share; later, to take or have a share (about 1585); back formation from *partaker* sharer, participant (1547); formed from Middle English *part-taker* (found in *part takinge*, about 1384), translation of Latin *particeps* participant; see **PARTICIPATION**.

partial *adj.* Before 1398 *parcial* not whole, incomplete; borrowing of Old French *parcial*, and borrowed directly from Medieval Latin *partialis* divisible, solitary, partial, from Latin *pars* (genitive *partis*) PART; for suffix see *-AL*¹. The meaning of one-sided, biased (1425) is reflected earlier in *parcialte* partiality (1421). —**partiality** *n.* 1421 *parcialte*; later *partialte* (1461); borrowed from Middle French *parcialité*, *parcialté*, from Medieval Latin *partialitatem* (nominative *partialitas*), from *partialis* partial; for suffix see *-ITY*.

participate *v.* 1531, probably a back formation from *participation*; for suffix see *-ATE*¹. —**participant** *n.* 1562, from *participant*, *adj.* (before 1470); borrowed from Middle French *participant*, from Latin *participantem* (nominative *participāns*), present participle of *participāre* participate; for suffix see *-ANT*. —**participation** *n.* About 1380 *participacioun*, borrowed from Old French *participation*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Late Latin *participātionem* (nominative *participātiō*), from Latin *participāre* participate, from *particeps* (genitive *participis*) partaker (*pars*, genitive *partis* part + the root of *capere* to take); for suffix see *-ATION*.

participle *n.* Before 1397, borrowed from Old French *participle*, variant of *particeps*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *participium*, literally, a sharing, partaking, from *particeps* partaker; see **PARTICIPATION**. —**participial** *adj.* 1591, borrowed from Middle French *participial*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *participiālis*, from *participium* participle; for suffix see *-AL*¹.

particle *n.* Before 1398 *particle* little bit, small unit of matter; borrowed from Latin *particula* little bit or part, diminutive of *pars* (genitive *partis*) PART; for suffix see *-CLE*.

particular *adj.* Before 1387 *particuler* distinct, partial; later, private, personal (1442); borrowed from Old French *particuler*, and directly as learned borrowing from Late Latin *particulāris* of a part, from Latin *particula* particle; for suffix see *-AR*. The meaning of precise, exacting, fastidious, is first recorded in 1814. —**n.** 1392 *particuler* body part; later, individual factor or circumstance (before 1425); from the adjective. —**particularity** *n.* 1528, detail, particular point; borrowed from Middle French *particularité*, from Late Latin *particulāritatem* (nominative *particulāritās*), from *particulāris* particular; for suffix see *-ITY*. —**particularize** *v.* 1588, formed from English *particular* + *-ize*.

particulate *adj.* 1871, formed from Latin *particula* PARTICLE + English *-ate*¹. —**n.** 1960, from the adjective.

partisan *n.* 1555, one who takes sides, adherent or supporter; borrowing of Middle French *partisan*, adaptation of dialectal Italian *partezan*, *partisano*, corresponding to Italian *partigiano* member of a faction, a partner, from *parte* part, from Latin *partem* (nominative *pars*) PART. The meaning of a guerrilla, is first recorded in 1692. —**adj.** 1708, pertaining to guerrillas or guerrilla warfare; from the noun. The meaning in politics is first recorded in 1842.

partition *n.* About 1400 *partisoun* a distinction or division; 1410 *particioun* division into parts; borrowed from Old French *particion*, learned borrowing from Latin *partitiōnem* (nominative *partitiō*) division or portion, from *partire* to PART; for suffix see -TION. The meaning of thing that separates is first recorded in 1465–66. —**v.** 1741, from the noun.

partitive *n.* 1530, word or phrase meaning a part of a whole; from *partitive*, *adj.* (before 1398); also *partytyf* (about 1450); borrowed from Middle French *partitif*, and directly from Medieval Latin *partitivus*, from Latin *partire* to PART; for suffix see -IVE.

partner *n.* About 1300 *partiner*; later *partnuer* (about 1415), alteration (influenced by *part*) of *parciner* one that shares (about 1300); borrowed from Old French *parçener*, *parçonier*, from *parçon* portion, from Latin *partitiōnem* (nominative *partitiō*) portion; see PARTITION; for suffix see -ER¹. —**partnership** *n.* 1576, formed from English *partner* + *-ship*.

partridge *n.* Probably before 1300 *pertris*; earlier, in a surname *Pertriz* (1176); about 1300 *partrich*; borrowed from Old French *pertris*, *pertriz*, *perdriz*, alteration of *perdis* (perhaps by influence of *-tris*, *-triz* feminine ending, from Latin *-trix*; see -ESS) from Latin *perdicem* (nominative *perdix*), from Greek *pérđix* the Greek partridge, probably related to *pérdesthai* to break wind (so called from the whirring noise of the bird's wings).

The spelling in *-dge* shows a change of final unaccented *-ch* as in *knowledge* from Middle English *cnowleche*, or *cabbage* from *cabache*.

parturient *adj.* 1592, borrowed from Latin *parturientem* (nominative *parturiēns*), present participle of *parturire* be in labor, formed from *parere* to bear; for suffix see -ENT.

parturition *n.* 1646, borrowed from Latin *parturitiōnem* (nominative *parturitiō*) travail, from *parturire* be in labor, from *parere* to bear, give birth to; for suffix see -TION.

party *n.* Probably before 1300 *partie* side, end, edge, division; also, an opposing force; about 1300, participant, litigant; borrowed from Old French *partie* a part or party, from feminine past participle of *partir* divide; see PART. The meaning of a gathering for social pleasure is first recorded in 1716. —**v.** Before 1639, to side with; later, to give or attend a party, have a good time (1922); from the noun.

parvenu *n.* 1802, borrowing of French *parvenu*, noun use of past participle of *parvenir* to arrive, from Latin *pervenire* (per-through + *venire* to come). —**adj.** 1828, from the noun.

parvovirus *n.* 1965, formed from Latin *parvus* small + English *vinus*.

paschal *adj.* Probably before 1425 *paschalle*; borrowed from Late Latin *paschālis*; also Middle English *pascal* (1442), borrowing of Middle French *pascal*, from Late Latin *paschālis*, from *pascha* Passover or Easter, from Greek *páscha* Passover, from Aramaic *pashā* pass over, corresponding to Hebrew *pesah*, from *pāsah* to pass over; see PASSOVER; for suffix see -AL¹. Middle English *paschalle* was also influenced in formation by *Pasche* Easter (1122); borrowed from Old French *pasche* and Latin *pascha*.

pass¹ *v.* move past. Probably before 1200 *passen* to die; later, go past (probably before 1300); borrowed from Old French *passer*, from Vulgar Latin **passāre* to step, walk, pass, from Latin *passus* (genitive *passūs*) step, pace. —**n.** About 1300 *pas* a journey; also *pas* passing, departure (probably before 1400); borrowed from Old French *pas*, from *passer* to pass, and directly from Latin *passus* a step; originally, a stretch, related to *passum*, past participle of *pandere* spread out. —**passable** *adj.* (1413, that can be passed; 1489, that can pass; tolerable).

pass² *n.* narrow path. Probably before 1300 *pas* road, path, passageway; also *pas* road, path (about 1378); borrowed from Old French *pas* step, track, from Latin *passus* (genitive *passūs*) step, pace¹.

passage *n.* Probably about 1225 *passage* a road, pathway; borrowed from Old French *passage*, from *passer* to go by, PASS¹, from Latin *passus* step; for suffix see -AGE. The corridor or hall in a building is first recorded in English in 1611.

passel *n.* 1835, variant of PARCEL.

passenger *n.* 1337 *passajour* passenger ferry; also *passager* traveler; borrowed from Old French *passageor*, noun use of *passagier*, *passager*, *adj.*, passing, fleeting, traveling, from *passage* PASSAGE.

In later Middle English the sound represented by *n* was added before *-ger* in *passager* forming *passynger* (probably 1421), and as is also found in *harbinger* and *scavenger* (compare MESSENGER).

The meaning of a traveler in a vehicle or vessel is first recorded in English in 1511.

passerine *adj.* 1776, of the perching birds. 1776, borrowed from Latin *passerinus* of a sparrow, from *passer* sparrow; for suffix see -INE¹. —**n.** 1842, from the adjective.

passion *n.* Probably before 1200 *passiun* suffering or affliction; later *passioun* (about 1280); borrowed from Old French *passiōn*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Late Latin *passiōnem* (nominative *passiō*) suffering, enduring, from *pass-*, stem of Latin *pati* to suffer, endure; for suffix see -ION.

Latin *passiō* was chiefly a word referring to the sufferings of Christ, and was also the earliest meaning in Old French and Middle English. The sense of strong emotion or desire is first recorded before 1250, but that of sexual love is not recorded until 1588 and strong liking, enthusiasm (as in a *passion* for horses) 1638. —**passionate** *adj.* Before 1420 *passionat* angry, furious; also probably before 1425 *passionate* emotional; bor-

rowed from Medieval Latin *passionatus* affected with passion, from Latin *passiō* (genitive *passiōnis*) passion; for suffix see -ATE¹.

passive *adj.* About 1385 *passive* producing upset by disease; later, not active, capable of being acted upon (1398), borrowed from Latin *passivus*; also before 1397 *passif* having a passive verb form in grammar, borrowed from Old French *passif*, from Latin *passivus* capable of feeling or suffering, from *pass*, stem of *pati* to suffer; for suffix see -IVE.

Passover *n.* 1530, formed from the verbal phrase *pass over*, a translation of Hebrew *pesah* (see PASCHAL), in reference to the Biblical account of the Lord "passing over" houses of the Israelites in Egypt when He killed the first-born of the Egyptians.

Modern English *Passover* replaced Middle English *pasche* (1122); borrowed from Old French *pasche*, from Latin *pascha*, a translation of Hebrew *pesah*.

passport *n.* Probably about 1500 *pase-porte* authorization to pass through a port or to leave or enter a country; borrowed from Middle French *passeport* (*passe*, imperative of Old French *passer* to pass + *port* port).

past *adj.* Before 1325 *past* gone by, ended, over; later *passed* (about 1380); from past participle of *passen* go by; see PASS¹. —*n.* Before 1500 *passid*, from the adjective.

paste¹ *n.* doughlike mixture. About 1303, moistened flour, dough; earlier, in a surname *Paste* (1166); borrowing of Old French *paste*, and directly from Late Latin *pasta* pastry cake, paste, from Greek *pastá* barley porridge (probably originally a salted mess of food), from neuter plural of *pastós*, *adj.*, sprinkled, salted, from *pássein* to sprinkle. The meaning of a mixture used as glue is first recorded in English in 1440. —*v.* 1561–62, to stick with paste; earlier *pasten* to make a paste of something (probably before 1425); from the noun.

paste² *v.* hit hard. 1846, probably alteration of BASTE³ beat.

pastel *n.* 1662, chalklike pigments used in crayons; also, a crayon; borrowed from French *pastel* a crayon, from Italian *pastello* a pastel, literally, material reduced to a paste, from Late Latin *pastellus* dye from the leaves of the woad plant, diminutive of *pasta* PASTE¹. The meaning of a pale or light color is first recorded in 1899. —*adj.* 1884, from the noun.

pastern *n.* 1284 *pastron* shackle on the pastern of a grazing horse; later, the pastern of a horse (before 1450); borrowed from Old French *pasturon*, diminutive of *pasture* in the transferred sense of pastern, shackle for a horse in pasture, altered from **pastoire* (compare Italian *pastoia* tether), from Vulgar Latin **pastōria*, noun use of the feminine of Latin *pastōrius* of herdsman, from *pastor* shepherd, PASTOR. The shift in spelling to *pastern* (with metathesis of *r* and the originally following vowel) occurred in the 1500's.

pasteurize *v.* 1881, borrowed from French *pasteuriser*, formed in allusion to the name of Louis Pasteur, who invented the process; for suffix see -IZE. —**pasteurization** *n.* 1885, formed from English *pasteurize* + -ation.

pastiche *n.* 1878, borrowing of French *pastiche*, from Italian *pasticio* medley, pastry cake, from Vulgar Latin **pasticium* composed of paste, from Late Latin *pasta* paste, pastry cake.

pastime *n.* About 1489 *passee tyme* recreation or diversion; replacement of *pastance* (recorded before 1500); formed after Middle French *passee-temps*, *passetemps*, *passetans* (*passee*, imperative of *passer* to pass + *temps* time).

pastor *n.* Before 1376 *pastour* shepherd; earlier, in a surname *Pastur* (1242); also *pastor* spiritual guide, pastor, (1387); borrowed from Old French *pastur*, *pastor* herdsman, shepherd, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *pāstōrem* (nominative *pāstor*) shepherd, from *pāscere* to lead to pasture, graze; for suffix see -OR². —**pastoral** *adj.* Probably before 1425 *pastoralle*; borrowed from Old French *pastoral*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *pāstōrālis*, from *pāstor* shepherd; for suffix see -AL¹.

pastrami *n.* 1940, borrowed from Yiddish *pastrame*, from Rumanian *pastrămă*, possibly from modern Greek *pastōnō* I salt, from Classical Greek *pastós* sprinkled with salt, salted, from *pássein* to sprinkle; or the Rumanian word came from dialectal Turkish *pastırma*, variant of *basdırma* dried meat. The English spelling in -mi was probably influenced by *salami*.

pastry *n.* 1442 *pastre*; 1449 *pastree*, *pastry*- (as in *pastre bowrde*) food made of paste or dough, formed from Middle English *paste*¹ + -re, -ry; probably influenced by Old French *pastaierie* pastry, from *pastoier* pastry cook, from *paste* PASTE¹, and also borrowed from Medieval Latin *pasteria* pastry, from Latin *pasta* PASTE¹.

pasture *n.* Probably before 1300 Anglo-Latin *pastura* land on which animals graze; also, in *Oxpasture* (before 1300); borrowed from Old French *pasture* grass eaten by cattle, and directly from Late Latin *pāstūra* a feeding, grazing, from Latin *pāst-*, past participle stem of *pāscere* to feed, graze; for suffix see -URE. —*v.* Before 1393 *pasturen* to graze, forage; also *pasturing* (about 1390); borrowed from Old French *pasturer*, from *pasture*, *n.*, and directly from Medieval Latin *pasturare*, from Late Latin *pāstūra* pasture.

pasty *n.* Before 1300 *pastei*; earlier *Pastey* (1269); probably before 1400 *pasty*; borrowed from Old French *paste*, earlier *pastée*, from Gallo-Romance **pastāta* meat dish wrapped in pastry.

pat¹ *n.* light tap. About 1400, a blow, stroke; perhaps originally imitative of the sound made by patting, but disappearing from English until the meaning of a light tap with the hand (1804), and earlier, that which is formed by patting, small mass (as of butter), in 1754, perhaps re-formed from the verb. —*v.* 1567, to hit, throw; originally from the noun. The later meaning of tap or strike lightly, is first recorded in 1714.

pat² *adv.* aptly, suitably. 1578, perhaps a special use of PAT¹, in the sense of hitting the mark; and thus "opportunistically;" ready for any occasion. —*adj.* 1638, from the adverb.

patch *n.* Before 1382 *patche* piece of cloth, etc.; 1384 *pacche*

piece of material used to mend a hole or tear; perhaps a variant of *pece*, *pieche* PIECE. —**v.** 1447 *pacchen*, from the noun.

pate *n.* Before 1325; earlier, as a surname *Pate* (1197); perhaps borrowed as a shortened form of Old French *patene* or Medieval Latin *patena*, *patina* pan, dish.

pâté *n.* 1706, borrowing of French *pâté*, from Old French *paste*; earlier *pastée*, from *paste* PASTE¹.

patella *n.* 1671, structure in the form of a shallow pan; later, kneecap (1693); borrowed from Latin *patella* pan, kneecap, diminutive of *patina* pan.

paten *n.* About 1300 *pateyn*; later *paten* (probably about 1350); borrowed from Old French *patene*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Medieval Latin *patena*, *patina*, from Latin, pan or dish, from Greek *patánē* flat dish.

patent *n.* Before 1376 *patent* a papal indulgence, pardon; later, a document granting a right, title, property (about 1387–95); shortened from *lettre patent*; borrowed from Old French *patente*, *adj.*, in *lettre patente* open letter; see adjective. —**adj.** Before 1387 *patent*, in *lettre patent* letter granting a right, title, etc., literally, open letter or document; borrowed from Old French *lettres patentes*; also, in Medieval Latin (*litterae*) *patentes*, both from Latin *patentem* (nominative *patēns*) open, lying open, present participle of *patēre* lie open, be open; for suffix see -ENT. Reference to lie flat and open is said to be because the original documents were written on open sheets, not closed or folded. The sense of open to view, clear, plain (as in *a patent fact* or *a patent lie*) is attested by 1508. —**v.** 1675, to obtain a patent right to land; from the adjective; later, patent for an invention (1822).

paternal *adj.* About 1433 *paternal*; borrowed from Old French *paternal* of a father, and perhaps directly from Medieval Latin *paternalis*, from Latin *paternus* of a father, from *pater* FATHER; for suffix see -AL¹. —**paternalism** *n.* (1881) —**paternalistic** *adj.* Before 1890, formed after such pairs as *material*, *materialistic*.

paternity *n.* Before 1449 *paternity*; earlier *paternyte*, used as a term of address to a bishop; borrowed from Middle French *paternité*, learned borrowing from Late Latin *paternitatem* (nominative *paternitas*) fatherly care, fatherhood, from Latin *paternus* of a father, from *pater* father; for suffix see -ITY.

paternoster *n.* Old English (before 900) *Pater Noster*, borrowing from Latin *pater noster* our father (from the first two words of the Lord's Prayer in Latin).

The later form *paternoster* is first recorded about 1175, and the later meaning of a rosary or set of rosary beads, about 1250.

path *n.* Old English *path* (about 725, with *a* instead of expected *æ*, by analogy with plural *pathas*); also *paeth* in compound *ānpaeth* narrow path, literally, one-by-one path (about 725); cognate with Old Frisian *path* path, Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *pat*, *pad* (modern Dutch *pad*), and Old High German *phad*, *pfad* (modern German *Pfad*), from Proto-Germanic **patha-*.

—**path** a combining form associated with *-pathy*: 1 one suffering from the disorder named, as in *psychopath*. 2 a practitioner of the medical system named, as in *osteopath*. The first meaning is adapted from Greek *-pathēs* feeling, suffering; the second is a back formation from *-pathy*.

pathetic *adj.* 1598 *pathétique* moving, stirring, affecting; borrowed from Middle French *pathétique*, from Late Latin *pathēticus*, from Greek *pathētikós* sensitive, from *pathētós* liable to suffer, from *path-*, stem of *páschein* to suffer; see PATHOS; for suffix see -IC. The form *pathetic* replaced *pathetical* (1573), borrowed from Late Latin *pathēticus* + *al*¹.

The meaning of arousing pity, pitiful is first recorded in 1737.

pathogen *n.* 1880, back formation from *pathogenic*. —**pathogenic** *adj.* 1852, borrowed from French *pathogénique*, from Greek *páthos* disease + French *-génique* -genic, producing.

pathology *n.* 1611, borrowed from French *pathologie*, from New Latin *pathologia* (from Greek *páthos* suffering; see PATHOS + *-logia* -logy). —**pathological** *adj.* (1688)

pathos *n.* 1668, borrowed from Greek *páthos* suffering, feeling, emotion, related to *páschein* to suffer, and *pénthos* grief or sorrow.

—**pathy** a combining form meaning: 1 feeling, suffering, emotion, as in *sympathy*. 2 disorder, disease, as in *neuropathy*. 3 a system of treatment of disease, as in *homeopathy*. Borrowed from Greek *-pátheia* act or quality of suffering, feeling, from *pathēin* feel, suffer, from *páthos* suffering, feeling; see PATHOS.

patient *adj.* About 1350 *patient* enduring calmly, bearing (pain, etc.); later, *patient* (before 1400); probably influenced in development by earlier *patience*, but also borrowed from Old French *patient*, *adj.*, and later directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *patientem* (nominative *patiēns*), present participle of *pati* to suffer or endure; for suffix see -ENT. —**n.** About 1385 *patient* suffering or sick person under medical treatment; later *patient* (about 1400); borrowed from Old French *patient*, *n.* —**patience** *n.* Probably before 1200 *patience* calm endurance; also later *pacience* (before 1250); borrowed from Old French *patience*, *pacience*, and directly from Latin *patientia*, from *patiēns*, present participle; for suffix see -ENCE.

patina *n.* 1748, borrowing of Italian *patina*, perhaps from Latin *patina* dish, pan; so called from the incrustation on ancient dishes. The sense of refinement and cultural sophistication, is first recorded in 1933.

patio *n.* 1828, borrowing of Spanish *patio* inner court open to the sky, probably from Old Provençal *patu*, *pati* untilled land, communal pasture, from Latin *pactum* agreement, PACT. The terrace next to a building is first recorded in 1941.

patois *n.* 1643, borrowing of French *patois* a native or local speech, from Old French *patoier* handle clumsily, from *pate* paw, from Vulgar Latin **patta*, perhaps of imitative origin.

patri- a combining form borrowed from Latin *patri-*, found in

such forms as *patrimōnium* patrimony, from *pater* (genitive *patris*) father used in terms describing kinships with the father or the paternal line, as in *patrilineal* (1904). Contrasted with *MATRI-*.

patrial *adj.* 1629, borrowed from French *patrial* (now obsolete), from Latin *patria* fatherland, from *pater* FATHER; for suffix see -AL¹. The meaning of having the status of a native British citizen is first recorded in 1971. —**n.** 1971, person having the status of a native British citizen, probably from the adjective.

patriarch *n.* Probably before 1200 *patriarche* one of the Old Testament fathers; later *patriark* high-ranking bishop (about 1300); borrowed from Old French *patriarche*, and directly from Late Latin *patriarcha*, from Greek *patriarchēs* (*patriā* family, clan, from *patēr* father + *archein* to rule). —**patriarchal** *adj.* About 1450 *patriarcal* of an ecclesiastical patriarch; formed from Middle English *patriarche* + -al¹, and borrowed from Late Latin *patriarchālis*, from *patriarcha* patriarch; for suffix see -AL¹.

patrician *n.* Probably before 1425 *patricion*; borrowed through Middle French *patricien*, from Latin *patricius* noble, of the senators, from *patrēs* Roman senators, fathers, plural of *pater* father; for suffix see -AN. The Latin *patrēs* was a shortening of *patrēs cōscriptī*, a usual title of address of the senate of ancient Rome.

The sense of any person of noble birth or high social rank is first recorded in English in 1631. —**adj.** 1615, noble, aristocratic; from the noun.

patricide¹ *n.* Person who kills his father. 1593, borrowed probably through Middle French *patricide*, from Medieval Latin *patricida*, from Latin *pater* father + -*cida* -cide¹, killer. Medieval Latin *patricida* replaced the classical Latin *parricida* parricide¹.

patricide² *n.* Act of killing one's own father. 1625, borrowed from Late Latin *patricidium*, from Latin *pater* FATHER + -*cidium* -cide², a killing. Late Latin *patricidium* replaced the classical Latin *parricidium* parricide².

patrimony *n.* 1340 *patremoyne* the property of the Church, spiritual legacy of Christ; later *patrimoyne* inherited property (probably about 1384), and *patrimony* (probably before 1425); borrowed from Old French *patrimoine*, and later directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *patrimōnium* a paternal estate or inheritance (*pater*, genitive *patris* father + -*mōnium* suffix signifying action, state, condition). —**patrimonial** *adj.* 1530, borrowed from Middle French *patrimonial*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Late Latin *patrimōniālis*, from Latin *patrimōnium* patrimony; for suffix see -AL¹.

patriot *n.* 1596, fellow countryman; also 1605, person who loyally supports his country; borrowed from French *patriote*, and directly from Late Latin *patriōta*, from Greek *patriōtēs* fellow countryman, from *patriā* fatherland, from *patēr* (genitive *patrōs*) father, with the ending -*ōtēs* expressing a state or condition as of one's origin. —**patriotic** *adj.* 1653, of one's country; borrowed from French *patriotique*; later, loyally supporting one's country (1757), shortened form of *patriotical* (1691), and

borrowed from Late Latin *patriōticus*, from Greek *patriōtikós* pertaining to descent or race, or to a fellow countryman, from *patriōtēs* fellow countryman; for suffix see -IC. —**patriotism** *n.* 1726, formed from English *patriot* + -ism.

patrol *n.* 1664, act of guarding against intrusion or disorder; borrowed from French *patrouille* a night watch, from *patrouiller* go the rounds to watch or guard, originally, paddle in mud, paw about in water, from Old French *patouiller*, variant of *patouiller*, *patoiller* paddle or dabble in water, probably from *pate* paw or foot, from Vulgar Latin **patta*, perhaps imitative of the sound made by a paw. —**v.** 1691, possibly, in part, from the noun in English, and, in part, borrowed from French *patrouiller*.

patron *n.* About 1300 *patron*, *patroun* benefactor, bestower of a benefice; borrowed from Old French *patron*, and directly from Medieval Latin *patronus* patron saint, bestower of a benefice, lord or master, model or *PATTERN*, from Latin *patrōnus* defender, protector, advocate, from *pater* (genitive *patris*) father.

The meaning of one who frequents a store, regular customer, is first recorded in 1605. —**patronage** *n.* 1395, right to bestow a benefice; borrowed from Old French *patronage*, and directly from Medieval Latin *patronagium* advowson (right to select a person to a benefice), from *patronus*; for suffix see -AGE. The meaning of power to give jobs or favors appears in 1769, and that of regular business given by customers, in 1804. —**patronize** *v.* 1589, act as a patron toward; borrowed from Middle French *patroniser*, from Medieval Latin *patronizare*, from Latin *patrōnus* patron; for suffix see -IZE. The meaning of treat in a condescending way is first recorded in 1797, and that of give regular business to, in 1801.

patronymic *n.* 1612, borrowed from Late Latin *patrōnymicus*, from neuter of *patrōnymicus* derived from a father's name, from Greek *patrōnymikós* pertaining to one's father's name, from *patrōnymos* named from the father (*patēr*, genitive *patrōs* father + *ōnyma* name).

patroon *n.* 1744, borrowing of Dutch *patroon*, from French *patron* master or patron, from Old French; see *PATRON*; for ending see -OON.

patsy *n.* 1903, dupe, of uncertain origin (sometimes suggested as a possible alteration of Italian *pazzo* madman, or dialectal southern Italian *paccio* fool).

patter¹ *v.* make quick taps. 1611, frequentative form of *PAT*¹, *v.*; for suffix see -ER⁴. —**n.** 1844, from the verb.

patter² *v.* talk rapidly. Probably about 1395 *patren* to patter, mumble prayers rapidly; also *pateren* (about 1400), developed from earlier *pater* (probably about 1300), shortened form of *PATERNOSTER*, in reference to the rapid way in which the Lord's Prayer was repeated in church services. —**n.** 1758, jargon or lingo; later, rapid talk (1858); from the verb.

pattern *n.* 1324 *patron* outline, plan, model or pattern; later, model of behavior or appearance (before 1420); borrowed from Old French *patron*, and directly from Medieval Latin

patronus **PATRON**. The extended meaning of decorative or artistic design, is first recorded in English in 1582.

The transfer of "patron" to "model, pattern" developed from a patron as a model to be imitated; originally used to denote a human model, and pattern and *patron* were not differentiated in form and sense until the 1700's. —**v.** 1581, to design, plan; later, make according to a pattern (1599); from the noun.

patty **n.** 1694, in *patti-pan* something baked in a small pan, small pasty or pâté; borrowed from French *pâté* **PATE**.

paucity **n.** 1392 *pauceté* fewness or thinness; later *paucite* (probably before 1425); borrowed from Old French *paucité*, and directly from Latin *paucitatem* (nominative *paucitās*), from *paucus* little, few; for suffix see -ITY.

paunch **n.** 1373 *pawnce* belly or abdomen; earlier in a surname *Panzeuot* (1186); also *paunche* (about 1378); borrowed from Old French *pance*, *panche*, from Latin *panticem* (nominative *pantex*) belly, bowels, possibly related to *pānus* swelling.

pauper **n.** 1516, impoverished person, beggar; borrowing of Latin *pauper* poor, from pre-Latin **pavo-pars* getting little (*pau-*, root of *paucus* little; and *parere* get, produce). Use in English originated in *in fōrmā pauperis* in the form of a pauper (on account of poverty allowed to sue in court without legal fees).

pause **n.** About 1426, a short stop or rest; borrowed from Middle French *pause*, and directly as a learned borrowing from *pausa* a halt, stop, cessation, from Greek *paŭsis*, from *paŭein* to stop. —**v.** 1440 *pauson* make a pause, stop, hold back; also *pausen* (about 1450); adopted from the noun, and in part borrowed from Middle French *pauser*, from Late Latin *pausare* to stop, cease, from Latin *pausa* a stop, pause.

pave **v.** About 1325 *paven* cover (a street, etc.) with stones, tiles, or other material; borrowed from Old French *paver*, from Latin *pavire* to beat, tread down; also possibly in some instances a back formation from *pavement*. The meaning of make smooth, prepare (as in *pave the way*) appeared before 1585. —**pavement** **n.** About 1250, paved surface of a street, etc.; borrowed from Old French *pavement*, *paviment*, and directly from Latin *pavimentum* beaten floor, from *pavire* to beat; for suffix see -MENT.

pavilion **n.** Probably before 1200 *pavilun* large, elaborate tent; later *paviloun* (probably before 1300); borrowed from Old French *paveillon*, *pavilloun*, *pavilun*, from Latin *pāpiliōnem* (nominative *pāpiliō*) butterfly, tent (so called from the resemblance of a tent to a butterfly with outstretched wings).

paw **n.** Probably before 1300 *powe* foot of an animal having claws; later *pawe* (before 1350); borrowed from Old French *powe*, *poe*, from Gallo-Romance **pawta*, usually referred to a pre-Celtic form that was also the source of Middle Low German *pōte* paw (modern German *Pfote*), and Middle Dutch *pote* (modern Dutch *poof*). —**v.** 1604, use the hands roughly, from the noun. The verb also is found in Middle English *pawen* touch or strike with the paw (probably 1404).

pawl **n.** 1626, bar to prevent the capstan of a ship from turning back; probably borrowed from Dutch *pal* pawl, or French *pal* stake, of uncertain origin (usually compared with Latin *pālus* stake).

pawn¹ **n.** something left as security. 1496 *paun*, borrowed from Middle French *pan*, *pant* pledge or security, from a Frankish word cognate with Old Frisian *pand* pledge or security, Old Saxon and Middle Dutch *pant*, and Old High German *pfant* (modern German *Pfand*), of unknown origin. —**v.** 1567, from the noun.

pawn² **n.** chess piece of lowest value. About 1369 *poun*; later *paun* (about 1400), and *pawne* (1474); borrowed through Anglo-French *poun*, Old French *pēon*, *pāon*, *pon*, from Medieval Latin *pedonem* foot soldier, from Late Latin *pedōnem* flat-footed person or one going on foot, from Latin *pēs* (genitive *pedis*) **FOOT**.

pay **v.** Probably before 1200 *païen* to please, satisfy, put money down; later, recompense, requite, appease (probably before 1300); borrowed from Old French *païer*, from Latin *pācare* to appease, pacify or satisfy, especially a creditor, from *pāx* (genitive *pācis*) **PEACE**.

The meaning in Latin of pacify or satisfy developed through Medieval Latin into that of pay a creditor, and so to pay, generally but in French and English the sense of satisfy has become obsolete. —**n.** About 1300 *pay* satisfaction, liking, reward; later, compensation, wages (probably about 1380); borrowed from Old French *paie*, from *païer* to pay. —**payday** **n.** (1529) —**payment** **n.** Probably about 1375 *payement* a paying or the amount paid; borrowed from Old French *païement* (*païer* to pay + -ment -ment).

pea **n.** 1380 *pease*; earlier *pese* pea, *pesen*, pl. (about 1200); developed from Old English *pise* pea, *pisan*, pl. (West Saxon, about 1000); earlier *piose* pea, *piosan* and *pisan*, pl. (before 800, Mercian dialect; also later Mercian **peose*, **peosan*, pl.); borrowed from Late Latin *pisa*, variant of Latin *pisum* pea, from Greek *ptōn*, *ptōs*. *Pea* was a new singular form evolved from the earlier collective or singular *pease* the pea plant or a single pea, derived from the mistaken notion that *pease*, *peases*, or *peas* (collective nouns similar to *wheat* or *corn*) were plurals formed by adding the suffix -es or -s. The plural form *peaes* is recorded in 1611. —**peanut** **n.** 1807, formed from *pea* + *nut*; earlier called *ground nut* or *ground pea* (1769). —**peanut butter** (1903)

peace **n.** Probably before 1140 *pais*; later *pes* (probably about 1200), and *peace* (1358); borrowed from Old French *pais*, *peis*, *pes*, from Latin *pācem* (nominative *pāx*) treaty of peace, tranquility, absence of war; related to *pāciscā* to covenant or agree; see **PACT**. Though the spelling *peace* is recorded in the mid-1300's, it was not the established form until the 1500's reflecting the shift in vowel pronunciation from so-called long *a* to long *e*.

The meaning of silence or quiet is first recorded in about 1250. —**peaceable** **adj.** Before 1338 *pesyble*, formed from *pes* *peace* + -ible; also borrowed from Old French *paisible*, *peisable*. In the 1500's the word was altered in spelling (and pronunciation) to conform to *peace* and to words ending in -able.

—**peaceful** adj. Before 1325 *paisful*; formed from *pais* peace + *-ful*. —**peacemaker** n. (before 1415) —**peace pipe** (1760)

peach n. Before 1400 *peche* peach, peach tree; earlier, as a surname *Pecche* (1184–85); borrowed from Old French *peche*, *pesche*, *peske*, and directly from Medieval Latin *pesca*, from Late Latin *persica*, variant of *persica* peach, peach tree; from Latin *Persicum mālum* Persian apple, from Greek *Persikōn mālōn*, from *Persis* Persia.

peacock n. Probably about 1200 *pococ* the male of a peafowl pheasant; probably before 1400 *pacok*; formed from Middle English *pō* peacock + *coc* COCK¹ male bird; developed from Old English *pāwa* peafowl. Also found in *pecok* (probably before 1300), formed after Old English *pēa* peafowl (before 1000) + *cok*. Old English *pēa*, *pāwa* are borrowed from Latin *pāvō* peafowl, and are related to Old Saxon *pāo* peafowl, Middle Low German *pāwe*, Middle Dutch *paeu*, *pau*, Old High German *pāwō* (modern German *Pfau*), and Old Icelandic *pāi*.

pea jacket 1721 *Pee-Jacket*, borrowed by loan translation from North Frisian *pijekkāt*, from Dutch *pijekkē* (*pij* coarse woolen cloth + *jekker* jacket). The word *pee* was known in English from the late 1400's as a coat of coarse, thick wool, but is now found only as remnant in the altered spelling *pea* of *pea jacket*.

peak n. 1530, pointed or projecting part, variant of PIKE² sharp point. The meaning of a pointed top of a mountain is first recorded in 1634 paralleling the Middle English use of PIKE² in the sense of a mountain (probably 1400). The figurative sense of highest point or summit is first recorded in 1784. —v. 1577, rise to a peak; from the noun. The sense of reach the highest point is not recorded until 1958.

peaked adj. 1835–40, from past participle of earlier *peak* look sickly or thin (1605, *peak* and *pine*); of uncertain origin.

peal n. Probably about 1350 *pel*, *pele* summons to church by bell, generally considered a shortened form of *apel*, *appel* AP-PEAL. The meaning of loud ringing of bells is first recorded in 1511. —v. 1632, from the noun.

pear n. Probably before 1300 *pere*; later *peare* (before 1470); developed from Old English *pere*, *peru* (about 1000); borrowed from Vulgar Latin **pira*, feminine singular use of Latin *pira*, plural of *pirum* pear. Old English *pere* is cognate with Middle Dutch *pere* pear and Old High German *pira*, *bira*, also borrowed from Vulgar Latin **pira*.

pearl n. Before 1349 *perle*; earlier as a surname *Perle* (about 1258); before 1400 *pearl*; borrowed from Old French *perle*, and Medieval Latin *perla*; both from Vulgar Latin **pernula*, diminutive from Latin *perna* ham, ham-shaped mollusk (sometimes yielding pearls).

peasant n. About 1410 *passant* countryman, rustic; later *pais-saunt* (probably about 1451); borrowed through Anglo-French *paisant*, Old French *paisant*, alteration with *-ant* of earlier *paisenc*, formed from *pais*, *pays* country or region, with the Frankish suffix *-enc*, *-inc* -ing. Old French *pais* is from Vulgar Latin **pāgēnsis* territory of the district, from Late Latin *pāgēnsis*

inhabitant of the district, from Latin *pāgus* country or rural district.

peat n. 1333 *pete* (found in Anglo-Latin in 1278 as *peta*); earlier in a place name *Petepottes* (about 1200); probably borrowed from Celtic **pett-* (compare Cornish *peyth*, Welsh *peth* quantity, part, thing, Old Irish *pet* and Breton *pez* PIECE).

peavey n. About 1870, said to be named after a John Peavey, blacksmith at Bolivar, Allegheny County, New York, who was supposed to have invented the tool.

pebble n. About 1300 *puble* small smooth stone; later *pobbel*, *pibbil* (before 1382); developed from Old English (about 1000) *papol-*, *popel-*, found in the compound *papolstān*, *popelstān* pebblestone, found also in English place names *Poppleford*, *Pap-plewick*, etc. —v. 1605, to pelt with pebbles; later, to pave with pebbles (1835); from the noun.

pecan n. 1712 *paccan* the pecan tree or a related hickory; borrowed from Algonquian (compare Cree *pakan* hard-shelled nut).

peccadillo n. 1591, borrowed from Spanish *pecadillo*, diminutive of *pecado* a sin, from Latin *peccātum* a sin, from neuter past participle of *peccāre* to make a mistake, sin.

peccary n. 1613 *pockiero*, borrowed from Carib (Guiana or Venezuela) *pakira*, *paquira*. The spelling *peccary* is first recorded in 1697.

peck¹ v. pick with the beak. Probably before 1300 *pechen* (apparently a misspelling); later *pekken* (about 1330; in the phrase *pekken mod* to become angry); possible variant of *picken* to PICK¹, v.; perhaps, in part, borrowed from Middle Low German *pekken* to peck with the beak. —n. 1591, a mark made by pecking; from the verb.

peck² n. measure. About 1280 *pek*, later *peck* a dry measure (generally ¼ bushel), container holding a peck (1296); of unknown origin. Medieval Latin *pecca*, *peccum*, and Old French *pek*, were borrowings from English.

pectin n. 1838, borrowed from French *pectine*, from (*acide*) *pectique* pectic (acid), a constituent of fruit jellies. *Pectique* is the French form of Greek *pēktikós* curdling or congealing, from *pēktós* curdled or congealed, from *pēgnýnai* to make stiff or solid.

pectoral adj. 1576, good for diseases of the chest; 1578, of or on the chest; borrowed from Middle French *pectoral*, learned borrowing from Latin *pectoralis* pertaining to the breast, from *pectus* (genitive *pectoris*) breast, chest; for suffix see -AL¹; also the adjective in English is in part from the noun. —n. 1422 *pectorall* ornament worn on the breast; borrowing of Middle French *pectoral*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *pectorale* breastplate, noun use of neuter of *pectoralis*, adj.

peculiar adj. About 1449, belonging exclusively to a person, special; borrowed from Latin *peculiāris* of one's own (property), from *pecūlium* money or property managed as one's own, from a lost adjective **pecūlis* as one's own, from *pecū* cattle, flock

(representing what is one's own); related to *pecus* cattle; for suffix see -AR.

The meaning of unusual is first recorded in 1608. —**peculiarity** *n.* 1610, exclusive possession; formed from English *peculiar* + *-ity*. The meaning of a special characteristic, is first recorded in 1646, and that of an oddity, in 1777.

pecuniary *adj.* 1502, borrowed perhaps through influence of Middle French *pecuniaire* from Latin *pecūniarius* pertaining to money, from *pecūnia* money, property, wealth, from *pecū* cattle, flock (representing property), related to *pecus* cattle; for suffix see -ARY.

pedagogue *n.* Before 1387 *pedagogue* teacher of children; borrowed from Old French *pedagogue*, *pedagogien*, from Latin *paedagōgus* a slave who escorted children to school and generally supervised them; later, a teacher, from Greek *paidagōgós* (*país*, genitive *paidós* child + *agōgós* leader, from *agein* to lead).

—**pedagogical** *adj.* 1619, formed from French *pédagogique* + English *-al*, or from English *pedagogue* + *-ical*, modeled on Greek *paidagōgikós* pedagogic, from *paidagōgós* teacher.

—**pedagogy** *n.* 1583, borrowed from Middle French *pédagogie*, from Greek *paidagōglā* education, from *paidagōgós* teacher; for suffix see -Y³.

pedal *n.* 1611, lever (on an organ) worked by the foot; borrowed from French *pédale*, from Italian *pedale* treadle or pedal, from Late Latin *pedāle* (thing) of the foot, from neuter of Latin *pedālis* of the foot, from *pēs* (genitive *pedis*) foot. —**v.** 1866, to work a pedal; from the noun.

pedant *n.* 1588, a teacher or tutor; borrowed from Middle French *pédant*, from Italian, or borrowed directly from Italian *pedante* teacher, schoolmaster, pedant. The meaning of a person who displays minor points of learning, is first recorded in 1596. The origin of Italian *pedante* is uncertain. —**pedantic** *adj.* About 1600, formed from English *pedant* + *-ic*. —**pedantry** *n.* 1612, formed from English *pedant* + *-ry*.

peddle *v.* 1532, implied in *peddling*; back formation from *peddler*. —**peddler** *n.* 1378 *pedeler* person who goes about with small goods for sale, also *pedlere*, and as a surname *Pedelare* (1307); probably alteration of earlier *peoddere*, *peddere* (probably before 1200); earlier as a surname *Peddere* (1166); of uncertain origin.

pederasty *n.* 1609 *paederastie* sexual intercourse between a man and a boy; borrowed from French *pédérastie*, or directly from Greek *paiderastīā*, from *paiderastēs* pederast (*país*, genitive *paidós* child + *erastēs* lover, from *erasthai* to love). —**pederast** *n.* 1730–36; borrowed from French *pédéraste*, from Greek *paiderastēs*.

pedestal *n.* 1563, borrowed from Middle French *pedestal*, from Italian *pedistallo* base of a pillar (*piè* foot + *di* of + *stallo* stall, place). The English spelling was influenced by Latin *pedem* foot.

pedestrian *adj.* 1716, (of writing) prosaic, dull; formed from Latin *pedester* (genitive *pedestris*) plain, prosaic + English suffix *-ian*. The meaning of on foot, going on foot, is first recorded in 1791, reflected in Latin *pedester* on foot (formed by analogy

to *equester* on horseback), from *pedes* one that goes on foot, from *pēs* (genitive *pedis*) foot. —**n.** 1793, walker; from the adjective.

pediatric *adj.* 1880 *paediatric*; formed in English from Greek *paid-*, stem of *pais* child + *iātrikós* medicinal, medical, from *iātrós* physician, from *iāsthai* to heal; for suffix see -IC.

—**pediatrician** *n.* 1903, formed from English *pediatric* + *-ian*.

—**pediatrics** *n.* 1884, formed from English *pediatric* + *-s*, as in later *geriatrics*.

pedicel *n.* 1821, borrowed (perhaps through French *pédicelle*) from New Latin *pedicellus*, diminutive of Latin *pediculus* foot-stalk, itself diminutive of *pēs* (genitive *pedis*) foot.

pedigree *n.* 1410 *pedicru* genealogical chart or table, family tree; later *pe-de-grew* lineage, descent (before 1420); also *pedegree* (1425); probably borrowed from Anglo-French *pe de gru*, variant of Old French *pie de grue* foot of a crane; so called from the clawlike, three-branched mark used in genealogies to show succession (*pie* foot, from Latin *pedem*, nominative *pēs* foot; *de* of; *grue* crane, from Latin *gruem*, nominative *grūs* crane).

pediment *n.* 1664, alteration of earlier *periment*, *peremint* (1592); of uncertain origin (perhaps workmen's alteration of *pyramid*, in reference to its similarity to a triangular gable).

pedology *n.* 1924, probably borrowed from Russian *pedolōgiya*, from Greek *pédon* ground, earth + *-logiā* -logy, study of.

pedometer *n.* 1723, borrowed from French *pédomètre*, formed from Latin *ped-* (stem of *pēs* foot) + French *-o-* + *-mètre* -meter.

peduncle *n.* 1753, stalk, stem; borrowed from New Latin *pedunculus*, diminutive of Latin *pēs* (genitive *pedis*) foot; for suffix see -CLE.

peek *v.* About 1385 *piken* look quickly and slyly, of uncertain origin. The shift in pronunciation, reflected in the forms *peke* and *peeke*, begins in the 1500's.

It is not clear what the relationship is between the words *keek*, *v.* and *peek*, *v.* and their connection with *peep*, *v.* It is suggested that *peek* (*piken* about 1385) was formed by dissimilation of *p* and *k* from *keek* (*kiken* about 1390) and that *keek* or *peek* (both earlier spelled with *i* for *e* or *ee*) may be loan words from Middle Dutch *kiesen*, *kijken*, variants of *kiken*.

English *peep*, *v.* (about 1460) is parallel in its development complete with the form *peep-bo* (1837), also found in *peek-bo* (1599) and *keek-bo* (1791). —**n.** 1844, from the verb.

peel *v.* Probably before 1200 *pilien*, *pilewin* to remove the rind, shell, etc.; later *pilen* (probably about 1225), and *pelen* (about 1303); probably developed from Old English *pilian* to peel (and reinforced by Old French *pillier*); both borrowed from Latin *pilāre* to strip of hair, from *pilus* hair. The Middle English form *pelen* was probably further reinforced by Old French *peler* to strip of hair, to skin, also from Latin *pilāre*, with influence of Old French *pel* skin, from Latin *pellis* skin, hide. —**n.** 1583,

rind, outer covering; developed from earlier *pill* rind, husk, skin (about 1450), *pile* (about 1300); from *pilen*, *v*.

peen *n*. 1683 *pen*, probably borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Norwegian *penn* *peen*, Old Swedish *pæna* beat iron thin with the hammer).

peep¹ *v*. glance. Before 1460 *pepen*, perhaps alteration by assimilation of *p* for *k* in *piken* to *PEEK*, with the accompanying development in the pronunciation of the vowel. —**n**. 1530, the first appearance (of day); from the verb. The meaning of a furtive glance is first recorded in 1730.

peep² *v*. make a short, sharp sound. Probably 1420 *pepen*; alteration of earlier *pipen* to *peep* (about 1250). —**n**. Probably before 1437 *pepe*; from *pepen* to *peep*.

peer¹ *n*. person who is an equal. About 1250 *pere* an equal; probably before 1300 *per*; also, a nobleman (before 1338); borrowed through Anglo-French *peir*, and directly from Old French *per*, *pier*, from Latin *pār* equal. —**peerage** *n*. 1454 *perage*; formed from *per* *peer* + *-age*; probably on the model of Old French *parage*. —**peerless** *adj*. Probably about 1300 *perles* without equal, matchless; formed from *per* an equal + *-less*.

peer² *v*. look closely. 1591, probably reborrowed from East Frisian *pīren* to look, of uncertain origin, but influenced, especially in form, by *peren* (1375, later *peeren*, before 1425), shortened form of *aperen* to *APPEAR*. Also found in Middle English *pīren* to peer (before 1393; later *peren*, 1449, and continuing through about 1475); originally borrowed from East Frisian *pīren*.

peeve *v*. 1908, back formation from *PEEVISH*. —**n**. 1919 *pet peeve*, from the verb. —**peevish** *adj*. Probably before 1387 *peyvesshe* perverse, capricious; later *pevish* (probably before 1425); of uncertain origin (possibly modeled on Latin *perversus* reversed, perverse, past participle of *pervertere* to turn about, *PERVERT*). The meaning of cross, fretful, is first recorded about 1530.

peewee¹ *n*. See *PEWEE*.

peewee² *adj*. small, tiny. 1877, dialectal English, possibly a varied reduplication of *WEE*. —**n**. 1848.

peg *n*. 1440 *pegge*, borrowed from Middle Dutch *pegge* *peg*, of uncertain origin. —**v**. 1543, insert a peg into; later, fasten with or as if with pegs (1598); from the noun.

peignoir *n*. 1835, borrowing of French *peignoir*, from Middle French *peignouer* garment worn over the shoulders while combing the hair, from *peigner* to comb, from Latin *pectināre*, from *pecten* (genitive *pectinis*) a comb, related to *pectere* to comb.

pejorative *adj*. Before 1888, probably borrowed from French *péjoratif* (feminine *péjorative*), as if from Late Latin **pejōrātīvus*, from Late Latin *pejōrātus*, past participle of *pejōrāre* make worse, from Latin *pejor* worse; for suffix see *-ATIVE*. It is also possible that *pejorative* was formed in English from *pejorate* to worsen (1653) + *-ive*. —**n**. 1882, borrowed from French *péjoratif*, *n*.

pekoe *n*. 1712, borrowed from Chinese (Amoy dialect) *pe-kho*, literally, white down; so called because the leaves are picked young with the “down” still on them.

pelf *n*. Probably about 1375, stolen goods, property, riches; borrowed through Anglo-French *pelf*, Old French *pelfre* booty, spoils, of unknown origin; related to *PILFER*. The meaning of money or riches, thought of as bad, is first recorded in 1500–20.

pelican *n*. Probably before 1200 *pellican*; developed from Old English (before 1050) *pellicane*; borrowed from Late Latin *pelicānus*, from Greek *pelekán*, related to *pelekys* ax; so called from the shape of the bird's bill. By 1425 the Middle English spelling was *pelican*, influenced by Old French *pelican*, and Late Latin *pelicānus*.

pellagra *n*. 1811, borrowed from Italian *pellagra* (*pelle* skin, from Latin *pellis* skin, hide + Italian *-agra* painful seizure, from Latin *-agra*, ultimately from Greek *ágrā* hunting, catch, related to *agrein* to take, seize).

pellet *n*. 1372–74 *pelotte* stone or metal ball used as a missile, small ball; earlier as a surname *Pilet* (1235); also *pelet* (about 1380); borrowed from Old French *pelote*, from Vulgar Latin **pilotta*, diminutive of Latin *pila* ball.

pell-mell *adv*. 1579–80, borrowed from Middle French *pele-mele*, *pelle-melle*, from Old French *pesle mesle*, alteration of *mesle-mesle*, a reduplication of *mesle*, imperative of *mesler*, *medler* to mix, *MEDDLE*.

A similar adverb phrase *nelly melly* appears in Middle English (about 1450, and is recorded as late as 1601); borrowed from Middle French *pelle melle*. —**adj**. 1585, from the adverb.

pellucid *adj*. 1619, borrowed from Latin *pellucidus*, *perlucidus* transparent, from *pellucēre*, *perlucēre* shine through (*per*-through + *lucēre* to shine).

pelt¹ *v*. throw things at. Probably about 1225 *pelten* to strike, thrust at; variant of earlier *piltēn* to thrust, strike (probably before 1200), perhaps developed from Old English **pyltan*, from Medieval Latin **pultiare*, Latin *pultāre* to beat, strike, knock.

pelt² *n*. skin of an animal. 1303 *pelt*, probably contraction of earlier *pelet* (1298); borrowed from Old French *pelete* fine skin, membrane, diminutive of *pel* skin, from Latin *pellis* skin, hide.

pelvis *n*. 1615, borrowing of Latin *pēlvīs*, Old Latin *pēlvīs* basin.

pemmican *n*. 1791 *pinmecon*; later *pemmican* (1824); borrowed from Algonquian (Cree) *pimikan*, from *pimikew* he makes grease, from *pimi* grease.

pen¹ *n*. instrument for writing. Probably about 1280 *penne* writing instrument; later *pen* quill pen, feather (1373); borrowed from Old French *penne*, *pene*, *paine*, and directly from Latin *penna* feather. —**v**. 1490 *pennen*, from *penne* *pen*, *n*. —**penknife** (before 1425), so called because small pocketknives were originally used to sharpen quill pens.

pen² *n.* enclosure for animals. Probably about 1380 *penne*, *pen*; earlier in the place name *Yppelpen* (1172); developed from Old English (957) *pen* enclosure or pen, of uncertain origin. —**v.** Probably before 1200 *pennen* confine closely, shut in; probably developed from Old English **pennian* (attested only in the participle *onpennad* unpenned, opened) from *pen* enclosure.

pen³ *n.* penitentiary. 1884, short for *penitentiary*; form influenced by *pen*².

penal *adj.* 1439, borrowed from Middle French *peinal*, and directly from Medieval Latin *penalis*, from Latin *poenālis* pertaining to punishment, from *poena* punishment; for suffix see -AL¹. —**penalize** *v.* 1868, formed from English *penal* + -ize. —**penalty** *n.* Probably 1462 *penalté* hardship or difficulty; borrowed from Middle French *penalté*, and directly from Medieval Latin *poenalitatem* (nominative *poenalitas*), from Latin *poenālis* PENAL; for suffix see -TY².

penance *n.* About 1280 *penaunce* penance (as a sacrament of the church), penitence; also *penance* (before 1300); borrowed through Anglo-French *penaunce*, *penance*, and directly from the corresponding Old French *penance*, *penëance*, *penanche*, from Latin *paenitentia* PENITENCE; for suffix see -ANCE.

penchant *n.* 1672, borrowing of French *penchant*, from present participle of Old French *pencher* to incline, from Vulgar Latin **pendicare*, from Latin *pendere* to hang; for suffix see -ANT.

pencil *n.* About 1325 *pinsel* artist's paintbrush; *pencil* (about 1385); borrowed from Old French *pincel*, *peincel* paintbrush, alteration of Vulgar Latin **pēnicellus*, variant of Latin *pēnicillus* paintbrush, pencil, literally, little tail, diminutive of *pēniculus* brush, itself a diminutive of *pēnis* tail.

The meaning of a writing implement made of graphite is first recorded in 1612, though *pencil case* for carrying graphite pencils is found in 1552. —**v.** About 1532, to draw or sketch with a brush; from the noun. The meaning of write or jot down with a lead pencil is first recorded in 1760–72.

pendant *n.* 1323 *pendaunt*; hanging ornament. earlier as a surname *Pendant* (1274); borrowed from Anglo-French *pendaunt*, *pendant* hanging, Old French *pendant*, noun use of present participle of *pendre* to hang; for suffix see -ANT. Old French *pendre* developed from Vulgar Latin **pendere*, from Latin *pendere* to hang.

pendent *adj.* 1392 *pendaunt* hanging, overhanging; later *pendant* (about 1412); borrowed from Anglo-French *pendaunt*, Old French *pendant* hanging, present participle of *pendre* to hang; see PENDANT; for suffix see -ENT. The spelling *pendent* began to appear in English about 1600, influenced by Latin *pendentem* (nominative *pendēns*), present participle of *pendere* to hang.

pending *prep.* 1642, during, throughout the continuance of, in the process of; formed from French *pend-* in *pendant* hanging + English -ing. French *pendant* is the present participle of *pendre* to hang or suspend, and both English *pending* and this particular use of French *pendant* are patterned on Latin *pendente* hanging, not decided (as in *pendente lite* while the suit is

pending), ablative case of *pendentem* (nominative *pendēns*), present participle of *pendere* to hang.

The meaning of while awaiting (as in *pending completion of the new building*) is first recorded in 1838.

Use of the present participle before nouns (as in *pending the suit*) caused it to be thought of as a preposition. —**adj.** 1797, remaining undecided, awaiting settlement; formed in the process of the preposition, but functioning as an adjective.

pendulous *adj.* About 1605, overhanging; later, hanging loosely (1656); borrowed from Latin *pendulus* hanging down, from *pendere* to hang; for suffix see -OUS.

pendulum *n.* 1660, New Latin *pendulum*, from neuter of Latin *pendulus* hanging down, from *pendere* to hang. The New Latin word is perhaps a Latinization of Italian *pendolo* from *pendolo*, *adj.*, hanging down, from Latin *pendulus*.

penetrate *v.* 1530, borrowed from Latin *penetrātus*, past participle of *penetrāre* to put or get into, enter into; related to *penitus* (earlier **penetos*) inmost, and *penus* innermost part of a temple, store of food; for suffix see -ATE¹. —**penetration** *n.* 1605, insight, shrewdness; borrowed perhaps through French *pénétration*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *penetrātiōnem* (nominative *penetrātiō*) a penetrating or piercing, from *penetrāre* penetrate; for suffix see -ATION. An isolated example is recorded in Middle English *penetracioun* a puncture, wound (probably before 1425), from Old French *penetracion*, learned borrowing from Latin (*penetrātiōnem* nominative *penetrātiō*).

penguin *n.* 1578, great auk of Newfoundland, later the birds now called penguins (1588); of unknown origin. Connection with Welsh is doubtful, as *pen* head and *gwyn* white, referring to the white headland of Newfoundland, where great auks abounded would yield *penwyn*. The alternate French *pingouin* is borrowed from English, and Breton *pengouin* is borrowed from French.

penicillin *n.* 1929, formed in English from New Latin *penicillium* (1867) mold from which penicillin was purified + English -in². *Penicillium* from Latin *pēnicillus* paintbrush is so called from the resemblance of the cells to small brushes.

peninsula *n.* 1538 probably borrowed directly from Latin *paeninsula* (*paene* almost + *insula* island). —**peninsular** *adj.* 1612, formed, by influence of French *péninsulaire*, from English *peninsula* + -ar.

penis *n.* 1676, borrowed perhaps through French *pénis*, or directly from Latin *pēnis* tail, penis.

penitence *n.* Probably before 1200, penance, contrition, repentance; borrowing of Old French *penitence*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *paenitentia* repentance, from *paenitentem* (nominative *paenitēns*) penitent, present participle of *paenitere* cause or feel regret; for suffix see -ENCE.

—**penitent** *adj.* 1341 *penytente*, borrowed from Old French *penitent*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *paenitentem* (nominative *paenitēns*) penitent; see PENITENCE; for suffix see -ENT. —**n.** About 1370, from the adjective.

—**penitential** *adj.* 1508, borrowed from Medieval Latin *penitentialis*, from Latin *paenitentia* penitence + -ālis -al¹.

—**penitentiary** *n.* Probably 1421, place of punishment for offenses against the church; borrowed from Medieval Latin *penitentiaria*, from feminine of *penitentiarius*, *adj.*, of penance, from Latin *paenitentia* penitence; for suffix see -ARY. The meaning of a house of correction, is first found in *penitentiary house* in 1776.

pennant *n.* 1611, rope hanging from a ship's mast; probably a blend of *pennon* and *pendant*, in the nautical sense of a suspended rope.

The meaning of a flag on a warship is first recorded in 1698, and that of a flag for a sports championship, especially in baseball, in 1880, and by 1915 the word is recorded as applying to the championship itself.

pennon *n.* streamer. About 1380 *penoun*; later, *penon* (before 1393), and *pennon* (probably before 1400); borrowed from Old French *penon*, *pignon* feather of an arrow, streamer, from *penne* feather, from Latin *penna* feather.

penny *n.* 1125 *peni* a silver coin equal to 1/2 of a shilling; later *peny* (1340); *penny* (before 1425); developed from Old English (before 725) *pening*, *penig* penny; also, a pennyweight; cognate with Old Frisian *panning*, *penning* coin (of a particular value), Old Saxon *penning*, Middle Dutch *penninc* (modern Dutch *penning*), Old High German *pŕenning* (modern German *Pfennig*), Old Icelandic *penningr* (Swedish *penning* coin, Danish *penge*). —**peniless** *adj.* About 1330 *penyles*, formed from Middle English *peni*, *peny* + -les -less. —**pennyweight** *n.* 1373 *peny weyhte*, from Old English *penega zewiht*.

penology *n.* 1838, formed from *pen-*, as in *penitentiary*, after Latin *poena* punishment, penalty + English -ology.

pensile *adj.* 1603, borrowed from Latin *pēnsilis* hanging down, from *pēnsūm*, past participle of *pēndere* to hang.

pension *n.* Before 1376 *pencioun* reward, payment out of a benefice; also *pensioun* tax (before 1387); later *pension* salary (1413); borrowed from Old French *pension* payment, rent, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *pēnsiōnem* (nominative *pēnsiō*) payment, rent, from *pēndere* pay, weigh; for suffix see -ION.

The meaning of regular payment in consideration of past services is first recorded in 1529. —**v.** 1702, from the noun. —**pensioner** *n.* 1487, borrowed from Anglo-French *pensionner*, variant of Old French *pensionnier*, from *pension* pension + -ier -er¹.

pensive *adj.* Before 1376 *pensif* thoughtful, contemplative borrowed from Old French *pensif* (feminine *pensive*), from *penser* to think, from Latin *pēnsāre* weigh, consider, a frequentative form from *pēndere* weigh; for suffix see -IVE.

pent *adj.* Before 1550, variant of *penned*, past participle of *pen*² confine closely.

penta- a combining form meaning five, as in *pentagon*, *Pentateuch*; in chemistry: containing five atoms or other units. Borrowed from Greek *penta-*, combining form of *pēnte* five. Also spelled *pent-* before a vowel, as in *pentoxide*.

pentagon *n.* 1570, borrowed from Middle French *pentagone*, or directly from Late Latin *pentagōnum* pentagon, from Greek *pentágōnon*, from neuter of *pentágōnos* five-angled (*pēnte* five + *gōnlā* angle).

pentameter *adj.* 1546, borrowed from Middle French *pentametre*, from Latin *pentameter*, from Greek *pentámetros* (*pēnte* five + *mētron* meter). —**n.** 1589, probably from the adjective.

Pentateuch *n.* About 1405 *Penteteuke*, borrowed from Late Latin *pentateuchus*, from Greek *pentáteuchos* (*pēnte* five + *teúchos* book; originally, case for the scrolls, implement, something made).

pentathlon *n.* 1852, borrowing of Greek *péntathlon* (*pēnte* five + *áthlon*, earlier *áethlon* prize, contest, of uncertain origin).

The Greek *pentathlon* consisted of jumping, sprinting, discus and spear throwing, and wrestling. The modern *pentathlon*, (1912) consists of horseback riding, fencing, shooting, swimming, and cross-country running.

Pentecost *n.* 1 the Seventh Sunday after Easter (before 1121 *Pentecosten*) 2 the Jewish festival of Shavuoth, fifty days after Passover (about 1384). Middle English *Pentecost*, developed from Old English (about 1000) *Pentecosten*, borrowed from Late Latin *pentēcostē*, from Greek *pentēkostē* *hēmērā* fiftieth day, feminine of *pentēkostós*, from *pentēkonta* fifty, from *pēnte* five. —

Pentecostal *adj.* 1904, formed from *Pentecost* + -al¹, in allusion to the day of the Pentecost (Acts 2) when "they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues."

penthouse *n.* 1530, an attached building with a sloping roof; also, an awning; alteration by folk etymology (through association with Middle French *pente* slope, and English *house*) of earlier Middle English *pentis* a building attached to another and having a sloping roof (1364 *pentys*; earlier *pendize*, about 1300; borrowed through Anglo-French *pentiz*, and directly as a shortened form of Old French *apentis* attached building, appendage, from Medieval Latin *appendiciūm*, from Latin *appendere* to hang). The meaning of an apartment or small house built on the roof of a tall building is first recorded in 1921.

penult *n.* 1828, shortening of earlier English *penultima* (1589); borrowed from Latin *paenultima* (as in *paenultima syllaba* next-to-last syllable), feminine adjective (*paene* almost + *ultimus* last).

penultimate *adj.* 1677, formed from earlier *penultima* the next to the last syllable (of a word or verse) + -ate¹ on the model of *proximate*.

penumbra *n.* 1666, the partial shadow outside the complete shadow during an eclipse; New Latin *penumbra* (Latin *paene* almost + *umbra* shadow). The meaning of partial shade or shadow (as in a *penumbra* of holiness) is first recorded in 1801.

penury *n.* Before 1400 *penurye*, borrowed from Latin *pēnūria* want or need. —**penurious** *adj.* 1594, in a condition of penury; borrowed from Medieval Latin *penuriosus*, from Latin *pēnūria* penury; for suffix see -OUS. It is also probable that

penurious was influenced by French *penurieus*, Italian *penurioso* and was a derived form of English *penury*. The meaning of *stingy* is first recorded in 1634.

peon *n.* 1 1609 *peon* a native foot soldier or footman in India or Ceylon; borrowed from Portuguese *peão*, and 1613 *pion*, borrowing of French *pion*; both Portuguese and French forms from Medieval Latin *pedonem* foot soldier. 2 1826, an unskilled worker or laborer; borrowing of Mexican Spanish *peón*, from Spanish, day laborer or pedestrian; originally, foot soldier, from Medieval Latin *pedonem* foot soldier; see PAWN². —**peonage** *n.* 1849, formed from *peon* (def 2) + *-age*.

peony *n.* About 1391, *pyony* earlier *peonie* (about 1150); developed from Old English *pēonia* (about 1000, a direct borrowing of Latin). Reintroduced later (1548); borrowed from Old North French *pione*, variant of Old French *pioine*, *pionie*; and in part directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *paeōnia*, from Greek *paidōnīā*, perhaps from *Paion* physician of the gods (supposedly because of the plant's use in medicine).

people *n.* About 1280 *people* the masses, populace; later, persons (probably before 1300); borrowed through Anglo-French *people*, *peple*, Old French *peupel*, *pople*, *poeppe*, *puple*, from Latin *populus* people. —**v.** 1450 *peuplien*, *peoplen*; from Middle French *peupler*, *popler*, *poplier*, from Old French *peuple*, *n.*

pep *n.* 1912, spirit, energy, vim; shortened from *pepper* (recorded about 1847 in this figurative sense). Compare GINGER in the figurative sense. —**pep up** *v.* 1925, instill spirit or energy in, from the noun. —**peppy** *adj.* 1922, full of pep formed from *pep* + *-y*¹.

pepper *n.* About 1150 *piper*; later *pepir* (probably before 1300), and *peper* (about 1378); developed from Old English (about 1000) *pipor* and probably (Anglian) **pepor*; borrowing of Latin *piper*, from Greek *pīperi*, variant of *pēperi*, probably from Middle Indic *pippari* (compare Sanskrit *pippalī* long pepper). Old English *pipor* is cognate with other early Germanic borrowings of Latin *piper*, including Old Frisian *piper* pepper, Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *pēper*, Old High German *pfeffar*, and Old Icelandic *piparr*. —**v.** 1581, sprinkle with pepper; from the noun. The sense of sprinkle thickly, dot, is first recorded in 1612, and that of pelt with something, about 1644. —**peppermint** *n.* (1696) —**peppery** *adj.* (1699)

pepsin *n.* 1844, borrowed from obsolete German *Pepsine*, (now) *Pepsin*, from Greek *pēpsis* digestion; originally, ripening, from *pēssein*, later *pēptein* soften or ripen.

peptic *adj.* 1651, borrowed from Latin *pepticus*, from Greek *peptikós* able to digest, from *peptós* cooked or digested, from *pēssein*, later *pēptein* to cook; for suffix see -IC.

per *prep.* 1588, by means of; later, for each, for every (1598); borrowed from Latin *per* through, during, by means of, on account of, as in **per annum** 1601, yearly. **per capita** 1682, for each person, (literally) by heads. **per se** 1572, by or in itself, intrinsically. See also *per cent*.

per- a prefix meaning: 1 through, throughout, completely thoroughly, utterly, very, as in *perforate*, *perennial*, *pervade*. 2 (in

chemistry) a the maximum or a large amount of, as in *peroxide*. b having the indicated element in its highest or a high valence, as in *perchloric acid*. 3 to do away, away entirely, to destruction (the meaning usually deriving from the combination of the prefix and the verb), as in *pervert*, *perdition*, *perish*. Borrowed from Latin *per-*, from *per*, *prep.*, through, during, by means of, on account of.

This prefix appears as *par-* in several Middle English words borrowed from Old French, as in *parfit* perfect, and *parfourmen* perform. Later in Middle English the distinction between *par-* and *per-* disappeared as the result of a shift in pronunciation of *e* before *r* and with alteration of *par-* by influence of the Latin form.

perambulate *v.* 1568, borrowed from Latin *perambulāre* (*per-* through + *ambulāre* to walk, amble); for suffix see -ATE¹. —**perambulator** *n.* 1611, traveler; borrowed from Medieval Latin *perambulator*, from Latin *perambulāre* traverse, go through; for suffix see -OR². The baby carriage (contracted to *pram*) is first recorded in 1856.

percale *n.* 1840, borrowing of French *percale*, perhaps from Persian *pargālah* rag. An earlier form, *percallas*, (1621) referred to a cloth imported from the East Indies.

perceive *v.* Probably before 1300 *percyven* to see or observe; also *perceiven* become aware or conscious of (probably about 1300); borrowed through Anglo-French *parceif*, *parceit*, and **parceivre*, Old French *perceivre*, *percevoir*, from Latin *percipere* obtain, gather, grasp with the mind, (*per-* thoroughly + *capere* to grasp, take).

per cent or **percent** *n.* 1568 *per cent.*; shortened form of New Latin *per centum* by the hundred (compare Italian *per cento*); Latin *per* by, through *centum* hundred. The form in English was perhaps also influenced by Middle French *pour cent* (for New Latin *pro centum*, like German *Prozent*). —**percentage** *n.* 1786–90, formed from English *percent* + *-age*. —**percentile** *n.* 1885, formed from English *percent* + *-ile*, patterned on *quartile*.

perception *n.* Before 1398 *percepcioun* act of perceiving; borrowed from Old French *perception*, and directly from Latin *perceptionem* (nominative *perceptiō*) perception, apprehension, a taking, from *percipere* PERCEIVE; for suffix see -TION. —**perceptive** *adj.* 1656, formed from Latin *perceptus*, past participle of *percipere* + English *-ive*.

perch¹ *n.* bar, etc. on which a bird can rest. 1208–09 *perche* a unit of linear measure; also, a measuring rod, a pole, bar (about 1300); borrowed from Old French *perche*, from Latin *pertica* pole, long staff, measuring rod. —**v.** About 1380 *perchen*; borrowed from Old French *perchier*, from *perche*, *n.*

perch² *n.* kind of fish. Probably before 1300 *perche*; borrowed from Old French *perche*, from Latin *perca* perch (fish), from Greek *pérkē*, related to *perknós* dark-colored.

perchance *adv.* Before 1338 *perchaunce*; later *parchance*, *perchance* (probably before 1350); borrowed from Old French *par chance*, literally, by chance. Compare Anglo-French *par cheanse* (1341–42).

percolate *v.* 1626, borrowed from Latin *percolatus*, past participle of *percolare* strain through (*per-* through + *colare* to strain); for suffix see -ATE¹; probably also a back formation from earlier *percolation*. — **percolation** *n.* 1613, borrowed from Latin *percolationem* (nominative *percolatio*), from *percolare*; for suffix see -ATION. — **percolator** *n.* 1842, formed from English *percolate* + -or².

percussion *n.* Probably before 1425, a striking, blow; borrowed from Middle French *percussion*, and directly from Latin *percussio* (nominative *percussio*), from *percutere* to strike (*per-* through + *quater* to strike, shake); for suffix see -SION. The sense in reference to musical instruments is first recorded in English in 1776. — **percussive** *adj.* 1793, formed from Latin *percussus*, past participle of *percutere* + English -ive.

perdition *n.* About 1340 *perdition* consignment to hell, damnation; later *perdition* destruction, complete ruin (before 1382); borrowed from Old French *perdition*, and directly from Late Latin *perditionem* (nominative *perditio*) ruin, destruction, from Latin *perdere* do away with, destroy (*per-* to destruction + *-dere* to put); for suffix see -TION.

peregrination *n.* Probably about 1425 *peregrination* journey; borrowed through Middle French *périgrination*, or directly from Latin *peregrinatio* (nominative *peregrinatio*) a journey, from *peregrinari* to journey or travel abroad, from *peregrinus* from foreign parts, foreigner; for suffix see -ATION. — **peregrinate** *v.* 1593, borrowed from Latin *peregrinari* sojourn or travel abroad.

peregrine *n.* 1555, large falcon shortened from *faucon peregrin* (about 1395); borrowed from Old French *faulcon pelerin*, and directly from Latin *falcō peregrinus*; found earlier in English adjective (1530, not native, foreign), borrowed from Middle French *périgrin* (feminine *périgrine*), or directly from Latin *peregrinus* from foreign parts, foreigner; for suffix see -INE¹.

peremptory *adj.* 1443 *peremptorie* (legal use) absolute, allowing no refusal; borrowed through Anglo-French *peremptorie*, from Middle French *peremptoire*, and directly from Latin *peremptorius* decisive, final, deadly, from *peremptor* destroyer, from *perimere* destroy, cut off (*per-* away entirely, to destruction + *emere* to take); for suffix see -ORY.

perennial *adj.* 1644, evergreen; formed in English from Latin *perennis* lasting through the year (*per-* through + *annus* year) + English -al¹.

The botanical meaning is first recorded in 1672–73, and the general meaning of enduring, permanent in 1750. — **n.** 1763, from the adjective.

perfect *adj.* About 1300 *parfit* fully formed, faultless; as a surname *Parfet* (1196); also *parfit* (before 1325); *perfect* (probably before 1425); borrowed from Old French *parfit*, *parfet*, and later directly from Latin *perfectus* completed, past participle of *perficere* accomplish, finish, complete (*per-* completely + *facere* perform); also probably was influenced in later formation by *perfection*. — **v.** Before 1398 *parfiten*, from the adjective. — **perfectible** *adj.* 1635, formed from English *perfect*, *v.* + -ible, perhaps influenced by Italian *perfettibile* (1611). — **per-**

fection *n.* Probably before 1200 *perfectum*; borrowed from Latin *perfectio* (nominative *perfectio*); later *perfectioun* (before 1333); borrowed from Old French *perfection*, from Latin *perfectio* (nominative *perfectio*), from *perficere* accomplish; for suffix see -TION. — **perfectionist** *n.* 1657–83, person who believes that moral perfection may be attained; formed from English *perfection* + -ist.

perfecta *n.* 1971, borrowed from American Spanish *perfecta*, shortening of *quiniela perfecta* perfect quiniela, from Spanish *perfecta* + American Spanish *quiniela* a game of chance, a bet in horse racing, formed from Old Spanish *quina* game of dice, from Latin *quini* (earlier **quencnoi*) five each.

perfidy *n.* 1592, borrowed from Middle French *perfidie*, from Latin *perfidia* falsehood, treachery, from *perfidus* faithless, in *per fidem* (deceive) (to deceive) through trustfulness; *per* through; *fidem* accusative of *fidēs* faith; for suffix see -Y³. — **perfidious** *adj.* 1598, borrowed from Latin *perfidiosus*, from *perfidia*; for suffix see -OUS.

perforate *v.* 1538, make a hole through; possibly a back formation from earlier *perforation*, and also borrowed from Latin *perforare* bore or pierce through (*per-* through + *forare* to pierce); for suffix see -ATE¹. — **perforation** *n.* Probably before 1425 *perforacioun*, borrowed from Middle French *perforation*, or directly from Medieval Latin *perforationem* (nominative *perforatio*), from Latin *perforare*; for suffix see -ATION.

perform *v.* About 1300 *parfourmen* to do, go through or render; later *performen* (1376); borrowed through Anglo-French *performir*, and directly from Old French *parformir*, *parformer*. The Anglo-French form is an alteration (influenced by Old French *forme* form) of Old French *parformir* to do, carry out (*par-* completely + *formir* to provide). — **performance** *n.* About 1500, formed from English *perform* + -ance. — **performer** *n.* 1588–89, formed from English *perform* + -er¹.

perfume *n.* 1533, fumes from a burning substance; borrowed from Middle French *parfum*, from *parfumer* to scent, from dialectal Italian *perfumare* or Provençal *perfumar* (Latin *per-* through + *fumare* to smoke). The substance having a sweet smell is first recorded in 1542. — **v.** 1538, to fumigate; also, give a sweet scent to (1539); borrowed from Middle French *parfumer* to scent.

perfunctory *adj.* 1581 (implied in *perfunctorily*); borrowed from Late Latin *perfunctorius* careless, negligent; literally, like one who wishes to get through a thing, from *perfungi* discharge, get through (*per-* through + *fungi* perform); for suffix see -ORY.

perfusion *n.* 1574, borrowed from Middle French *perfusion*, and from Latin *perfusionem* (nominative *perfusio*) a pouring over, from *perfundere* pour out (*per-* throughout + *fundere* pour); for suffix see -SION.

perhaps *adv.* About 1475 *perhappons* possibly, by chances; plural form of earlier *perhap* (before 1464), *parhap* (probably 1350–75); formed from Middle English *per*, *par* by or through, and *hap* chance.

peri- a prefix used in Greek and quasi-Greek formations, having the meaning: 1 around or surrounding, as in *perimeter* = *measure (meter) around*, *periscope* = *instrument (scope) for looking around*, *peristalsis* = *contracting or compressing around*. 2 near, as in *perihelion* = *near or nearest the sun* (Greek *hēlios*). Borrowed from Greek *peri*, from the preposition *peri* around, about.

pericardium *n.* Probably before 1425 *pericardium* membranous sac enclosing the heart, from Medieval Latin, from Greek *perikárdion* membrane around the heart, neuter of *perikárdios* around the heart (*peri-* around + *kardíā* heart).
pericarditis *n.* 1799, formed from English *pericardium* + *-itis*.

pericarp *n.* 1759, borrowed probably through French *péricarpe*, and from New Latin *pericarpium*, from Greek *perikárpion* pod, husk (*peri-* around + *karpós* fruit).

perigee *n.* 1594, point in the orbit of a planet, comet, etc., at its closest distance to the earth or other celestial body about which it orbits; borrowed from French *périgée*, from New Latin *perigeum*, and directly from Late Greek *perigeion*, neuter of *perigeios* near the earth, from *peri gēs* (*peri* near, and *gēs*, genitive of *gē* earth). Compare APOGEE.

perihelion *n.* 1690, point of an orbit closest to the sun; borrowed from New Latin *perihelium* with the Greek ending *-on*. The earlier New Latin *perihelium* (1666) was coined by Johann Kepler, writing in Latin in 1596, and was formed from Greek *peri* near + *hēliou*, genitive of *hēlios* sun, prompted probably by the pattern of Greek *perigeion* PERIGEE; compare APHELION.

peril *n.* Apparently before 1200, chance of harm, danger; borrowed from Old French *peril*, from Latin *periculum* an attempt, risk, danger. —**perilous** *adj.* About 1300, dangerous, risky; borrowed from Old French *perillous*, *perilleus*, from Latin *periculōsus* dangerous, hazardous, from *periculum*; for suffix see *-OUS*.

perimeter *n.* Probably before 1425 *perimetre* outer boundary of a surface or figure; borrowed from Latin *perimetros*, from Greek *perimetros* circumference (*peri-* around + *mētron* measure).

perineum *n.* Probably before 1425 *perineum* area of the body between the thighs; borrowed from Medieval Latin *perinaeon*, Late Latin *perinēum*, from Greek *perinaion*, *perinaios* region of evacuation (*peri-* near + *inān* to carry off by evacuation).

period *n.* 1413 *pariede* course or extent of time; probably before 1425 *periode*; borrowed from Middle French *periode*, and directly from Medieval Latin *periodus* recurring portion, cycle, from Latin *periodus* a complete sentence; also, cycle of Grecian games, from Greek *periodos* rounded sentence, cycle, circuit; literally, a going around (*peri-* around + *hodós* a going, way, journey). The dot marking the end of a sentence is first recorded in English in 1609, borrowed from Medieval Latin *periodus*, and from earlier use in English referring to a full pause made at the end of a sentence (1587). See note under COMMA. —**adj.** 1905, from the noun. —**periodic** *adj.* 1642, shortened form of *periodical* (1603); formed in English (possibly by

influence of French *périodique*) from Latin *periodicus* or from Greek *periodikós* recurring at intervals, from *periodos* cycle, period + *-ical*. *Periodical* a magazine that appears regularly (1798), from the adjective meaning of published at regular intervals (1766); also, writing for such magazines (1716). —**periodicity** *n.* 1833, borrowed from French *périodicité*, formed in French from Latin *periodicus* + French *-ité* *-ity*. —**periodic table** 1895; so-called because the elements are arranged according to a regular pattern of chemical properties, described earlier by the *periodic law* (1872, the law that the properties of the elements are periodic functions of their atomic weights, proposed by the Russian chemist Dimitri Mendeleev, 1868, and independently by the German chemist Julius L. Meyer in 1869).

peripatetic *n.* Before 1450 *peripatetik* disciple of Aristotle or his teachings; borrowed from Latin *peripatēticus*, *n.*, disciple of Aristotle, from Greek *peripatētikós* given to walking about (*peri-* around + *patein* to walk); for suffix see *-IC*. The meaning of a person who wanders about (1617) from Aristotle's custom of walking about, while teaching in the walkways of the Lyceum at Athens. —**adj.** 1566, having to do with Aristotle's philosophy; later, walking about, traveling (1642, though in the sense of pacing up and down, 1631); from the noun on the model of Greek *peripatētikós*.

periphery *n.* Before 1393 *periferie* atmosphere around the earth; borrowing of Medieval Latin *periferia*, from Late Latin *peripheria* circumference, from Greek *periphēreia* circumference, outer surface, from *periphērēs* rounded, *periphērein* carry or move around (*peri-* around + *pherein* to carry). The outside boundary of rounded surface is first recorded in English in 1571, and that of any boundary in 1666. —**peripheral** *adj.* 1808, formed from English *periphery* + *-al*, replacing *peripheral* (1672–73) and *peripherical* (1690).

periphrasis *n.* 1533, borrowed from Latin *periphrasis* circumlocution, from Greek *periphrasis*, from *periphrázein* speak in a roundabout way (*peri-* around + *phrázein* to express). —**periphrastic** *adj.* 1805, probably borrowed through French *périphrastique*, and directly from Greek *periphrastikós* roundabout, from *periphrázein*; for suffix see *-IC*; also possibly formed in English on the model of Greek *periphrastikós*.

periscope *n.* 1899, formed from English *peri-* around + *-scope* instrument for viewing.

perish *v.* About 1275 *perissen* die, be destroyed; later *perishen*, *perischen* (about 1340); borrowed from Old French *periss-*, stem of *perir*, from Latin *perire* (*per-* to destruction + *ire* to go); for suffix see *-ISH*². —**perishable** *adj.* Before 1475 *perryshaby*; later *perishable* (1611); probably borrowed from Middle French *périsable*, and later re-formed from English *perish* + *-able*.

peristalsis *n.* 1859, New Latin *peristalsis*, formed after Greek *peristaltikós* contracting around + the ending *-sis*, on the model of English *paralysis*, *paralytic*. —**peristaltic** *adj.* 1655, borrowed from Greek *peristaltikós* contracting around, from *peristéllein* compress, wrap around (*peri-* around + *stéllein* send, place); for suffix see *-IC*.

peristyle *n.* 1612, borrowed from French *péristyle* row of columns surrounding a building, learned borrowing from Latin *peristylum*, from Greek *peristýlon*, from neuter of *peristýlos* surrounded with a colonnade (*peri-* around + *stýlos* pillar).

peritoneum *n.* Probably before 1425 *peritonei*; probably about 1425 *peritoneum*; borrowed from Late Latin *peritonaeum*, from Greek *peritónaiōn* abdominal membrane; literally, part stretched over, neuter of *peritónaios* stretched over, from *perí-tonos* stretched around (*peri-* around + *telnein* to stretch). —**peritonitis** *n.* 1776, New Latin, formed from Late Latin *peritonaeum* + New Latin *-itis*.

periwig *n.* 1579, alteration of *perwyke* (1529); borrowed from Middle French *perruque* PERUKE.

periwinkle¹ *n.* evergreen plant. Before 1475 *pervynckle*; as a surname *Perivencle* (1327); diminutive of *parvink* (probably about 1300); developed from Old English *perwince* (about 1000); borrowed from Late Latin *pervinca*, Latin *vincapervinca*.

periwinkle² *n.* kind of sea snail. 1530, alteration of Old English *pīnewincle* (probably influenced by Middle English *pervinkle* *periwinkle*¹). Old English *pīnewincle* was formed from *pīne-* (probably borrowed from Latin *pīna* mussel, from Greek *pīnē*, *pīna*) + *-wincle*, related to *wincel* corner.

perjure *v.* 1453, implied in the past participle *perjured*, influenced in its formation by *perjury* but modeled on Middle French *parjurée*, past participle of *parjurer*, learned borrowing from Latin *perjūrāre* swear falsely (*per-* away entirely + *jūrāre* to swear). —**perjury** *n.* Before 1393 *perjurie*; borrowed through Anglo-French *perjurie*, Old French *parjuré*, from Latin *perjūrium* false oath, from *perjūrāre* swear falsely; for suffix see *-y*³.

perk¹ *v.* raise briskly, act saucily. About 1485, make trim or smart (as a bird trims its plumage), possibly developed from earlier *perken* to perch, about 1390; from *perk*, *n.*, probably about 1375, and perhaps borrowed from Old North French *perquer* to perch, from *perque* perch, from Latin *pertica* rod, perch. The meaning of act saucily is first recorded before 1550, and that of raise oneself briskly, before 1591. The phrase *perk up* become lively, is first recorded before 1656. —**perky** *adj.* 1855, formed from English *perk* + *-y*¹.

perk² *n.* perquisite. 1869, shortened form and spelling alteration of PERQUISITE.

perk³ *v.* percolate. 1934, shortened form and spelling alteration of PERCOLATE.

perm *n.* 1927, shortened from *permanent wave* (1909, wave in the hair). —**v.** 1928, from the noun.

permafrost *n.* 1943, formed from English *perma(nent)* + *frost*.

permanent *adj.* Probably before 1425, continuing without change, lasting; borrowed from Middle French *permanent*, and directly from Latin *permanētem* (nominative *permanēns*) remaining, present participle of *permanēre* stay to the end (*per-* through + *manēre* stay); for suffix see *-ENT*. —**n.** 1926, shortened from *permanent wave* (1909). —**permanence** *n.* Probably before 1425; borrowed from Middle French *permanence*,

and directly from Medieval Latin *permanētia*, from Latin *permanēns* present participle; for suffix see *-ENCE*.

permeate *v.* 1656, formed in English, probably by influence of *permeable*, from Latin *permeātus*, past participle of *permeāre* pass through (*per-* through + *meāre* to pass) + English suffix *-ate*¹. —**permeable** *adj.* Probably before 1425, borrowed from Late Latin *permeābilis* passable, from Latin *permeāre*; for suffix see *-ABLE*.

permission *n.* About 1410, *permissioun* a permitting, consent; borrowed from Middle French *permission*, from Latin *permissiōnem* (nominative *permissiō*), from *permittere* to PERMIT; for suffix see *-SION*. —**permissible** *adj.* Probably before 1430, borrowed from Middle French *permissible*, and directly from Medieval Latin *permissibilis* allowable, from Latin *permissus*, past participle of *permittere* to PERMIT; for suffix see *-IBLE*. —**permissive** *adj.* Probably before 1475, allowed, tolerated; borrowed from Middle French *permissif* (feminine *permissive*), from Old French, from Latin *permittere* to PERMIT; for suffix see *-IVE*.

permit *v.* 1429 *permytten* resign; later allow (about 1475); borrowed from Middle French *permettre*, and from Latin *permittere* give up, allow (*per-* through + *mittere* let go, send). —**n.** 1714, from the verb.

permutation *n.* Before 1376 *permutacioun* alteration or exchange; borrowed from Old French *permutation*, learned borrowing from Latin *permutātiōnem* (nominative *permutātiō*), from *permutāre* change thoroughly, exchange (*per-* thoroughly + *mutāre* to change); for suffix see *-ATION*. The mathematical meaning of variation of order or arrangement, is first recorded in 1570.

pernicious *adj.* Probably before 1425, harmful or fatal; borrowed from Middle French *pernicios*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *perniciōsus* destructive, from *perniciēs* destruction (*per-* completely + *neāre* to kill); for suffix see *-IOUS*.

pernickety *adj.* 1808–18 *pernickitie*, an extended form of Scottish *pernickie*, of uncertain origin. Compare PER-SNICKETY.

peroration *n.* 1447 *peroracyoun*; borrowed from Latin *perōrātiōnem* (nominative *perōrātiō*) the ending of a speech or argument of a case, from *perōrāre* argue a case to the end, bring a speech to a close (*per-* to the end, + *ōrāre* speak or plead); for suffix see *-ATION*. —**perorate** *v.* 1603, probably a back formation from *peroration*, and borrowed from Latin *perōrātum*, past participle of *perōrāre*; for suffix see *-ATE*¹.

peroxide *n.* 1804, formed from English *per-* large amount + *oxide*.

perpendicular *adj.* About 1475 *perpendiculere*, adjective use of earlier adverb *perpendicular* (1391); borrowed from Old French *perpendicular*, learned borrowing from Latin *perpendicularis* vertical, as a plumb line, from *perpendicularum* plumb line, from *perpendere* balance carefully (*per-* thoroughly + *pendere* to weigh); for suffix see *-AR*. —**n.** 1571, from the adjective.

perpetrate *v.* 1547, developed from earlier *perpetrat*, adj., perpetrated, committed (1472–73); borrowed from Latin *perpetrātus*, past participle of *perpetrāre* perform (*per-* completely + *patrāre* carry out; originally, bring into existence, from *pater* father); for suffix see -ATE¹. — **perpetrator** *n.* 1570, borrowed from Late Latin *perpetrator*, from Latin *perpetrāre*; for suffix see -OR².

perpetual *adj.* About 1340 *perpetuel*; probably before 1350 *perpetual*; borrowed from Old French *perpetuel*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *perpetuālis* universal (in Medieval Latin, permanent), from *perpetuus* continuous, constant, universal, from *perpetis*, genitive of *perpes* lasting (*per-* through + root of *petere* to seek, go to, aim at); for suffix see -AL¹. — **perpetuate** *v.* 1530, perhaps a back formation from *perpetuation* or as a functional shift of *perpetuate*, adj., made perpetual (1503–04); borrowed from Latin *perpetuātus*, past participle of *perpetuāre* make continuous, from *perpetuus*; for suffix see -ATE¹. — **perpetuation** *n.* 1395 *perpetuacioun*; borrowed from Medieval Latin *perpetuationem* (nominative *perpetuatio*) continuation, from Latin *perpetuāre*; for suffix see -ATION. — **perpetuity** *n.* About 1380 *perpetuyte*; borrowed from Old French *perpetuité*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *perpetuitatem* (nominative *perpetuitas*) continuity, from *perpetuus* continuous; for suffix see -ITY.

perplex *v.* 1593, probably a back formation from *perplexed*, *perplexid*, participial adjective, confused (1477), from *perplex*, adj., confused or puzzled (before 1425); borrowed from Middle French *perplexe*, and directly from Latin *perplexus* confused or involved (*per-* completely + *plexus* entangled, from past participle of *plexere* to twine). — **perplexity** *n.* Probably 1348 *perplexite*, borrowed from Old French *perplexité*, from Late Latin *perplexitatem* (nominative *perplexitas*) obscurity, perplexity, from Latin *perplexus*; for suffix see -ITY.

perquisite *n.* 1443 *perquysite* property acquired other than by inheritance; borrowed from Medieval Latin *perquisitum* thing gained or profit, from Latin *perquisitum* thing sought after, from neuter past participle of *perquirere* to seek, ask for (*per-* thoroughly + *quaerere* to seek). The meaning of any fee or profit received for work besides the regular wages is first recorded in 1565.

persecute *v.* 1450 *persecuten* pursue in order to harm, torment, oppress; earlier confused with *prosecuten* (probably before 1425); borrowed from Middle French *persécuteur*, pursue, torment, start a legal action; and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *persecūtus*, past participle of *persequi* pursue, start a legal action (*per-* through + *sequi* follow); also, probably a back formation from *persecution*. — **persecution** *n.* About 1340 *persecucioun*; borrowed from Old French *persecucion*, *persecution*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *persecutiōnem* (nominative *persecutiō*) a following close after, chase, the start of a legal action, from *persequi*; for suffix see -TION. — **persecutor** *n.* Probably about 1425 *persecutor*; borrowed from Middle French *persécuteur*; for suffix see -OR², and later formed in English from *persecute* + -ER¹.

persevere *v.* About 1380, implied in the gerund of *perseveren*

continue steadfastly, persist; borrowed from Old French *perseverer*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *persevērāre* continue steadfastly, persist, abide by strictly, from *persevērus* very strict or earnest (*per-* very + *sevērus* strict, earnest).

Usually pronounced with the accent on the second syllable, as in *pəsev'ər* until the late 1600's, this stress pattern continues in modern English *perseverate* and *perseveration*. — **perseverance** *n.* 1340, borrowed from Old French *perseverance*, and directly from Latin *persevērantia* (nominative *persevērāns*) steadfastness, persistence, present participle of *persevērāre* persevere; for suffix see -ANCE. — **perseverate** *v.* 1915, back formation in English from *perseveration*; for suffix see -ATE¹. — **perseveration** *n.* Before 1415 (and not recorded after 1658), persevering, perseverance; borrowed from Old French *perseveracion*, and directly from Latin *persevēratiōnem* (nominative *persevēratiō*), from *persevērāre*; but later re-formed in English from *persevere* + -ation (1901).

persiflage *n.* 1757, borrowing of French *persiflage*, from *persifler* to banter, formed from Latin *per-* through + French *siffler* to whistle, hiss, from Old French, from Latin **sifilāre*, dialect variant of *sibilāre* to hiss; for suffix see -AGE.

persimmon *n.* 1612, borrowed from Algonquian (Powhatan) *pasimenan* fruit dried artificially, from *pasimeneu* he dries fruit.

persist *v.* 1538, borrowed from Middle French *persister*, from Latin *persistere* continue steadfastly (*per-* thoroughly + *sistere* come to stand, from *stāre* to stand). — **persistence** *n.* 1546, borrowed from Middle French *persistance* (*persistere* persist + -ance, variant of -ence). — **persistent** *adj.* 1826, borrowed from Latin *persistens* (nominative *persistens*), present participle of *persistere* persist; for suffix see -ENT.

persnickety *adj.* 1905, alteration of PERNICKETY.

person *n.* Probably before 1200 *persone* an individual; also, role or character; borrowed from Old French *persone*, *persoune* human being, and directly from Latin *persōna* human being; originally, character in a drama, mask, possibly borrowed from Etruscan *phersu* mask. — **personable** *adj.* Probably 1435, attractive, presentable; perhaps formed from Middle English *persone* + -able, and borrowed from Middle French *personable*, from Old French *personable*, *persounable*, from Latin *persōna*; for suffix see -ABLE. — **personage** *n.* About 1460, borrowed from Middle French *personage*, from Old French *personage*, *persounage* church dignitary from Latin *persōna*; for suffix see -AGE.

persona *n.* 1917, a person's outward or social personality; later, a literary character representing the voice of the author (1958); borrowed from Latin *persōna* PERSON.

personal *adj.* Before 1387, of a person, individual, private; borrowed from Old French *personel*, *personal*, from Latin *persōnālis*, from *persōna* PERSON; for suffix see -AL¹. — **personality** *n.* Before 1425, fact of being a person; borrowed from Middle French *personalité*, and directly from Medieval Latin *personalitatem* (nominative *personalitas*) character, from Latin *persōnālis* personal; for suffix see -ITY. The meaning of a distinctive character is first recorded in 1795.

personify *v.* 1727–41, represent as a person; later, embody or exemplify (1803); borrowed from French *personnifier*, from Old French *persone*, *personne* PERSON + *-fier* -FY. —**personification** *n.* 1755, act of personifying; from English *personify*, on the pattern of *pacify*, *pacification*; for suffix see -ATION.

personnel *n.* 1857; borrowed from French *personnel* (as a contrastive term to *matériel*), a noun use of *personnel*, *adj.*, personal, from Old French *personel* PERSONAL.

perspective *n.* Before 1387, optics, borrowed from Old French *perspective*, and directly from Medieval Latin *perspectiva* *ars* science of optics; *perspectiva*, feminine of *perspectivus* of sight, optical, from Latin *perspect-*, past participle stem of *perspicere* inspect, look through (*per-* through + *specere* look at); for suffix see -IVE.

The meaning of the appearance of distance or depth influenced by Italian *prospettiva*, from *prospetto* view, from Latin *prospēctus* PROSPECT; first recorded in English in 1598.

The sense of a view of things in the right relation (as in a lack of perspective) is first recorded in 1605 and that of a mental outlook, in 1762.

perspicacious *adj.* 1616–61, formed in English as an adjective to *perspicacity*, perhaps by influence of French *perspicace*, from Latin *perspicāx* (genitive *perspicācis*) sharp-sighted, penetrating, acute, from *perspicere* look through; for suffix see -OUS. —**perspicacity** *n.* 1548, keen judgment, discernment; borrowed from Middle French *perspicacité*, and directly from Late Latin *perspicacitas* sharp-sightedness, discernment, from Latin *perspicāx* sharp-sighted; for suffix see -ITY.

perspicuous *adj.* 1584, clear-sighted; borrowed from Latin *perspicuus* transparent, evident, from *perspicere* look through; for suffix see -OUS. The meaning of clear, lucid is first recorded in English in 1586, but the sense of lucidity appears *perspicuity* by 1546.

perspire *v.* 1646, to evaporate, exhale; probably a back formation from earlier *perspiration*, and borrowed from French *perspérer*, from Latin *perspirāre* blow or breathe constantly (*per-* through + *spirāre* to breathe, blow). The meaning “to sweat,” developed from *perspiration*, appears in 1725. —**perspiration** *n.* 1611, a breathing out or through; later, sweating (1626); borrowed from French *perspiration*, from *perspérer* perspire; for suffix see -ATION.

persuade *v.* 1513, induce (a person) to believe or do something; borrowed from Middle French *persuader*, and directly from Latin *persuādere* (*per-* strongly + *suādere* to urge, persuade); also probably a back formation from *persuasion*, modeled on the Latin or French verb form. —**persuasion** *n.* About 1380, borrowed through Old French *persuasion*, and directly from Latin *persuāsiōnem* (nominative *persuāsiō*), from *persuādere* persuade; for suffix see -SION. —**persuasive** *adj.* 1589, borrowed from Middle French *persuasif* (feminine *persuasive*), from Medieval Latin *persuasivus*, from Latin *persuādere* persuade; for suffix see -IVE; also formed in English from *persuas(ion)* + *-ive*. By the late 1600's *persuasive* replaced *persuasive* (before 1400).

pert *adj.* About 1250, evident or unconcealed, shortened from *apert* open or frank; borrowed from Old French *apert*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *apertus*, past participle of *aperire* to open. The sense of saucy or bold is first recorded in English about 1390.

pertain *v.* Before 1325 *portenen* attach legally; later *pertenen*, *partenen* belong, associated with (probably before 1350); borrowed from Old French *pertenir*, *partenir*, and directly from Latin *pertinēre* to reach, stretch, relate (*per-* through + *tenēre* to hold).

pertinacious *adj.* 1626, formed from English *pertinacy* + *-ous*, from Latin *pertinācia* stubbornness, from *pertināx* (genitive *pertinācis*) very firm (*per-* very + *tenāx* TENACIOUS). —**pertinacity** *n.* 1504, borrowed from Middle French *pertinacité*, formed in Old French from *pertinace* obstinate, from Latin *pertinācem* (nominative *pertināx*) very firm, tenacious + *-ité* -ity. The older form *pertinacy* (recorded about 1390) was replaced by *pertinacy* in the 1700's.

pertinent *adj.* About 1390 suitable, appropriate; also, relevant, pertaining, apt (probably about 1408); borrowed from Old French *partenant*, and directly from Latin *pertinentem* (nominative *pertinēns*) pertaining, present participle of *pertinēre* to relate, concern, PERTAIN; for suffix see -ENT. —**pertinence** *n.* 1659, probably formed from English *pertinent* + *-ence*, as a noun to the earlier *pertinent*.

perturb *v.* About 1385 *perturben* disturb greatly; probably borrowed from Old French *perturber*, and directly from Latin *perturbāre* confuse, disorder, disturb (*per-* thoroughly + *turbāre* disturb, confuse, from *turba* turmoil, crowd). —**perturbation** *n.* About 1380 *perturbacion*, *perturbacioun*; borrowed from Old French *perturbacion*, and directly from Latin *perturbātiōnem* (nominative *perturbātiō*) confusion, from *perturbāre*; for suffix see -ATION.

peruke *n.* 1548, natural head of hair; borrowed from Middle French *peruque*, from Italian *perucca* head of hair, wig, of uncertain origin. The meaning of false hair, wig is first recorded in 1606.

peruse *v.* 1479 *perusen* examine, go through, use up; formed from Middle English *per-* completely or thoroughly + *use* to use. The meaning of read through carefully is first recorded in 1532 and the sense of read through quickly or casually probably as early as the 1800's. —**perusal** *n.* About 1600, formed from English *peruse* + *-al*².

pervade *v.* 1653, borrowed from Latin *pervādere* spread or go through (*per-* through + *vādere* go). —**pervasive** *adj.* About 1750, formed from Latin *pervāsus* (past participle of *pervādere* pervade) + English *-ive*.

perverse *adj.* 1369 *pervers*, borrowed from Old French *pervers*, *perverse*, *parvers*, and directly from Latin *perversus* turned away from what is right, contrary, askew, past participle of *pervertēre* to corrupt; see PERVERT. —**perversity** *n.* 1528, borrowed from Middle French *perversité*, from Latin *perversitatem* (nominative *perversitās*), perverseness from *perversus*, past participle of *pervertēre*; for suffix see -ITY.

pervert *v.* About 1380 *perverten* overthrow, lead or turn from what is right, misconstrue, misapply; borrowed from Old French *pervertir*, *parvertir*, and directly from Latin *pervertere* corrupt, turn the wrong way, turn about (*per-* away + *vertere* to turn). —**n.** 1661, corrupted person, apostate, from the verb. —**perversion** *n.* Before 1387, act or condition of perverting; borrowed from Old French *perversion*, and directly from Latin *perversionem* (nominative *perversio*) a turning about, from *pervertere* to pervert; for suffix see *-SION*.

pervious *adj.* Before 1614, borrowed from Latin *pervius* letting things through (*per-* through + *via* road); for suffix see *-OUS*.

pesky *adj.* 1775, perhaps a dialectal formation from *pest* + *-y*¹.

pessary *n.* 1392 *pessarie* a suppository inserted in an aperture of the body; borrowed from Late Latin *pessarium*, from Greek *pessáron* medicated tampon of wool or lint, diminutive of *pessós* pessary; earlier, oval stone used in games.

pessimism *n.* 1794, borrowed from French *pessimisme*, formed from Latin *pessimus* worst; originally, bottom-most + French *-isme* -ism; patterned on French *optimisme* optimism; for suffix see *-ISM*. —**pessimist** *n.* 1836, borrowed from French *pessimiste*, from *pessimisme*, on the pattern of *optimisme*, *optimiste*; for suffix see *-IST*. —**pessimistic** *adj.* 1868, formed from English *pessimist* + *-ic*.

pest *n.* 1568, plague or pestilence; borrowed from Middle French *peste*, from Latin *pestis* any deadly contagious disease, plague, pestilence. Appearance of the form *pest* in English was probably also influenced by earlier *pestilence*.

pester *v.* About 1536, to obstruct or encumber; probably shortened from Middle French *empestrer*, *empaistrier* place in an embarrassing situation, from Vulgar Latin **impāstōriāre* to hobble (an animal); formed from Latin *im-* in + Medieval Latin *pastoria* (*chorde*) rope to hobble an animal, noun use of Latin *pāstōria*, feminine of *pāstōrius* of a herdsman, from *pāstor* herdsman, from *pāscere* to graze. The sense of annoy, trouble, is first recorded in 1586, influenced by *pest*.

pesticide *n.* 1939, formed from English *pest* + connective *-i-* + *-cide*¹, as in *insecticide*.

pestiferous *adj.* Probably before 1449 *pestiferus*, probably originally borrowed from Latin *pestiferus* that brings plague or destruction, variant of *pestifer* bringing plague (*pestis* plague + *-fer* bearing, from *ferre* carry). The spelling *pestiferous* was reformed from Latin *pestifer* + English *-ous*, and perhaps Latin *pestis* + English *-ferous*.

pestilence *n.* About 1303 *pestelens*; later *pestilence* (probably about 1350); borrowed from Old French *pestilence*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *pestilentia* plague, from *pestilentem* (nominative *pestilēns*) infected, unwholesome, noxious, from *pestis* any deadly disease, plague; for suffix see *-ENCE*. —**pestilent** *adj.* Before 1398, borrowed possibly through Old French *pestilent*, from Late Latin *pestilentus* infected, tending to produce infection, and directly from Latin *pestilentem* (nominative *pestilēns*) infected; for suffix see *-ENT*.

pestle *n.* 1349 *pestell* tool for pounding or crushing; earlier *pestel* leg of pig (1326), and as a surname *Pestel* (about 1280); borrowed from Old French *pestel*, from Latin *pistillum* pounder or pestle, related to *pinsere* to pound.

pet¹ *n.* animal. 1508, indulged child; later, animal kept as a favorite (1539); originally a Scottish and Northern English dialectal usage; probably associated with *petty*, Middle English *pety* small, but ultimately of unknown origin. —**adj.** 1584, from the noun. —**v.** 1629, treat as a pet, from the noun. The sense of to stroke is found in 1818.

pet² *n.* peevishness. 1590, in *take the pet* to take offence, become peevish; of uncertain origin. Use in phrase *in a pet*, is found as early as 1647.

petal *n.* 1726 (but found as *petala* in an English context, 1704); borrowed from New Latin *petalum* a petal (1649), from Greek *petalon* leaf, thin plate, originally *pétalos* outspread, broad, flat.

petard *n.* 1598, explosive device formerly used to breach defenses; borrowed from French *pétard*, from Middle French *péter* break wind, from Old French *pet* a breaking of wind, from Latin *pēditum*, from neuter past participle of *pēdere* to break wind.

The expression *hoist with (or on) one's own petard* (to be) blown up by one's own bomb, caught in one's own trap, is found in 1605.

peter *v.* 1846, in **peter out**, become exhausted, diminish gradually, give out (mining slang); earlier **to peter** cease, stop (1812); of uncertain origin.

petiole *n.* 1753, borrowed from French *pétiole*, from New Latin *petiolus*, special use of Latin *petiolus*, misspelling of *peciolus* stalk, stem; literally, little foot, contracted from **pediculus*, diminutive of *pediculus* foot stalk.

petit *adj.* About 1378, petty, minor, as a proper name *Petit* (1086); borrowed from Old French *petit* small, probably derived from the Gallo-Romance stem *pitt-* little, related to the stem *pit-*, *pis-* of Late Latin *pitinnus*, *pisinnus* small, of uncertain origin; replaced by *petty*, as in *petty jury*, but is retained in such established forms as *petit bourgeois* (1853), *petit four* (1884), and *petit mal* (1842).

petite *adj.* 1784, earlier in French phrases used in English, such as *petite pièce* minor writing of an author (1712); borrowing of French *petite*, feminine of *petit* little, from Old French; see *PETIT*.

petit four *n.* 1884, borrowing of French *petit four* little oven (*petit* little, from Old French; *four* oven, from Latin *furnus*).

petition *n.* Before 1338 *peticioun*, *peticion*; borrowed from Old French *peticion*, and directly from Latin *petitiōnem* (nominative *petitiō*) a request, solicitation, from *petere* to require, seek; for suffix see *-TION*. —**v.** 1607, from the noun.

petrel *n.* 1703, earlier with the spelling *pittrel* (1676); perhaps a formation in English on analogy with *pickrel* and *cockrel* representing a diminutive form of *Peter* in Latin, such as **Petrellus*, from Late Latin *Petrus* Peter.

Petri dish or **petri dish** *n.* 1892, named after the German bacteriologist Julius Petri, who devised such a dish.

petrify *v.* 1594, turn into stone; found in earlier *petrified* hardened, solidified (probably before 1425); borrowed from Middle French *pétrifier* (as if a borrowing from Latin **petrificāre* to make or become stone) from Latin *petra* rock + Middle French *-fier* -fy. The sense of paralyze with fear or surprise, is first recorded in 1771. — **petrification** *n.* 1611, borrowed from French *pétrification*, from Middle French *pétrifier* petrify, on the model of such pairs as *édifier*, *édification*; for suffix see -ATION. Also found in Middle English *petrifacioun* (probably before 1425), formed after Medieval Latin **petrifactionem* (accusative of **petrificatio*), a nominative form to Latin **petrificatiōnem*.

petro- a combining form meaning: 1 stone, rock, rocks, as in *petrology*. 2 petroleum, as in *petrochemical*. 3 of or having to do with petroleum production, as in *petropower*, *petrodollar*. Borrowed from Greek *petro-*, combining form of *pétrā* rock.

petrochemical *n.* 1942, formed from English *petro-* petroleum + *chemical*.

petrography *n.* 1858, formed from English *petro-* rock + *-graphy*, after French *pétrographie*.

petrol *n.* 1895, gasoline; earlier, petroleum (1596); borrowed from Middle French *petrole* petroleum, from Old French, from Medieval Latin *petroleum* PETROLEUM.

petrolatum *n.* 1887, New Latin for petroleum jelly or vaseline, formed from *petroleum* (from Medieval Latin) + *-atum* -ate¹.

petroleum *n.* Probably before 1425, borrowing of Medieval Latin *petroleum* (from Latin *petra* rock + Latin *oleum* OIL).

petrology *n.* 1876, formed from English *petro-* + *-logy*. The earlier spelling *petralogy* (1811) was formed from Greek *pétrā* rock + English *-logy*.

petticoat *n.* Before 1420 *petycote* padded coat worn under armor; later, short coat worn by men (1439), formed from *pety* small, PETTY + *cote* COAT.

By 1464 the word was applied to a garment worn by women and young children, perhaps originally a kind of tunic or chemise but usually a skirt hanging from the waist.

petty *adj.* Probably before 1387 *pety* small, minor; earlier found in *petti-wacche* petty watch (1372, an old name of coast guards), and in the surname *Petipas* (1191); borrowed from *peti*, variant of Old French *petit* small, PETIT.

petulant *adj.* 1599, immodest, wanton, saucy; borrowed through Middle French *petulant*, or directly from Latin *petulantem* (nominative *petulāns*) wanton, forward, insolent, from the root of *petere* rush at, seek also probably a back formation formed as an adjective to *petulancy*, *n.* (1559). The meaning of peevish, irritable is first recorded in 1775. — **petulance** *n.* 1610, immodesty, wanton or saucy behavior; borrowed from French *petulance*, from Latin *petulantia*, from *petulantem* (nominative *petulāns*) wanton, insolent. The meaning of peevishness

is first recorded in English 1784. *Petulance* is a replacement of earlier *petulancy*.

petunia *n.* 1825, New Latin *Petunia*, from French *petun* tobacco, from Middle French, from Portuguese *petum*, from Guarani (Paraguay) *petĩ* (the *ĩ* represents a nasal sound); so called from its close botanical affinity to the tobacco plant.

pew *n.* Probably before 1387 *puwe* a raised bench in a church; later *pewe* (1406); borrowed from Old French *puie*, *puy* balcony or elevation, from Latin *podia*, plural of *podium* balcony; see PODIUM.

pewee or **peewee** *n.* 1796, kind of small American bird; its name is imitative of its cry.

pewit *n.* Before 1529, crested plover; its name is imitative of its cry.

pewter *n.* 1310 *peuter*, later *pewter* (1393); borrowed from Old French *peautre*, *peaultre*, *peutre* (compare Provençal *peltre* and Italian *pelto*), from Vulgar Latin **peltrum* pewter, of uncertain origin.

peyote *n.* 1849, a stimulant drug prepared from mescal; later, the mescal or any one of several other cacti (1885); borrowing of Mexican Spanish *peyote*, from Nahuatl *peyotl*.

pH 1909, symbol for the acidity or alkalinity of a solution; formed from *P*, the initial letter of German *Potenz* potency, power + *H*, symbol for the hydrogen ion in relative concentration.

phage *n.* 1926, virus that destroys various bacteria, shortened from earlier *bacteriophage* (1921); borrowed from French *bactériophage* (*bactério-* + Greek *phagēin* to eat).

phagocyte *n.* 1884, borrowed from German (plural) *Phagocyten*, formed in German from Greek *phagēin* to eat + *kýtos* hollow container in allusion to cells of the body.

-phagous a combining form meaning eating, as in *anthropophagous* man-eating, *saprophagous* living on decaying matter. Adapted from Greek *-phagos*, from *phagēin* to eat.

phalanx *n.* 1553, an ancient Greek battle formation in close ranks; borrowing of Latin *phalanx*, or directly from Greek *phálanx* (genitive *phálangos*) line of battle, finger or toe bone; originally, trunk, leg.

The earlier form in English was *phalange* (before 1460), from Latin *phalangem* (nominative *phalanx*), from Greek *phálanx*.

phallus *n.* 1613, image of the phallus, symbolizing the generative power in nature; borrowed from Latin *phallus*, from Greek *phállōs* penis, figure of the penis used in the cult of Dionysus; related to *phállē* whale. — **phallic** *adj.* 1789, borrowed from Greek *phallikós*, from *phállōs* phallus; for suffix see -IC.

phantasm *n.* 1614, spelling alteration of earlier *phantasma* (1598) and *fantesme* (before 1250); borrowed from Old French *fantesme*, *fantesme*, and directly from Latin *phantasma* an apparition, specter, from Greek *phántasma* image, phantom, from *phántazein* make visible, from *pháinein* to show.

phantasmagoria *n.* 1802 *Phantasmagoria*, the name of an exhibition of optical illusions by means of the magic lantern, held in London in 1802; alteration (with Latinized ending) of French *phantasmagorie*, formed from Greek *phántasma* image + *agorá* assembly + French *-ie* -y³.

phantom *n.* 1590 *phantome*, spelling alteration (influenced by Latin *phantasma*) of earlier *fantom* (about 1340) ghost, unreal fancy; earlier *fantisme* (before 1250); borrowed from Old French *fantisme*, *fantasme*, from Vulgar Latin **fantauma*, from **fantagma*, alteration of Latin *phantasma* PHANTASM.

Pharisee *n.* Probably before 1200 *phariseu*; also *fariseu* (probably about 1200), and later *faresee* (about 1384); in part developed from Old English (about 897) *fariseus*, and in part borrowed from Old French *pharise* and directly from Late Latin *Pharīsaicus*, from Greek *Pharīsaíos*, from Aramaic *pērīshayyā*, emphatic plural of *pērīsh* separated, separatist, corresponding to Hebrew *pārūsh*, from *pārash* he separated.

pharmaceutical *adj.* 1648, formed in English from Late Latin *pharmaceuticus* of drugs (from Greek *pharmakeutikós*, from *pharmakéus* preparer of drugs) + English *-al*. — **pharmaceutics** *n.* 1541 *pharmaceutic*; later with *-s*¹ (1670), from Late Latin *pharmaceuticus* of drugs; for suffix see *-ICS* and *-s*¹.

pharmacology *n.* 1721, borrowed from New Latin *pharmacologia* (1683); formed from Greek *phármakon* drug, poison; + *-logiā* -logy. — **pharmacologist** *n.* Before 1728; formed from English *pharmacology* + *-ist*.

pharmacopoeia or **pharmacopeia** *n.* 1621, New Latin *pharmacopoeia*, from Greek *pharmakopoiā* the art of preparing drugs, from *pharmakopoiós*, *adj.*, preparing drugs, from *pharmakopoiēn* prepare drugs, dyes, etc. (*phármakon* drug, poison + *poiēn* to make).

pharmacy *n.* About 1385 *fermacie* a drug, the use of drugs; borrowed from Old French *farmacie*, from Medieval Latin *pharmacia*, from Greek *pharmakēiā* use of drugs or medicines, from *pharmakéus* preparer of drugs, from *phármakon* drug, poison, charm, spell; for suffix see *-Y*³.

The preparation of drugs and medicines is first recorded in English in 1651, and that of a drugstore in 1833. — **pharmacist** *n.* 1834, formed from English *pharmacy* + *-ist*.

pharynx *n.* 1693, New Latin, from Greek *phárynx* (genitive *pháryngos*) pharynx, windpipe, throat. Greek *phárynx* was altered (under influence of *lárinx*) from earlier *pháryx* (genitive *phárygos*) and is related to *pháranx* chasm, cleft. — **pharyngeal** *adj.* 1835, formed from New Latin *pharyngem* with use of the suffix *-al* for New Latin *-em*. — **pharyngeal** *adj.* 1828, formed from New Latin *pharyngeus* with use of the suffix *-al* for New Latin *-us*.

phase *n.* 1812, phase of the moon; formed as a singular of New Latin *phases*, plural of *phasis*, perhaps also by influence of French *phase*. New Latin *phasis* is from Greek *phásis* appearance, from *phainein* to show. General application to one stage or aspect of a thing is first recorded in 1841. — **v.** 1938, from the noun.

pheasant *n.* 1299 *fesaund*; earlier as a surname *Faisant* (1166); borrowed from Anglo-French *fesaunt*, Old French *fesan*, *faisan*, *fesant*, from Latin *phāsiānus*, from Greek *phāsiānós* a pheasant; literally, Phasian bird, from *Phásis*, river on the Black Sea, where these birds were said to have been numerous. The spelling with *ph* appeared before 1393.

phen- or **pheno-** a combining form indicating a benzene derivative, as in *phenol*. Borrowed from French *phén-*, from Greek *phainein* to bring light (because substances were by-products of illuminating gas).

phenol *n.* 1852, formed from English *phen-* + *-ol*¹.

phenomenon *n.* 1625, fact or occurrence, manifestation; borrowed from Latin *phaenomenon*, from Greek *phainómenon* that which appears or is seen, noun use of neuter present participle of *phainesthai* appear. The meaning of an extraordinary occurrence, prodigy, is first recorded in 1771. — **phenomenal** *adj.* 1825, of a phenomenon, formed from English *phenomenon* + *-al*¹. The meaning of extraordinary is first recorded in 1850.

phenotype *n.* 1911, observable make-up of an organism, as distinguished from the genotype; borrowed from German *Phänotypus*, formed from Greek *phainein* to show + German *Typus* type.

phenyl *n.* 1850, borrowed from French *phényle* (*phène* benzene + *-yle* -yl).

pheromone *n.* 1959, formed from English *phero-*, from Greek *phérein* to carry + (*hor*)*mone*.

phial *n.* Probably about 1380 *fyole*; borrowed from Old French *firole*, probably from Medieval Latin *phiola*, variant of Latin *phiala*, from Greek *phidē* broad flat drinking vessel. The spelling *phial* is found in Middle English before 1398.

phil- form of *philo-*, before vowels and before *h* or *l*, as in *philately*, *philharmonic*, *phillumenist*.

— **phil** form of *-phile*, as in *acidophil*, *Francophil*.

philander *v.* 1737 (implied in *philandering*), to make love in a trifling manner, flirt; literally, to act the Philander, from *Philander*, the proper name of a lover in stories, drama, and poetry; borrowed from the Greek adjective *philandros* loving or fond of men (perhaps misunderstood later as meaning a loving man); formed from *phil-* loving + *andr-*, stem of *anēr* man. — **philanderer** *n.* 1841, formed from English *philander* + *-er*¹.

philanthropy *n.* 1623, love of mankind; earlier *philanthropia* (1608); borrowed perhaps from French *philanthropie*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Late Latin *philanthrōpia*, and in earliest use directly from Greek *philanthrōpiā* humanity, benevolence, from *philánthrōpos*, *adj.*, loving mankind (*phil-* loving + *ánthrōpos* mankind); for suffix see *-Y*³. The meaning of a philanthropic action or agency is first recorded in 1884. — **philanthropic** *adj.* 1789, (implied earlier in *philanthropically*, 1787); borrowed from French *philanthropique*, from Greek *philánthrōpos*; for suffix see *-IC*. — **philanthropist** *n.*

1730–36, lover of mankind; formed from English *philanthropy* + *-ist*.

philately *n.* 1865, borrowed from French *philatélie*, formed from French *phil-* loving + Greek *atéleia* exemption from tax (because a postage stamp shows prepayment of postal tax), from *atéles* free from tax (*a-* without + *télos* tax); for suffix see -Y³. —**philatelist** *n.* 1865, borrowed from French *philatelist* (*philatélie* philately + *-iste* -ist).

-phile a combining form meaning loving, admiring, or having a strong affinity for, or someone or something that loves, admires, or has a strong affinity, as in *acidophile*, *Francophile*. Borrowed through French and Latin from Greek *-philos*, especially in personal names, *philos* loving, dear, from *phileîn* to love.

philharmonic *adj.* 1813, borrowed from French *philharmonique*, from Italian *filarmónico*, literally, loving harmony, from Greek *philos* loving + *tà harmoniká* theory of harmony or music, from neuter plural of *harmonikós* HARMONIC.

Philharmonic came into English as part of the name of musical societies (the *Philharmonic Society* founded in London in 1813); hence the first *Philharmonic orchestra* (1895) was the Society's orchestra. Later many symphony orchestras used *Philharmonic* (e.g. the *Berlin* and the *New York Philharmonic*).

-philia a combining form meaning admiration, fondness, or affinity for, or tendency toward, as in *Anglophilia*, *hemophilia*, *necrophilia*. New Latin, from Greek *philía* affection, from *philos* loving.

philippic *n.* 1592 *Philippique*; borrowing of Middle French *philippique*, learned borrowing from Latin *ōratiōnēs Philippicae* speeches made by Cicero against Mark Antony in 44 and 43 B.C., named after speeches made by Demosthenes in 351, 344, and 341 B.C. attacking the growing power of Philip II of Macedon. Latin *ōratiōnēs Philippicae* is a translation of Greek *Philippikoi logoi*, from masculine plural of *Philippikós* of Philip, from *Philippos* Philip.

philistine *n.* 1827 *Philistine*, translation of German *Philister* enemy of God's word, applied by German university students to townsmen or outsiders; hence, any uncultured person, from Late Latin *Philistaenus* of or from *Philistaea* land of the Philistines, from Greek *Philistia*, from Hebrew *Pēlesheth*. An earlier sense of a person regarded as hostile to those in his control, is found in 1600.

English *Philistine* one of an ancient people of southwestern Palestine (1325), is borrowed from Late Latin *Philistinī*, plural from Greek *Philistinoi*, from Hebrew *Pēlishim* people of *Pēlesheth* Philistia. —**adj.** 1831, from the noun.

philo- a combining form meaning loving or having admiration or fondness for, as in *philology*, *philosophy*. Borrowed from Greek *philo-*, combining form from *philos* dear or friend and *phileîn* to love.

philodendron *n.* 1877, New Latin *philodendron* the genus name, from Greek *philódendron*, neuter of *philódendros* loving trees (*philo-* loving + *déndron* tree, because it clings to trees).

philology *n.* About 1395 *philologie* the personification of knowledge pertaining to language and literature; borrowed from Latin *philologia*. The sense of the study of learning and literature (1614) is borrowed from French *philologie*, learned borrowing from Latin *philologia* love of learning or literature, from Greek *philología* love of discussion, learning, and literature, from *philólogos* fond of discussion studious of words (*philo-* loving + *lógos* word, speech); for suffix see -Y³. *Philology* as the study or science of language (1716) is alluded to earlier in *philologer* a linguistic scholar (1660), *philological* (1659), and *philologue* a linguist (1594). —**philologist** *n.* 1648, literary person, classical scholar; formed from English *philology* + *-ist*. The meaning of a student of language, (1716), replaced *philologer* and *philologue*.

philosophy *n.* About 1300 *philosofie* knowledge, body of knowledge; later *philosophye* (before 1333); borrowed from Old French *filosofie* and later *philosophie*; also borrowed directly from Latin *philosophia*, and from Greek *philosophía* love or pursuit of knowledge, philosophy (*philo-* loving + *sophía* knowledge, wisdom, from *sophós* wise, learned); for suffix see -Y³. —**philosopher** *n.* About 1330 *philosofre* learned man; later *philosophre* (about 1378); in part borrowed from Old French *filosofe*, *philosophre*; also borrowed directly from Latin *philosophus*, and from Greek *philósophos* lover of wisdom, philosopher (*philo-* lover of + *sophía* knowledge, wisdom); for suffix see -ER¹; also part developed from Old English *philosophre* (before 899); borrowed from Latin *philosophus*. —**philosophic** *adj.* About 1475 *philosophik* of philosophy or philosophers; borrowed from Middle French *philosophique*; also borrowed directly from Latin *philosophicus*, and from Greek *philosophikós*, from *philosophía* philosophy; for suffix see -IC. —**philosophical** *adj.* About 1385, formed from Latin *philosophicus* of philosophers or philosophy + Middle English *-al* -al¹. —**philosophize** *v.* 1594, formed from English *philosophy* + *-ize*.

philter or **philtre** *n.* Probably 1587, borrowing of Middle French *philtre*, learned borrowing from Latin *philtrum*, from Greek *phíltron* love-charm, from *phileîn* to love, from *philos* loving; for suffix see -ER¹.

phlebitis *n.* 1822–34, New Latin, formed from Greek *phléps* (genitive *phlebós*) vein + New Latin *-itis* inflammation.

phlebotomy *n.* Before 1400 *flebotomie* a letting of blood; borrowed from Old French *flebotomie*, learned borrowing from Medieval Latin, and borrowed directly from Medieval Latin *phlebotomia*, from Greek *phlebotomía* (*phléps*, genitive *phlebós* vein + *-tomía* a cutting, from *témnein* to cut) for suffix see -Y³.

phlegm *n.* 1373 *fleume* cold and moist humor of the body (also, possibly as an error *feme*, about 1250); borrowed from Old French *fleume*, *flaime*, borrowed from Late Latin *phlegma* one of the four humors of the body, from Greek *phléγμα* inflammation, heat, humor caused by heat, from *phlégein* to burn.

The meaning of mucus, thick discharge, appeared before 1398. —**phlegmatic** *adj.* 1340 *fleumatik* abounding in phlegm

(one of the four humors of the body); borrowed from Old French *fleumatique*, from Late Latin *phlegmaticus* full of phlegm, from Greek *phlegmatikós* of or like phlegm, from *phlégma* PHLEGM; for suffix see -IC.

phloem *n.* 1875, borrowing of German *Phloem*, *Phlœm*, from Greek *phlóos* bark, skin; originally, a swelling or growth, from *phleîn* be full of; related to *phlyein* boil over.

phlox *n.* 1706, borrowing of Latin *phlox*, from Greek *phlóx* (genitive *phlogós*) a kind of plant with a showy flower; literally, flame.

-phobe a combining form meaning one having a certain fear, hatred, or dread, as in *Anglophobe*, *xenophobe*. Borrowed from French *-phobe*, learned borrowing from Latin *-phobus*, from Greek *-phóbos* fearing, from *phóbos* fear, *phobeîn* to put to flight, frighten.

phobia *n.* 1786, New Latin, abstracted from compounds formed with Latin *-phobia* and Greek *-phobía* -PHOBIA. —**phobic** *adj.* 1897, formed from English *phobia* + *-ic*. As a noun, *phobic* a person having a phobia, appeared about 1968.

-phobia a combining form meaning an excessive or abnormal fear of something or someone, as in *agoraphobia*, *claustrophobia*. Borrowed from Greek *-phobía*, from *phóbos* fear, *phobeîn* to put to flight, frighten.

phoebe *n.* 1700 *phebe*, its name formed in imitation of its cry, but later (1839) adapted to *Phoebe*, a proper name.

phoenix *n.* Before 1150 *fenix*; found in Old English (about 750) *fenix*; borrowed from Medieval Latin *phenix*, and later directly from Latin *phoenix*, from Greek *phóinix* (genitive *phoiníkos*) the mythical bird; compare Egyptian *bjn*.

phon- the form of *phono-*, before vowels, as in *phonetic*, *phonic*.

phone¹ *n.* telephone. 1884, shortened form of TELEPHONE. —*v.* 1889, from the noun.

phone² *n.* speech sound. 1866, borrowed from Greek *phōnē* sound or voice.

-phone a combining form meaning sound or voice, as in *microphone*, *xylophone*; or speaking or speaker of, as in *Francophone*. Adapted from Greek *phōnē* voice, sound.

phoneme *n.* 1894, any speech sound; later, smallest contrastive unit of sound in a language (1896); borrowed from French *phonème*, from Greek *phōnēma* a sound, from *phōnēin* to sound or speak, from *phōnē* sound or voice. —**phonemic** *adj.* 1933, formed from English *phoneme* + *-ic*. —**phonemics** *n.* 1936, formed from English *phoneme* + *-ics*.

phonetic *adj.* 1826, borrowed from New Latin *phoneticus* (1797), from Greek *phōnētikós* vocal, from *phōnētós* to be spoken, utterable, from *phōnēin* to speak, from *phōnē* sound, voice; for suffix see -IC. —**phonetics** *n.* 1841, formed from English *phonetic* + *-s*.

phonic *adj.* 1823, of sound, acoustic; later, phonetic (1843); back formation from *phonics*. —**phonics** *n.* 1683–84, the

science of sound, acoustics; later, phonetics (1894); formed from English *phon-* sound + *-ics*. The method of teaching reading is first recorded in 1908, though this system appeared as early as 1844.

phono- a combining form meaning sound, as in *phonograph*, *phonology*. Borrowed from Greek *phōno-*, combining form of *phōnē* voice or sound.

phonograph *n.* 1835–40, a written symbol representing a speech sound; formed in English from Greek *phōno-* sound + *-gráphos* writing, writer; later, instrument that reproduces sounds from records (1877); formed from English *phono-* sound + *-graph* machine that records.

phonology *n.* 1799, formed from English *phono-* sound + *-logy* study of. —**phonological** *adj.* 1818, formed from English *phonology* + *-ical*.

phonon *n.* 1932, quantum of energy in the form of sound or vibration; formed from English *phon-* sound + *-on* unit, as in *meson*.

phony or **phoney** *adj.* 1900 *phoney*, perhaps an alteration of English *faunney* a gilt brass ring used by swindlers (1781), borrowed from Irish *fáinne* ring. —*n.* 1902 *phony*, probably from the adjective. —*v.* 1942, from the adjective.

phosphate *n.* 1795, borrowing of French *phosphate*, formed from *phosph(ore)* PHOSPHOROUS + *-ate* -ate².

phosphor *n.* 1705, borrowed from New Latin *phosphorus* phosphorus, and reinforced by French *phosphore*; later reinforced by German *Phosphor*, from New Latin *phosphorus* PHOSPHORUS.

An earlier use of *Phosphor* (1635–56) the morning star, especially the planet Venus, is borrowed from Latin *Phōsphorus*, and Greek *Phōsphóros* Lucifer, the morning star, from *phosphorus* *adj.* (1629).

phosphorescent *adj.* 1766, formed from New Latin *phosphorus* + English *-escent*. —**phosphorescence** *n.* 1796, probably used in English as a natural formation of the noun to the adjective *phosphorescent* with substitution of *ence*, but also found in French *phosphorescence*.

phosphorus *n.* 1645 phosphorescent substance; New Latin, special use of Latin *Phōsphorus* morning star, from Greek *Phōsphóros* morning star, torchbearer (*phōs* light + *-phóros* bearer, from *phérein* carry). Earlier use English *Phosphorus* (1629) is found in reference to the morning star.

Specific reference to the chemical element first occurs in 1680, though the element was discovered in 1669. —**phosphoric** *adj.* 1784, phosphorescent; probably from *phosphorical* (1753); formed from English *phosphorous* + *-ical*; later, containing phosphorus (1791); probably developed in meaning by influence of French *phosphorique*.

photo *n.* 1860, shortened from PHOTOGRAPH. —*v.* 1868, from the noun.

photo- a combining form meaning light, as in *photosynthesis*; or a shortened form of photograph, as in *photogenic*, or of

photoelectric, in *photocell*. Borrowed from Greek *phōto-*, combining form of *phōs* (genitive *phōtós*) light. Also formed in compounds such as *photojournalism*, *n.* (1944) and *photojournalist*, *n.* (1959).

photogenic *adj.* 1839, as in *photogenic drawing* (the earlier term for photography); formed from English *photo-* + *-genic* produced by.

Since 1855 *photogenic* has been used technically to mean "produced or caused by light." In 1928, *photogenic* was reformed (from *photo* photograph + *-genic* producing) meaning photographing very well.

photograph *n.* 1839, formed from English *photo-* light + *-graph* instrument for recording. —*v.* 1839, from the noun. —**photographer** *n.* 1847, formed from English *photography* + *-er*. —**photographic** *adj.* 1839, formed from English *photograph* + *-ic*. —**photography** *n.* 1839, formed from English *photo* + *-graphy*.

photon *n.* 1926, quantum of light; formed from English *photo-* light + *-on* unit, as in *proton*.

photosynthesis *n.* 1898, loan translation of German *Photosynthese* (*photo-* light + *synthese* synthesis). —**photosynthesize** *v.* 1921, from *photosynthesis* + *-ize*.

phrase *n.* 1530, manner of expression, combination of words, idiomatic expression; borrowed from Latin *phrasis*, from Greek *phrasis* speech, way of speaking, phraseology, from *phrāzein* to express, tell, from *phrāzesthai* to consider. —*v.* Before 1550, to use a phrase or phrases; later, to express in a particular way (1570); from the noun. —**phrasal** *adj.* 1871, formed from English *phrase* + *-al*. —**phraseology** *n.* 1558, appearing as if from Greek **phraseologia*, irregularly formed from Greek *phrasis* way of speaking + *-logia* -logy, and in New Latin *phraseologia*, irregularly formed from Latin *phrasis* way of speaking + *-logia* -logy.

phrenetic *adj.* 1558 *phrenetike*, borrowed from Greek *phrenētikós* FRENETIC; for suffix see *-ic*.

phylactery *n.* About 1384 *filaterie*; later *philateri* (probably about 1400); borrowed from Old French *philaterie*, and directly from Medieval Latin *filacterium*, *philaterium*, alteration of Late Latin *phylactērion* a reliquary or phylactery, from Greek *phylaktērion* safeguard, an amulet, from *phylaktēr*, from *phylassein* to guard or ward off, from *phylax* (genitive *phylakos*) guard; for suffix see *-y*³.

phylogeny *n.* 1872, origin and development of a species; borrowed from German *Phylogenie*, formed from Greek *phylon* race + *-gēneia* origin, from *-genēs* born; for suffix see *-y*³.

phylum *n.* 1876, New Latin, from Greek *phylon* race, stock, related to *phylē* tribe, clan, and *phyein* bring forth.

physic *n.* About 1300 *fysike* a healing potion; later, natural science (about 1330), and *phisik* (about 1378); borrowed from Old French *phisike*, *fisique* natural science, art of healing, and directly from Latin *physica*, feminine singular, study of nature, from Greek *physikē epistēmē* knowledge of nature, from *physis*

nature. The sense of a medicine that acts as a laxative is first recorded in 1617.

physical *adj.* Probably before 1425 *phisicale* medical, as distinguished from surgical; borrowed from Medieval Latin *physicallis* of nature, natural, from Latin *physica* study of nature; see *PHYSIC*; for suffix see *-AL*¹. The meaning of pertaining to matter, material is attested in 1597 and that of having to do with the body, bodily, in 1780.

physician *n.* Probably before 1200 *fisitien* doctor of medicine; later *phisicien* (1369); borrowed from Old French *fisicien*, from *fisique* art of healing; see *PHYSIC*; for suffix see *-IAN*.

physics *n.* 1589, natural science; later, science that deals with matter and energy (1715); borrowed as a translation of Latin neuter plural *physica* natural science; also formed from English *physic* natural science (about 1330) + *-s*¹. Latin *physica* is from Greek *tà physiká*, literally, the natural things, a name given to Aristotle's treatises on nature, from neuter plural of *physikós* of nature, from *physis* nature; for suffix see *-ICS*. —**physicist** *n.* 1840, formed from English *physic(s)* + *-ist*.

physio- a combining form meaning nature, natural, physical, as in *physiology*, *physiotherapy*. Borrowed from Greek *physio-*, combining form of *physis* nature.

physiognomy *n.* Before 1393 *phisonomie* art of judging a person's nature by observing features of the face; borrowed from Old French *phisonomie*, and directly from Late Latin *physiognōmia*, from Greek *physiognōmīā*, a variant of *physiognōmonīā* the judging of a person's nature by his features (*physio-* nature + *gnōmōn*, genitive *gnōmonos* judge, indicator); for suffix see *-y*³.

physiology *n.* 1564, natural science, natural philosophy; borrowed through Middle French *physiologie*, or directly from Latin *physiologia* natural science, study of nature, from Greek *physiologīā* natural science (*physio-* nature + *-logia* -logy). The study of the functions of living things is first recorded in 1615 as a borrowing from New Latin *physiologia*, from Latin. —**physiological** *adj.* 1610, of natural science; formed from Latin *physiologicus* of or belonging to natural science + English *-al*¹.

physiotherapy *n.* 1905, formed from English *physio-* physical + *therapy*.

physique *n.* 1826, borrowed from French *physique*, noun use of *physique*, *adj.*, physical, from Latin *physicus* natural, physical, from Greek *physikós*, from *physis* nature.

-phyte a combining form meaning: 1 plant, planting, growth, as in *epiphyte* plant growing on another, *saprophyte* plant living on decaying matter. 2 abnormal growth, as in *osteophyte* bony excrescence. Adapted from Greek *phytón* plant, *phyein* beget, produce.

phyto- a combining form meaning plant, as in *phytohormone*, *phytotoxic*. Borrowed from Greek *phyto-*, combining form of *phytón* plant; see *-PHYTE*.

pi *n.* 1841, ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter

indicated by the Greek letter π (used in a Latin context, 1748). Borrowing of the name of the Greek letter π (an abbreviation of Greek *periphēria* periphery).

piano *n.* 1803, borrowing of French *piano* and Italian *piano*, shortened form of PIANOFORTE. — **pianist** *n.* 1839, borrowed from French *pianiste*, from Italian *pianista*, formed from *piano piano* + *-ista* -ist.

piandforte *n.* 1767, borrowing of Italian *piandforte*, from *piano e forte* soft and loud (1598, *piano* soft; *e* and; *forte* loud). Italian *piandforte* derives from *gravicembalo col piano e forte* harpsichord with soft and loud (about 1710), because it is capable of producing gradations of tone, in contrast with the unvarying tone of the ordinary harpsichord.

pianola *n.* Before 1896 *Pianola*, trademark of a player piano; formed from *piano* + the ending *-ola*, perhaps abstracted from *viola*.

The popularity of the Pianola inspired the coinage of many names in *-ola*, notably (in 1906) the *Victrola*, eventually leading to the use of *-ola* in slang words such as *payola* and *plugola*.

piazza *n.* 1583, public square or marketplace; borrowing of Italian *piazza*, from Latin *platea* courtyard, broad street. The meaning of a colonnade, covered gallery or walk surrounding an open square, appeared in English in 1642.

pica *n.* 1588, probably borrowed from Medieval Latin *pica* name of a book of rules for determining dates of holy days; probably from Latin *pica* magpie; perhaps so called from the color and confused appearance of the old black type on the page which looked pied on the white paper.

picador *n.* 1797, borrowing of Spanish *picador*, literally, pricker, from *picar* to pierce, from Vulgar Latin **pīccāre* to pierce; see PIKE¹ spear.

picaresque *adj.* 1810, borrowed from Spanish *picaresco* roguish, from *pícaro* rogue, possibly from *picar* to pierce, from Vulgar Latin **pīccāre* to pierce; see PIKE¹ spear; for suffix see -ESQUE.

picayune *adj.* 1813, from the noun (1804, coin of small value, probably from Louisiana French *picaillon* coin worth 5 cents, from French, a coin of Savoy, from Provençal *picaïoun*, derivative of *picaio* money).

piccalilli *n.* 1769 *piccalillo*, perhaps thought of as a derivative of PICKLE. The spelling *piccalilli* appeared in 1845.

piccolo *n.* 1856 *piccolo* flute; borrowed from French *piccolo*, from Italian *flauto piccolo* small flute; *piccolo* small, perhaps from *picca* point or from Vulgar Latin root **pīkk-* little, perhaps related to **pīccāre* to pierce; see PIKE¹ spear.

pick¹ *v.* select. About 1225 *picken* to peck; about 1300 *piken* to work with a pick, dig; about 1330, to choose, select, pick out; probably a fusion of Old English **pīcian* to prick (implied in *pīcung* pricking), and of Old Icelandic *pikka* to prick, peck; both the Old English and Icelandic forms cognate with Middle Dutch *picken* to pick, prick, peck, (modern Dutch *pikken*). — **n.** Before 1450 *pīke* a blow with a pointed instrument; later,

meaning choice, selection (1760–72); from the verb. — **picker** *n.* (1526) — **pickpocket** *n.* 1591, replacing Middle English *pikepurse* (about 1385, from *piken* to pick + *purse*). — **picky** *adj.* 1867, formed from English *pick*¹, *v.* + *-y*¹.

pick² *n.* tool. Probably before 1200 *pic* pickaxe; later *pīke* sharp tool (1337), variants of PIKE² sharp point.

pickax or **pickaxe** *n.* 1428 *pecaxe*, 1494 *pycax*, alteration (influenced by *axe*, *ax*) of earlier Middle English *picas* (1256), *picoyc* (1278); borrowed through Anglo-French *piceis*, and from Old French *picois*, *pecois*; and probably borrowed directly from Medieval Latin *pīcosa* pick, pickax. Old French *picois* and *pecois* were also, in part, borrowed from Medieval Latin and, in part, formed from Old French *pic* pointed instrument, from Latin *pīcus* woodpecker; see PIE² magpie.

pickerel *n.* 1290 *pikerel*, diminutive of PIKE³ fish; earlier as a surname (1200). The suffix *-erel* (also found in *mackerel*, *doggerel*, etc.) was borrowed from Old French *-erel*, *-erelle*, and appears sometimes in the form *-rel* as a derogatory suffix, as in *mongrel*, *scoundrel*, *wastrel*, etc.

picket *n.* 1690, a pointed stake used for military purposes, such as building fences, a defense against cavalry, etc.; borrowed from French *piquet*, from *piquer* to pierce; see PIKE¹ spear.

The sense of a body of troops posted to watch for the enemy is first recorded in 1761 and that of a group of people stationed by a labor union to deter strikebreakers from entering a workplace in 1867. — **v.** 1745, enclose with pointed stakes, from the noun. The meaning of act as a labor picket appeared in 1867.

pickle *n.* Probably before 1400 *pekill* a highly-seasoned sauce served with meat or fowl; probably borrowed from Middle Dutch *pekel* pickle or brine; cognate with Frisian *pikel*, Middle Low German *pēkel* (modern German *Pökel*).

The meaning of food such as a cucumber, preserved in pickle is first recorded in 1707, and developed from the sense of a salt or acid liquid in which meat, vegetables, etc., are preserved (1502, *pigell*). — **v.** 1552 (implied in *pickled*), from the noun + *-ed*².

picnic *n.* 1748, a fashionable social gathering in which each participant contributes a share of the provisions; borrowed from French *pique-nique* (1692), of uncertain origin; perhaps a rhyming reduplication of French *piquer* to pick, peck, from Old French (see PIKE¹ spear) or possibly a compound of French *piquer* to pick + *nique* worthless thing, from a Germanic source. — **v.** 1821, furnish (provisions) by individual contribution; later, go on a picnic (1842); from the noun.

pico- a combining form meaning: 1 one trillionth, as in *picosecond*. 2 very small, as in *picornavirus*. Adapted from Spanish *pico* a little over, a small balance; literally, sharp point, beak, from Celtic (compare Gaulish *beccus* BEAK).

picornavirus *n.* 1962, formed from English *pico-* very small + *RNA* (abbreviation of *ribonucleic acid*) + *virus*.

picosecond *n.* 1966, formed from English *pico-* trillionth + *second*.

pictograph *n.* 1851, formed from Latin *pictus* painted + English connective *-o-* (perhaps influenced by *photo-*) + *-graph*.

pictorial *adj.* 1646, pertaining to painting, produced by the painter; formed as if from a Latin form **pictōriālis*, from Latin *pictōrius* of a painter, from Latin *pictor* painter, from *pict-*, past participle stem of *pingere* make pictures, PAINT; for suffix see -AL¹. The meaning of having to do with or consisting of pictures is first recorded in 1807, that of containing pictures, illustrated (1826), and that of picturesque or graphic, in 1829.

picture *n.* Before 1420, drawing, painting; borrowed from Latin *pictūra*, from *pictus*, past participle of *pingere* make pictures, PAINT; for suffix see -URE. —*v.* About 1489 *picture* to paint, draw, depict; from the noun.

picturesque *adj.* 1703, interesting enough to be used as the subject of a picture; formed from English *picture* + *-esque*, perhaps patterned on French *pittoresque*, from Italian *pittoreresco* pictorial, from *pittore* painter.

piddle *v.* 1545, of uncertain origin; the form of the verb is that of a frequentative (see the suffix -LE³). The participial adjective *piddling*, meaning insignificant, petty, trifling, appeared in 1559.

pidgin *n.* 1876, shortened form of *Pidgin English*, alteration of earlier *pigeon English* the reduced form of English used in China for communication with Europeans (1859), from the *Pidgin English* form *pigeon*, *pigeon* business, representing a Chinese pronunciation of English *business*.

The meaning of any simplified language used between foreigners is first recorded in 1921. —**pidginize** *v.* 1937, back formation from earlier *pidginization* (1934); formed from *pidgin* + *-ization*.

pie¹ *n.* pastry. 1357–58; earlier in Medieval Latin context (1303) *pie* meat or fish enclosed in a pastry; also found in *Piehus* bakery (1199); perhaps from Medieval Latin *pia* pie, pastry, of uncertain origin.

pie² *n.* magpie. About 1250, probably earlier as a surname *Pie* (1177); borrowed from Old French *pie*, from Latin *pica* magpie, related to *pīcus* woodpecker.

piebald *adj.* 1589, in the figurative sense of mixed or mongrel; formed from English *pie²* magpie + *bald* spotted or white; so called from the spotted plumage of the magpie. —*n.* 1765, piebald horse; from the adjective.

piece *n.* Probably before 1200 *pece* part, portion, section; later *piece* (about 1330); borrowed from Old French *piece*, *pece*, from Vulgar Latin **pettia*, probably from Gaulish (compare Welsh *peth* thing and Breton *pez* piece). —*v.* about 1400 *pesen* to patch, repair, join the pieces of; later *pecen* (1440); from noun.

piecemeal *adv.* About 1300 *pecemele* (*pece* PIECE + *-mele*, obsolete suffix “by small measures,” developed from Old English *-mælum* from *mælum* at a time, dative plural of *mæl* appointed time, food served, MEAL¹).

pied *adj.* 1382 *pyed*; earlier in the surname *Pydecoke* (1310); formed from Middle English *pie²* magpie + *-ed²*; so called from the spotted plumage of the magpie.

Early use is associated with *pyed freres*, the name of an order of friars who wore a habit resembling the black and white plumage of the magpie.

pier *n.* Before 1125, as the inflected form *peran*; later *pere* (about 1380); borrowed from Medieval Latin *pera*, perhaps a Latinization of Old North French *pire*, *piere* a breakwater, from Vulgar Latin **petricus*, from Latin *petra* rock.

pierce *v.* Probably before 1300 *percen* to thrust through, prick; earlier in the surname *Percheaie* (1202); borrowed through Anglo-French *perser*, *piercer*, Old French *percer*, *percier*, probably from Vulgar Latin **pertusiāre*, from Latin *pertūsus*, past participle of *pertundere* to thrust or bore through (*per-* through + *tundere* to beat, pound).

piety *n.* About 1325 *piete* mercy, tenderness, pity; earlier as a surname *Piete* (1195); borrowed from Old French *pieté*, from archaic and colloquial Latin *pietātem* (nominative *pietās*, the source of Classical *pietās*) dutiful conduct, kindness, pity, from archaic and colloquial *pīus* (the source of *pīas* dutiful, kind, PIOUS); for suffix see -TY². Related to PITY.

The meaning of *piousness*, in English, is first recorded in 1604. —**pietism** *n.* 1697, a movement in Germany to revive personal piety in the Lutheran Church; borrowed from German *Pietismus*, from Latin *pietās* piety + German *-ismus* -ism. The extended sense of *pietism* “piety, pious sentiment” (often implying an affectation of piety) is first recorded in English in 1829.

piezo- a combining form meaning pressure, as in *piezoelectricity* (1883, electric polarity induced by mechanical pressure, as in certain crystals). Adapted from Greek *piezein* to press, squeeze.

piezometer *n.* 1820, instrument for measuring pressure; formed from English *piezo-* + *-meter*.

piffle *v.* 1847–78, perhaps alteration of *trifle* (by association with such forms as *piddle*). —*n.* 1890, from the verb.

pig *n.* About 1250 *pigge*; later *pig* (before 1325), and as a surname (1186); probably developed from Old English **picga*, **pigga*, found in the compound *pic-bred* acorn, mast. The offensive slang meaning of police officer is recorded in underworld slang since about 1812. —*v.* Probably 1440 *piggen* to bear pigs, farrow; from the noun. The phrase *to pig it* is first recorded in 1889, and the sense of eat like a pig in *pig out* is found in the 1970's. —**pig-headed** (1620) —**pigskin** *n.* 1855, leather from pig's skin; 1894, a football. —**pigsty** *n.* (1591) —**pigtail** *n.* 1688, tobacco in a twisted roll; later, a braid of hair (late 1700's).

pigeon *n.* 1373 *pichon* dove or pigeon; also *pygeon* (probably before 1422); earlier as a surname *Pigun* (1211); borrowed from Old French *pijon*, *pyjoun* young dove, probably from Vulgar Latin **pibiōnem*, alteration (by dissimilation of *p* to *b*) of Late Latin *pīpiōnem* squab, young chirping bird, from Latin *pīpiāre* to chirp. —**pigeonhole** *n.* 1577, small recess for a pigeon;

later, compartment in a desk (1688). The sense of a category is first attested in 1847. —**v.** 1840, to put in a pigeonhole; later, to assign to a category (1870); from the noun.

piggyback *adv.* 1838, alteration of dialectal English *pig back* (1783), itself an alteration (by association with *pig*) of earlier *pickback* (1565), also *pick pack* (1591); possibly formed from English *pick* (a dialectal variant of *pitch*¹ to throw) + *back* or *pack*. The form *piggyback* was also influenced by *pick-a-back*, a variant of *pickback*. —**adj.** 1823 *pick-a-back*; 1944 *piggyback*; from the adverb. The transporting of loaded truck trailers on railroad flatcars is first recorded in 1953. —**v.** to carry on the back, transport on railroad flatcars. 1952, from the adverb.

pigment *n.* Before 1398, a spice or red dye; re-borrowed, probably by influence of Old French *pigment* spice, balm, from Latin *pigmentum* pigment, paint, from root of *pingere* to color, paint. An earlier form *pyhmentum* a spice, as a plural dative, is found about 1150, possibly also known in Old English, and borrowed from Latin *pigmentum*. —**pigmentation** *n.* 1866, formed from English *pigment* + *-ation*.

pigmy *n.* See PYGMY.

pike¹ *n.* spear. About 1511, borrowed from Middle French *pique* a spear, pikeman, from *piquer* to pick, prick, pierce, from Old French *pic* sharp point or spike, possibly through Vulgar Latin **picus*, ultimately from Germanic (compare Old English *pic*). The word was also developed in part directly from Old English *pic* pointed instrument; see PIKE².

pike² *n.* sharp point or spike. Before 1200 *pike*, developed from Old English *piic*, *pic* pointed instrument, pickax (about 725); perhaps borrowed from a Celtic source (compare Gaelic *pic* pickax, Irish *pice* pike, pitchfork, Breton *pik* pike, pickax, and Welsh *pig* point, pike, beak, which are all borrowings from an unknown source). Middle English *pike*² was confused with *pike*¹ by influence of Old French *pic*; and Middle French *pique* and probably by Middle Dutch *picke*, *peke*.

pike³ *n.* fish. 1314 *pike*; also *pike* (1345); probably a special use of *pike*² sharp point, because of the fish's long, slender snout.

pike⁴ *n.* turnpike. 1837, shortened form of TURNPIKE, used in the sense of tollgate; the sense of highway is first recorded in 1852.

piker *n.* 1872, miserly person, probably from earlier *Piker* a poor migrant to California (1860, but originally one from Pike County, Missouri).

pilaf or **pilau** *n.* 1612 *pilaw*, borrowed from Persian *pilāw*, from Turkish *pilāv*. The spelling *pilaff* (1813) is from modern Greek *pilafi*, from Turkish *pilāv*.

pilaster *n.* 1575, borrowed from Middle French *pilastre*, from Italian *pilastro*; formed from *pila* buttress or pile (from Latin *pila* PILLAR) and Latin *-aster*, expressing incomplete resemblance.

pile¹ *n.* mass, heap. About 1410 *pyle*; borrowed from Middle French *pile*, and directly from Latin *pila* stone barrier, PILLAR. It is possible that an earlier use of *pyle* a castle, tower, stronghold (about 1378), and now meaning any very large building,

belongs to this group of meanings. —**v.** Probably before 1400 *pilen*, from the noun, and perhaps also borrowed from Medieval Latin *pilare* to pile up, stack.

pile² *n.* heavy beam. 1190 *pile* an arrow; later, a timber driven into the ground (before 1338); developed from Old English (before 1000) *pil* stake, arrow; borrowed from Latin *pilum* heavy javelin, pestle. Old English *pil* is cognate with Old High German *pfil* arrow, stake.

pile³ *n.* nap of a fabric. About 1350 *pilus*, pl., feathers or plumage; later *piles* hair; borrowed probably from Middle Dutch *pijl*, and directly from Latin *pilus* hair.

The meaning of nap on a fabric is first recorded in English in 1568.

pile⁴ *n.* Usually **piles** pl. hemorrhoids. Probably before 1425 *pillis*, *pilez*; borrowed from Medieval Latin *pili* piles, probably from Latin *pila* ball, in reference to the shape of hemorrhoids.

pilfer *v.* Before 1548, verb use of Middle English *pylfre* spoils or booty (before 1400); also, plundering or despoiling (before 1420); borrowed from Middle French *pelfre* booty or spoils, found in Old French, but of unknown origin; possibly related to PELF. Anglo-Latin *pelfra* booty or spoils was also a source of Middle English *pylfre* and Middle French *pelfrer* to rob, influenced formation of the verb in English.

pilgrim *n.* Probably before 1200 *pilgrim*, *pelegrim*; later *pilgrim* (about 1280); borrowed from Old French *peligrin*, *pelerin*, from Latin *peregrinus* foreigner, from *peregrē* (per- beyond + **agrē*, Old Latin ablative case of *ager* field), and *peregrī* abroad, from abroad (per- beyond + *agrī*, locative case of *ager* field).

In the Romance languages (except Spanish) Latin *peregrinus* became *pelegrin(o)*, *peligrin*, (by dissimilation of the first *r* to *l*). Final *m* is perhaps from Germanic (compare Old High German *Pilgrim*, from *bili-* sword + *grīm* helmet), which may also explain the first *i* in *pilgrim*. In American history, the name *pilgrim*, the English Puritans who founded the colony of Plymouth, Massachusetts in 1620 is also found in the phrase *Pilgrim Fathers* (1799). —**pilgrimage** *n.* About 1275 *pelrimage*; later *pilgrimage* (probably before 1300); formed from English *pilgrim* + *-age*, and borrowed from Old French *pelerinage*, from *pelerin*, *peligrin* pilgrim.

pill *n.* Before 1400 *pille* small ball of medicine; borrowed from Middle Dutch or Middle Low German *pille*, and from Middle French *pile*; all from Latin *pilula* little ball, pill, diminutive of *pila* ball, related to *pilus* hair; see PILE³ nap. —**v.** 1736, to dose with pills; from the noun. The meaning of form small fuzzy balls on fabrics is first recorded in 1953.

pillage *n.* Before 1393 *pilage* spoils or booty; later *pillage* robbery (probably about 1421); borrowed from Old French *pillage* plunder, from *piller* to plunder; possibly from Vulgar Latin **piliāre* to plunder; for suffix see -AGE. —**v.** About 1592; from the noun.

pillar *n.* Probably before 1200 *pilar* pillar, post; later *pillar* (1434); borrowed from Old French *piler*, *pillier*, *pillier*, and directly from Medieval Latin *pilare*, from Latin *pila* pillar, stone barrier.

pillory *n.* 1275 *pillory*; earlier as a surname *Pillori* (1257–58); borrowed from Old French *pilori*, *pillori*, *pelori*, and directly from Medieval Latin *pilloria*, *pilorium*, *pellorium*; of uncertain origin. —*v.* Probably before 1600; from the noun.

pillow *n.* About 1150 *pule*; later *pilowe* (about 1350), and *pillow* (1440); developed from Old English **pulwi*, *pylu*, *pyle* (before 899); cognate with Old Saxon *puli*, *puliui* pillow, Middle Dutch *pōlu*, *pōluwe* (modern Dutch *peluw*), and Old High German *pfūliwi*, *pfūlwo* (modern German *Pfuhl*); all representing West Germanic **pulwī(n)*, an early borrowing from Latin *pulvīnus* pillow. The Middle English word was also borrowed directly from Latin.

pilot *n.* 1530, one who steers a ship; borrowed from Middle French *pilot*, *pilote* (and reinforced by Spanish and Portuguese *piloto*, and Middle Dutch *piljost*), perhaps all from Italian *piloto*, *pilota*; earlier *pedoto*, *pedota*, from Medieval Greek **pēdōtēs*, from Greek *pēdōn* steering oar, related to *poūs* (genitive *podós*) FOOT. (For the change of *d* to *l* compare Latin odor: olet it smells.) Application to one who controls a balloon, is first recorded in 1848. —*v.* 1649, to guide, lead; from the noun; later, conduct as a pilot (1693). —*adj.* 1788, of or pertaining to a pilot; from the noun; later, serving as a guide or prototype, as in *a pilot study*, *a pilot film* (1928).

pimento *n.* 1690 *piemento*; later *pimento* (1718); borrowing of Spanish *pimiento* green or red pepper, also *pimentia* black pepper, from Late Latin *pimenta*, plural of *pimentum* vegetable juice, from Latin *pimentum* pigment.

pimp *n.* 1607, perhaps connected with Middle French *pinper* to dress elegantly, present participle *pinpant* alluring in dress, seductive. —*v.* 1636, from the noun.

pimpernel *n.* 1373 *pympirnell*, 1392 *pimpernelle*; borrowed from Old French *piprenelle*, *pinpernelle*, *pimpernelle*, and directly from Late Latin *pimpinella* a medicinal plant. The meaning of something or someone very elusive (1953), is an allusion to the Scarlet Pimpernel, code name of the hero of the adventure novel *The Scarlet Pimpernel* (1905).

pimple *n.* 1373 *pympel* small inflamed swelling; earlier as a surname *Pympel* (1311); perhaps related to Old English **piplian* (found in the present participle *pipligende* having shingles). —**pimply** *adj.* 1748, formed from English *pimple* + *-y*.

pin *n.* Before 1200 *pin* part of a latch or bolt; later, fastener for clothing (about 1250); developed from Late Old English (before 1100) *pin*; cognate with Old Saxon *pin* peg, Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *pin*, *pinne* (modern Dutch *pin*), and Old High German *pfinn* (modern German *Pinne*); from Proto-Germanic **penn-* jutting point or peak. —*v.* Probably 1350–75 *pynen* to fasten with a pin; also about 1375 *pynnen*; from the noun.

pinafore *n.* 1782 *pin-a-fore*, formed from English *pin*, *v.* + *afore* on the front; so called because it was originally pinned to the dress front.

pincers *n. pl. or sing.* Probably before 1325 *pynsours*; later

piners (1371); borrowed from Old French *pinceure* pincers, from *pinzier* to PINCH.

pinch *v.* About 1230 *pinchen* to pluck; also, to be stingy with (probably before 1325), and to pinch, nip, or assail (about 1350); borrowed from Old North French **pinchier* (modern Norman dialect *pincher*), variant of Old French *pinzier*, perhaps from Vulgar Latin **pinctiāre*, a possible fusion of **punctiāre* to pierce (from Latin *punctum* POINT) and **pīcāre* to pierce. —*n.* 1489, critical juncture; from the verb. The literal meaning of act of pinching is not recorded before 1591.

pine¹ *n.* evergreen tree. About 1150 *pin*; later *pine* (before 1325); developed from Old English (about 1000, in *pintreow*, *pin-beam*) *pīn-*, borrowed from Latin and from Old French *pin*, also from Latin *pinus*. —**pineapple** *n.* Possibly before 1350, in *pine-appeltre*, in reference to *pine appel* cone of the pine tree. The fruit from a tropical plant, is first recorded in 1664, but found as Queen Pine (1661). —**pine cone** (1695, replacing *pine-appel* 1350, and *pine nut* 1600, Old English *pinhnyte*, about 1000).

pine² *v.* yearn. About 1125 *pinen* to torture, crucify; later, to waste away with pain, desire, etc., yearn (before 1325); developed from Old English *pīnian* cause to suffer (before 899), from **pīne* pain, torture, punishment; borrowed possibly through Medieval or Vulgar Latin **pēna*, variant from Latin *poena* punishment, penalty, from Greek *poínē*.

The Old English noun **pīne* corresponds to Old Saxon *pīna*, Middle Dutch *pīne* (modern Dutch *pijn* pain), Old High German *pīna* (modern German *Pein*), and Old Icelandic *pīna* (Swedish *pina*, Danish *pine*), all borrowed from Latin into Germanic with Christianity, and in English first applied to the pains of hell. Though the noun is not found in Old English, the verb is common from an early period.

pineal *adj.* 1681, of or having to do with a cone-shaped gland in the brain; borrowed from French *pinéal*, literally, like a pine cone, from Latin *pīnea* pine cone, from *pīnus* PINE¹ tree.

ping-pong *n.* 1900 *Ping-Pong*, trademark for table tennis equipment (of *ping*, *n.* 1835, and *pong*, *n.* 1823, imitative of the sound of the celluloid ball hitting the paddle and then the table). —*v.* 1901, from the noun. The sense of send something or someone back and forth (as if a ping-pong ball) is first recorded in 1952.

pinion¹ *n.* last joint of a bird's wing. Probably before 1425 *pinion* wing; borrowed from Middle French *pignon*, perhaps from Vulgar Latin **pinnionem* (nominative **pinnio*), extended form of Latin *pinna*, variant of *penna* wing. —*v.* 1558, disable by binding the arms; 1577, bind the wings of; from the noun.

pinion² *n.* small gear with teeth that fit into a larger gear. 1659, borrowed from French *pignon*, from Old French *pignon* crenellation or battlement, from Vulgar Latin **pinnionem* (nominative **pinnio*), an extended form of Latin *pinna* pinna- cle, battlement, variant of *penna* wing, feather, peak. It may be that *pinion*¹ and *pinion*² are the same word if both are derived through Vulgar Latin from Latin *pinna*.

pink¹ *n.* light red color. 1573, a garden plant of various colors; of uncertain origin.

The meaning of the flower (of some good quality) is first recorded in 1592; and that of the most perfect degree of something (as in *the pink of health*), in 1767.

About 1720 the plant name began to be used attributively in the sense of having the color of the garden pink when of a pale rose color.

pink² *v.* to prick or pierce. Probably before 1200 *pungen* pierce or stab; later, to punch holes in (about 1325); developed from a possible Old English *pyngan* and borrowed directly from Latin *pungere* to pierce, prick. The meaning of cut or perforate (cloth) in an ornamental pattern is first recorded in 1503.

pinkie *n.* 1808, borrowed from Dutch *pinkje*, diminutive from *pink* little finger; of uncertain origin.

pinnacle *n.* 1546, ship's boat, borrowed from Middle French *pinace*, from Italian *pinaccia*, or from Spanish *pinaza*, from *pino* pine tree, ship, from Latin *pīnus* PINE¹, also (by metonymy) ship.

pinnacle *n.* Probably about 1300 *pinacle* mountain, peak, promontory; later *spire*, turret (probably 1350–75), and *pynna-
cle* (probably before 1425); borrowed from Old French *pinacle*, *pinnacle*, and directly from Late Latin *pinnāculum* gable, diminutive of *pinna* peak; originally, wing, feather, variant of *penna* FEATHER.

pinnate *adj.* 1727, having leaflets arranged like the vanes of a feather; borrowed from Latin *pinnātus* feathered, winged, from *pinna* feather; for suffix see -ATE¹.

pinochle *n.* 1864 *Peanukle*, *Penuchle*; 1892 *pinochle*; of uncertain origin; perhaps a borrowing of *Binokel*, found in Swiss dialect of German, and probably *binocle*, found in Swiss dialect of French.

piñon *n.* 1831, borrowed from Spanish *piñón* pine nut, a pine bearing edible seed, from *piña* pine cone, from Latin *pīnea*, from *pīnus* pine.

pinscher *n.* 1926, borrowing of German *Pinscher*, earlier *Pint-scher*, also *Pintsch* or *Pinsch*, probably from English *pinch* (because its ears are usually clipped).

pint *n.* 1354 *pynte* vessel containing a pint; borrowed from Old French *pinte*, probably from Vulgar Latin **pīnta*, variant of Latin *picta* painted, feminine past participle of *pingere* to PAINT; possibly so called from the painted mark on a vessel indicating this measure.

pintle *n.* 1486 *pyntell*; earlier *pyntul* penis (about 1350); developed from Late Old English (before 1100) *pintel* penis, probably a formation from the root of Old Frisian and Middle Low German *pint* penis; for suffix see -LE¹.

pinto *n.* 1860, borrowing of American Spanish *pinto*, literally, painted or spotted, from Spanish *pinto*, from Vulgar Latin **pīntus*, variant of Latin *pictus* painted, past participle of *pingere* to paint.

Pinyin *n.* 1963, system for transliterating modern Chinese into Roman characters; borrowed from Chinese *pīnyīn* to combine sounds into syllables, phonetic alphabet, (*pīn* put together + *yīn* sound, tone).

pion *n.* 1951, meson having a mass 264–273 times that of an electron; contraction of *pi-meson* (1947).

pioneer *n.* 1523, foot soldier who prepares the way for an army; borrowed from Middle French *pionnier*, from Old French *peonier* foot soldier, from *peon*; see PAWN² chess piece; for suffix see -EER. The sense of a person who goes first or does something first is first recorded in 1605. —*v.* 1780, from the noun.

pious *adj.* About 1450 *piouse*, borrowed from archaic and colloquial Latin *pīus* (the source of Classical *pīus*) dutiful, kind, devout; related to PIETY and PITY.

pip¹ *n.* seed of fleshy fruit. 1797, shortened form of *pipin* (before 1325); see PIPPIN.

pip² *n.* disease of birds, characterized by the secretion of thick mucus. 1373 *pipe*; borrowed from Middle Dutch *pip*, *pippe* pip or mucus, from Vulgar Latin **pippita*, *pīpita*, through **pīwita* from Latin *pīuīta* phlegm.

pip³ *n.* spot on playing cards, dominoes, or dice. 1674, alteration of earlier *peep* (1604), of unknown origin.

pipe¹ *n.* Probably before 1200 *pipe* musical wind instrument; later, water pipe, conduit (about 1250); developed from Old English (before 1000) *pipe* musical wind instrument, tube to convey water, smoke, etc.; borrowed from Vulgar Latin **pīpa* a pipe, from Latin *pīpare* to chirp or peep, of imitative origin. The Old English form is cognate with Old Frisian *pīpe* pipe, Old Saxon *pīpa*, Middle Dutch *pipe*, Old High German *pfīfa*, and Old Icelandic *pīpa*; all borrowed from Vulgar Latin **pīpa*.

The meaning of a pipe for smoking (1594) is originally recorded with the defining word, as *pipe of tobacco*. —*v.* About 1250 *pipen* whistle, peep; later, play a pipe (probably before 1300); developed from Old English (before 1000) *pīpian*, from Old English *pipe*, *n.*, and probably from Latin *pīpare*; of imitative origin.

The meaning of convey through a pipe or pipes is first recorded in 1889; from the noun.

pipe² *n.* cask, vat. 1314, as part of the name of a customary rental of a cask and armor called “Pipe and Puleyn,” and later a cask, vat (1348); borrowed from Old French *pipe* a liquid-measure, cask for wine, from Vulgar Latin **pīpa* PIPE¹; also influenced in development by Middle English *pipe* PIPE¹.

pipette *n.* 1839, borrowing of French *pipette*, from Middle French *pipette* tube, diminutive of Old French *pipe*, from Vulgar Latin **pīpa* PIPE¹; for suffix see -ETTE.

piping *n.* 1858, from *pipe*, *v.* to trim with material (1841), special use of *pipe*¹, *n.* tube, referring to the cordage often drawn through piping to give it a rounded edge.

pipit *n.* 1768, a coined word (originally spelled *pippit*), imitative of the bird's cry.

pipin *n.* Before 1325 *pipin*, *pepin* seed of a fleshy fruit; earlier as a surname *Pypin* (1297), also, kind of apple (1432); borrowed from Old French *pepin*, probably from the root **pip-*, expressing smallness.

pipsqueak *n.* 1910, formed from English *pip*³ small spot + *squeak*, *n.*

piquant *adj.* 1521, unpleasantly sharp or biting; borrowing of Middle French *piquant* pricking, stimulating, irritating, from Old French, present participle of *piquer* to prick, sting, nettle; see *PIKE*¹ spear.

The meaning of stimulating to the taste, appeared about 1645, and that of stimulating to the mind in 1695. —**piquancy** *n.* 1664, pungency, tartness; formed from English *piquant* + *-cy*.

pique *n.* 1532, ill feeling, personal quarrel; borrowed from Middle French *pique* a prick, sting, irritation, from *piquer* to prick, sting, pierce, nettle, from Old French; see *PIKE*¹ spear.

The meaning of a feeling of anger is first recorded in English in 1592. —**v.** 1664, borrowed from French *piquer* irritate, excite, prick, from Old French, to prick, pierce, nettle.

piqué *n.* 1852, borrowing of French *piqué*, literally, quilted, past participle of *piquer* to quilt, prick; see *PIQUE*.

piranha *n.* 1869, borrowing of Portuguese *piranha*, from Tupi (Brazil) *pira nya*, variant of *pira'ya*, literally, scissors.

pirate *n.* Probably before 1300; earlier as a surname *Pyrot* (1254); borrowed from Old French *pirate*, and directly from Latin *pīrāta* sailor, sea robber, from Greek *peirātes* brigand or pirate; literally, one who attacks, from *peirān* to attack, make a hostile attempt on, try, from *peira* trial, an attempt, attack.

The meaning of a person who appropriates the work of another without right is first recorded in 1701. —**v.** 1574, from the noun. —**piracy** *n.* Before 1552, borrowed from Medieval Latin *piratīa*, from Medieval Greek **peirātēla*, from Greek *peirātes* PIRATE; for suffix see *-CY*. —**piratical** *adj.* 1549 (implied in *piratically*); formed from Latin *pīraticus* (from Greek *peirātikós*, from *peirātes* pirate) + English *-al*¹.

pirouette *n.* 1706, borrowing of French *pirouette*, from Old French *pirouet* spinning top, from the Gallo-Romance root **pir-* peg or plug (represented by dialectal French *pire* large peg, *piron* kind of hinge, *piroc* bud, shoot); for suffix see *-ETTE*. —**v.** 1822, from the noun in English, influenced by French *pirouetter*, from *pirouette*, *n.*

piscatorial *adj.* 1828, from Latin *piscātorius* of fishermen, or fishing, from *piscātor* (genitive *piscātoris*) fisher, from *piscāri* to fish, from *piscis* fish; for suffix see *-AL*¹; possibly formed in English from *piscatory* + *-ial* on the model of Latin *piscātorius*. —**piscatory** *adj.* 1633, borrowed from Latin *piscātorius*.

piss *v.* About 1300 *pissen*; borrowed from Old French *pissier* urinate, from Vulgar Latin **pissiāre*, of imitative origin. —**n.** Before 1387 *pisse*, from *pissen*, *v.* —**pismire** *n.* Probably about 1350 *pyssmourre*; earlier as a surname *Pessemere* (1327); also *pissemure* (about 1395), a compound of *pyss*, *pisse* urine (so

called from the acrid smell of an anthill) + *mire* ant (before 1250 probably borrowed from a Scandinavian source, compare Old Icelandic *maurr* ant, and Old Swedish *myr* ant).

pistachio *n.* 1598, borrowed from Italian *pistacchio*, from Latin *pistacium* the pistachio nut, from Greek *pistákion*, from *pistákē* the pistachio tree, from an Eastern language (compare Persian *pistā* the pistachio tree).

The earlier form *pistace*, recorded in Middle English about 1440, was borrowed from Middle French *pistace*, *pistache*, from Latin *pistacium*.

pistil *n.* 1749, borrowing of French *pistil*, from New Latin *pistillum* a pistil (so called from its resemblance to a pestle), from Latin *pistillum* pestle.

pistol *n.* About 1570, borrowed from Middle French *pistole* small, short firearm, from German *Pistole*, from Czech *píšťala* firearm; originally, pipe, from *píšťeti* to whistle, of imitative origin. An earlier form *pistolet* (1550), borrowed from Middle French *pistolet*, is possibly connected with Italian *pistolese*, in reference to *Pistoia* a town in Tuscany once known for its metal industry and gunsmithing. —**v.** 1607, from the noun.

piston *n.* 1704, borrowing of French *piston*, from Middle French *piston* pestle for a mortar, from Italian *pistone*, *pestone* large pestle, from *pestare* to pound, from Late Latin *pistāre*, frequentative form of Latin *pīnere* to pound.

pit¹ *n.* hole. About 1175 *putte* water hole, pool, spring; later *put*, *pit* hole, grave, hell (probably before 1200); developed from Old English (847) *pytt* water hole, pit; cognate with Old Frisian *pet* pit, Old Saxon *putti*, Middle Low German *putte*, Middle Dutch *put*, *putte* (modern Dutch *put* well, pit), Old High German *pfuzzi*, *pfuzza* (modern German *Pfütze* puddle, pool); representing West Germanic **puttjaz*, an early borrowing from Latin *puteus* well, pit, shaft. —**v.** 1456 *pitten* cast into a pit, mark with pits, from *pit*, *n.* The meaning of set (cocks, dogs, etc.) to fight for sport is first recorded in 1760, in reference to the pits where such matches took place, and that of set to compete, oppose, in 1777. —**pitfall** *n.* Before 1382 *pit falle* a concealed hole; *put-falle* (about 1325) unfavorable terrain. The sense of any hidden danger appears before 1425.

pit² *n.* hard seed. 1841, borrowing of Dutch *pit* kernel, seed, marrow, from Middle Dutch *pit*, *pitte* PITH. —**v.** Before 1930, from the noun.

pitch¹ *v.* to throw. Probably before 1200 *pihte* (past tense of *picchen*, *picchen* to thrust or drive something); later, to throw (about 1380); probably developed from Old English **pician* to prick; cognate with Old Icelandic *pikka*, *þjakka*, Middle Dutch *picken*, *pecken*, East Frisian *pikken*.

The meaning of set up, erect (as in *pitch a tent*) is first recorded about 1250 and that of throw a ball in cricket (now *bowl*) in 1773, and in baseball, in 1845. —**n.** Before 1500, act of pitching; from the verb. The meaning of something pitched is first recorded in 1523, that of the degree of slope, in 1542, and musical pitch, degree of acuteness of tone in 1597.

The sense of the act of pitching a ball was first used in cricket in 1833, and that of talk used in promoting something

(1876), probably an extended sense of a stall pitched for the sale of something (1811). —**pitchfork** *n.* 1364 *pichforke*, alteration (by influence of *pichen* to thrust, throw) of earlier *pikfork* (1356), *pic-forken* (probably before 1200), from *pik-*, *pic-*, combining forms of **PIKE**² (Old English *pīc*) or *pikke* **PICK**² + *fork*, *forken fork*.

pitch² *n.* sticky substance. Probably about 1175 *pich*; later *pytche* (before 1382); developed from Old English (about 700) *pic*; cognate with Old Saxon, Old Frisian *pik* pitch, Middle Dutch *pik* (Dutch *pek*), Middle Low German *pik*, *pek*, Old High German *pek*, *peck* (German *Peck*), Old Icelandic *bik* (Swedish *beek*, Danish *beg*); all borrowed from Latin. English *pitch* was also borrowed through Anglo-French *piche*, *piz*, Old French *poiz*, from Latin *pīx* (genitive *pīcis*) pitch.

pitcher¹ *n.* 1707, iron bar for making holes to erect fence posts; later, a person who pitches hay (before 1722), and the baseball player who pitches the ball (1845).

pitcher² *n.* 1208–09 *picher* earthen jug; later *pitchere* (before 1350); borrowed from Old French *pichier*, *picher*, alteration of *bichier*, from Medieval Latin *bicarium*, probably from Greek *bīkos* earthen vessel.

piteous *adj.* Probably before 1300 *pitous* deserving pity; later *pituius* full of pity (about 1300); borrowed through Anglo-French *pitous*, Old French *pitos*, *piteus*, from Medieval Latin *pietous* merciful, pitiful, from archaic and colloquial Latin *piētās* dutiful conduct, compassion, **PIETY**.

pith *n.* Before 1325 *pith* strength, force, vigor; about 1330 interior portion; developed from Old English *piþa* pith of plants, essential part (before 899); cognate with Middle Low German *pedik*, *peddik* pith, possibly also with Middle Low German *pit*, *pitte* kernel, pith, and Middle Dutch *pit*, *pitte* pith, from West Germanic **piþan-*, *piþthan-*. —**pithy** *adj.* Before 1325 *pithier*, (comparative of *pithi* vigorous, strong); derived from English *pith* + *-y*¹. The meaning of full of substance, meaning, or force is first recorded in 1529.

piton *n.* 1898, borrowing of French *piton* hook, peak, piton, from Old French, nail, hook, from the Vulgar Latin root **pīt-* point or peak.

pittance *n.* Probably before 1200 *pitance* donation to a religious community, small portion of food; borrowing of Old French *pitance* portion of food allowed a monk or poor person, pious dole, formed from *pitie* **PITY** + *-ance* -ance, from archaic and colloquial Latin *piētās* **PITY**; for suffix see *-ANCE*. The meaning of a small amount, portion, or allowance is first recorded in English in 1561.

pituitary *adj.* 1615, borrowed from New Latin *pituitarius*, from Latin *pituitārius* mucous from *pituita* phlegm, mucus; for suffix see *-ARY*.

The name for the gland was adopted because it was believed that the pituitary channeled mucus to the nose. —**n.** 1899, from the adjective.

pity *n.* Before 1250 *pite* pity; earlier as a surname *Pitie* (1195); also, devotion, piety (1340); borrowed from Old French *pitē*,

pitie, from archaic and colloquial Latin *piētatem* (nominative *piētās*) compassion, pity, from *pīus* **PIOUS**. English *pity* and *piety* were not completely differentiated in meaning until the 1600's. —**v.** Probably before 1475 *pete* (variant of **pitien* have compassion for); borrowed from Old French *piteer*, *pitier* to feel pity or compassion for; also, probably developed from the noun in English. —**pitiful** *adj.* About 1303 *pitiful* compassionate (implied in *pytyffully*); later, deserving pity, lamentable (about 1460); formed from Middle English *pite*, *pitee* pity + *-ful*. —**pitiless** *adj.* 1410 *piteles* merciless; formed from Middle English *pite*, *pitee* pity + *-les* -less.

pivot *n.* 1611, borrowing of French, from Old French *pivot* hinge, pivot, of uncertain origin. The sense of central point is first recorded in 1813. —**v.** 1841, turn as if on a pivot; from the noun in English. —**pivotal** *adj.* 1844, central, cardinal; formed from English *pivot* + *-al*¹.

pix *n. pl.* 1932, pictures, spelling alteration of earlier *pics* (1884), plural of *pic* picture.

pixel *n.* 1969, one of the photographic elements of a television image; formed from English *pix* pictures + *el(ement)*.

pixie or **pixy** *n.* About 1630 *pixy* in the compound *pixy-path* bewilderment (path on which one is supposed to be led astray by pixies); later *pixie* in the compound *pixie-led* lost (led astray by pixies, 1659); of uncertain origin.

pixilated *adj.* 1848, dazed or confused; formed from *pixie* + *-lated*, as in *elated*, *titillated*, etc.

pizza *n.* 1935, borrowing of Italian *pizza*, originally, cake, tart, pie; of uncertain origin. —**pizzeria** *n.* 1943, although orally attested since the 1930's; probably borrowed from Italian, from *pizza* + *-eria* -ery.

pizzazz or **pizazz** *n.* 1937 *pizzazz*, a coined word, probably originally college or show business slang.

pizzicato *n., adj.* 1845, *n.*; 1880, *adj.*; borrowing of Italian *pizzicato*, past participle of *pizzicare* to pluck (strings), pinch, from *pizzare* to prick or sting, from *pizzo* point or edge, from Vulgar Latin **pīts-*, probably of imitative origin.

placard *n.* 1481 *plakart* plate of armor; 1482 *placuart* sealed document; later, *placard* (1495); borrowed from Middle French *placard*, *plackart*, *placquard* sealed document, plate of armor, from Old French *plaquier* to piece together, stick, plaster, from Middle Dutch *placken* to patch, related to *placke* patch or stain; for suffix see *-ARD*. The meaning of poster is first recorded in English in 1560, influenced by Middle French, where this sense occurs since the 1400's. —**v.** 1813, from the noun.

placate *v.* 1678, probably developed from earlier *placate*, *adj.*, placid (1662); borrowed from Latin *placātus*, past participle of *placāre* to calm, soothe, related to *placēre* to PLEASE; for suffix see *-ATE*¹; also probably a back formation from *placation* (1589) influenced by Middle French *plaquier* placate, from Latin. —**placable** *adj.* Before 1500, pleasing; later, capable of being placated, mild, gentle (1586); borrowed from Middle French *placable*, and directly from Latin *placābilis*, from *placāre*; for suffix see *-ABLE*.

place *n.* Probably before 1200, borrowed from Old French *place*, and directly from Medieval Latin *placea*, *placia* place, spot, from Vulgar Latin **plattea*, from Latin *platea* courtyard, broad street, from Greek *platēta* (*hodós*) broad (way), feminine of *platýs* broad. Derived forms from Latin *platea* include Middle Dutch *plaetse* (modern Dutch *plaats*), Middle High German *platz* (modern German *Platz*), Icelandic *plāz* (Swedish *plats*, Danish *plads*, Norwegian *plass*). Middle English *place* replaced Old English *stow* and *stede*. —**v.** 1442 *placen*; from the noun.

placebo *n.* 1785, New Latin, from Latin *placēbō* I shall please, future indicative of *placēre* to PLEASE. In Middle English, probably before 1200, used for the Latin rite of Vespers of the Office for the Dead, from the first word of the first antiphon (Psalm 114:9).

placenta *n.* 1677, ovarian tissue of flowering plants; later, organ by which the fetus is attached to the womb (1691), New Latin *placenta uterina* uterine cake, from Latin *placenta* flat cake, altered from Greek *plakōnta*, accusative of *plakōeis* flat.

placid *adj.* 1626, borrowed through French *placide*, and directly from Latin *placidus* pleasing, gentle, calm, from *placēre* to PLEASE.

placket *n.* 1605, of uncertain origin; possibly a variant of PLACARD, in the Middle English *plackert* piece of armor, undergarment (1483).

plagiarism *n.* 1621, formed from earlier English *plagiary* literary thief (1601) + *-ism*. English *plagiary* was borrowed (through influence of French *plagiere*) from Latin *plagiarius* kidnaper, seducer, plunderer, literary thief, from *plagium* kidnapping, from *plaga* snare, net. —**plagiarist** *n.* 1674, formed from English *plagiary* + *-ist*. —**plagiarize** *v.* 1716, formed from English *plagiary* + *-ize*.

plague *n.* Before 1382 *plage* blow, wound, affliction; later, torment or disease (about 1425), borrowed from Late Latin *plāga* pestilence, from Latin *plāga* blow or stroke, probably related to the root *plag-* of *plangere* to strike, lament. Latin *plāga* was also the source of late Old High German and late Old Icelandic *plāga*, Middle High German and Middle Dutch *plāge*, now represented by German *Plage*, Dutch *plaage*, and Norwegian *plage*.

The meaning of an epidemic disease that causes many deaths is first recorded in 1548–49, with the spelling *plague*, from Middle French *plague*. —**v.** 1481 *plaghen*, borrowed from Middle Dutch *plaghen*, from *plaghe* plague, from Late Latin *plāga*; later *plage* (1535); from the noun.

plaice *n.* 1267 *plays*; later *playce* (about 1300); borrowed from Old French *plais*, from Gallo-Romance **platicem*, altered from Late Latin *platessa* flatfish, probably from Greek *platýs* flat or broad.

plaid *n.* 1512, Scottish, from Gaelic *plaid* blanket or mantle; cognate with Irish *plaid*, *ploid* blanket, quilt, plaid. —**adj.** Before 1600, from the noun.

plain *adj.* Probably before 1300 *playne* smooth, flat, straight; later *plain* open, clear, pure, simple (before 1325), and sincere,

honest (about 1375); also, ordinary, unaffected (about 1386); borrowed from Old French *plain*, from Latin *plānus* flat, even, level. —**adv.** Before 1325 *plain* in a plain manner; from the adjective. —**n.** Probably before 1300 *plain*, *pleyn*, *pleine* flat stretch of land; borrowed from Old French *plain*, from Latin *plānum* level surface, from neuter of *plānus* flat, even, level. —**Plains** *n. pl.* 1755, broad open lands (earlier as singular *plain* the Indians living on the Plains, 1697, and the area itself, 1684); also in Middle English about 1395. —**plainsong** *n.* (before 1450)

plaint *n.* Probably before 1200 *pleinte* mourning, lamentation; later *plainte* complaint; and legal statement of grievance (probably before 1300); borrowed from Old French *plaint*, *pleint*, from Latin *plāctus* (genitive *plāctūs*) lamentation, beating, from *plangere* to lament, strike.

plaintiff *n.* Before 1400 *playntyf*, *pleyntyff*, borrowed through Anglo-French *pleintif*, noun use of Old French *plaintif* complaining.

plaintive *adj.* Before 1393 *pleintif* complaining, lamenting; later *plaintive* (1434); borrowed from Old French *plaintif* complaining, from *plaint* PLAIN; for suffix see *-IVE*. The meaning of mournful or sad is first recorded in 1579. Originally *plaintiff* and *plaintive* were the same word in English but the form ending in *-iff* retained its spelling and meaning in legal usage while the adjective use in the common vocabulary was Anglicized.

plait *n.* About 1385 *plite* pleat, fold, wrinkle; later *pleit* braid (before 1398); probably from the verb in English by influence of Anglo-French *pleit*, Old French *pleit* a fold, from Latin *-plicatus*, *-plicitus* folded, variant of *plicatus*, neuter past participle of *plicare* to fold. —**v.** About 1330 *pliten* to join, fasten; later *pleiten* (before 1376), and *plaiten* to fold (about 1380), also, to braid or weave (about 1385); though said to be from the noun in English, the dates in the record, and the development in meaning from “fold” to “braid” in first the verb and then the noun suggests that the verb is the original in English and that the verb was borrowed from Old French *plier* to fold, variant of *pleieir* from Latin *plicare* to fold.

plan *n.* 1678, plane perpendicular to the line of vision; borrowed from French *plan* plane surface, ground plan, map, learned borrowing from Latin *plānum* level or flat surface; also from Medieval Latin *planus* level or open (of land), from Latin *plānus* level or flat. The meaning of a drawing on a flat surface, and the sense of a scheme of action, design, method, are first recorded in 1706. —**v.** 1728, from the noun.

plane¹ *n.* level surface. 1604, borrowed from Latin *plānum* flat or level surface, from neuter of *plānus* flat or level. —**adj.** 1666, borrowed from Latin *plānus* flat or level. —**v.** soar, glide. 1410 *planen*, borrowed from Middle French *planer*, from *plan* plane surface, from Latin *plānum* flat or level surface (so called because a bird when soaring extends its wings in a plane). The meaning of both noun and verb is found in *plane*², an element of the compound *airplane*.

plane² *n.* airplane. 1908, shortened from AEROPLANE.

plane³ *n.* tool for smoothing surfaces. 1350, borrowed from Old French *plane*, and perhaps directly from Late Latin *plāna*, from *plānāre* make level (with a cutting tool), from Latin *plānus* level or flat. —**v.** Before 1325 *planen* to gloss over, explain away; later, to smooth, make even (about 1350); from the noun, and as a borrowing from Old French *planer*, and directly from Late Latin *plānāre* make level (with a cutting tool). —**planer** *n.* (1413).

plane⁴ *n.* tree. Before 1382, borrowed from Old French *plane* descended (with regular loss of *t* before *n*) from Latin *platanus*, from Greek *plátanos*, earlier called *platanistos* the plane tree of Asia Minor, associated with Greek *platýs* broad (from the shape of its leaf).

planet *n.* Probably before 1300 *planete* a celestial body having apparent motion; borrowed from Old French *planete*, and directly from Latin *planēta*, from Greek *astēres planētai* wandering stars, from *planēsthai* to wander. —**planetary** *adj.* 1593, formed from English *planet* + *-ary*, by influence of Middle French *planétaire*, from Old French *planete* planet + *-aire* *-ary*.

planetarium *n.* 1734, apparatus for showing the movement of the planets; New Latin, formed from Late Latin *planēta* PLANET + Latin *-arium*, neuter of *-arius* *-ary*.

planetesimal *n.* 1903, minute celestial body; formed from English *planet* + *-esimal*, abstracted from *infinitesimal*. —**adj.** 1904, probably from the noun.

plank *n.* 1294–95 *plaunke*; earlier as a surname *Plank* (1206); borrowed from Old North French *planke*, variant of Old French *planche*, from Late Latin *planca* board, slab. —**v.** 1432 *plancken*, from the noun.

plankton *n.* 1891, borrowing of German *Plankton*, from Greek *planktón*, neuter of *planktós* wandering, drifting, from *plázesthai* to wander, drift, from *plázein* (earlier **plangye-*) to drive astray.

plant *n.* Before 1376 *plante* young plant, sprout, cutting; earlier as a surname *Plant* (1301); found in Old English (before 830) *plante*; borrowed from Latin *planta* sprout, slip, cutting, and later reborrowed into Middle English from Old French *plante* and directly from Latin *planta*; perhaps derived from **plantāre* to drive in with the feet, push into the ground with the feet, from *planta* sole of the foot.

The sense of something planted or fixed developed into the meaning of a building for an industrial process, first recorded in 1789. The sense of someone who spies, as in *the spy was a plant*, is first recorded in 1812. —**v.** 1137 *planten* put in the ground to grow; later, to establish, settle (probably about 1380); developed from Old English (before 830) *plantian* to plant, and borrowed from Old French *planter*, both Old English and Old French borrowed from Latin *plantāre* to plant, set, from *planta* sprout. —**planter** *n.* (before 1382, one who plants seed; earlier, 1281, as a surname; 1957, container for plants).

plantain¹ *n.* banana. 1555 *plantan* bananalike fruit of the plantain tree; 1589 *plantano* the plantain tree, later Anglicized to *plantain* (1604); borrowing of Spanish *plátano*, *plátano*, from

Medieval Latin *plantanus* plane tree, alteration (by association with Latin *planta* plant) of Greek *plátanos* and Latin *platanus* PLANE⁴ tree; so called from the broad, flat leaves of the plant.

plantain² *n.* weed. Before 1300 *plauntein*; later *plantayne* (about 1395); borrowed through Anglo-French *plaunteyne*, and directly from Old French *plantain* from Latin *plantāginem* (nominative *plantāgō*) the common weed, from *planta* sole of the foot (from its flat leaves).

plantation *n.* Probably before 1425 *plantacion* source (of nerves extending from the brain); later, the act of planting (before 1450); borrowed from Middle French *plantation*, and directly from Latin *plantātiōnem* (nominative *plantātiō*) a planting, from *plantāre* to plant; for suffix see *-ATION*.

The meaning of a large farm on which cotton, tobacco, etc., is grown is first recorded in 1706.

plantigrade *adj.* 1831, walking on the whole sole of the foot; borrowing of French *plantigrade* (1795), formed from Latin *planta* sole of the foot + *gradus* step. —**n.** 1835, from the adjective.

plaque *n.* 1848, borrowing of French *plaque*, from Middle French *plaque* metal plate, coin, of uncertain origin (perhaps through Flemish *placke*, *plak* small coin; originally flat disk or board, or directly from Middle Dutch *placke* disk, patch, stain).

The meaning of a patch of fibrous tissue on the wall of an artery is first recorded in 1891, and that of a deposit of bacteria that adheres to the teeth in 1898.

plash *n.* Probably before 1400 *plashe* a pool of water, puddle; developed from Old English *plæsc*; cognate with Middle Dutch and Flemish *plash* pool. The later meaning of a splash is first recorded in 1513. —**v.** 1582, probably from the noun.

plasma *n.* 1712, form or shape; earlier *plasm*, *plasme* mold in which something is formed (1620); borrowed from Late Latin *plasma*, from Greek *plásma* something molded or created, from *plássein* to mold.

The sense of the liquid part of blood or lymph (from which blood is molded or made) is first recorded in 1845, and that of a highly ionized gas, in 1928.

-plast a combining form used to name particles, granules, cells, or other small formations of living matter, as in *bioplast*, *chromoplast*. Adopted from Greek *plastós* formed, molded.

plaster *n.* About 1150 *plaster* medicinal application, such as a poultice; developed from Old English (before 1000) *plaster* medicinal application; also 1284 *plastre* cementing material, borrowed from Old French *plastre* cementing material; both the Old English and Old French forms borrowed from Latin *emplastra*, *emplastrum* a plaster, from Greek *émplastron*, variant of *émplaston* salve or plaster, from neuter of *émplastós* daubed on (*en-* on + *plastós* molded, from *plássein* to mold; originally, to spread thin). —**v.** Before 1325 *plasteren* to daub or cover with plaster; probably from the noun in Middle English; also 1373 *plastren*, borrowed from Old French *plastrir*, from Old French *plastre*, *n.* —**plasterer** *n.* 1368, borrowed from Old French *plastrier*, from *plastrir* to plaster.

plastic *adj.* 1632, molding or giving shape to material; borrowed, perhaps through influence of French *plastique*, from Latin *plasticus*, from Greek *plastikós* able to be molded, pertaining to molding, from *plastós* molded, from *plássein* to form, mold; for suffix see -IC.

The meaning of easily molded, shaped, or influenced, is first recorded in 1711. —**n.** 1905, solid substance that can be molded; from the adjective. The synthetic product made from oil derivatives (i.e. modern plastic) is first recorded in 1909. —**plasticity** *n.* 1782–83, formed from English *plastic*, *adj.* + -ity.

plate *n.* About 1250 *plate* gold or silver coin; later, flat sheet of metal (about 1300), and metal utensils, shallow dish (1415, but see *platter* 1280); borrowed from Old French *plate*, noun use of *plate*, *adj.*, feminine of *plat* flat, and borrowed directly from Medieval Latin *plata* plate, piece of metal, probably from Vulgar Latin **plattus*, perhaps formed on the model of Greek *platýs* flat, broad. —**v.** About 1380 *platen*, from the noun. —**platelet** *n.* 1895, formed from English *plate* + -let (earlier in reference to blood platelets as *blood plate*, 1885).

plateau *n.* 1796, borrowing of French *plateau* from Old French *platel*, diminutive of *plat* flat surface or thing, noun use of *plat* *adj.* The sense of a level at which something stabilizes, is first recorded in 1894. —**v.** 1952, from the noun.

platen *n.* 1541, flat metal plate; borrowed from Middle French *platine*, from Old French *plat* flat.

platform *n.* 1550, plan of action, scheme, design; borrowed from Middle French *plate-forme*, literally, flat form (from Old French *plate* flat + *forme* form).

The meaning of a raised level surface from the literal sense “flat form” is first recorded in 1560. The sense of a statement of policies of a political party (1803) developed from the literal meaning but was influenced by the sense of a set of rules governing church doctrine, found as early as 1648.

The meaning of a railroad station platform is first recorded in 1838.

platinum *n.* 1812, as an alteration of *platina* platinum (1750), a borrowing of Spanish *platina*, diminutive of *plata* silver (so called because the element resembles silver), from Vulgar Latin **plattus* flat; see *PLATE*.

platitude *n.* 1812, flatness, dullness, triteness, in relation to use of language; borrowing of French *platitude* flatness, vapidness, from Old French *plat* flat (see *PLATE*), formed on analogy of *latitude*, *certitude*, etc.; for suffix see -TUDE.

Platonic *adj.* 1533, of or having to do with the Greek philosopher Plato; later, now usually **platonian**, of or having to do with love free of sensual desire (1631) in reference to Plato's writings in his *Symposium*.

platoon *n.* 1637, borrowed from French *peloton* platoon, group of persons, from Middle French *peloton*, literally, little ball, diminutive of Old French *pelote* ball; see *PELLET*; for suffixal ending see -OON. The sense of a group of football players trained to act as a defensive unit, is first recorded in 1941. —**v.** 1706, to fire a volley; later redeveloped with the

sense of alternate (baseball or football players) in the same position (1955), from the noun use in football.

platter *n.* About 1280 *platerie*, borrowed from Anglo-French *plater*, Old French *plate* *PLATE*, and from Anglo-Latin *platera*, of uncertain origin.

platypus *n.* 1799, New Latin, from Greek *platýpous* flat-footed (*platýs* broad, flat + *poús* foot).

plaudit *n.* 1624, shortened from earlier *plaudite* an actor's request for applause (1567); borrowing of Latin *plaudite!* applaud! (the customary appeal for applause made by Roman actors at the end of a play). Latin *plaudite* is 2nd person plural imperative of *plaudere* to clap, applaud, approve.

The English form *plaudite* was originally pronounced in three syllables; later, the sound represented by the final -e became mute, giving rise to the shortened form *plaudit*.

plausible *adj.* 1541, acceptable, agreeable, pleasing, deserving applause; borrowed from Latin *plausibilis* deserving applause, acceptable, from *plaus-*, past participle stem of *plaudere* to applaud; for suffix see -IBLE. The meaning of seemingly true or reasonable, as applied to arguments or statements, is first recorded in 1565. —**plausibility** *n.* 1596, quality of being agreeable, formed in English from Latin *plausibilis* agreeable, acceptable + English -ity.

play *n.* Probably before 1200 *plage*, *ploge*, *pleige*, *pleowe*, *plohe*, variously found meaning a game or martial sport, activity of children, joke or jesting, revelry; later *play*, *pleie* (before 1250), and dramatic performance (before 1325); developed from Old English (West Saxon) *plega* recreation, exercise, quick movement (about 725, in *Beowulf*), related to *plegian* to exercise, frolic, perform music; cognate with Middle Dutch *playen*, *pleyen* to dance, play, rejoice, and perhaps with *pleghen* attend to, practice (modern Dutch *plegen* commit, practice), Old Saxon *plēgan* vouch for, take charge of, Old Frisian *plega* tend to, and Old High German *pflegen* to tend, attend to, cultivate (modern German *pflegen*), from West Germanic **plegan*.

The meaning of action, operation, working (as in the *play* of *fancy*) is found probably before 1200, in *fulle ploge* freedom of movement, as is the sense of free action, scope for activity (in *to allow the fullest play*). —**v.** Probably before 1200 *pleien*; later *plaien* (about 1250); developed from Old English (about 830) *plegian* to play. —**player** *n.* About 1340 *player* reveler; earlier as a surname *Pleyere* (1275); developed from Old English *plegeri* (about 1000); formed from *plegan* + -er¹. —**playful** *adj.* About 1225 *pleiful*, formed in Middle English from *plei* play + -ful.

plaza *n.* 1836, borrowing of Spanish *plaza* square, place, from Latin *platea* courtyard, broad street.

plea *n.* the noun form of *plead*. About 1250 *plait* strife, complaint, later *plai* lawsuit, controversy (about 1300); *ple* (probably about 1350); borrowed through Anglo-French *plai*, and directly from Old French *plait*, *plet*, *plai* lawsuit, decision, decree, from Late Latin *placitum* decision, decree, from Latin, opinion, decree; literally, that which pleases, from neuter past participle of *placere* to PLEASE.

The meaning of an appeal, argument, excuse, is first re-

corded in English before 1550. —**plea bargain** (1968); v. (1973). —**plea bargaining** (1963).

plead v. the verb form of *plea* (itself found as a verb in English from about 1440). About 1250 *plaiden* make a plea in court, argue a case; later *pleden* (about 1387); borrowed through Anglo-French *pleder*, and directly from Old French *pleidier*, *plaidier*, from Medieval Latin *placitare*, from Late Latin *placitum* PLEA. A variant form, Middle English *plaiten* (before 1325), was borrowed from Old French *plaitier*, altered from *plaidier* by influence of *plait* lawsuit.

The meaning of request, beg, is first recorded probably before 1390.

pleasant adj. About 1378 *plesaunte* pleasing or agreeable; earlier *pleisant* pleased, favorable; also, as a surname *Plesent* (1320); borrowed from Old French *plaisant*, present participle of *plaisir* to PLEASE; for suffix see -ANT. —**pleasantry** n. 1655, borrowed from French *plaisanterie*, from Old French *pleanterie*, from *plaisant* pleasant; for suffix see -RY.

please v. About 1303 *plesen* to satisfy, placate, appease; later, delight (probably about 1380); also *pleasen* (probably before 1400); borrowed from Old French *plesir*, *plaisir* to please, from Latin *placere* to be acceptable, be liked or approved; related to *placare* to soothe, quiet.

The intransitive use of to be pleased, to like (as in *I do as I please*) is first recorded in (1500–20). The imperative use (as in *Please follow me*) was probably originally a shortening of *if you please* (1530). —**pleasure** n. About 1370 *plesure* will, wish, desire; later *pleasure* (probably before 1425); also, gratification, enjoyment, liking (before 1450); borrowed from Old French *plesir*, *plaisir* enjoyment, delight, from *plaisir*, v., to please; for suffix see -URE. —**pleasurable** adj. 1579, formed from English *pleasure* + -able.

pleat n. 1581, variant of PLAID, n. Although the form *pleat* is not found in print from the late 1600's to the late 1800's, the pronunciation it represents did survive and led to reestablishment of the written form *pleat* in the sense of a fold in cloth. —v. 1570, variant of *plait*, v. Use of the spelling *pleat* for the verb parallels the noun.

plebe or **pleb** n. 1833–34 *plebe*; later *pleb* (1852); probably a shortened form of PLEBEIAN or perhaps an extension of meaning and a revival in form of English *plebe* the common people (1612); borrowed from French *plèbe*, from Old French *plebe*, or perhaps a learned borrowing among students from Latin *plēbem* (nominative *plēbs*); see PLEBEIAN.

plebeian n. 1533, commoner of ancient Rome; possibly borrowed from Middle French *plébéien*, or formed in English from Latin *plēbeius* of the common people, from *plēbēs* (later *plēbs*) the common people + English -ian. The sense of any commoner is first recorded in English before 1586. —adj. 1566, from the noun.

plebiscite n. 1860, borrowed from French *plébiscite*, learned borrowing from Latin *plēbiscitum* a decree or resolution of the people (*plēbis*, genitive of *plēbs* the common people + *scitum* decree, from neuter past participle of *sciscere* to assent, vote for,

approve); for suffix see -ITE¹. An earlier use in the sense of law enacted by a Roman plebeian is first recorded in 1533.

plectrum n. 1626, borrowing of Latin *plēctrum*, from Greek *plēktron* thing to strike with, from *plēk-*, root of *plēssein* to strike.

pledge n. 1348 *plegge* a surety, bail; also *pledge* (before 1463); borrowed from Old French *plege*, probably from Frankish **plegan* to guarantee (compare Old Saxon *plēgan* vouch for).

The meaning of a solemn promise or vow is first recorded in English in 1814. —v. Probably about 1400 *pleggen* give in pledge, promise; later, become surety for (before 1439); from the noun in English, and borrowed from Old French *plegier* to guarantee, bail, from *plege* pledge.

For an explanation of the spelling -dge see DRUDGE.

plenary adj. 1517, borrowed from Medieval Latin *plenarius* entire, complete, from Latin *plēnus* full. Modern English *plenary* replaced Middle English *plener* (recorded about 1250); borrowed through Anglo-French *plener*, Old French *plenier*, from Medieval Latin *plenarius* from Latin *plēnus* full; for suffix see -ARY.

plenipotentiary adj. About 1645, borrowed from French *plénipotentiaire*, and directly from Medieval Latin *plenipotentarius*, from Late Latin *plēnipotentem* (nominative *plēnipotēns*) having full power (Latin *plēnus* full + *potentem* powerful); for suffix see -ARY. —n. 1656, from the adjective, influenced by the noun in French.

plenitude n. Probably before 1425, borrowed from Old French *plenitude*, and directly from Latin *plēnitūdinem* (nominative *plēnitūdo*) abundance, completeness, fullness, from *plēnus* complete, full; for suffix see -TUDE.

plenteous adj. Probably before 1400 *plentiose*, *plentius*, alteration of *plentiuos* (1300) and *plenteuous* abundant or plentiful (before 1382); borrowed from Old French *plentiveus*, *plentivous*, fertile or rich, from *plentif* abundant, from *plenté* abundance + -if (Latin -ivus); see PLENTY; for suffix see -OUS.

plenty n. Before 1250 *plente* full supply, abundance; later *plenty* (1373); borrowed from Old French *plenté*, earlier *plentet*, from Latin *plēnitātem* (nominative *plēnitās*) fullness, from *plēnus* complete, full; for suffix see -TY². A now obsolete form *plenthith*, (before 1382), *plentheth* (about 1250), existed until the mid to late 1400's; borrowed from Old French *plentet*. —adj. Before 1325 *plente* full or abundant; from the noun. —**plenti-ful** adj. About 1400 *plenteful*, formed from Middle English *plente*, n. + -ful.

plenum n. 1678, space completely filled; borrowing of Latin *plēnum* (*spatium*) full (space), neuter of *plēnus* complete, full. The meaning of a full assembly (of legislators) is first recorded in 1772.

pleonasm n. 1586, borrowed from Late Latin *pleonasmus*, from Greek *pleonasmós* abundance, exaggeration (in grammar) redundancy, from *pleonázein* abound, be redundant, from *plēōn*, *plēōn* more, comparative of *polýs* much. —**pleonastic** adj. 1778, probably a shortened form of earlier *pleonastical*

(1653), formed on the pattern of such pairs as *sarcasm*, *sarcastic*, etc.; for suffix see -IC, -ICAL.

plethora *n.* 1541, abnormal condition caused by an excess of body fluid; borrowing of Late Latin *plēthōra*, from Greek *plēthōrā* fullness, from *plēthein* be full. The sense of too much is first recorded in English in 1700.

pleura *n.* Probably before 1425, borrowed from Medieval Latin **pleura*, from Greek *pleurā* side of the body, rib.

pleurisy *n.* Before 1398 *pleuresi*; borrowed from Old French *pleurisie*, and directly from Medieval Latin *pleurisis* pleurisy, altered from Latin *pleuritis* pain in the side, from Greek *pleuritis*, from *pleurā* side of the body, rib.

plexus *n.* 1682, New Latin, from past participle of Latin *plectere* to twine, braid, fold. New Latin was probably influenced by French *plexus*.

pliable *adj.* 1392, easily bent, flexible; borrowing of Old French *pliable* flexible, from *plier* to bend, see *PLY*² fold; for suffix see -ABLE. — **pliability** *n.* 1768, formed from *pliable* on the model of such pairs as *durable*, *durability*.

pliant *adj.* Before 1382 *pleaunt* turning about; later *plyant*, *pliaunt* bending easily, malleable; borrowed from Old French *pliant* bending, present participle of *plier* to bend, see *PLY*² fold; for suffix see -ANT. — **pliancy** *n.* 1711, formed from English *pliant* + -cy.

pliers *n. pl.* 1568–69, formed from English *ply*², *v.* + -ers, plural of -er¹.

plight¹ *n.* pledge. About 1250 *pligt*; later *plyt* (probably about 1380) pledge or promise, usually with great risk to the pledger in default; developed from Old English *pliht* danger, risk (before 830); cognate with Old Frisian *plicht* danger, concern, care, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *plicht* obligation, duty, Old High German *pfliht* (modern German *Pflicht*); from Proto-Germanic **plez-*, found in Old English *plēon* to risk the loss of, expose to danger.

The form with *gh* was a spelling alteration introduced on the model of *weight*, *straight*, *flight*. — **v.** Probably before 1200 *plihten* to promise or pledge, swear allegiance; later *plighen* (probably before 1350); developed from Late Old English (before 1016) *pligtan* endanger, from *pliht* danger or risk.

plight² *n.* condition or state, usually bad. About 1175 *plihthe*; later *plight* (before 1275); also *plyt* (probably about 1380) danger, harm, strife; borrowed from Anglo-French *plit*, *pleit*, Old French *pleit*, *plait* condition; originally, way of folding. The common pronunciation and spelling *plyt* (about 1380) is evidence that *plight*² was confused with *plight*¹ in the converging sense of entangling risk, with ensuing harmful consequences, in the 1400's, and further by the shift in spelling of both words after 1425 to *plight*.

plinth *n.* 1611, borrowed probably from French *plinthe* (1544), and directly from Latin *plinthus*, from Greek *plinthos* plinth, brick, tile.

plod *v.* 1562, work laboriously; 1566, walk heavily or slowly;

of uncertain origin, probably imitative, and not connected with Middle English *plodder* a ruffian.

plosive *n., adj.* 1899, shortened form of *explosive*.

plot *n.* Late Old English *plot* (probably before 1100) small area, small piece of ground; of unknown origin.

The sense of ground plan, map, chart is first recorded in 1551, that of a plan or scheme in 1587 and specifically a secret plan in 1594 (in this latter sense *plot* was probably influenced by accidental similarity within *complot*, 1577, borrowed from Old French *complot* combined plan, itself of unknown origin). — **v.** 1588, make a plan; 1589, contrive; from the noun.

plover *n.* 1304 *pluver*, later *plover* (about 1353); borrowing of Anglo-French *plover*, and directly from Old French *plovier*, *pluvier*, from Vulgar Latin **pluviārius* rain bird, from Latin *pluvia* rain; see *PLUVIAL*.

plow *n.* Probably about 1150 *plowe*, later *plow* (about 1300), and *plough* (before 1325); developed from Late Old English (before 1100) *plōg*, *plōh* plow, plowland (a measure of land); possibly a borrowing from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *plōgr* plow, Norwegian, Swedish, and Danish *pløg*), cognate with Old Frisian *plōch* plow, Old Saxon *plōg*, Middle Low German *plōch*, Middle Dutch *ploech* (modern Dutch *ploeg*), and Old High German *pfluoc* (modern German *Pflug*). The word appeared late in the Germanic languages. Early Old English used *sulh* (cognate with Latin *sulcus* furrow). — **v.** 1374 *pluen*; also *plowen* (before 1400), from *plough*, *plow*, *n.* — **plowman** *n.* (about 1300) — **plowshare** *n.* Before 1387 *plow schare*.

ploy *n.* 1722, pursuit, pastime, game, sport; possibly a shortened form of *employ*, *n.*, in the obsolete meaning of employment, use (1666).

pluck *v.* Probably about 1300 *ploken*; later *plukken* (before 1376); developed from Old English (before 1000) *pluccian*, *pluccian* pull off or cull; later, draw or snatch; borrowed from Vulgar Latin **pilūccāre* remove the hair, from earlier **pilūccāre*, frequentative form of **pilūccāre*, extended from Latin *pilāre* pull out hair, from *pilus* hair. The Old English forms are cognate with Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *plucken* to pluck, Middle High German *pfücken*, and Old Icelandic *plukka*, *plokka*. — **n.** Probably before 1400 *plucke*; from *plucken*, *plukken*, *v.*

The sense of courage, boldness, originally boxing slang, is first recorded in 1785; developed from *pluck* the heart or other viscera of an animal (1611). — **plucky** *adj.* 1842, formed from English *pluck*, *n.* + -y¹.

plug *n.* 1627, probably borrowed from Dutch *plug*, from Middle Dutch *plugge* a bung, stopper; cognate with Middle Low German *pluck*, *plugge* plug, Middle High German *pflock*, and modern German *Pflock*.

The meaning of an advertisement, publicity, promotion is first recorded in 1902, perhaps from the verb sense of to strive for, work energetically at (about 1865). — **v.** 1630, from the noun.

plum *n.* About 1150 *plum*; later *plumme* (before 1425, showing

shortening of the vowel, as in *thumb*), and *ploume* (about 1450); developed from Old English *plūme* (about 700), corresponding to Middle Low German *plūme* plum and Old High German *pflūmo* plum tree (modern German *Pflaume* plum); variants of earlier Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *prūme* (modern Dutch *prui* plum) and Old High German *pfrūma*, early borrowings from Vulgar Latin **prūna*, formed from Latin *prunum* plum, from Greek *proūnon*, later form of *proūmnōn*.

The meaning of something very good or desirable is first recorded in English in 1825. The differentiation of *prune* (as a dried plum) and *plum* in English is first found in Middle English about 1350 in *drie prunes*, *prune* being borrowed from Old French *prune* a plum, from Vulgar Latin **prūna* and directly from Latin *porānum*.

plumage *n.* About 1395, borrowing of Old French *plumage*, from *plume* PLUME; for suffix see -AGE.

plumb *n.* Before 1325 *plum*; later *plumbe* (probably about 1400); borrowed from Old French *plom*, *plomb* sounding lead, and directly from Latin *plumbum* lead. —**adj.** Before 1460 *plom* vertical; from the noun. The meaning of complete (as in *plumb foolishness*), is first recorded in 1748. —**adv.** About 1400 *plum* vertically; from the noun. The meaning of thoroughly (as in *plumb worn out*) is found in 1587. —**v.** 1392 *plumen* to immerse; later *plumben* to sink like lead (before 1425); from the noun. The meaning of sound with a plumb is first recorded before 1568.

plumber *n.* 1370 *plumbiner* worker in lead; earlier as a surname *Plumberre* (1102–07); also *plummer* (1399–1400); borrowed from Old French *plomier*, and directly from Latin *plumbārius* worker in lead, from *plumbum* lead; for suffix see -ER¹. —**plumbing** *n.* 1450, the act of attaching a weight to a fishing line; from *plumb*, *v.* + -ing¹. The meaning of water pipes of a building is first recorded in 1884, though the sense of work of one who fashions things in lead is found in 1666.

plume *n.* About 1399, borrowing of Old French *plume*, and borrowed directly from Latin *plūma* feather, down. —**v.** About 1399 *plumen* to strip prey of feathers; later, to adorn with plumes (probably before 1437); borrowed from Old French *plumer* pluck feathers from *plume*, *n.*, plume. The sense of smooth the feathers, preen, is first recorded in 1702, after the figurative sense of show pride in oneself (1643).

plummet *n.* About 1384 *plomet*; borrowed from Old French *plomet*, diminutive of *plom*, *plomb* sounding lead, see PLUMB; for suffix see -ET. —**v.** 1626, to fathom, sound from the noun.

plump¹ *adj.* rounded out. 1481, blunt, dull, stupid; later, of full and rounded form, implied in *plumpness* (1545); borrowed from Middle Dutch *plomp* (or Middle Low German *plump*, *plomp*) blunt, thick, massive, stumpy, probably related to *plompen* fall or drop heavily, PLUMP². —**v.** 1533, probably from the adjective.

plump² *v.* fall or drop heavily. Probably before 1300 *plumten* to plunge abruptly into water; later *plumpen* to immerse quickly (before 1475); borrowed from Middle Dutch *plompen*, or Middle Low German *plumpen*, probably of imitative origin. —**n.**

1596, from the verb; but found also in the form *plumb* a sudden plunge (before 1450). —**adv.** 1594, from the verb. The sense of directly, bluntly is first recorded before 1734. —**adj.** 1611, descending directly, from the verb. The sense of direct or blunt, as in a *plump denial*, is first recorded in 1789.

plunder *v.* 1632, borrowed from modern German *plündern*, from Middle High German *plundern*, from *plunder*, *blunder* household goods; cognate with Middle Dutch *plunder*, *plonder* household goods, clothes, Middle Low German *plunder*-, Frisian *plunje*, *plonje* clothes. —**n.** 1643, act of plundering; 1647 goods plundered, booty, spoil, from the verb.

plunge *v.* About 1380 *plungen* to immerse, submerge, thrust; borrowed from Old French *plungier*, *ploncher*, from Vulgar Latin **plumbicāre* to heave a sounding lead, from Latin *plumbum* lead. —**n.** Probably before 1400, deep pool for diving, from *plungen*, *v.* The act of plunging, a dive into water, is first recorded in 1711.

plunk *v.* 1805, pluck a stringed instrument; 1808, drop down abruptly; probably of imitative origin. —**n.** 1809, from the verb. —**adv.** 1894, from the verb.

pluperfect *adj.* Before 1500 *pluperfyt*, shortened from Latin (*tempus praeteritum*) *plūs (quam) perfectum* (past tense) more (than) perfect (*plūs* more; and *perfectum*, neuter of *perfectus* PERFECT).

plural *adj.* About 1378 *plurel*, borrowed from Old French *plurel* more than one, from Latin *plūralis* of or belonging to more than one (also in grammar), from *plūs* (genitive *plūris*) more, see PLUS; for suffix see -AL¹. —**n.** Before 1398 *plurell*, from the adjective. —**pluralism** *n.* 1818, the holding of two or more church benefices at one time; formed from English *plural* + -ism, by influence of *plurality*. The meaning in philosophy that reality is made up of a plurality of things is first recorded in 1882, and that in sociology of ethnic or cultural diversity in society in 1933. —**plurality** *n.* Before 1376 *pluralité* the holding of two or more church benefices at one time; borrowed from Old French *pluralité* large number, and probably directly from Late Latin *plūralitatem* (nominative *plūralitās*), from Latin *plūralis* plural; for suffix see -ITY. The meaning of being plural is first recorded before 1398 and that of the greater number or part, majority, in 1578, as a borrowing of French *pluralité*.

pluri- a combining form meaning more than one, several or many, multi-, as in *pluricellular*, *pluridisciplinary* consisting of several branches of learning. Borrowed from Latin *plūri-*, from *plūs* (genitive *plūris*) more; see PLUS.

pluripotent *adj.* 1925, formed from English *pluri-* several or many + *potential*.

plus *prep.* 1579, borrowing of Latin *plūs* more (comparative of *multus* much). Latin *plūs* (Old Latin *plous*) is from earlier **pleus*, altered (by influence of *minus* less) from **pleos*, originally neuter comparative. The English sense of added to, did not exist in Latin and probably originated in commercial language of the Middle Ages. —**adj.** 1756, from the preposition. —**n.** 1654, from the preposition. The sense of an addition, gain,

advantage, is first recorded in 1791. —**conj.**, **adv.** 1968, in addition, and; from the preposition.

plush *n.* 1594, borrowed from Middle French *pluche* shag, plush, contraction of *peluche*, literally, hairy fabric, from Old French *peluchier* to pluck (final process in weaving plush) from Vulgar Latin **pilicāre* remove the hair; see **PLUCK**. —**adj.** 1927, from the noun. —**plushy** *adj.* 1611, formed from English *plush*, *n.* + *-y*¹.

plutocracy *n.* 1652, borrowed from Greek *ploutokratia* (*plōtōs* wealth + *-kratīā* rule, from *krátos* rule, power); for suffix see **-CRACY**. —**plutocrat** *n.* 1850, formed from English *plutocracy*, on analogy of *aristocracy*, *aristocrat*.

plutonium *n.* 1942, New Latin, from *Pluto* the planet (from Latin *Plūtō* god of the region of the dead, from Greek *Plōtōn* god of wealth, + *-ium*); so called because plutonium follows neptunium in the periodic table of elements just as the planet Pluto orbits beyond Neptune in the solar system.

pluvial *adj.* 1656, borrowed from French *pluvial*, learned borrowing from Latin *pluviālis* pertaining to rain, from (*aqua*) *pluvia* rain (water), from feminine of *pluvius* (earlier **plovius*), *adj.*, rainy, from *plovere* to rain; for suffix see **-AL**¹.

ply¹ *v.* work with, use. Probably about 1380 *plyen* to cover; 1385, to use, apply, employ, work busily at; shortened from *applien*, *aplien* join to, apply, use; borrowed from Old French *aplier*, from Latin *applicāre* to attach, apply (*op-* on + *plicāre* to lay, fold, twist). The meaning of urge, is first recorded in 1587. The sense of travel regularly between places (1803) probably developed from that of steer a course, move onwards (1556, also found in Middle English about 1410).

ply² *n.* layer. 1532, borrowed from Middle French *pli* a fold, from Old French *plier*, formed from the accented stem of *pleier*, *ployer* to bend or fold. It is probable that the noun in English was also in part influenced in its development by the verb, if not developed from it in some instances. The term *plywood*, referring to several thin layers of wood bonded together, is first recorded in 1907. —**v.** Probably about 1380 *plyen*, borrowed from Old French *plier*, alteration (influenced by *pli-*, the accented stem) of *pleier*, *ployer* to bend or fold, from Latin *plicāre* (earlier **plecāre*) to fold, lay.

pneumatic *adj.* 1659, a shortened form of earlier *pneumatical* (1609), perhaps influenced by Middle French *pneumatique*, and borrowed directly from Latin *pneumaticus* of the wind, belonging to the air, from Greek *pneumatikós* from *pneûma* wind or breath, from *pneîn* to blow or breathe; for suffix see **-IC**, **-ICAL**.

pneumonia *n.* 1603, New Latin, from Greek *pneumonía* inflammation of the lungs, from *pneûmōn* (genitive *pneûmonos*) lung, alteration (perhaps by association with *pneîn* to breathe) of *pleûmōn* lung.

poach¹ *v.* trespass. 1528, to push or poke; borrowed from Middle French *pocher* to thrust, poke, from Old French *pochier* poke out, gouge, from Germanic (compare Middle High German *puchen*, *bochen* to pound, beat, knock, modern German *pochen*, Middle Dutch *bōken* to beat, *pōken* to poke).

The meaning of trespass on is probably first recorded in 1611, perhaps an extension of thrust oneself, intrude (before 1550), or as a translation of to pocket another man's labor (*pocher le labour d'autrui*), thence: 1) *pocher* to pocket, from *poche* a pocket, pouch, or 2) *pocher* to thrust (see above). —**poacher** *n.* 1667, from English *poach¹ + *-er*¹.*

poach² *v.* cook in a liquid. About 1450 (implied in *pocched*, of an egg cooked by breaking it into boiling water), from *pochee* poached egg (before 1399); borrowed from Old French *poché*, *pochié*, past participle of *pochier*, literally, put into a pocket (the white forming a pocket around the yolk), from *poche* bag, pocket, possibly from Germanic (compare Old English *pocca*, *pohha* bag, see **POKE²).**

pock *n.* About 1280 *pokkes* disease accompanied by pimply sores; later *poke* a pimple (before 1325); developed from Old English (about 1000) *poc* pustule; cognate with Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *pocke* pock (Dutch *pok*), and dialectal German *Pfoche*.

The plural forms *pokkes*, *pocks* developed into modern English *pox* (1503).

pocket *n.* 1350 *pokete* pocket, bag, sack; earlier as a surname *Poket* (1210); also *pockete* (about 1410); borrowed from Anglo-French *pokete*, diminutive of Old North French *poke*, *poque* bag, from a Germanic source (compare Old English *pocca*, *pohha* bag; see **POKE**²). —**v.** 1589, from the noun. The sense of to appropriate is first recorded in English in 1637. —**adj.** 1612, from the noun, as in *pocket watch* (1640). —**pocketbook** *n.* 1617, a small book; 1685, a notebook; 1816, a woman's purse. —**pocketful** *adj.* (1611) —**pocket money** (1632)

pod *n.* 1688, of uncertain origin; associated with *podware* seed of legumes, seed grain, 1467, and with parallel forms *codware* husked or seeded plants, such as peas (1398) and *cod* husk of seeded plants (about 1150, found in Old English about 1000).

podiatry *n.* 1914, formed in English from Greek *pod-* (stem of *poús* foot) + *iātrēā* healing, from *iātrós* physician. —**podiatrist** *n.* (1914)

podium *n.* 1789, borrowed through French *podium* (1765), and directly from Latin *podium* raised platform, from Greek *pódion* foot of a vase, diminutive of *poús* (genitive *podós*) foot.

Podunk *n.* 1846, originally used attributively for a small group of Indians living around the Podunk River in Connecticut (1656); borrowed from Algonquian (Mohegan or Massachusetts) *Potunk*, perhaps alteration of *ptukohke* neck or corner of land.

poem *n.* 1548, composition in verse, poetry; replacing *poesy*, and borrowed from Middle French *poème*, from Latin *poëma* verse, poetry, from Greek *poëma*, early variant of *poiēma* thing made or created, fiction, poetical work, from *poieîn*, *poiēin* to make or compose.

poesy *n.* About 1378 *poysye*; also *poesye* (about 1385); borrowed from Old French *poésie*, from Latin *poësis* poetry, from Greek *pōēsis*, variant of *poiēsis* composition, poetry, from *poiēin* to make or compose.

poet *n.* Before 1325 *poet* writer of poems; earlier as a surname *Poet* (about 1200); borrowed from Old French *poëte*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *poëta* poet, author, from Greek *poētēs*, early variant of *poiētēs* maker, author, poet, from *poieîn* to make or compose. —**poetic** *adj.* 1530, shortened form of *poetical* (about 1380); probably formed from Middle English *poet* + *-ical*, later *-ic*, perhaps by influence of Old French *poétique*, and Latin *poeticus*.

The phrase *poetic justice* (for the ideal justice shown often in plays and stories) appeared originally as *poetical justice* in 1679.

poetaster *n.* 1599, New Latin *poetaster*, by influence of Middle French *poetastre*, from Latin *poëta* POET + *-aster*, diminutive suffix.

poetry *n.* About 1380 *poetrie* poetry, creative literature; borrowed from Old French *pöeterie*, *pöetrie*, and probably directly from Medieval Latin *poetria*, from Latin *poëta* POET; for suffix see -RY.

pogrom *n.* 1882, borrowing of Yiddish *pogrom*, from Russian *pogrom* devastation or destruction (*po-* by, through + *grom* thunder, roar, related to *gremet'* to thunder, roar). —**v.** 1915, from the noun.

poi *n.* 1823, food made from the taro root, borrowing of Hawaiian *poi*.

poignant *adj.* About 1387–95 *poynaunt* pungent, tart, painfully sharp, distressing; borrowed from Old French *poignant*, present participle of *poindre* to prick, from Latin *pungere* to prick; for suffix see -ANT. —**poignancy** *n.* Before 1688, sharpness or keenness of words, etc.; formed from English *poignant* + *-cy*.

poinsettia *n.* 1836, New Latin *Poinsettia* genus name of the plant, formed in allusion to Joel R. Poinsett (American minister to Mexico, said to have found the plant in Mexico) + *-ia*, noun ending.

point *n.* Probably before 1200, opportune moment or chance; also, state of being, condition; later, sharp end of a sword, knife, etc.; also, subject or topic (about 1300); and a small mark, dot, period (about 1353); borrowing from two Old French words: 1) in the older sense of opportunity, borrowed from Old French *point* prick, mark, small measure of space or time, from Vulgar Latin **punctum* a puncture, mark on dice, moment, alteration of Latin *punctum*, neuter past participle of *pungere* to prick, stab; and 2) in the later sense of a sharp end, borrowed from Old French *pointe* a pricking, sharp end, from Medieval Latin *puncta* sharp point, altered from Latin *puncta*, feminine past participle of *pungere* to prick. —**v.** About 1300, in the past participle *pointed* having a sharp end; later *pointen* punctuate or end (before 1376); and to prick, stab (before 1400); borrowed from Old French *pointer*, from 1) Old French *point* prick, mark, and 2) Old French *pointe* a pricking, sharp end. The meaning of aim or direct at is first found in the sense of direct attention to (probably before 1387). —**pointed** *adj.* About 1300, having a sharp point; 1665, cutting, stinging, sharp. —**pointer** *n.* 1500, maker of needlepoint lace; 1574, thing that points; 1717, game dog; formed from *point*, *n.*, *v.* + *-er*¹. —**pointless** *adj.* About 1330 *pointles* blunt; 1726, futile.

poise *n.* 1421 *pois* weight; later, significance (1457); borrowed from Old French *pois*, *peis* weight, balance, consideration, from Medieval Latin *pesum* weight, from Latin *pēsum*, noun use of neuter past participle of *pendere* to weigh. The sense of steadiness, composure, is first recorded in English in 1649. —**v.** About 1378 *poisen* to weigh; borrowed from Old French *pois-*, stressed stem of *peser* to weigh, consider, from Vulgar Latin **pēsare*, from Latin *pēnsare* to weigh, consider, frequentative form of *pendere* to weigh.

poison *n.* Probably about 1200 *poisun* deadly substance; borrowed from Old French *poison* a potion, poisonous drink, from Latin *pōtōnem* (nominative *pōtiō*) a drink, poisonous drink. —**v.** Probably before 1300 *poysonen* to kill by poison, from the noun in Middle English, and borrowed from Old French *poisoner* to give to drink, from *poison*, *n.* —**poison ivy** (1784) —**poisonous** *adj.* 1573–80, formed from English *poison*, *n.* + *-ous*.

poke¹ *v.* push with something pointed. Probably before 1300 *puken* to poke, nudge; later *poken* (before 1325); of uncertain origin (compare Middle Dutch *pōken* to poke, *poke* dagger, and Middle Low German *pōken* to stick with a knife; suggesting a Proto-Germanic stem **puk-*, preserved in Low German). —**n.** 1796, from the verb.

poke² *n.* sack. 1228, probably borrowed from Old North French *poke*, *poque* (corresponding to Old French *poche* pocket, POUCH) from a Germanic source (compare Old English *pocca*, *pohha* bag, pocket, Middle Dutch *poke*, dialectal German *Pfoch*, and Old Icelandic *poki* pouch).

poke³ *n.* bonnet. 1770, brim of a bonnet, from *poke*¹ to push. The meaning of a bonnet with a projecting brim is first recorded as *poke bonnet* (1820).

poke⁴ *n.* kind of weed used in medicine; pokeweed. 1634, tobacco plant, shortened form of *uppowoc* (1588); borrowed from Algonquian (Virginia) *uppowoc*; later pokeweed (1708); shortened form of earlier *puccon* (1612); borrowed from Algonquian (Virginia) *puccon* any plant used for dyeing.

poker¹ *n.* metal rod. 1534, formed from English *poke*¹, *v.* + *-er*¹.

poker² *n.* card game. 1834, of uncertain origin (variously explained as borrowed from German *Poch*, *Pochspiel* card game similar to poker, from *pochen* to brag as a bluff; a popular alternative is that *poker* was borrowed from French *poque* another card game resembling poker, said to have come ultimately from the Persian *āš nāš*), but without documentation these explanations are mere speculation.

pokey¹ *n.* jail. 1919, perhaps an alteration of earlier *pogy* or *pogie* poorhouse (1891); of unknown origin.

poky or **pokey**² *adj.* moving slowly. 1849, confined, shabby; later, slow, dull (1856); formed from English *poke*¹ to push + *-y*¹.

polar *adj.* 1551, borrowed from New Latin *polaris* of or pertaining to the poles, from Latin *polus* POLE²; for suffix see -AR.

—**polarity** *n.* 1646, formed from English *polar* + *-ity*.
 —**polarization** *n.* 1812, from French *polarisation*, formed from *polariser* + *-ation*. —**polarize** *v.* 1811, borrowed from French *polariser*, formed from New Latin *polaris* *polar* + French *-iser* *-ize*, and formed in English from *polar* + *-ize*.

pole¹ *n.* long, slender piece of wood, etc. Before 1325 *polle*; earlier in a surname *Waghepol* (1218); also, *pole* (1340); developed from Old English (about 1050) *pāl* stake; borrowed from Latin *pālus* (earlier **pāglos*) stake. Old English *pāl* is cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *pāl* stake, Middle Dutch *pael*, Old High German *pfāl*, and Old Icelandic *páll*. —**v.** 1573, furnish with poles; later, push with a pole (1753); from the noun.

pole² *n.* either end of the earth's axis. About 1380 *pool*; also *pole* (1391); borrowed perhaps through Old French *pole*, *pol*, or directly from Latin *polus* end of an axis, the sky, from Greek *pólos* pivot, axis, the sky.

poleax *n.* 1356–57 *poleax* (more commonly *polax*, *pollax*) a kind of battle-ax; formed from *pol* head (see *POLL*) + *ax*. The modern spelling *poleax* was influenced by *pole*¹.

polecat *n.* 1320 *polcat*, probably formed of Anglo-French *pol*, *pul*, from Old French *poule*, *pol* fowl, hen + *cat*, variant of *chat*, reinforced by Middle English *cat*; perhaps so called because it preys on poultry or the first element *pol*-, later *pul*-, is from Old French *pulent* stinking, because of the polecat's foul odor, but the form *pulcat* does not appear before 1440.

polemic *n.* 1638, borrowed probably from French *polémique*, from Middle French *polemique*, *adj.*, disputatious or controversial; or perhaps, directly from Greek *polemiakós* warlike, belligerent, from *pólemos* war; for suffix see *-ic*. —**adj.** 1641, borrowed probably from French *polémique*; or perhaps, directly from Greek *polemiakós*.

polemology *n.* 1938, formed from Greek *pólemos* war + English *-logy*. —**polemologist** *n.* 1970, formed from English *polemology* + *-ist*.

police *n.* 1716, public order, regulation of a community enforced through Commissioners of Police (1714); earlier, civil organization (1530, *police*, not differentiated from earlier *policie*, probably before 1439, and perhaps about 1390; see *POLICY*¹). English *police* law enforcement (1730), was borrowed from modern French *police*, but in its older sense of civil organization was borrowed from Old French *policie* civil organization; see *POLICY*¹. —**v.** 1589 (implied in *policing*), keep order in; borrowed from Middle French *policer*, from *police*, *n.* The sense of keep order in by use of a police force (1841) is from later use of the noun in English.

An earlier sense of make policies or improve land is first recorded in 1535, in Scottish. —**police force** (1838) —**police officer**

policy¹ *n.* way of management. About 1385 *policey* the art, study or practice of government; also *policie* organized government, civil administration (1390); borrowed from Old French *policie*, learned borrowing from Late Latin *politiā* settled order of government, the State, from Latin *politiā* the State, from

Greek *politeiā* state, administration, government, citizenship, from *polítēs* citizen, from *pólis* city; for suffix see *-y*³. The meaning of a plan of action, way of management is first recorded probably about 1406.

policy² *n.* written agreement about insurance. 1565 *police of assurance* insurance policy; borrowed from Middle French *police* contract, from Italian *pòlizza*, from Old Italian *pòliza* written evidence of a transaction, alteration of Medieval Latin *apodissa*, *apodixa* receipt for money, from Greek *apódeixis* proof, declaration (*apo-* off + *deiknḗnai* to show); for suffix see *-y*³. The form development *apódissa*, *pódissa*, *pólissa* is parallel by Portuguese *apólice* (from Latin *apódixem*).

poliomyelitis *n.* 1878, New Latin, formed from Greek *poliós* gray + *myelós* marrow (probably related to *myós* muscle) + New Latin *-itis* inflammation; so called for the inflammation of gray matter in the spinal cord, causing paralysis of muscles; earlier *infantile paralysis* 1843, because it affected chiefly the young. The form *polio* is first recorded in 1931.

polish *v.* Before 1325 *polisen* make smooth and shiny; later *polishen* (probably before 1400); borrowed from Old French *poliss-*, stem of *polir*, from Latin *polire* to polish, make smooth; for suffix see *-ish*². The sense of free from coarseness, refined, is first recorded about 1340. —**n.** 1597, absence of coarseness, refinement; from the verb. The sense of the act of polishing is first recorded in 1704, and that of a substance used for polishing in 1819.

polite *adj.* Before 1398 *polit* polished, burnished; earlier as a surname *Polyte* (1263); borrowed from Latin *polītus* refined, polished, elegant, from past participle of *polire* to polish.

The meaning of refined, elegant, cultured, is first recorded in English in 1501 and that of courteous, behaving properly, in 1762.

politic *adj.* 1427 *politique* of public affairs, political; also 1436 *politik* prudent, judicious; borrowed from Middle French *politique*, and directly from Latin *polīticus* of citizens or the State, civil, civic, from Greek *polítikós* of citizens or the State, from *polítēs* citizen, from *pólis* city; for suffix see *-ic*. —**v.** Now usually **politick**. 1917, back formation from *politics* or *political*. —**political** *adj.* 1551, of citizens or government; formed probably from Latin *polīticus* political + English *-al*¹, and perhaps from *politic*, *adj.* + *-al*¹. —**politician** *n.* 1588, shrewd person; 1589, person skilled in politics; formed from English *politic*, *adj.* + *-ian*. —**politics** *n.* Before 1529, formed from English *politic*, *adj.* + *-s*¹; also 1450 as *Polettiques* Aristotle's book on governing and government.

politico *n.* 1630, borrowed from Italian *politico* or Spanish *político*, noun use of adjective, political, from Latin *polīticus* *POLITIC*.

polity *n.* 1538, civil organization; borrowed from Late Latin *politiā* organized government, civil administration; see *POLICY*¹; for suffix see *-ty*².

polka *n.* 1844, borrowing of French *polka* and German *Polka*, from Czech *polka*, the dance; literally, Polish woman; also found in Polish *Polka*, feminine of *Polak* a Pole. Possibly Czech

polka is an alteration of *pulka* half (in half steps of the Bohemian peasant dance).

The term *polka dot* pattern of dots, is first recorded in 1884 and was named after the dance. —**v.** 1846, from the noun.

poll *n.* 1625, collection of votes; extended from earlier counting of heads (1607); developed from Middle English (about 1300) *polle* hair of the head; later *pol* person or individual, head (before 1325); borrowed from Middle Low German or Middle Dutch *pol* head, top. The meaning of a survey of public opinion is first found in 1902. —**v.** 1625, to record the votes of; earlier *pollen* cut the hair of (probably before 1300); from the noun. —**pollster** *n.* 1939, formed from *poll*, *n.* + *-ster*.

pollack *n.* 1672, kind of saltwater food fish, alteration of earlier *pollock* (1602), itself an alteration of Scottish *podlok* (1502), of unknown origin.

pollen *n.* 1760, New Latin *pollen*, found in Latin *pollen* (genitive *pollinis*) mill dust, fine flour, related to *polenta* peeled barley, and *pulvis* (genitive *pulveris*) dust.

pollinate *v.* 1875, probably a back formation from English *pollination*; for suffix see *-ATE* ¹. —**pollination** *n.* 1875, borrowed from obsolete French *pollination* (1812, replaced by *pollinisation*), from New Latin *pollen* (genitive *pollinis*) + French *-ation*.

polliwog *n.* 1440 *polwygle*, probably a compound of *pol* head (see POLL) + *wiglen* to WIGGLE. Later spellings include: *polwigge* (1592), *polliwig* (before 1825), and *pollywog* (1835–40).

pollute *v.* About 1380 *polluten* defile; also, to desecrate, profane, sully (before 1382); back formation from *pollution*, and probably borrowed from Latin *pollūtus*, past participle of *polluere* to soil or defile (*pol-*, *por-* before + *-luere* smear, related to *lutum* mud).

The meaning of make physically foul or filthy, is first recorded in English before 1548, and that of contaminate the environment with harmful substances, since 1954. —**pollutant** *n.* 1892, formed from English *pollute* + *-ant*. —**pollution** *n.* Before 1349 *pollucyone* discharge of semen other than during coition; later *pollucyoun* desecration, defilement (before 1382); borrowed through Old French *pollution*, and directly from Late Latin *pollutiōnem* (nominative *pollutiō*) defilement, from Latin *polluere* to soil, defile; for suffix see *-ATION*. The sense of contamination of the environment by harmful substances appears sporadically in technical sources since 1877 but came into general use about 1955.

Pollyanna *n.* 1921, in allusion to the child heroine of the novels *Pollyanna* (1913) and *Pollyanna Grows Up* (1915), who is noted for her cheerful and optimistic outlook in the worst situations.

polo *n.* 1872, Anglo-Indian *polo*, from Balti (a Tibetan language) *polo* ball, related to Tibetan *pulu* ball.

polonaise *n.* 1773, woman's overdress; 1797, stately dance of Polish origin; borrowings of French *polonaise*, from feminine of *polonais*, adj. Polish, from *Pologne* Poland, from Medieval Latin *Polonia* Poland.

polonium *n.* 1898, New Latin *polonium*; formed from Medieval Latin *Polonia* Poland + New Latin *-ium*. The term was coined after Marie Curie's homeland, Poland.

poltergeist *n.* 1848, borrowing of German *Poltergeist* (*poltern* make noise, rattle, rumble + *Geist* GHOST).

poltroon *n.* Before 1529, borrowed from Middle French *poltron* rascal, coward, from Italian *poltrone* lazy fellow, coward, from *poltro* a sluggard, or from *poltrone* colt (from a colt's skittishness); of uncertain origin; for suffix see *-OON*.

poly- a combining form meaning: **1** much, many, multi-, as in *polysyllable*. **2** in chemistry, a one or more units, as in *polyamide*; **b** polymer, polymeric, as in *polyvinyl*. Borrowed from Greek *poly-* combining form of *poly* much.

polyandry *n.* 1780, borrowed from Late Greek *polyandria* populousness, from *polyandros* having many men or mates (*poly-* many + *andr-*, stem of *anēr* man, husband); for suffix see *-Y³*.

polyester *n.* 1929, formed from English *poly-* + *ester*.

polygamy *n.* Before 1591, borrowed perhaps through Middle French *polygamie*, and directly from Late Greek *polygamia* polygamy, from *polygamos* often married (*poly-* many + *gamos* marriage); for suffix see *-Y³*. —**polygamous** adj. 1613, from Late Greek *polygamos* often married; for suffix see *-OUS*.

polyglot *n.* About 1645, borrowed perhaps through French *polyglotte*, *n.* and directly from Greek *polyglōttos* speaking many languages (*poly-* many + *glōtta*, Attic variant of *glōssa* language, tongue). —**adj.** 1656, borrowed perhaps through French *polyglotte*, *adj.*, and directly from Greek *polyglōttos* speaking many languages, and from the noun in English.

polygon *n.* 1656, earlier in Latin plural form *polygona* (1571); borrowed probably from French *polygone*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *polygōnum*, from Greek *polygōnon* a polygon, from neuter of *polygōnos* many-angled (*poly-* many + *gōnā* angle).

polygraph *n.* 1805, a mechanical device for making two or more copies at the same time of something written or drawn; later, an instrument for recording several pulsations of the body at the same time (1871, and first used as a lie detector in 1921); borrowed from Greek *polygráphos* writing much (*poly-* much + *-gráphos* writing, from *gráphein* write). —**v.** 1969, from the noun.

It is possible the form was influenced by French *polygraphe* and also affected by earlier *polygraphic* (1788, in reference to mechanical copying) and *polygraphy* (1593) and *polygrapher* (1588).

polygyny *n.* 1780, formed from Greek *polygynēs* having many wives (*poly-* many + *gynē* woman, wife).

polyhedron *n.* 1570, borrowed from Greek *polyédron*, neuter of *polyédros* having many bases or sides (*poly-* many + *hédra* side, base).

polymath *n.* 1621, borrowed from Greek *polymathēs* having learned much (*poly-* much + root of *manthánein* learn).

polymer *n.* 1866, replacing earlier *polymeride* (1857), and probably borrowed from German *Polymere*, from Greek *polymērēs* having many parts (*poly-* many + *mēros* part). The term was introduced in 1830, and was probably known much earlier than the record shows. — **polymeric** *adj.* 1833, borrowed from German *polymerisch*, formed from Greek *polymērēs* + German *-isch* *-ic*. — **polymerize** *v.* 1865, probably formed from English *polymer(ic)* + *-ize*. — **polymerization** *n.* 1872, formed from English *polymerize* + *-ation*.

polymorphous *adj.* 1785, borrowed from Greek *polymorphos* multiform, manifold (*poly-* many + *morphē* form).

polynomial *n.* 1674, formed from English *poly-* + *-nomial*, as in BINOMIAL. — **adj.** 1704, from the noun.

polyoma *n.* 1958, formed from English *poly-* many + Latin-ate *-oma* tumor.

polyp *n.* Before 1400 *polippe* nasal tumor (having branches like tentacles); 1583, animal with many tentacles or feet; later *polyp* (1602); borrowed from Middle French *polype*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *polypus* cuttlefish, nasal tumor, from Greek (Doric, Aeolic) *polypōs*.

polyphony *n.* 1828, a multiplicity of sounds; earlier *polyphonia* (1713); borrowed from Greek *polyphōnīā* variety of sounds, from *polyphōnos* having many sounds or voices (*poly-* many + *phōnē* voice or sound); for suffix see *-y³*. Later use (perhaps a separate word) meaning counterpoint (1864) is perhaps a back formation from *polyphonic*. — **polyphonic** *adj.* 1782, contrapuntal. 1782, formed from Greek *polyphōnos* having many sounds + English *-ic*.

polytheism *n.* 1613, borrowed from French *polythéisme*, formed from Greek *polytheos* of many gods (*poly-* many + *theos* god) + French *-isme* *-ism*.

polyvinyl *adj.* 1933, formed from English *poly-* + *vinyl*.

pomade *n.* 1562, borrowed from Middle French *pommade* an ointment, from Italian *pomata*, from *pomo* apple, from Latin *pōmum* fruit; so called because the ointment originally contained apple pulp; for suffix see *-ADE*. — **v.** 1889, from the noun.

pome *n.* 1381 *pomme* meatball; later *pome* ball, fruit of any kind (1392); borrowed from Old French *pome*, *pomme*, from Vulgar Latin **pōma*, feminine formed from the neuter plural of Latin *pōmum* fruit. The word in Middle English was also borrowed directly from Latin *pōmum*.

pomegranate *n.* Probably about 1300 *pomme-garnate*; later *pome granate* (1398); borrowed from Medieval Latin *pomum granatum*, and from Old French *pome grenate* (*pome* apple, fruit, and *grenate* having grains, from Latin *grānāta*, feminine of *grānātus*, from *grānum* grain).

pommel *n.* About 1250 *pomel* ornamental knob, round finial; later, knob at end of a sword's hilt (probably before 1300); borrowed from Old French *pomel*, diminutive of *pom* hilt of a sword. The sense of the front peak of a saddle appeared probably about 1450. — **v.** 1530, from the noun (in the sense of the

hilt of a sword). The original sense of the verb was probably to strike with the pommel of a sword.

pomp *n.* Probably about 1300 *pompe*; borrowing of Old French *pompe*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *pompa* procession, pomp, from Greek *pompē* procession, display.

pompadour *n.* 1887, a style of men's hair; also, a woman's style of hair swept up high over the forehead (1899); in allusion to the Marquise de Pompadour, who wore her hair in an upswept style.

pompano *n.* 1778 *pampano*; borrowed from American Spanish *pámpano* any of various fish, from Spanish, a kind of fish with golden markings; originally a vine tendril or scion, from Latin *pampinus* tendril or leaf of a vine.

pompon *n.* 1748, borrowed from French *pompon*, perhaps from Old French *pompe* POMP.

pompous *adj.* About 1375, self-important, pretentious, inflated; borrowed from Old French *pompeux*, and directly from Late Latin *pompōsus* stately, pompous, from Latin *pompa* POMP; for suffix see *-OUS*. — **pomposity** *n.* Probably before 1425 *pomposite* pomp, solemnity; borrowed from Late Latin *pompōsitās*, from *pompōsus* stately, pompous; for suffix see *-ITY*. The sense of ostentatious display, appeared in English in 1620, perhaps borrowed from French *pomposité*, from Late Latin *pompōsitās*.

poncho *n.* 1717, borrowing of American Spanish *poncho* probably from Araucanian (Chile) *pontho* woolen fabric, or possibly (because of early appearance in Castilian Spanish in 1530) from the Spanish adjective *poncho*, variant of *pocho* discolored, faded, designating a blanket or shawl without bright colors and without designs.

pond *n.* About 1300 *punde* artificially enclosed body of water, variant of POUND³ enclosed place. The form is found earlier in the compound *pundpani* pond-penny (1248, a levy imposed for the maintenance of ponds).

ponder *v.* Before 1338 *pundren* to reckon, calculate; later *ponderen* to think, presume, suppose (probably about 1378); also, appraise, weigh (before 1387); borrowed from Old French *ponderer* to weigh, balance, and directly from Latin *ponderāre* to weigh, from *pondus* (genitive *ponderis*) weight; see PENDANT.

ponderous *adj.* Before 1400, thick or viscous; later, heavy or weighty (probably before 1425); borrowed perhaps through Old French *pondereux*, and directly from Latin *ponderōsus* of great weight, from *pondus* (genitive *ponderis*) weight; for suffix see *-OUS*. The meaning of heavy in the sense of labored, dull, or tedious, appeared before 1704.

pone *n.* 1634 *poane* corn bread; earlier *ponap*, *appone* (1612); borrowed from Algonquian (Powhatan) *āpan* something baked, from *āpen* she bakes.

poniard *n.* 1588, dagger, borrowed from Middle French *poig-*

nard, from Old French *poing* fist, from Latin *pugnis* fist; for suffix see -ARD.

pontiff *n.* 1596, high priest; borrowed from French *pontif*, *pontife*, learned borrowing from Latin *pontifex* (genitive *pontificis*) a Roman high priest (in Medieval and Late Latin bishop), probably formed from *pont-* (stem of *pōns* bridge) + *-fex*, *-ficis*, from *facere* make. Latin *pontifex* originally “bridge-maker” or “pathmaker” referred to the priest’s rôle in leading. *Pontiff* referring to a pope (as Bishop of Rome) is not recorded in English before 1677; referring to a pope’s office or tenure, *pontificality* and *pontificate* are found about 1425.

pontifical *adj.* Probably about 1425, of a high church official; borrowed from Middle French *pontifical*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *pontificalis* of a high priest of Rome, from *pontifex*; see PONTIFF; for suffix see -AL¹. The sense of characteristic of a pontiff, stately, pompous, is first recorded in English in 1589. —**pontificate** *v.* 1818, officiate as a pontiff; borrowed from Medieval Latin *pontificatum*, past participle of *pontificare*, from Latin *pontifex*; see PONTIFF; for suffix see -ATE¹. The meaning of act the pontiff, behave or speak pompously, is first recorded in English in 1825.

pontoon *n.* 1676, borrowing of French *pontoon*, from Middle French *ponton*, from Latin *pōtōnem* (nominative *pōtō*) flat-bottomed boat, from *pont-* (stem of *pōns* bridge); for ending see -OON. Term *pontoon bridge*, is first recorded in 1778.

pony *n.* 1659 *powny*, Scottish, apparently borrowed from obsolete French *poulenet* little foal, diminutive of Old French *poulain* foal, from Late Latin *pullāmen* (genitive *pullāminis*) young of an animal, from Latin *pullus* young of a horse, etc., young fowl. —**pony express** (1847)

pooch *n.* 1924, dog; of unknown origin.

poodle *n.* 1825, borrowed from German *Pudel*, shortened form of *Pudelhund* water dog (Low German *Pudel* PUDDLE + German *Hund* HOUND); probably so called because it was used to hunt water fowl.

pool¹ *n.* small body of water. Probably before 1200 *pole* lake, pond; later *pool* (about 1384); developed from Old English *pōl* (before 899); cognate with Old Frisian and Middle Low German *pōl* pool, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *poel*, and Old High German *pfuol* (modern German *Pfuhl*).

pool² *n.* game similar to billiards. 1693, card game with collective stakes (a pool) by the players; borrowed from French *poule* stakes, booty, plunder; literally, hen, from Old French *poule* hen, young fowl. The meaning of a game similar to billiards, originally played for a pool of money, is first recorded in 1848. The meaning of things owned or used in common by a group (as in *motor pool*) is first recorded in 1869. —**v.** 1872, from the noun.

poop¹ *n.* deck at the stern of a ship. 1405–10 *poupe*, borrowed from Middle French *poupe* the stern of a ship; earlier *pope*, from Italian *poppa*, from Latin *puppis* poop, stern.

poop² *v.* become exhausted. 1931, of unknown origin.

poop³ *n.* inside information. 1941, originally army slang; of unknown origin.

poor *adj.* Probably before 1200 *poure*, *pouere*; later *poore* (about 1390); borrowed from Old French *poure*, *povre*, from Latin *pauper* poor. —**n.** Probably about 1150 *pouere* poor people as a group; later *poure* (probably about 1200); collective use of the adjective. —**poorly** *adv.* About 1230 *pourelliche*, formed from Middle English *poure* poor + *-liche* -ly¹. —**adj.** 1573, probably from the adverb.

pop¹ *v.* make an explosive sound. 1433 *poppen* to strike, rap, from the noun. The meaning of move, go, or come suddenly appeared in 1530. The meaning of make an explosive sound is first recorded in 1576. —**n.** About 1400 *poppe*, *pop* blow or stroke, of imitative origin. The meaning of an explosive sound is found in 1591; from the verb. —**adj.** 1621, from the verb and noun. —**popcorn** *n.* 1819, a variety of corn.

pop² *adj.* popular. 1926, shortened from *popular*, originally having wide public appeal, influenced by the earlier *pop* (1862), shortening of *popular concert*, often in the plural, as in *Boston Pops Orchestra*.

pop³ *n.* father, dad. 1838, shortened and altered form of earlier *papa* 1681, borrowing of French *papa*, from Old French, a children’s word similar to Latin *pappa*.

pope or **Pope** *n.* Before 1118 *pape* (implied in *papdom*, *papedom*); later *pope* (probably before 1200); developed from Old English *pāpa* (before 899); borrowed from Medieval or Late Latin *pāpa* bishop, pope, found in Latin *pāpa* bishop, and *pāpās* tutor, from Greek *pāpās*, *pāppās* patriarch, bishop; originally, father (also the same as Latin *pappa*; compare POP³).

popinjay *n.* 1322 *popingaye* parrot, figure of a parrot; earlier as a surname *Papejaye* (1270); also *popynjay* (about 1380); borrowed from Old French *papingay*, *papegai*, from Spanish *papagayo*, from Arabic *babaghā*, from Persian *babghā*, *babaghā* parrot. The meaning of a vain, talkative person is first recorded in 1528.

poplar *n.* 1356 *popler*, borrowed from Old French *poplier*, extended from *pouple* poplar, from Latin *pōpulus* poplar.

poplin *n.* 1710, borrowed from French *papeline* cloth of fine silk, probably from Provençal *papalino*, feminine of *papalin* of or belonging to the pope, especially to the papal seat of Avignon and its manufacturing of silk fabric, from Medieval Latin *papalis* PAPAL; and developing from confusion in English of Flemish *Poperinghe*, town in Flanders where poplin was made, with French *papeline* cloth of fine silk.

poppy *n.* About 1150 *papig*; later *popi* (before 1200); developed from Old English *popig* (about 1000), earlier *popæg* (about 700); borrowed probably as an alteration of Vulgar Latin **papāvum*, itself an alteration of Latin *papāver* poppy.

poppycock *n.* 1865, nonsense, probably borrowed from dialectal Dutch *pappekak* (Middle Dutch *pappe* soft food, *pap* + *kak* dung, excrement, from *kakken*, *cacken* to excrete, from Latin *cacāre*).

popsicle *n.* 1923 *Popsicle*, a trademark for lollipops and ices on a stick; probably formed from English (*lolly*)*pops* + (*ic*)*icle*.

populace *n.* 1572, borrowed from Middle French *populace*, from Italian *popolaccio* mob or rabble, a pejorative form of *popolo* people, from Latin *populus* people.

popular *adj.* Probably before 1425 *populer* commonly known, public; borrowed from Middle French *populeir*, *populaire*, and directly from Latin *populāris* belonging to the people, from *populus* people; for suffix see -AR. The meaning of intended for the general public (as in *popular science*) is first recorded in 1573, and that of liked, beloved, or admired by the people, in 1608. —**popularize** *v.* 1593, to cater to popular taste; 1797, make popular (a sense probably borrowed from French *populariser*); but the word was originally formed from English *popular* + -ize.

populate *v.* 1574, as a past participial adjective; borrowed from Medieval Latin *populatus*, past participle of *populare* inhabit, from Latin *populus* inhabitants, people; for suffix see -ATE¹. —**population** *n.* 1612, borrowed from Late Latin *populatiōnem* (nominative *populatiō*) a people, multitude, from Latin *populus* people; for suffix see -ATION.

populist *n.* 1892, formed from Latin *populus* people + English -ist, referring to a supporter of the Populist Party, organized in the interests of farmers and workers in the U.S. After the Party dissolved the term continued (especially as an adjective) to describe political views similar to those of the original Populists. —**adj.** 1893, of the Populist Party, adjective use of *Populist*, *n.* By the 1920's, *populist* meant "representing the views of the masses." —**populism** *n.* 1893 *Populism* the policies of the Populist Party, formed from *Populist*, on the pattern of *socialist*, *socialism*, etc.

populous *adj.* About 1425 *populous*, learned borrowing from Latin *populōsus* full of people, populous, from *populus* people; for suffix see -OUS.

porcelain *n.* About 1530 *Porseland* chinaware; also *Porcelana* (1555), and *porcelain* (1615); borrowed from Middle French *porcelaine*, from Old French *porcelaine*, *pourcelaine*, and directly from Italian *porcellana* porcelain cowrie shell (so called from the resemblance of chinaware to the surface of cowrie shells). Italian *porcellana* is our adjective form of *porcella* young sow, from Latin (masculine) *porcellus* young pig, diminutive of *porculus* piglet, itself a diminutive of *porcus* pig; so called because the curved shape of the cowrie shell was thought to be suggestive of the exposed outer genitalia of the young sow.

porch *n.* About 1300 *porche* roofed structure, covered entrance; borrowing of Old French *porche*, from Latin *porticus* (genitive *porticius*) colonnade, arcade, porch, from *porta* gate.

porcine *adj.* Probably before 1425, borrowed from Old French *porcin*, and directly from Latin *porcīnus* of a hog, swinish, from *porcus* hog, pig.

porcupine *n.* Probably before 1400 *porke despyne*; also *portepyn* (about 1400); borrowed from Old French *porc-espīn* (liter-

ally, pig of spines) a compound of Latin *porcus* hog, pig + *spīna* thorn, spine.

pore¹ *v.* look intently. Probably about 1225 *puren*; later *pouren* (probably before 1300); of uncertain origin; perhaps from Old English **pūrian*, **pūran*, related to: 1) Old English *spyrian* to investigate, examine; cognate with Old Icelandic *spyrja*, Old High German *spūrien*, and Old Frisian *spera*, and 2) Old English *spor* trace, vestige; cognate with Old Icelandic and Old High German *spor*.

pore² *n.* very small opening in the skin. Before 1387 *poore*; also *pore* (before 1398); borrowed from Old French *pore*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *porus* a pore, from Greek *póros* a pore; literally, passage.

porgy *n.* 1725 *porgie*; 1734 *porgy*, probably alteration of earlier *porgo* (1616) and *pargo* (1557) the sea bream; borrowing of Spanish and Portuguese *pargo*, from Latin *phagnum*, accusative of *phager*, from Greek *phágros* sea bream.

pork *n.* About 1300 *porc*; earlier in the surname *Porkuiller* (1215); also *pork* (before 1398); borrowing of Old French *porc*, and directly from Latin *porcus* pig, tame swine. —**pork barrel** 1909, the State's financial resources, as a source of distribution, from earlier sense of a source of supply of food (pork) kept in a *pork barrel* (1801). The shortend form *pork* is recorded from 1879.

porn or **porno** *adj.* 1952 *porno*, 1963 *porn*, shortened form of *pornographic*. —**n.** 1962 *porn*, 1968 *porno*, shortened form of *pornography*.

pornography *n.* 1857, description of prostitutes or prostitution; 1864, obscene writings or pictures; borrowed from French *pornographie*, from Greek *pornógráphos* (one) writing of prostitutes (*pornē* prostitute + *gráphein* write; for suffix see -Y³). —**pornographic** *adj.* 1880, formed from English *pornography* + -ic.

porous *adj.* 1392, borrowed probably through Old French *poroux*, from Medieval Latin *porosus*, and borrowed directly from Latin *porus* opening, PORE²; for suffix see -OUS. —**porosity** *n.* 1392 *porosite*, borrowed probably through Old French *porosité*, from Medieval Latin *porositatem* (nominative *porositas*), from *porosus*; for suffix see -ITY.

porphyry *n.* About 1450 *porphiri*, spelling alteration (influenced by Latin *porphyritēs*) of Middle English *porfurie* (about 1395); borrowed from Old French *porfire*, from Italian *porfiro*, and borrowed directly into English from Latin *porphyritēs* a purple precious or semi-precious stone originally quarried in Egypt, from Greek *porphyritēs*, from *porphyrā* purple.

porpoise *n.* 1309–10 *porpas*; later *porpeys* (1381) and *porpoy*s (1391); borrowed from Old French *porpais*, *porpeis*, literally, pork fish (*porc* PORK + *peis* fish, from Latin *piscis* fish). Old French *porpois*, *porpeis* is probably a loan translation of a Germanic compound (compare Middle Dutch *mēreswijn* porpoise, modern German *Meerschwein*, Danish *marvin*, and modern Icelandic *marvin*).

porridge *n.* About 1532 *porage* soup of meat and vegetables, alteration of POTTAGE. The spelling *porridge* appeared in 1601 possibly influenced by obsolete English *porray*, *porrey* a vegetable soup, from Middle English *porreie* (before 1325); borrowed from Old French *porree* leek soup, from *por* leek, from Latin *porrum* leek. The food made of oatmeal is recorded before 1643.

porringer *n.* 1467 *porrynger*; alteration of Middle English *potynger* small dish for stew (1454); earlier *potager* (1415), from *potage* POTTAGE; for suffix see -ER¹. For intrusive *n* see MESSENGER.

port¹ *n.* harbor. Old English *port* harbor or haven (before 899); reinforced in Middle English *port* (1340, and 1102 as a place name) by Old French *port*; both the Old English and Old French forms borrowed from Latin *portus* port.

port² *n.* porthole. About 1300 *porte* port or gate, gateway; earlier as a surname *Port* (1243); also *port* (before 1325); borrowed from Old French *porte* gate, entrance, and directly from Latin *porta* gate, door.

port³ *n.* left side of a ship or aircraft when facing the bow or front. 1625–44, probably from PORT¹ harbor, the side of a ship facing the harbor having originally been called *port side*.

port⁴ *n.* bearing, carriage, mien. Probably before 1300 *pourt*; later *porte* (about 1378); borrowed from Old French *port*, from *porter* to carry, from Latin *portāre* to carry.

port⁵ *n.* sweet wine. 1691, shortened form of *Oporto* (in Portuguese *O Porto* the Port), city in northwestern Portugal, from which the wine was originally shipped.

portable *adj.* Probably before 1425, borrowed from Middle French *portable* that can be carried, and directly from Late Latin *portābilis* that can be carried, from Latin *portāre* to carry. —*n.* 1883, from the adjective.

portage *n.* 1423 *portage* act of carrying; borrowing of Old French *portage*, from *porter* to carry, from Latin *portāre* to carry; for suffix see -AGE. The specific sense of the carrying of boats, etc. from one body of water to another is first recorded in 1698.

portal *n.* Probably about 1380 *portale*, borrowed from Old French *portal* gate, and directly from Medieval Latin *portale* city gate, porch, from neuter of *portalis*, *adj.*, of a gate, from Latin *porta* gate.

Special application of *portal*, first to the valves of the heart (1615), later to circulation of the blood through the *portal vein* (1845), is borrowed from Medieval Latin *portalis* of or pertaining to a gate, though first referred to in the noun *porta* (1392, a borrowing from Latin *porta* gate).

portcullis *n.* Probably before 1300 *port colice*; later *portculis* (probably about 1350); borrowed from Old French *porte coleice* sliding gate (*porte* gate, from Latin *porta* gate; and *coleice* sliding or flowing, feminine of *coleis*, from Vulgar Latin **cōlāticius* sliding, from Latin *cōlāre* to filter or strain).

portend *v.* Probably before 1425 *portenden*, borrowed from

Latin *portendere* foretell or predict (*por-* forth, forward + *tendere* to stretch, extend).

portent *n.* 1563–87, borrowed from Middle French *portente*, from Latin *portentum* a sign, omen, from neuter of *portentus*, past participle of *portendere*; PORTEND; also probably influenced by earlier *portentous*. —**portentous** *adj.* About 1540 *portentius*, later *portentous* (1553); borrowed possibly through Middle French *portentueux*, and directly from Latin *portentōsus*, *portentuōsus* monstrous, threatening, from *portentum* portent; for suffix see -OUS.

porter¹ *n.* person employed to carry. Before 1382 *portor*; earlier as a surname *Portur* (1263); borrowed from Anglo-French *portour*, *porter*, Old French *portēor*, from Late Latin *portātorēm* (accusative *portātor*) one who carries from Latin *portāre* to carry; for suffix see -ER¹, -OR².

porter² *n.* doorkeeper, janitor. About 1250; earlier as a surname *Portier* (1183–85); borrowed from Anglo-French *porter*, *portour*, Old French *portier*, from Late Latin *portārius* gatekeeper, from Latin *porta* gate; for suffix see -ER¹, -OR².

porter³ *n.* dark-brown beer. 1739, shortened from earlier (1727) *porter's ale*; see PORTER¹. Whether *porter* or *porter's ale* was made at low cost for, and consumed chiefly by, porters as a class of laborers is not known, though that is the thrust of early quotations. Others have referred to the strength of the drink, presumably suitable to men and women engaged in the hard manual labor of a porter.

porterhouse *n.* 1800, restaurant or chophouse where porter and other malt liquors are served (*porter*³ beer + *house*). The meaning of a choice cut of beefsteak, as *porterhouse steak* (1841), is said to be associated with a porterhouse in New York City where this cut of meat was popularized about 1814.

portfolio *n.* 1796 *port folio*, and *porto folio* (1722); borrowed from Italian *portafoglio* a case for carrying loose papers (*porta*, imperative of *portare* to carry + *foglio* sheet or leaf).

portico *n.* 1605, borrowing of Italian *portico*, from Latin *porticus* (genitive *porticiūs*) colonnade, arcade, porch, from *porta* gate.

portion *n.* Before 1325 *porcion* part or share; also, about 1330 *portion*; borrowed from Old French *porcion*, *portion*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *portiōnem* (nominative *portiō*) share or part, accusative of the noun in the phrase *prō portiōne* according to the relation (of parts to each other); see PROPORTION. —*v.* Before 1338 *portionen*, borrowed from Old French *porcioner*, *portionner*, from the noun.

portly *adj.* Before 1475, stately or dignified (*port*⁴ bearing + -ly²). The meaning of stout or corpulent is first recorded in 1598.

portmanteau *n.* 1584, borrowing of Middle French *portemanteau* traveling bag; also, officer who carries a prince's mantle (*porte*, imperative of Old French *porter* to carry + *manteau* cloak). —*adj.* 1882, in *portmanteau word* a word blending sounds of two different words; originally applied (as a noun,

1872) to such coinages as *slithy* (*lithe* and *slimy*), subsequently extended to anything suggesting such a combination.

portrait *n.* 1570, drawing, painting, or carving of an object; probably a back formation from *portraiture*, influenced by *portret*, *purtrayt* painted, sculptured, past participle of *portraien*, *purtrayen* portray; and borrowed from Middle French *portrait*, from Old French *portret*, *portraict*, *purtraict*, noun use of *portrait*, past participle of *portraire* to paint, depict; see **PORTRAY**. The picture of a person's face is first recorded in English in 1585. —**portraiture** *n.* About 1380 *portreyture* a painting, picture, portrait; also, about 1385, act of portraying; borrowed from Old French *portraiture*, from *portrait* portrait; for suffix see **-URE**.

portray *v.* About 1250 *purtrayen* to draw, paint, or engrave; later *portrayen* (probably about 1300); borrowed from Anglo-French *purtraire* and from Old French *portraire* to draw or paint, portray; literally, trace (a line) or draw forth (*por-* forth, from Latin *prō-* + *traire* trace, draw, from Latin *trahere* to drag, draw).

The meaning of picture in words, describe, is first recorded in about 1370. —**portrayal** *n.* 1847, formed from English *portray* + **-al**.

portulaca *n.* 1373 *portulake*; later *portulaca* (probably about 1450); borrowed from Latin *portulaca* purslane, from *portula*, diminutive of *porta* gate; so called from the gatelike covering of the plant's seed capsule.

pose¹ *v.* put in a certain position. About 1378 *posen* suggest, propose, suppose, especially for the sake of argument; later, put or place in a certain condition or situation (before 1425); borrowed from Old French *poser* put, place, propose, from Vulgar Latin **pauāre* put, place, from Late Latin *pauāre* to halt, rest, pause.

In Old French (also in Spanish Portuguese, Italian and Provençal) the verb acquired the sense of Latin *pōnere* to put, place, by confusion with *pos-*, perfect stem of *pōnere* and came to be identified with it in many of its compounds coexisting in English, such as *compose*, *dispose*, *expose*, *impose*, and *propose*. —**n.** 1818, borrowed from French, from Old French *poser* to pose.

pose² *v.* to puzzle completely. 1593, from earlier sense of question, interrogate (1526); probably borrowed from Middle French *poser*, originally, suppose, assume, from Old French *poser* **POSE**¹; and a shortening of English *apose* to examine closely, question (before 1333) and *oppose* of the same meaning (about 1385).

poseur *n.* 1872, borrowing of French *poseur*, from *poser* affect an attitude or pose, from Old French *poser* to put or place, **POSE**.

posh *adj.* 1903 *push*; later *posh* (1918, in *Punch*); perhaps from British slang *posh* a dandy (1890); earlier money (1830; originally a coin of small value, a halfpenny, possibly borrowed from Rumanian *posh* half).

The derivation from the initial letters of *port outward*, *starboard home*, the more expensive shipboard accommodations for

those traveling between England and India, especially on the P & O Lines, is without substance.

posit *v.* 1647, put in position; borrowed from Latin *positus*, past participle of *pōnere* put or place; see **POSITION**. The meaning of lay down or assume as a fact or principle is first recorded in 1697.

position *n.* About 1380 *posicioun* statement of belief, proposition; later, place where a person or thing is, location; borrowed from Old French *posicion*, and directly from Latin *positiōnem* (nominative *positiō*) act or fact of placing, position, affirmation, from *posit-*, past participle stem of *pōnere* put or place; for suffix see **-ION**. —**v.** 1678, assume a position; later, to put or place (1817); from the noun.

positive *adj.* Before 1325, formally laid down or imposed, in reference to a law, etc.; borrowed from Old French *positif* of that which is laid down, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *positivus* settled by arbitrary agreement, positive, from *positus*, past participle of *pōnere* put or place; for suffix see **-IVE**.

The meaning of explicitly laid down, definite, precise (as in *proof positive*) is first recorded in 1598, and that of unqualified, absolute, unconditional (as in *a positive miracle*) in 1606. As the opposite of *negative*, *positive* first appears before 1398, but most technical uses are later; in philosophy, practical or empirical (1594); in mathematics, greater than zero (1704); in electricity (1755). —**n.** 1530, from the adjective. —**positively** *adv.* About 1443, in a definite way, expressly; also, absolutely or extremely (1777).

positron *n.* 1933, formed from English *posi(tive)*, *adj.* + **(elec)tron**.

posse *n.* 1645, armed force; 1691, body of citizens summoned by a sheriff; shortening of earlier *posse comitatus* (1626), literally, the force of the county; borrowed from Medieval Latin (*posse* body of men, power, from Latin *posse* have power, be able and *comitatus* of the county, genitive of Late Latin *comitatus* court, palace).

possess *v.* About 1380 *possessen* to have, hold, or own; probably a back formation from *possession*, and borrowed from Old French *possesser* possess, from Latin *possess-*, past participle stem of *possidēre* to possess. —**possession** *n.* 1340 *possession*, borrowed from Old French *possession*, and directly from Latin *possessiōnem* (nominative *possessiō*), from *possess-*; for suffix see **-ION**. —**possessive** *adj.* About 1450 *possessyf* of the possessive case in grammar (also as a noun); borrowed from Middle French *possessif* (feminine *possessive*), and directly from Latin *possessivus* possessive (in grammar), from *possess-*; for suffix see **-IVE**.

possible *adj.* Probably 1350–75 *possybil* that can be or capable of being; also, possible (probably about 1370); borrowed from Old French *possible*, and directly from Latin *possibilis* that can be done, from *posse* be able; see **POTENT**; for suffix see **-IBLE**.

—**possibility** *n.* About 1385 *possibilitie*, borrowed from Old French *possibilitē*, and directly from Late Latin *possibilitātem* (nominative *possibilitās*) possibility, from Latin *possibilis* possi-

ble; for suffix see -ITY. —**possibly** adv. About 1400, formed from English *possible*, adj. + -ly¹.

possum *n.* 1613, shortened form of OPOSSUM. The phrase *play possum* pretend (in allusion to the opossum's habit of pretending to be dead when threatened) is first recorded in 1822.

post¹ *n.* piece of timber, etc. set upright. Old English *post* post, pillar, doorpost (about 1000) borrowed from Latin *postis* post (probably originally "projecting," perhaps then from *por-* forth + *stāre* to stand), reinforced in Middle English by Old French *post* post, pillar, beam. —**v.** 1650, fasten (a notice) to a post, from the noun; earlier, to square (timber) before sawing (about 1520), and as *posting* (gerund) a post or posts (1295).

post² *n.* place when on duty or in employment. 1598, borrowed from Middle French *poste* place where one is stationed, employment, military post (also a station for post horses), from Italian *posto* post, station, employment, from Medieval or Vulgar Latin **postum* station, from Latin *positum*, neuter past participle of *pōnere* to place or put; see related POST³ system of mail. The meaning of a job, position, place, is first recorded in English in 1695–96. —**v.** 1683, to station at a post; from the noun.

post³ *n.* system for sending mail. 1506, riders and horses posted at intervals along a route to carry mail in relays; borrowed from Middle French *poste* specifically, station for post horse, from Italian *posta* an establishment for the conveyance of mail, from Medieval or Vulgar Latin **posta* station, fixed place on a road, variant of Latin *posita*, feminine past participle of *pōnere* to place or put; see related POST² place where one is stationed.

The meaning of a system for carrying mail is first recorded in English in 1663. —**v.** 1533, travel with relays of horses; from the noun. The meaning of carry swiftly is first recorded in 1611; and that of send by post, mail, in 1837. —**postage** *n.* 1590, the sending of mail by post; formed from English *post*³, *n.* + -age. The amount charged for sending by mail is first recorded in 1654. —**postage stamp** (1840, eventually replacing the postmark, 1678, that showed a fee for mailing). —**postal** adj. 1843, borrowed from French *postal*, from Middle French *poste* *post*³, *n.*; for suffix see -AL¹. —**postcard** *n.* (1870) —**postman** *n.* (1529) —**postmaster** *n.* (1513) —**post office** (1652; earlier *letter office*, 1635)

post- a prefix meaning after, afterwards, behind; the use of the prefix may be prepositional, as in *postglacial*, *Postimpressionism*, *postmeridian*, or adverbial or adjectival, as in *postlude*, *postpone*, *postscript*. Borrowed from Latin *post-*, from adverb and preposition *post* behind, after, afterward.

poster *n.* 1838, formed from English *post*¹, *v.*, to fasten (a notice) + -er¹.

posterior adj. 1534, coming after, later, subsequent; situated behind (1632); borrowed, perhaps by influence of Middle French *postérieur*, and directly from Latin *posterior* after, later, behind, comparative of *posterus* coming after, subsequent, from *post* after.

posterity *n.* Before 1387 *posterite*, borrowed from Old French *posterité*, learned borrowing from Latin *posteritatem* (nominative *posteritās*) posterity, from *posterus* coming after, subsequent; (but as *posterī*, *n. pl.*, coming generations, posterity), from *post* after; for suffix see -ITY.

postern *n.* Probably before 1300 *posterne*; earlier as a surname *Posterne* (1242–43); borrowing of Old French *posterne*, alteration of *posterle*, from Late Latin *posterula* small back door or gate, diminutive from Latin *posterus* that is behind, coming after, subsequent.

posthaste adv. 1593, developed from the earlier noun meaning of great speed (1545); usually said to be from an old direction on letters "Haste, *post*, haste," in which the words are the imperative of *haste*, *v.* and *post*³ system for sending mail; subsequently written as a compound. —**adj.** 1604, from the adverb.

posthumous adj. Before 1464 *posthumus* born after the death of the father; borrowed from Late Latin *posthumus*, alteration of Latin *postumus* last, last-born, born after the father's death, superlative of *posterus* coming after, subsequent; for suffix see -OUS. Late Latin *posthumus*, literally, after the ground or earth, is supposed to have developed either by association with Latin *humus* earth, or by attribution to Latin *humare* to bury.

postilion or **postillion** *n.* 1591, guide; later, one who rides to carry mail (1616); borrowed from Middle French *postillon*, from Italian *postiglione* guide, especially for one carrying mail by horseback, forerunner (*posta* mail, + -iglione, from Latin -iliō compound suffix).

postlude *n.* 1851, formed from English *post-* after, later + (*pre*)lude.

postmortem adv., adj. Before 1734, adv.; 1835–36, adj.; borrowed from Latin *post mortem* (post after, and *mortem*, accusative of *mors* death). —**n.** 1850, shortened form of *postmortem examination*.

postpone *v.* 1500–20, borrowed from Latin *postpōnere* put after, neglect, postpone (*post-* after + *pōnere* put, place).

postprandial adj. 1820, formed from English *post-* after + Latin *prandium* luncheon, meal + English -al¹.

postscript *n.* 1551; earlier as a Latinate plural *postscripta* (1523); borrowed from Medieval Latin **postscriptum*, from neuter past participle of Latin *postscribere* write after (*post-* after + *scribere* to write).

postulant *n.* 1759, borrowed from French *postulant* an applicant or candidate, from Latin *postulantem* (nominative *postulāns*), present participle of *postulāre* to ask, require, demand; for suffix see -ANT.

postulate *v.* 1533, to nominate to a church office, either: 1) developed in English from earlier *postulate*, adj., nominated to a bishopric (1433), borrowed from Medieval Latin *postulatus*, past participle of *postulare* to nominate to a bishopric (see 2 below); or a back formation from postulation; or 2) borrowed directly from Medieval Latin *postulatus*, past participle of *pos-*

ulare to nominate to a bishopric, from Latin *postulāre* probably formed from the lost past participle **postos* of *poscere* ask urgently or demand; for suffix see -ATE¹.

The meaning of assume (a principle, etc.) as a basis of reasoning, take for granted, appears in English in 1646, and was borrowed from Medieval Latin. —**n.** 1588, a request or demand, replacing *postulation*, *postulacioun*; and either, 1) developed from the verb in English; or 2) borrowed from Latin *postulātum* thing requested, from neuter past participle of *postulāre* to request or demand.

The meaning of a fundamental assumption or condition is first recorded in English in 1646, and was borrowed from Medieval Latin. —**postulation**, *n.* Before 1400 *postulacioun* petition, request; borrowed from Old French *postulacion* and directly from Latin *postulatiōnem* (nominative *postulatiō*) a request or demanding from Latin *postulāre* POSTULATE, *v.*; for suffix see -ATION.

posture *n.* 1605, position of one thing or person relative to another; 1606, position of the body; borrowing of French *posture*, from Italian *postura*, from Latin *positūra* position, from *positus*, past participle of *pōnere* put or place; for suffix see -URE. The sense of attitude, stance (as in *America's diplomatic posture*) is first recorded about 1956, developed from a situation in relation to circumstances (as in *a posture of defense*), first recorded in 1642. —**v.** Before 1628, found in *posturing*; from *posture*, *n.* + -ing¹.

posy *n.* 1533, motto or line of poetry engraved within a ring; variant of POESY. The meaning of a flower or bouquet is first recorded in 1573.

pot¹ *n.* Probably before 1200 *pot* container or vessel; developed from Late Old English *pott* and reinforced in Middle English by Old French *pot*, both Old English and Old French forms originating in Vulgar Latin **pottus*, of uncertain origin, and probably not related to Late Latin *pōtus* drinking cup. Old English *pott* is cognate with Old Frisian *pott* pot, Middle Low German *pot*, *put*, and Middle Dutch *pot*, *pott*. —**v.** 1594 (implied in *potting*), to drink from a pot; later, put in a pot (1616); from the noun. —**potbellied** *adj.* (1657) —**pot-holder** *n.* (1928; earlier *holder*, 1910) —**pothole** *n.* (1826) —**potluck** *n.* (1592) —**potpie** *n.* (before 1792) —**pot roast** (1881) —**potshot** *n.* 1858, shot fired at game to get food, without regard to skill or sportsmanship; hence, opportunistic criticism (as in *take potshots at*), first recorded in 1926.

pot² *n.* marijuana. 1938, probably borrowed as a shortened form of Mexican Spanish *potiguaya* marijuana leaves.

potable *adj.* Probably before 1425, borrowed from Old French *potable*, and directly from Late Latin *pōtābilis* drinkable, from Latin *pōtāre* to drink; for suffix see -ABLE. —**n.** Usually, **potables**. 1623, from the adjective.

potash *n.* 1751, from earlier *pot-ashes* (1648); borrowed as a loan translation of obsolete Dutch *potaschen*, plural of *potasch*, literally, pot ash; so called because the substance was originally obtained by leaching wood ashes and evaporating the solution in an iron pot.

potassium *n.* 1807, formed from New Latin *potassa* potash; earlier in English *potass* (1799) + -ium; so called because potassium is the basis of potash.

potato *n.* 1565, borrowed from Spanish *patata*, from Carib (of Haiti, perhaps Taino) *batata* sweet potato, probably influenced by or blended directly with Spanish *papa* potato; earlier, from Quechua. If there was any real and clear distinction of form in English between *batata* and *patata*, it was quickly lost in *potato* which has been the common form for sweet potatoes and white potatoes, though the latter was known as *Virginia potato* by false association with Sir Walter Raleigh.

potent *adj.* Probably about 1425; borrowed from Latin *potētem* (nominative *potēns*) powerful, strong, present participle of a lost Latin verb **potēre* be powerful, be able, from *potis* powerful. Probably by confusion of *potis*, in the phrase *potis esse* be powerful, *potentem* was used as present participle of *posse* have power, be able, which is a contraction of *potis esse* (*potis* powerful, and *esse* to be); for suffix see -ENT. —**potency** *n.* Before 1450 *potencie*; borrowed from Latin *potentia* power, from *potentem* (nominative *potēns*) potent; for suffix see -CY.

potentate *n.* Probably about 1400 *potentat*, borrowed from Old French *potentat*, and directly from Late Latin *potentiātus* a ruler, also political power; both Old French and Late Latin forms from Latin *potentiātus* power, dominion, from *potentem* (nominative *potēns*) powerful; for suffix see -ATE³.

potential *adj.* Before 1398 *potencial* potential, latent; borrowed probably through Old French *potenciel*, and directly from Late Latin *potentialis* potential, from Latin *potentia* power, POTENCY; for suffix see -AL¹. —**n.** 1817, from the adjective. An earlier sense of something that gives power is recorded in 1656, and in Middle English the sense of a cauterization probably before 1425. —**potentiality** *n.* 1625, probably formed from English *potential* + -ity, but also found in Medieval Latin *potentialitas*, from *potentialis* latent, POTENTIAL.

potion *n.* Probably before 1300 *pocioun* a medicinal drink; borrowed from Old French *pocion*, from Latin *pōtiōnem* (nominative *pōtiō*) potion or a drinking, from *pōtus* drunken, irregular past participle of *pōtāre* to drink; for suffix see -ION.

potlatch *n.* 1845, gift; borrowed from Chinook jargon, from Wakashan (Nootka) *patshat* giving, gift. The occasion on which gifts are distributed is first recorded before 1861.

potpourri *n.* 1611, *pot pourri* mixed meats served as a stew, borrowing of French *pot pourri* stew; literally rotten pot, loan translation of Spanish *olla podrida* as *pot* pot and *pourri*, past participle of *pourrir* to rot, from Latin *putrēscere* grow rotten; see PUTRESCENT. The meaning of medley is found in the sense of a fragrant mixture of dried flowers and spices, first recorded in English in 1749.

potsherd *n.* Before 1325 *potschoord* (*pot* container + *schoord*, *sherd* SHARD).

pottage *n.* Probably before 1200 *potage*; later *pottage* (probably about 1425); borrowed from Old French *potage*, *pottage* soup, formed from *pot* pot + -age -age.

potter¹ *n.* person who makes pottery. Before 1325 *potter*, earlier *pottere* (about 1200); found in Late Old English (before 1100) *pottere*, formed from *pott* container, POT¹ + *-ere* -er¹. The form in Middle English was reinforced by Anglo-French *potier*; Old French *potier*, and Anglo-Latin *pottarius*. — **potter's field** 1526, from a field of suitable clay to make pottery, later purchased by the high priests of Jerusalem as a burying ground for strangers, criminals, and the poor. — **pottery** *n.* 1727–41, manufacture of earthenware; borrowed from French *poterie*, from Old French *potier* potter, from *pot* POT¹; for suffix see -Y³. An early sense of potter's workshop is recorded in about 1483.

potter² *v.* keep busy in a rather useless way; putter. 1740, developed from the now dialectal meaning of poke again and again (about 1530), probably a form of *poten* to push, poke (about 1250), from Old English *potian* to push; see PUT; for suffix see -ER⁴.

pouch *n.* 1299 *puche* a fish trap; earlier as a surname *Poche* (1184); also *pouch* bag (1327); borrowed through Anglo-French *puche* and from Old North French *pouche*, Old French *poche*, *puche*, *pouche*, from a Germanic source (compare Old English *pocca*, *pohha* bag).

poulitice *n.* 1592 *poultresse*; later *poultice* (1611); alteration of Middle English *pultes* (1392); borrowed from Latin *pultēs*, plural of *puls* (genitive *pultis*) porridge. — **v.** 1730, from the noun.

poultry *n.* 1345–46 *pultry* market where domestic fowl is sold; later *pultrie* domestic fowl (before 1387); borrowed from Old French *pouletrie* domestic fowl, from *pouletier* dealer in domestic fowl, from *poulet* young fowl, PULLET; for suffix see -RY and -ERY. — **poulterer** *n.* 1638, extended form of *poulter* (1576); earlier *pulter* (1247) and *pulleter* (1226); borrowed from Anglo-French *poleter*, *pulleter*, Old French *poletier*, *pouletier*; see POULTRY.

pounce *v.* 1686, to seize with the talons, swoop down and seize; developed from Middle English *pounse*, *n.*, talon of a bird of prey (before 1475); earlier, a tool for making holes or embossing metal (1367); probably borrowed from Old French *poinçon*, *poinson*, *ponchon* (see PUNCH¹). — **n.** 1841, from the verb (and probably recorded earlier as *pounse*, *n.*, noted above under verb).

pound¹ *n.* measure of weight. Before 1121 *punde*; later *pound* (about 1280); developed from Old English (before 810) *pund*; derived from the West Germanic stem **punda-* pound (measure of weight), and cognate with Old Saxon, Old Frisian, Old Icelandic, and Gothic *pund* pound, Old High German *phunt* (modern German *Pfund*), and Middle Dutch *pont* (modern Dutch *pond*). West Germanic **punda-* represents a very early borrowing from Latin *pondō* a pound or pounds; originally in *libra pondō* a pound by weight, from *pondō*, adv., by weight, ablative of a lost noun **pondos* weight. It is also possible that Old English *pund* was borrowed directly from Latin *pondō*, before the arrival of the West Germanic tribes in Britain. *Pound* as a unit of money (Old English about 975) was originally pound weight of silver (12 ounces troy weight). The

pound of 16 ounces for bulk, was established for trade before 1377.

pound² *v.* hit hard again and again. Before 1500 *pounden* crush by beating, reduce to a powder; later *pound* (1594); developed by alteration (with added *d*) of Middle English *pounen* grind to a powder, break to pieces (before 1325), developed from Old English (about 1000) *pūnian* pulverize or crush; from West Germanic **pūnō-* stem of **pūnōjanan* and so probably cognate with Dutch *puin* rubbish, rubble. — **n.** 1562, from the verb.

pound³ *n.* enclosed place in which to keep animals. Probably about 1378; earlier in the place name *Pandmad* (1198); developed from Old English **pund-*, in compounds such as *pund-fald* penfold or pound; related to *pyndan* to dam up or enclose (water).

pour *v.* Probably about 1300 *pouren* send forth in a stream; probably borrowed from dialectal Old French (Flanders) *pur*er to sift (grain), pour out (water), from Latin *pūrāre* to purify, from *pūrus* PURE.

pout *v.* Probably before 1325 *pouten*, of uncertain origin; perhaps borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Norwegian *pute* fat woman and Swedish dialect *puta* to be puffed out); also found in Frisian (compare East Frisian *piit* bag, swelling, which is related perhaps through a verbal stem **put-* to inflate, found in Old English *ælepiute* a fish with inflated parts, and in Middle Dutch *puyt* (modern Dutch *puif*), Flemish *puut* a frog. — **n.** 1591, from the verb.

poverty *n.* Before 1200 *poverté* condition of being poor; borrowed from Old French *poverté*, *povreté*, both forms from Latin *paupertātem* (nominative *paupertās*) poverty, from *pauper* POOR; for suffix see -TY².

powder *n.* Probably before 1300 *poudre* pulverized substance, dust; earlier as a surname *Poudre* (1260); borrowed from Old French *poudre*; earlier *pouldre*, from Latin *pulverem* (genitive *pulvis*) dust. — **v.** Before 1300 *pudren* put powder on, season; later *powderen* (probably about 1380), and make into powder (before 1400); from the noun in Middle English, and borrowed from Old French *poudrer*, *pudrer* cover with powder, from *poudre*, *n.* — **powder horn** (1533) — **powder keg** (1855).

power *n.* Probably before 1300 *power*, also about 1300 *poër*, *pouer*; borrowed through Anglo-French *poër*, *pouair*, *puëir*, and directly from Old French *poër*, *pöer*, *pouvoir*, noun use of the infinitive in Old French, to be able, from Vulgar Latin **potēre* be powerful, be able, from *potis* powerful; see POTENT. — **v.** 1540, make powerful, strengthen; later, to supply with power (1898); from the noun. — **powerful** adj. Probably before 1400, formed from Middle English *power* + *-ful*. — **powerless** adj. Before 1420, formed from Middle English *power* + *-les* -less.

powwow *n.* 1624 *Powah* medicine man; later, ceremony, often accompanied by magic (1648); borrowed from Algonquian (probably Narragansett) *pouwow* shaman, medicine man, from a verb meaning “to use divination, to dream.” The

sense of any meeting is first recorded in 1812. —**v.** 1642, from the noun.

pox *n.* 1503, spelling alteration of Middle English *pockes*, *pokkes*, plural of *pocke* POCK; found in the surname *Poxe* (1273).

practicable *adj.* 1670, that can be put into practice, formed in English from *practic* put into action or practice (about 1475, borrowed from Middle French *practiquer* and Medieval Latin *practicare* to practice, from *practica*; see PRACTICAL) + *-able*; also formed, in part, by influence of French *praticable*, from *pratiquer* to practice, from Old French *practiquer* to PRACTICE; for suffix see *-ABLE*. —**practicability** *n.* 1767, formed from English *practicable* + *-ity*.

practical *adj.* Probably before 1425 *practicale* of or having to do with matters of practice, applied; borrowed from Old French *pratique*, *adj.*, and directly from Medieval Latin *practicalis*; earlier *practicus*, found in Late Latin *practicus* active, from Greek *praktikós* practical; also formed from Middle English *praktik*, *n.*, method, practice, use (1392; earlier, applied science, before 1387) + *-al*¹. Middle English *praktik*, *n.*, was borrowed from Old French *pratique* practice, usage, and directly from Medieval Latin *practica* practice, practical knowledge, from Greek *praktiké* practical knowledge, feminine singular of *praktikós* practical, from *praktós*, verbal adjective of *prátein*, Attic variant of *prássein* to do or act; for suffix see *-ICAL*. —**practically** *adv.* 1623, in a practical manner; formed from English *practical* + *-ly*¹. The meaning “almost” is recorded in 1869.

practice *v.* 1392 *practisen* to do, act, or perform habitually; later *practicen* (1477); borrowed from Old French *practiser* to practice, alteration (by substituting *-iser*) of *practiquer*, from Medieval Latin *practicare* do, perform, practice, from Late Latin *practicus* practical, from Greek *praktikós* PRACTICAL; for suffix see *-IZE*. —**n.** 1421 *practise*; probably before 1425 *practice*; from the verb in Middle English. The form *practice* replaced *praktik*, *n.*, but both spellings existed into the 1800's. —**practiced** *adj.* (1568) —**practitioner** *n.* 1548, extended form of *practisen* to carry on some activity, employ (before 1400); borrowed from Old French *practiser* PRACTICE, *v.*

praetor *n.* magistrate in ancient Rome. Probably before 1425 *pretor*; perhaps borrowed through Old French *pretor*, and directly from Latin *praetor*, from **praitōr* one who goes before, a consul as leader of an army (*prae-* before + the root of *ire* to go); for suffix see *-OR*². —**praetorian** *adj.* 1425, of or having to do with a soldier or bodyguard of a Roman commander or emperor; formed from Latin *praetor* + English *-ian*, after Latin *praetōriānus*.

pragmatic *adj.* 1616, busy, interfering, meddlesome; a shortened form of *pragmatical* (1543); borrowed probably through Middle French *pragmatique* (with English *-ical*), from Latin *pragmaticus* skilled in business or law, from Greek *pragmatikós* active, businesslike, from *pragma* (genitive *prágmatos*) civil business, deed, act, from *prássein* to do, act, perform; see PRACTICAL; for suffix see *-IC*. The meaning of concerned with practical results is first recorded in 1597. —**pragmatism** *n.* 1863, pedantry; formed from English *pragmatic*(ic) + *-ism*. 1878,

in philosophy; perhaps Anglicized from German use of *Pragmatismus* in the 1700's.

prairie *n.* 1691, implied in *prairie chicken* a kind of grouse; later, large area of grassland (1734); borrowing of French *prairie*; also found earlier as *prerie* meadow (before 1682); borrowed from Old French *prairie*, from Vulgar Latin **prātāria*, from Latin *prātum* meadow, originally a hollow.

Earlier in Middle English *prayer* meadow (about 1390), *prae* (about 1300); borrowed from Old French *prairie* (and in Medieval Latin *prairie*, before 1260), but the word disappeared so that modern English *prairie* represents a reborrowing from French.

praise *v.* Probably before 1200 *preisen* to praise, value, price; later *praisen* (probably before 1300); borrowed from Old French *preisier*, variant of *prisier* to praise, value; see PRICE. —**n.** Before 1325 *praise*, *pres*; from the verb in Middle English.

praline *n.* 1727 *prawlin*; later *praline* (1809); borrowed from French *praline*, from the name of Marshal Duplessis-Praslin, whose cook invented pralines.

pram *n.* 1884, shortened and contracted from PERAMBULATOR; perhaps humorously influenced in its formation by earlier *pram* a flat-bottomed boat (1634).

prance *v.* About 1380 *prauncen*; earlier as a surname *Praunce* (1318); also *prancen* (before 1393); of uncertain origin; associated with Middle English *pranken*, *v.*, to show off (about 1450, from Middle Dutch *pronken* to strut, parade; or with Danish dialectal *prandse*, *pranse* to go in a stately manner. —**n.** 1751, from the verb.

prank *n.* Before 1529, malicious or mischievous trick; of uncertain origin.

praseodymium *n.* 1885, New Latin, formed from Greek *prásios* leek-green (from *práson* leek) + New Latin (*di*)*dymium* double; so called from the green color of its salts, and because the supposed element didymium was found to consist of two elements, neodymium and praseodymium; for suffix see *-IUM*.

prate *v.* Probably before 1425 *praten*, borrowed from Middle Dutch *praten* to prate; cognate with Middle Low German *praten* to prate or chat, Swedish *prata*, and Norwegian *prate*. —**n.** 1579, from the verb.

pratfall *n.* 1939, fall on the buttocks, formed from English *prat* buttocks (1567, of unknown origin) + *fall*, *n.*

prattle *v.* 1532, a frequentative form of PRATE, corresponding to Middle Low German *pratelen* to chatter or grumble, frequentative of *praten* to prate; for suffix see *-LE*³. —**n.** 1555, from the verb.

prawn *n.* 1426 *prayne*; later *prane* (1440); of uncertain origin.

praxis *n.* 1581, borrowed from Medieval Latin *praxis* practice, action, from Greek *práxis* practice, action, doing, acting, from the stem of *prássein* to do or act.

pray *v.* Probably before 1225 *preien* ask earnestly, beg; later *praien* pray to a god, saint, etc. (probably before 1300); bor-

rowed from Old French *preier*, *prier*, from Latin *precārī* ask earnestly, beg, pray, from *prex* (genitive *precis*) prayer, request, entreaty. —**prayer** n. Probably before 1300 *prayer*, *preier* an earnest request; also about 1300 *preiere* supplication or prayer; borrowed from Old French *preiere*, *praiere*, from Medieval Latin *precāria* petition or prayer, from feminine of Latin *precārius*, adj., obtained by begging, given as a favor, from *precārī* ask earnestly, beg, pray.

pre- prefix meaning before, beforehand, in front, ahead, as in place, rank, or time; its relation in the compound may be prepositional, as in *Precambrian*, *prenuclear*, *Pre-Raphaelite*, or adverbial or adjectival, as in *prearrange*, *precaution*, *precook*, *precede*. Borrowed and abstracted from Old French words with *pre-*, also from Medieval Latin *pre-*, and directly from Latin *prae-*, from *prae* before, adv. and prep., earlier *prai*.

The prefix *pre-* is also embedded in many words borrowed from Latin, such as *preach*, *precinct*, *precipice*, *precise*, *pregnant*, *premier*. Some words, however, are formations with *pre-* probably by confusion with other prefixes (going back to Middle English) such as *preserve* from *perserven* and *proposen* as a variant of *proposen*, though forms such as *precession* and *procession* may be from confusion among whole words.

preach v. The word was adopted early in Europe from ecclesiastical Latin, as it appears in nearly all of the Germanic and Romance languages. It is found in Old English *predician*, but did not survive into Middle English. Probably before 1200 *preachen* speak publicly on a religious subject, deliver a sermon; borrowed from Old French *precher*, from a possible **predichier* (compare Provençal *predican*), from Late Latin *praedicāre* to proclaim publicly, announce (in Medieval Latin, *preach*), found in Latin, proclaim or declare (*prae-* forth, before + *dicāre* proclaim). —**preacher** n. Apparently before 1200 *preachur* one who preaches sermons; borrowed from Old French *precheor*, from *precher* PREACH; for suffix see -ER¹. —**preachment** n. Before 1388 *prechement* a preaching or sermon; earlier, an annoying or tedious speech (probably about 1300); borrowed from Old French *prechement* (*precher* PREACH + -ment -ment).

preamble n. About 1395, borrowed from Old French *préambule*, and directly from Medieval Latin *preambulum*, noun use of neuter adjective *preambulum* preliminary, from Late Latin *praeambulus* walking before (Latin *prae-* before + *ambulāre* to walk, AMBLE).

prebend n. 1422 *prebend* clergyman's salary, property or tax that yields this salary; borrowed from Middle French *prebende*, and directly from Medieval Latin *prebenda* allowance, from Late Latin *prae'benda*; see PROVENDER.

precarious adj. 1646, borrowed from Latin *precārius* obtained by entreaty or begging, and therefore also with the meaning of uncertain, from *prex* (genitive *precis*) entreaty, prayer; for suffix see -OUS.

precaution n. 1603, borrowed from French *précaution*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Late Latin *praecautiōnem* (nominative *praecautiō*) a safeguarding, from Latin *praecavēre*

guard against beforehand (*prae-* before + *cavēre* be on one's guard); for suffix see -TION.

precede v. Probably before 1425 *preceden* go or come before; borrowed from Middle French *preceder*, and directly from Latin *praecedere* (*prae-* before + *cēdere* to go).

precedent n. 1427 *precydente*; 1433 *precedent*; earlier *precedent*, adj., preceding (about 1400); borrowed from Middle French *precedent*, from Latin *praecedentem* (nominative *praecedēns*), present participle of *praecedere* go before PRECEDE; for suffix see -ENT. —**precedence** n. 1558, a precedent; probably from *precedent*, on the analogy of *evidence*, *evident*, etc.; for suffix see -ENCE. The meaning of the fact of preceding another or others, priority is first recorded in English in 1605.

precept n. About 1375, borrowed from Old French *precept*, and directly from Latin *praecceptum* maxim, rule, order, from neuter past participle of *praecipere* take beforehand, give rules to, order, advise, anticipate (*prae-* before + *capere* to take). —**preceptor** n. About 1425, an expert in the art of writing; borrowed from Latin *praecceptor*, from *praecipere*; for suffix see -OR².

precession n. 1594, the earlier occurrence of the equinoxes in each successive sidereal year; borrowed from Late Latin *praecessiōnem* (nominative *praecessiō*) a coming before, from Latin *praecedere* PRECEDE; for suffix see -SION.

precinct n. About 1400 *prasaunt* specific district or area, especially of a city or town; later *precincte* (1447); borrowed from Medieval Latin *precinctum* enclosure, boundary line, from neuter past participle of Latin *praecingere* to gird about, enclose (*prae-* before + *cingere* to gird, surround, encircle).

precious adj. About 1250 *precious*; later *precious* (about 1280); borrowed from Old French *precios*, *precieuse*, learned borrowing from Latin *pretiosus* costly or valuable, from *pretium* value; for suffix see -OUS. The meaning of fastidious, over-refined is first recorded about 1395 and that of very great, thoroughgoing in 1449.

precipice n. 1598, sudden or headlong fall; borrowed from Middle French *précepice*, learned borrowing from Latin *praecipitium* a fall or jump from a great height, from *praiceps* (genitive *praecipitis*) steep, headlong, precipitous (*prae-* forth, before + *caput* HEAD). The meaning of a very steep cliff is first recorded in English in 1632.

precipitate v. 1528, hurl headlong; probably a back formation from *precipitation*, influenced by Latin *praecipitātus*, past participle of *praecipitare* hurl headlong, fall, be hasty, from *praiceps* (genitive *praecipitis*) headlong; see PRECIPICE; for suffix see -ATE¹.

The meaning of hasten the beginning of is first recorded in English in 1625. The meaning in chemistry of be deposited from solution is found before 1626. —**adj.** 1607, hasty or rash; later, very hurried, sudden (1658); borrowed from Latin *praecipitātus*, past participle of *praecipitare* be hasty. —**n.** 1563, substance separated from a solution; back formation from *precipitation*. —**precipitation** n. Before 1475 *preccipitacion* act of precipitating or casting down; also, about 1477, separation

of a solid from a solution; borrowed possibly from Middle French *précipitation*, and directly from Latin *praecipitātiōnem* (nominative *praecipitātiō*) act or fact of falling headlong, headlong haste, from *praecipitāre* hurl headlong, fall, be hasty; for suffix see -ATION. —**precipitous** adj. 1646, abrupt, hasty; later, rushing headlong (1774); probably formed from: 1) a refashioning of earlier *precipitous* (1613, from Latin *praecipitium* precipice + English -ous); and 2) English *precipitate* + -ous, developing by influence of French *précipiteux* (from Latin *praecipitium* PRECIPICE + French -eux -ous).

précis n. 1760, borrowing of French *précis*, noun use of Middle French *précis*, adj., condensed, cut short, PRECISE.

precise adj. About 1443; borrowed from Middle French *précis*, *précise* condensed, cut short, and directly from Medieval Latin *precisus*, from Latin *praecisus* abridged, cut off, past participle of *praecidere* to cut off, abridge, shorten (*prae-* in front + *caedere* to cut). —**precision** n. 1640, borrowed through French *précision*, and directly from Latin *praecisiōnem* (nominative *praecisiō*) a cutting off abruptly, from *praecidere* to cut off; for suffix see -SION.

preclude v. 1618; borrowed from Latin *praeccludere* to close, shut off, impede (*prae-* before, ahead + *cludere* to shut).

precocious adj. 1650, formed from Latin *praecox* (genitive *praecocis*) maturing early + English -ous. Latin *praecox* is from *praecoquere* ripen fully (*prae-* before + *coquere* to ripen). —**precocity** n. 1640, formed from Latin *praecox* (genitive *praecocis*) precocious + English -ity.

precursor n. Probably about 1425 *precursoure*; borrowed from Middle French *precursur*, and directly from Latin *praecursor* forerunner, from *praecursum*, past participle of *praecurrere* (*prae-* before, ahead + *currere* to run); for suffix see -OR².

predaceous or **predacious** adj. 1713 *predaceous*, formed from Latin *praedāri* to plunder, rob + English -aceous, as in *cretaceous*, *herbaceous*, etc. The spelling *predacious* (confused with the suffix -ious as in *voracious* and *ferocious*) is first recorded in 1774.

predation n. Before 1475 *predacion*, borrowed from Latin *praedātiōnem* (nominative *praedātiō*) a plundering, act of taking booty, from *praedāri* to plunder or rob; for suffix see -ATION.

predatory adj. 1589; borrowed from Latin *praedatōrius* plundering, from *praedatōr* plunderer or hunter, from *praedāri* to rob or plunder; for suffix see -ORY. —**predator** n. 1922, developed from earlier *Predatores* (1840), name proposed for a group of insects that prey upon other insects; borrowed from Latin *praedatōr*; for suffix see -OR².

predecessor n. Before 1387 *predecessoure*, *predecessor*; borrowed from Old French *predecesseur*, and directly from Late Latin *praedecessor* (from Latin *prae-* before + *decessor* retiring official, from *dēcedere* go away, die; for suffix see -OR²).

predestine v. About 1385 *predestinen*, borrowed from Old French *predestiner*, and directly from Late Latin *praedestināre* appoint or determine beforehand (Latin *prae-* before + *dēstināre* appoint, determine, DESTINE). —**predestinate** v. About

1450, probably a back formation from *predestination*, and developed from *predestinate*, adj., foreordained by decree or purpose of God (about 1380); borrowed from Late Latin *praedestinātus*, past participle of *praedestināre* PREDESTINE; for suffix see -ATE¹. —**predestination** n. About 1340 *predestinacioun*, borrowed from Old French *predestinacion*, and directly from Late Latin *praedestinātiōnem* (nominative *praedestinātiō*) a determining beforehand, from *praedestināre* PREDESTINE; for suffix see -ATION.

predetermine v. 1625, formed from English *pre-* + *determine*, after Latin *praedetermināre*. —**predetermination** n. 1637, formed from English *predetermine* + -ation.

predicament n. Before 1425, a category or class; specifically, one of Aristotle's ten categories; borrowed from Middle French *prédicament*, and directly from Medieval Latin *predicamentum*, Late Latin *praedicamentum* quality, category, something predicated, a loan translation of Greek *katēgoriā* CATEGORY, using Latin *praedicāre*; see PREDICATE; for suffix see -MENT. The meaning of a condition, or situation that is of an unpleasant or dangerous category is first recorded in English in 1586.

predicate v. 1552, borrowed from Latin *praedicātus* past participle of *praedicāre* assert, proclaim, declare publicly (*prae-* forth, before + *dicāre* proclaim); for suffix see -ATE¹; also possibly a back formation from *predication* a sermon, statement of belief (before 1325); borrowed from Middle French *predication*, and directly from Medieval Latin *predicationem* (nominative *predicatio*), from Latin *praedicātiōnem*, from *praedicāre*; for suffix see -ATION.

The verb in English may also have been influenced by the noun *predicate*. The sense of base (a statement, etc.) on something is first recorded in 1766. —**n.** About 1450, that which is said of the subject in a proposition of logic; borrowed from Middle French *predicat*, and directly from Medieval Latin *predicatum* a predicate in logic, from Late Latin *praedicātum*, noun use of neuter past participle of Latin *praedicāre* declare publicly. The meaning in grammar is first recorded in English before 1638. —**adj.** 1887, from the noun.

predict v. 1671, a back formation from earlier *prediction*, and borrowed from Latin *praedictus*, past participle of *praedicere* foretell, advise, give notice of (*prae-* before + *dicere* to say). —**prediction** n. 1561, borrowed from Middle French *prédiction*, and directly from Medieval Latin *predictionem* (nominative *predictio*) a prediction, from Latin *praedictionem* (nominative *praedictiō*) a prediction, premising, from *praedicere* foretell; for suffix see -TION. —**predictability** n. 1868, formed from English *predictable* + -ity. —**predictable** adj. 1857, formed from English *predict* + -able.

predilection n. 1742, borrowed from French *prédilection*, formed from Medieval Latin *predilect-*, past participle stem of *prediligere* prefer before others (from Latin *prae-* before + *diligere* choose, love) + French -ion.

predominate v. 1594, be greater, prevail; 1597, (in astrology) have ascendancy, exert controlling influence; probably bor-

rowed from Medieval Latin *predominare* (Latin *prae-* before + *domināri* to rule); for suffix see -ATE¹. —**predominance** n. 1592, (in astrology) ascendancy, controlling influence; formed from English *predominant* + *-ance*, by influence of French *prédominance*, formed as in English from Middle French *prédominant* + *-ance*. The sense of preponderance or prevalence is first recorded in English in 1853. —**predominant** adj. 1576, exerting a controlling influence; borrowed from Middle French *prédominant*, formed as if from Medieval Latin *prae-dominantem* (nominative *prae-dominans*), present participle of *prae-dominare* predominate; for suffix see -ANT. The sense of greater, prevailing, is first recorded in English in 1601.

preemie n. 1927 *premy*, American English; formed from *prem(ature)* + *-y²*; the present spelling with *ee*, influenced by the pronunciation of *premature*, appeared in 1949 as *preemies*, pl.

preeminence n. Probably before 1200 *preminence*, *pre eminence*; borrowed probably from Medieval Latin *preeminentia*, Late Latin *praeēminentia* distinction, superiority, from Latin *praeēminēns*, present participle of *praeēminēre* project forwards, rise above, excel (*prae-* before + *ēminēre* stand out, project); for suffix see -ENCE. —**preeminent** adj. Before 1460 *premy-nent*; later *preeminent* (1473); borrowed from Medieval Latin *preeminentem* (nominative *preeminens*), from Latin *praeēminentem*, present participle of *praeēminēre*; for suffix see -ENT.

preemption n. 1602, formed in English from *pre-* before + Latin *ēmpitiōnem* (nominative *ēmpitiō*) buying, from *emere* to buy; see REDEEM; for suffix see -TION. —**preempt** v. 1850, secure (public land) by preemption; back formation from *preemption*.

preen v. About 1395 *preynen* to trim, preen; later *prenen* (1486); both forms variants of Middle English *proinen* to trim, preen, found as *pruynen* (about 1390), *prunen* (before 1393), and *proynen* *prouynen* (probably before 1430); formed as a blend of two words borrowed from Old French: 1) *poroindre* anoint before); and 2) *proïgnier*, *proïgnier* round off, prune.

prefab adj. 1937, shortened from *prefabricate* (1932) to make all standardized parts of, formed from English *pre-* beforehand + *fabricate*. —n. 1942, from the adjective.

preface n. About 1380 *preface* introduction to the Canon of the Mass; borrowed from Old French *preface*, and directly from Medieval Latin *prefatīa*, also borrowed from Latin *praefatīo* a saying beforehand, an introduction, preface, from *praefārī* to say beforehand, introduce, preface (*prae-* before + *fārī* speak). —v. 1616, to introduce, precede, herald; from the noun. —**prefatory** adj. 1675, formed in English from Latin *praefat-*, past participle stem of *praefārī* preface + English *-ory*.

prefect n. Probably about 1350 *prefecte* a civil or military officer; borrowed from Old French *prefect*, and directly from Latin *praefectus* public overseer, director, civil or military officer, from past participle of *praeficere* to put in front, put in authority over (*prae-* in front, before + the root of *facere* to perform). —**prefecture** n. Probably before 1439; borrowed from Middle French *prefecture*, and directly from Latin *praefectūra* the office of a prefect, from *praefectus* PREFECT; for suffix see -URE.

prefer v. Before 1393 *preferren* like better, choose rather, promote, advance; borrowed from Old French *preferer*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *praeferre* place or set before, advance, prefer (*prae-* before + *ferre* carry, place). —**preferable** adj. 1648 (implied in *preferableness*); formed from English *prefer* + *-able*, probably on the model of French *préférable*, formed from parallel elements in French. —**preference** n. 1456 *preferraunce* advancement in position or status, preferment; formed from English *prefer* + Middle French *-aunce* *-ence*, on the model of Middle French *préférence*, from Medieval Latin *preferentia*, from Latin *praeferēns*, present participle of *praeferre* prefer; for suffix see -ENCE. —**preferential** adj. 1849, formed from Medieval Latin *preferentia* preference + English *-al*¹. —**preferment** n. 1443 *preferement* prior claim or right; later, advancement (1454); formed from Middle English *preferren* prefer + *-ment*.

prefix n. 1646, from the verb in English (see below); earlier, New Latin *prefixa* (1614, plural of *praefixum*, noun use of the neuter form of Latin *praefixus*, past participle of *praefigere* fix in front, *prae-* in front, before + *figere* to fix, fasten). —v. 1414 *perfixen*; 1415 *prefixen* fix or appoint beforehand; borrowed from Middle French *prefixer* (*pre-* before + *fixer* to fix or place, from Latin *fixus*, past participle of *figere* to fix). The meaning of place in front is first recorded in 1538.

pregnable adj. About 1540, alteration (probably influenced by English *pregnant*) of Middle English *preignable* (probably before 1440, with *gn* representing a pronunciation usually recorded by *ny*, as in English *poignant*); which superseded earlier Middle English *prenable* (1435), *pernable* (1393); for suffix see -ABLE.

Middle English *preignable* was borrowed from Old French *pregnauble*, with the subjunctive stem *pregn-*, while earlier Middle English *prenable*, *pernable* were borrowed through Anglo-French *pernable*, Old French *prenable*, with the indicative stem *pren-*; all meaning assailable or vulnerable.

pregnant adj. About 1385, convincing or compelling; later, filled with meaning, heavy with significance, weighty (1402), and being with child (probably before 1425); borrowed from Latin *praegnantem* (nominative *praegnāns*), variant of *praegnātem* (nominative *praegnās*) before birth, with child (*prae-* before + the root of *gnāscī*, *nāscī* be born); for suffix see -ANT. —**pregnancy** n. Before 1529, condition of being pregnant (used figuratively); later, condition of being with child, gestation (1598); formed from English *pregnant* + *-cy*.

prehensile adj. 1781–85, borrowed from French *préhensile*, from Latin *prehēnsus*, past participle of *prehendere* to grasp or seize (*pre-* before + *-hendere*, related to *hedera* ivy, in the sense of clinging).

prehistoric adj. 1851, formed from English *pre-* + *historic*, modeled on French *préhistorique*. —**prehistory** n. 1871, perhaps an independent formation of English *pre-* + *history*.

prejudice n. About 1300 *prejudice* (in *prejudice of* to the detriment of, in contempt of); later, detriment or injury (before 1333), and previous or hasty judgment (about 1395, perhaps before 1387); borrowed from Old French *prejudice*, and directly

from Medieval Latin *praedictum* injustice, from Latin *praedictum* previous judgment, opinion formed in advance (*prae-* before + *iudicium* judgment, from *iudex*, genitive *iudicis* JUDGE). —**v.** 1447 *prejudicen* injure or be detrimental to; from the noun in Middle English, and borrowed from Middle French *prejudicier* to prejudice or be injurious, from Old French *prejudice*, n. prejudice. The meaning of affect with prejudice is first recorded in 1610. —**prejudicial** adj. 1418 *prejudiciel*; later *prejudicial* (1434), borrowed from Middle French *prejudiciel*, *prejudicial*, and directly from Medieval Latin *prejudicialis* injurious, from Latin *praedictum* prejudice; for suffix see -AL¹.

prelate n. Probably before 1200 *prelat*, borrowed from Old French *prelat*, and directly from Medieval Latin *praelatus* clergyman of high rank, from Latin *praelatus* one preferred, one given preference; *praelatus* serves as past participle of *praefere* PREFER; for suffix see -ATE¹.

preliminary adj. Before 1667, borrowed perhaps from French *préliminaire*; and directly from New Latin *praeliminaris*, formed from Latin *prae-* before + *limen* (genitive *liminis*) threshold; for suffix see -ARY; also possibly influenced by the earlier noun. —**n.** 1656, often in the plural *preliminaries*; borrowed from New Latin *praeliminaris*, n. and adj.

prelude n. 1561, borrowed from Middle French *prélude* set of notes sung or played to test the voice or an instrument, learned borrowing from Medieval Latin *preludium* prelude, preliminary, from Latin *praeludere* to play beforehand for practice, compose a prelude, to preface (*prae-* before + *ludere* to play). The sense of piece of music that introduces another piece is first recorded in English in 1658. —**v.** 1655, borrowed from Latin *praeludere*; see the noun.

premature adj. Probably 1440, borrowed from Latin *praematurus* early ripe, as fruit; very early, too early (*prae-* before + *maturus* ripe, timely); also possibly in later instances, formed from English *pre-* + *mature*.

premeditate v. Before 1548, possibly a back formation from *premeditation* or an independent formation of English *pre-* + *meditate*; also borrowed from Latin *praemeditatus*, past participle of *praemeditari* to consider beforehand. —**premeditation** n. Probably before 1425 *premeditation*, borrowed from Old French *premeditation*, and directly from Latin *praemeditationem* (nominative *praemeditatio*) consideration beforehand from *praemeditari* to consider beforehand (*prae-* before + *meditari* to consider); for suffix see -ATION.

premier adj. 1448 *prymier* first in time, earliest; as a surname *Primer* (1287); also *premier* first in rank, foremost (before 1471); borrowed from Middle French *premier*, *primier* first, chief, from Latin *primarius* of the first rank, chief. —**n.** 1711, shortened from earlier *premier minister* first minister (1686).

premiere or **première** n. 1889, first public performance; borrowing of French *première* in *première représentation*, from feminine of Old French *premier* first, PREMIER. —**v.** 1940, from the noun.

premise n. About 1380 *premise*, borrowed from Old French

premise, learned borrowing from Medieval Latin *premissa* (*propositio*) (the proposition) put before, from feminine past participle of Latin *praemittere* send or put before (*prae-* before + *mittere* to send). The plural form *premisses*, in the legal meaning of property is found in 1464; from this developed the house or building with its grounds (1730). —**v.** About 1450, implied in *premised* aforesaid; from the noun.

premium n. 1601, borrowed from Latin *praemium* reward, profit derived from booty (*prae-* before + *emere* to buy; originally, to take). The meaning of an amount of money paid for insurance is first recorded in 1656.

premonition n. 1545, borrowing of Middle French *premonition*, learned borrowing from Late Latin *praemonitionem* (nominative *praemonitio*) a forewarning, from Latin *praemonere* forewarn (*prae-* before + *monere* to warn); for suffix see -TION. The word appears in Middle English *premonicion* a preliminary warning (probably 1456) and *premonition* (1472–73), found in Anglo-French *premonition* and Anglo-Latin *premonitio* warning, premonition, forms resulting from confusion with Latin *praemunire* protect in front (*prae-* before + *mūnīre* fortify).

prenatal adj. 1826; formed from English *pre-* + *natal*.

preoccupy v. 1567, formed from English *pre-* + *occupy*, possibly as a verb to earlier *preoccupation*, and on the model of Latin *praecoccupare* seize beforehand (*prae-* before + *occupare* seize, OCCUPY). —**preoccupied** adj. 1849, formed from English *preoccupy* + -ed². —**preoccupation** n. 1552, anticipation; borrowed from Latin *praecoccupātionem* (nominative *praecoccupatio*) a seizing beforehand, anticipation, from *praecoccupare* PREOCCUPY.

prep n. 1862, preparation of lessons, shortened form of *preparation*; later *prep* or *prep school* (1895), shortened form of *preparatory school* (1828). —**v.** 1915, to attend preparatory school, from the noun; later, to prepare, train (1927), shortened form of *prepare*. —**preppy** n. 1962, student or graduate of a preparatory school; formed from *prep*, n. + -y². —**adj.** 1966, from the noun.

prepare v. 1466 *preparen* make ready beforehand; back formation probably from *preparation*, and borrowed from Middle French *preparer*, from Latin *praeparare* make ready beforehand (*prae-* before + *parare* make ready). Later Middle English *preparen* replaced earlier *preperaten* (1392) and *preparaten* (about 1395); learned borrowings from Latin *praeparatus* past participle of *praeparare*. —**preparation** n. About 1390 *preparacion*; borrowed from Old French *preparacion*, and a learned borrowing from Latin *praeparationem* (nominative *praeparatio*) a making ready, from *praeparare* prepare; for suffix see -ATION. —**preparatory** adj. 1413, borrowed from Middle French *préparatoire*, and a learned borrowing from Late Latin *praeparatōrius* preliminary, from Latin *praeparare* prepare; for suffix see -ORY.

preponderate v. 1611, borrowed from Latin *praeponderatus*, past participle of *praeponderare* outweigh (*prae-* before + *ponderare* to weigh); for suffix see -ATE¹. —**preponderance** n.

1681, greater weight; formed from English *preponderant* + *-ance*. —**preponderant** adj. Before 1450, borrowed from Latin *praeponderantem* (nominative *praeponderāns*), present participle of *praeponderāre* PREPONDERATE; for suffix see *-ANT*.

preposition *n.* Before 1397 *preposicioun*, borrowed from Old French *preposition*, and directly from Latin *praepositionem* (nominative *praepositio*) a putting before (but in the sense of a grammatical preposition *praepositio* is a loan translation of Greek *próthesis*), from *praepōnere* put before (*prae-* before + *pōnere* put, set, place); for suffix see *-TION*.

prepossess *v.* 1614, to take beforehand; formed from English *pre-* + *possess*. The meaning of fill with a feeling or opinion beforehand is first recorded in 1639, and that of to impress favorably at the outset, is recorded in 1849. —**prepossessing** adj. 1642, biasing; formed from English *prepossess* + *-ing*². The sense of attractive is first recorded in 1805.

preposterous adj. 1542, borrowed from Latin *praeposterus* absurd; originally, with the last coming first (*prae-* before + *posterus* subsequent); for suffix see *-OUS*.

prepuce *n.* About 1400, borrowed from Old French *prepuce*, learned borrowing from Latin *praepūtium* foreskin (possibly formed from *prae-* before + **pūtos* penis).

prerequisite *n.* 1633, something required beforehand. —adj. 1651, required beforehand. Both uses formed from English *pre-* + *requisite*, *n.* and adj.

prerogative *n.* Before 1387, borrowing of Old French *prerogative*, and directly from Medieval Latin *prerogativa* special right, from Latin *praerogātiva* prerogative, previous choice or election; originally referring to a unit of one hundred voters, who by lot voted first; from feminine of *praerogātivus*, adj., chosen to vote first, from *praerogāre* ask before others (*prae-* before + *rogāre* ask); for suffix see *-IVE*.

presage *n.* Before 1393, borrowed from Latin *praesāgium* a foreboding, from *praesāgīre* to perceive beforehand, forebode, from *praesāgus* foreboding (*prae-* before + *sāgus* prophetic, related to *sāgīre* perceive). —*v.* 1562, borrowed from Middle French *présager*, from *présage* omen, from Latin *praesāgium*.

presbyter *n.* 1597, borrowed from Late Latin *presbyter* presbyter, an elder, from Greek *presbýteros* an elder, also as an adjective with the meaning of older, a comparative form of *presbys* old, as in the noun sense of old man, possibly originally meaning one who leads a herd of cattle. —**Presbyterian** adj. 1640, formed from English *presbytery* a body or assembly of presbyters or elders (1578) + *-an*, and from *presbyter* + *-ian*. —**presbytery** *n.* 1466 *presbetory* part of a church reserved for the clergy; later, assembly of presbyters or elders (1578); borrowed from Late Latin *presbyterium* presbytery, from Greek *presbytérion*, from *presbýteros* presbyter; for suffix see *-Y³*. The term appears earlier in Middle English *prismatorie* (1412), probably an error by confusion with *cris-* in *crismatorie* chrismatory (vessel for holding sacred oil used in baptism).

preschool adj. 1924, formed from English *pre-* + *school*.

—*n.* 1934, nursery school, or other school for children before kindergarten; from the adjective.

prescience *n.* About 1380, borrowed from Old French *prescience*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Late Latin *praescientia* foreknowledge, from **praescientem* (nominative **praesciēns*), present participle of **praescire* to know in advance (Latin *prae-* before + *scire* to know); for suffix see *-ENCE*. —**prescient** adj. Before 1626, borrowed from French *prescient*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Late Latin **praescientem* (nominative **praesciēns*), present participle of **praescire*; for suffix see *-ENT*.

prescribe *v.* 1445 *prescriben*, borrowed from Latin *praescribere* write before, order, direct (*prae-* before + *scribere* to write). The medical meaning of direct the use of a medicine or remedy is first recorded in English in 1581, probably a back formation from *prescription*. —**prescription** *n.* Probably 1383 *prescripcion* right to something acquired through long possession or use; borrowed from Old French *prescription*, and directly from Latin *praescriptiōnem* (nominative *praescriptiō*) a writing before, order, direction, from *praescribere* PRESCRIBE; for suffix see *-TION*. The meaning of a written direction given by a doctor, is first recorded in English in 1579. —**prescriptive** adj. 1748, that prescribes or directs; probably formed in English from earlier *prescript* a direction (about 1540, from Latin *praescriptum* something prescribed, from neuter of *praescriptus*, past participle of *praescribere* prescribe) + *-ive*.

presence *n.* About 1330 *presens* surrounding space, immediate vicinity; also 1340 *presense* fact or state of being present; borrowed from Old French *presence*, and directly from Latin *praesentia* a being present, from *praesentem* (nominative *praesēns*) PRESENT¹, adj.; for suffix see *-ENCE*.

present¹ adj. being at hand, not absent. About 1303, borrowed from Old French *present*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *praesentem* (nominative *praesēns*) present, immediate, prompt, from present participle of *praeesse* be before (a person or thing), be at hand, take the lead (*prae-* before + *esse* to be); for suffix see *-ENT*. —*n.* Probably before 1300 *present* presence, and in the phrase *in present* in this place; also probably about 1300, present time; borrowed from Old French *present*, *n.* and adj. —**presently** adv. About 1380, at present, now; formed from Middle English *present*, adj. + *-ly¹*. The sense of immediately is first recorded about 1430, and that of in the time that follows shortly, soon, before 1566.

present² *n.* thing given, gift. Probably before 1200, borrowed from Old French *present* in the phrase *en present* (to offer) in or into the presence of, and in *mettre en present* place before, give. Old French *en present* is from Late Latin *inpraesentī* face to face, from Latin *in rē praesentī* in the situation in question (*praesentī*, from *praesēns* being there; see PRESENT¹, adj.). —*v.* Probably before 1300 *presenten* to present, give, offer; also, bring before, introduce; borrowed from Old French *presenter*, and directly from Latin *praesentāre* place before, exhibit, from *praesentem* (nominative *praesēns*) being at hand, immediate; see PRESENT¹, adj. —**presentable** adj. 1451 (in law) liable to a formal charge of wrongdoing. The meaning of suitable in appearance

or manner is first recorded in 1827. —**presentation** *n.* Probably 1383 *presentacioun* the action of presenting a clergyman as a candidate for a benefice; borrowed from Old French *presentacion*, from Late Latin *praesentationem* (nominative *praesentatiō*) a placing before, an exhibition, from Latin *praesentāre* to place before, exhibit; for suffix see -ATION.

presentiment *n.* 1714, borrowing of French *presentiment*, variant of *pressentiment*, from Middle French, from *pressentir* to have foreboding or premonition, from Latin *praesentire* to sense beforehand (*prae-* before + *sentire* perceive or feel); for suffix see -MENT.

preserve *v.* 1392 *preserven* keep from harm, keep alive; borrowed through Anglo-Latin *preservare*, from Late Latin; and borrowed from Old French *preserver*, learned borrowing from Medieval Latin *preservare* keep, preserve; from Late Latin *praeservāre* observe beforehand, preserve (Latin *prae-* before + *servāre* to watch or keep). —**n.** 1552 a preservative; later (usually *preserves*), fruit preserved with sugar (1600); from the verb. The meaning of a place where animals or plants are protected is first recorded in 1807. —**preservation** *n.* Probably before 1425 *preservacioun* protection from a disease; borrowed from Middle French *preservation*, learned borrowing from Medieval Latin *preservationem* (nominative *preservatio*), from *preservare* to PRESERVE; for suffix see -ATION. —**preservative** *n.* Before 1420 *preservatif* a protection or defense; developed from adjective *preservative* serving to prevent or protect against disease (before 1398); borrowed from Old French *preservatif* (feminine *preservative*), and directly from Medieval Latin *preservativus*, from *preservare* to PRESERVE.

preside *v.* 1611, borrowed from French *présider* preside over, govern, learned borrowing from Latin *praesidēre* stand guard, preside; literally, sit before (*prae-* before, + *sedēre* to SIT).

president *n.* Before 1382 *president* person who presides, chief officer; borrowed from Old French *president*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *praesidentem* (nominative *praesidēs*) a president or governor, noun use of present participle of *praesidēre* to act as head or chief, PRESIDE; for suffix see -ENT. The application of *president* to the chief executive officer of a republic is first recorded in 1787, the year in which the U.S. Constitution was drafted, and was extended from the earlier use of *president* as the presiding officer at meetings of the Continental Congress (1774), and that of chief officer of an American colony (1608). —**presidency** *n.* 1591, borrowed from Medieval Latin *praesidentia* office of president, from Latin *praesidentem* (nominative *praesidēs*), present participle of *praesidēre* PRESIDE; for suffix see -CY. —**presidential** *adj.* 1603, borrowed from Medieval Latin *presidentialis*, from *praesidentia* office of president; see PRESIDENCY; for suffix see -AL¹.

press¹ *v.* to push against. Before 1325 *pressen* offer, urge, recommend; later, push ahead (1338), crowd (before 1350), exert pressure, torment (about 1380); borrowed from Old French *presier*, *presser*, and directly from Latin *pressāre* to press, a frequentative form (influenced by *pressus*, past participle) of *premere* to press, hold fast, cover, crowd, compress. It is also probable the verb in English was influenced by the noun. —**n.**

Probably before 1200 *prease* society or companionship of people; later *pres* crowd, multitude (about 1280), *presse* crowding (before 1300), and device for exerting pressure (1373 in *pre-shous*); borrowed from Old French *presse*, from *presser* to press.

The meaning of urgency, haste, appeared before 1393. The meaning of a machine for printing, printing press (1535), borrowed from Middle French *presse*, from *presser* to press, from Old French was by 1579 used as an inclusive name for a publishing house, as in *Clarendon Press*. Such phrases as *the freedom of the press*, to write for the press, etc., began to appear about 1680. —**pressing** *adj.* About 1391, burdensome; formed from English *press*¹ overburden + -ing². The sense of urgent is first recorded in 1616.

press² *v.* force into service. 1578, alteration (by association with *press*¹, *v.*) of *prest* engage (recruits) by loan, pay in advance (1513); found in Middle English *prest* loan (1359–60); borrowed from Old French *prest*, from *prester* to lend, from Latin *praestāre* lend, make available, from *praestō*, *adv.*, ready, available.

pressure *n.* About 1384, distress, anguish, affliction, suffering; borrowed from Old French *pressure*, *pressur*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *pressūra* action of pressing, from *pressus*, past participle of *premere* to PRESS¹; for suffix see -URE. The meaning of exertion of continuous force, is first recorded probably before 1425, and the sense (as in the *pressure of air*) is found in 1660. The meaning of urgency is first recorded in 1812. —**v.** 1939, from the noun. —**pressurize** *v.* 1938 (implied in *pressurized*); formed from English *pressure*, *n.* + -ize.

prestige *n.* 1656, illusion, deception, magic spell; borrowing of French *prestige* illusion, fascination, learned borrowing from Latin *praestigia* a delusion, an illusion, but usually found as *praestigiae*, pl., juggler's or conjurer's tricks, probably alteration of *praestrigiae*, from *praestringere* to bind, blindfold, dazzle (*prae-* before + *stringere* to tie or bind). The sense of blinding or dazzling influence, distinction is first applied to Napoleon in 1815 as a French word in an English context. —**prestigious** *adj.* 1546, deceitful, practicing magic; borrowed from Latin *praestigiosus* full of tricks, from *praestigiae* juggler's tricks; for suffix see -OUS. The meaning of having reputation or influence or showing distinction is first recorded in English in 1913.

presto *adv.*, *adj.* 1598–99, borrowing of Italian *presto*, from Latin *praestus* ready, from *praestō*, *adv.*, ready, available, at hand.

presume *v.* About 1378 *presumen* take for granted, assume; later, venture, dare (about 1390); borrowed from Old French *presumer*, and directly from Late Latin *praesumere* take for granted, assume, dare, from Latin, to take before or anticipate (*prae-* before + *sumere* to take) —**presumably** *adv.* 1646, with a taking of things for granted; 1846, probably; formed from English *presumable* (*presume* + -able, perhaps after French *présomable*) + -ly¹. —**presumption** *n.* Before 1250 *presumpcion* arrogance; later, assumption, supposition (before 1376); borrowed from Old French *presumpcion*, and directly from Late Latin *praesumptiōnem* (nominative *praesumptiō*) confidence, audacity, from Latin, a taking beforehand, anticipation, from *praesumere* PRESUME; for suffix see -TION. —**presumptive**

adj. About 1443, borrowed from Medieval Latin *presumptivus*, from Late Latin *praesūptīvus*, from *praesūpt-*, past participle stem of *praesūmere*. —**presumptuous** adj. Before 1349, borrowed from Old French *presumptueux*, and directly from Late Latin *praesūptuōsus*, variant of *praesūptiōsus* full of boldness, from *praesūptiōnem* PRESUMPTION; for suffix see -OUS.

pretend v. Probably 1382 *pretenden* to claim, profess to have; later, feign or claim falsely (1402); borrowed from Old French *pretendre*, or directly from Latin *praetendere* stretch in front, put forward, allege, pretend (*prae-* before + *tendere* to stretch). —**pretender** n. 1591, one who intends; later, one who puts forth a claim (1622), formed from English *pretend*, v. + -er¹.

pretense n. Before 1420 *pretense*, *pretence* claim, false show, feigning; borrowed from Middle French *pretensse*, from Medieval Latin **pretense*, from feminine of Late Latin *praetēnsus*, corresponding to Latin *praetentus*, past participle of *praetendere* PRETEND. —**pretension** n. About 1443 *pretensioun*, *pretencioun* signification, sense; later, assertion (about 1449), and purpose, intention (about 1456); formed from Late Latin *praetēnsus*, corresponding to Latin *praetentus*, past participle of *praetendere*; for suffix see -SION. The meaning of ostentation is first recorded in English in 1727.

pretentious adj. 1845, borrowed from French *prétentieux*, from *prétention* pretension, from Medieval Latin *pretentionem* (nominative *pretentio*) pretention, variant of *pretensionem* (nominative *pretensio*), formed from Late Latin *praetēnsus* pretended; see PRETENSE; for suffix see -IOUS.

preterit or **preterite** adj. 1340, bygone or past; later, (in grammar) expressing past time (before 1397); borrowed from Old French *preterit*, and directly from Latin *praeteritum*, as in *tempus praeteritum* time past (*praeter* beyond, from *prae-* before + *itum*, past participle of *ire* go). —**n.** About 1380, past time, the past; developed from the adjective in English, and probably borrowed from Old French *preterit*, and directly from Latin *praeteritum*, neuter of *praeteritus*.

preternatural adj. 1580, borrowed from Medieval Latin *preternaturalis*, from Latin *praeter nātūram* (*praeterque fātum*) beyond nature (and beyond fate); for suffix see -AL¹.

pretext n. 1513, borrowed from Latin *praetextum* a pretext, originally neuter past participle of *praetextere*; or from *praetextus* (genitive *praetextūs*) outward display, show, from past participle stem of *praetextere* to disguise, cover (*prae-* in front, before + *texere* to weave).

pretty adj. Probably before 1400 *praty* manly, gallant, fine; also, about 1405, clever, skillful; and probably before 1410, handsome, attractive, pleasing; developed from Old English (about 1000, West Saxon *praetig*, Mercian **prettig*) cunning, skillful, artful (*praett*, **prett* trick, wile, craft, + -ig -y¹). Old English *praett* is cognate with Middle Dutch *perre* trick (modern Dutch *pret* sport, fun, pleasure), and Old Icelandic *prett* trick, deceit. Compare modern Dutch *prettig* pleasant, agreeable. —**n.** 1773, from the adjective. —**adv.** 1565, fairly, rather; from the adjective in an extended use of fair weakening

to moderate, rather. —**prettify** v. 1850, formed from English *pretty*, adj. + -fy.

pretzel n. 1856, borrowing of German *Prezel*, *Pretzel*; also *Brezel*, *Bretzel*, from Old High German *brezitella* a pretzel, from Medieval Latin **brachitellum* presumably a kind of biscuit baked in the shape of folded arms (compare Italian *bracciata*), diminutive from Latin *brachiātus* having branches (resembling arms), from Latin *brachium* arm.

prevail v. Before 1400 *prevailen* be successful or effective, later, prove superior, overcome; borrowed from Old French *prevailoir*, and directly from Latin *praevalēre* be very able, have greater power (*prae-* before + *valēre* have power, be worth). The spelling in *ai* is probably by analogy with Middle English *availen* and *vailen*. The meaning of predominate is first recorded in English in 1628. —**prevailing** adj. Before 1586, victorious; later, widely accepted (1685); from *prevail*, v. + -ing².

prevalent adj. Probably before 1425, very strong or powerful; borrowed from Latin *praevalentem* (nominative *praevalēns*), present participle of *praevalēre* PREVAIL; for suffix see -ENT. The meaning of widespread is first recorded in English in 1658. —**prevalence** n. 1592, mastery; later, influence (1631); possibly formed, in part, as a noun to earlier adjective *prevalent*; and in part borrowed from Middle French *prévalence*, from Latin *praevalentia*, from *praevalēns*, present participle of *praevalēre* PREVAIL; for suffix see -ENCE.

prevaricate v. 1582, deviate from the right course, go astray; a back formation from earlier *prevarication*, perhaps influenced by Latin *praevaricātus*, past participle of *praevaricārī*; for suffix see -ATE¹. The meaning of equivocate, lie, is first recorded before 1631. —**prevarication** n. About 1384 *prevaricioun* transgression, trespass; borrowed from Old French *prevarication*, and directly from Latin *praevaricātiōnem* (nominative *praevaricātiō*) a stepping out of line in duty or behavior, from *praevaricārī* to make a sham accusation, deviate; literally, walk crookedly (*prae-* before + *varicāre* to straddle, from *varicus* straddling, from *vānus* bowlegged, crooked); for suffix see -ATION. The meaning of deception, equivocation is first recorded in English before 1655; from the Latin. —**prevaricator** n. Before 1400, transgressor of the law; borrowed from Old French *prevaricator*, and directly from Latin *praevaricātor* (*praevaricārī* to deviate + -tor -or²).

prevent v. Probably before 1425, act in anticipation of; borrowed from Latin *praeventus*, past participle of *praevenire* come before, anticipate, hinder (*prae-* before + *venire* to come). The meaning of keep from happening by anticipatory action is first recorded in English in 1548, and that of hinder in 1663. —**prevention** n. 1447 *prevencion* action of stopping, restriction; borrowed from Middle French *prévention*, and directly from Late Latin *praeventiōnem* (nominative *praeventiō*) a going before, anticipation, from Latin *praevenire* come before; for suffix see -TION. —**preventive** adj. 1639, formed from English *prevent* + -ive.

preview v. 1607, formed from English *pre-* + *view*, v. —**n.** 1855, from the verb.

previous *adj.* 1625, borrowed from Latin *praeuius* going before (*prae-* before + *via* road); for suffix see -OUS.

prey *n.* About 1225 *preie* a company of men, army; later *prae* animal hunted or seized for food (about 1250), and *preye* booty, plunder (probably before 1300); borrowed from Old French *preie* booty, animal taken in the chase, from Latin *praeda* booty, plunder, game hunted or seized; related to *prehendere* to grasp, seize. —**v.** About 1300 *preien* to pillage, plunder; from the noun in English, and probably borrowed from Old French *preier*, earlier *preder*, from Latin *praedāri* to plunder, rob, from *praeda*, *n.*, booty.

price *n.* Probably before 1200 *pris* value, worth, praise; later, cost, recompense, prize (about 1250); and in the spelling *price* (before 1382); borrowed from Old French *pris*, from Latin *pretium* reward, prize, value, worth, price. —**v.** 1382, *prisen* set the price to, value, prize, praise; borrowed from Old French *prisier*, variant of *preisier*, from Late Latin *pretiāre* to prize, from Latin *pretium* PRICE *n.*

In Middle English *praise* is said to have developed from *pris* originally, value, worth, praise, but differentiation was already in progress in Old French, shown by the difference in spelling, not only in early Middle English *pris*, *n.*, value, worth, praise, contrasted with *preisen*, *v.*, to value, praise, price, but also in Old French *pris* *n.*, value, praise, and *preisier*, *v.*, to value, praise. Further differentiation was completed in Middle English as *pris*, *n.*, and *preisen*, *v.*, each developed corresponding differentiated parts of speech, so that before 1325 *preisen*, *v.*, had a new noun form *pres*, *praise*, to correspond to *praise*, *n.*, while before 1382 *pris*, *price*, *n.*, had a new verb form to correspond to *price*, *n.* giving the two words complete paradigms of noun and verb.

Later differentiation of *prize*¹, *n.*, reward and *prize*³, *v.*, value highly, from *price*, *praise* became evident in the late 1500's, with the introduction of the spelling -*z*-. —**priceless** *adj.* 1593, formed from English *price*, *n.* + -less.

prick *n.* Probably before 1200 *pricke* a point in space; later, a pricking, sharp pain, goad (probably about 1225); developed from Old English *prica* point, puncture, particle (about 1000); cognate with Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *pricke* prick, and modern Dutch *prik*. —**v.** Probably before 1200 *priken* to pierce with a sharp point; also, cause agitation or distress; developed from Old English *prician* to prick (about 1000); cognate with Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *pricken* to prick, modern Dutch *prikken*, and Middle High German *pfrecken*; derived from Proto-Germanic **prikōjanan* and **prikjanan*. —**pricker** *n.* (about 1325)

prickle *n.* About 1303 *prykyl* (figurative) temptation; also *prykyl* small, sharp point, goad or spike (before 1338); developed from Old English (about 950) *pricel*, variant of *pricels* thing to prick with; cognate with Middle Low German *prikel* prickle, and Middle Dutch *prikel* (modern Dutch *prikkel*). These words are all apparently derived from the Germanic source of Old English *prician* to PRICK; for suffix see -LE¹ (later meanings were influenced by the frequentative suffix -LE³). —**v.** 1500–20, developed in part from *prickle*, *n.*, and probably in part as a diminutive or frequentative from *prick*, *v.* + -LE³. —**prickly** *adj.* 1578, full of prickles, thorny; formed from

English *prickle* + -y¹. The sense of irritable is first recorded about 1862.

pride *n.* Probably before 1200 *prude*, *prute* high opinion of one's worth; also magnificence, glory, honor; about 1200 *pride*; developed from Old English (before 1000) *prȳde*, from *prūd* PROUD. —**v.** Probably about 1150 *pruden* to be proud, pride oneself; later *priden* (about 1340), from the noun in Old English.

priest *n.* Before 1121 *preost*; later *prest* (probably before 1200), and *prieste* (about 1200); developed from Old English (695–96) *prēost*; usually regarded as a shortening of a form represented by Old Frisian *prēstere* priest, Old Saxon *prēstar*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *priester*, and Old High German *prēstar* (modern German *Priester*); borrowed (perhaps through Vulgar Latin **prester* priest), from Late Latin *presbyter* presbyter, elder, from Greek *presbýteros* an elder, also an adjective with the meaning of older, and a comparative form of *presbys* old man, possibly originally meaning one who leads a herd of cattle, from a primitive compound **pres-* before (related to *pará* near, and *pró* before) + the root *bofs*, *bōs* cow. To account for the *ēo* of Old English *prēost*, an alternative etymology assumes a correspondence of Old English *prēost* to Old High German *priast*, *prēst* both forms borrowed through an intermediate **prēvost* from Latin *praepositus* person placed in charge, from the past participle of *praepōnere* put in charge, place in front (*prae-* before + *pōnere* put, set). —**priesthood** *n.* About 1378 *presthode*, developed from Old English *prēosthād* (before 899); formed from *prēost* priest + -hād -hood.

prig *n.* 1753; earlier, dandy, fop (1676); probably the same word as *prig* thief (1610), and *prig* tinker (1567), originally thieves' cant, of unknown origin.

prim *adj.* 1709, related to earlier *prim*, *v.*, to assume a formal, precise, or demure manner (1684), and *prim*, *n.*, a formal, precise, or haughty person (before 1700); perhaps from obsolete French *prim* thin, small, delicate, from Old French *prim* fine, delicate, from Latin *primus* first, finest, PRIME¹.

primacy *n.* About 1384, borrowed from Old French *primacie* superiority, and borrowed directly from Medieval Latin *primatia* office of a church primate, from Late Latin *primās* (genitive *primātis*) principal, chief, of first rank; see PRIMATE¹ bishop; for suffix see -CY.

prima donna *n.* 1812, borrowing of Italian *prima donna* first lady, from Latin *prima*, feminine of *primus* first; and *domina* lady. The meaning "temperamental person" is first recorded in 1834.

prima facie *n.* Probably before 1475, apparent to all; borrowing of Latin *primā faciē*, ablative case of *prima faciēs* first appearance (*prima*, feminine of *primus* first; and *faciēs* form, face).

primal *adj.* 1602, borrowed from Medieval Latin *primālis* primary, from Latin *primus* first; for suffix see -AL¹.

primary *adj.* Probably before 1425, borrowed from Latin *primārius* of the first rank, chief, principal, excellent, from *primus* first; for suffix see -ARY. —**n.** Before 1721, from the

adjective. —**primary election** (1835). —**primary color** (1612). —**primary school** (1802).

primate¹ *n.* superior bishop or archbishop. Probably before 1200 *primat*, borrowed from Old French *primat*, and directly from Medieval Latin *primas* (genitive *primatis*) a church primate, from Late Latin *primās* of first rank, chief, principal, from *primus* first; for suffix see -ATE³.

primate² *n.* mammal of the order that includes monkeys, apes, and humans. 1898, Anglicized singular of New Latin *Primates* the order name, from Latin *primātēs*, plural of *primās* (genitive *primātis*) of first rank, chief; see PRIMATE¹; also possibly borrowed from earlier French *primate*, from New Latin *Primates*.

prime¹ *adj.* first in rank, chief. About 1385 *pryme* first in order of time, basic; borrowed from Old French *prime*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *primus* first, from pre-Italic **prīmos*, related to Old Latin *prī* before; see PRIOR¹. The meaning of first in rank or importance, chief, principal, is first recorded in 1610, and that of first in quality in 1628. —**prime minister** 1694, head of a parliamentary government; earlier, any important minister (1647). —**prime number** (1570). —**prime time** (1961).

prime² *n.* the best time, best condition. Probably before 1200 *prime* the first daylight canonical hour; later, beginning of a period, course of events, etc. (1385); developed from Old English (about 961) *prīm*; borrowed from Medieval Latin *prima* the first service, and reinforced by Old French *prime*; both from Late Latin *prīma*, from Latin *prīma hōra* first hour, in reference to the Roman day. The meaning of the best or most vigorous stage or state is first recorded in English about 1536.

prime³ *v.* to fill, charge, load. 1513, probably from PRIME¹, *adj.* (the usage developing from the fact that priming a pump, gun, etc., is a first step in the operation of some device). The meaning of cover (a surface) with a first coat of paint, etc., is found in 1609, and that of furnish with information in 1791.

primer¹ *n.* beginner's book. 1378, prayer book, often used to teach children to read; borrowed from Medieval Latin *primarius*, noun use of Latin *primārius* of the first; see PRIMARY.

primer² *n.* 1497, a priming wire to keep the touchhole of a cannon open; formed from English *prime*³, *v.* + -er¹. The sense of a base coat of paint is found in 1688.

primeval *adj.* 1653, formed from Latin *primāevus* early in life (*primus* first + *aevum* AGE) + English -al¹.

primitive *adj.* 1392 *premetif* of original or primary cause, in reference to disease; later *primitive* of early times (probably before 1425); borrowed from Old French *primitif* (feminine *primitive*), and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *primitivus* first or earliest of its kind, from *primitus* at first, originally, from *primus* first; for suffix see -IVE. The meaning of simple, crude, uncivilized, is first recorded in 1685. —**n.** Before 1400, the first-born, original ancestor, spiritual ancestor; from the adjective.

primogenitor *n.* 1654, borrowed possibly through French *primogéniteur*, and directly from Late Latin *primogenitor* (Latin *primus* first, + *genitor* begetter, from *genit-*, past participle stem of *gignere* beget); for suffix see -OR².

primogeniture *n.* 1602, borrowed probably through French *primogéniture*, and directly from Medieval Latin *primogenitura*, from Late Latin *primogenitus* first-born (Latin *primus* first + *genitus*, past participle of *gignere* beget; see KIN); for suffix see -URE.

primordial *adj.* Before 1398, borrowed from Late Latin *primordiālis*, from Latin *primordium* the beginning (*primus* first + the stem of *ordiri* to begin); for suffix see -AL¹.

prim *v.* 1801, perhaps alteration of PRIM to assume a formal, precise, or demure manner (1684).

primrose *n.* 1373 *prymrose*; earlier as a surname *Primerose* (1365–66); borrowed from Old French *primerose*, and directly from Medieval Latin *prima rosa*, literally, first rose. The plant was so called because it comes early in the spring. —**adj.** 1844, pale-yellow (color of the common primrose of Europe) from the noun.

prince *n.* Probably before 1200, ruler of a principality, sovereign, chief, leader, great man; earlier as a surname (1166); borrowing of Old French *prince*, from Latin *princeps* (genitive *principis*) first or principal person, leader, chief; originally, *adj.*, first, chief, leading, original; literally, that takes first (*primus* first; + -*ceps*, regular development of unaccented *-*caps*, from the root of *capere* to take, hold). —**princess** *n.* About 1370 *princesse*, formed from English *prince* + -ess, and borrowed from Old French *princesse*, feminine of *prince*; for suffix see -ESS.

principal *adj.* About 1300, largest, most important, main, chief; borrowed from Old French *principal*, learned borrowing from Latin and directly as a *principalis* first in importance, primary, from *princeps* (genitive *principis*) first, chief, leading, original; see PRINCE; for suffix see -AL¹. —**n.** About 1300, chief, ruler; later, original sum of money on which interest is paid (1430–31); from the adjective in English, also influenced by if not borrowed from Old French, where the noun use was developed from the adjective, and from Latin, in which the same process of development from the adjective took place. The sense of a person in charge of a school is first recorded in 1827.

principality *n.* About 1350 *principalte* government by a prince; later, kingdom, state or country ruled by a prince (probably about 1380); with the spelling *principalite* (about 1385); borrowed from Old French *principalité*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Late Latin *principālītatem* (nominative *principālītās*) the first place, superiority, from Latin *principālis* first in importance, PRINCIPAL; for suffix see -ITY.

principle *n.* About 1380 *principle* law, rule, characteristic, basic assumption; also *principis* origin, source, beginning (about 1382); alteration with *l* of Old French *principe*, learned borrowing from Latin *principium* first part, beginning, origin (plural *principia* first principles, fundamentals, elements), from

princeps (genitive *principis*) first, chief, original; see PRINCE. The English spelling with *l* apparently developed on the learned analogy of such words as English *participle*, corresponding to Latin *participium*.

The extended meaning of basic rule, in the sense of right action, uprightness, rectitude, is first recorded in 1653.

print *n.* About 1300 *prente* mark made by pressing, printed state or form; later *prient* (before 1325), and *prynt* (about 1340); borrowed from Old French *preinte*, *prie*nt impression, from feminine of *preint*, past participle of *preindre* to press, alteration (under influence of such verbs as *feindre* pretend) of earlier *pembre*, from Latin *premere* use force, PRESS¹. —**v.** About 1380 *prynten* to imprint, instill; also before 1382 *prenten* to mark, impress, stamp; from the noun. The meaning of produce (a book, etc.) by applying inked type to paper is first recorded in 1511, replacing Middle English *emprynten* (before 1474 variant of *emprienten* IMPRINT). —**printer** *n.* 1504, formed from English *print*, *v.* + *-er*¹. —**printing press** (1588, though known in *press*, 1535)

prior¹ *adj.* preceding, earlier. 1714, borrowing of Latin *prior* former, earlier, superior, a comparative form of Old Latin *pri* before, related to Latin *prae* before. —**priority** *n.* About 1385 *priorite*, borrowed from Old French *priorité*, borrowed directly from Medieval Latin *prioritatem* (nominative *prioritas*), from Latin *prior* prior; for suffix see *-ITY*. —**prioritize** *v.* 1972, formed from *priority* + *-ize*.

prior² *n.* head of a priory of men. Old English (1093) *prior*, borrowing of Medieval Latin *prior* superior officer, prior, noun use of Latin *prior* superior, PRIOR¹. The word was reinforced in Middle English (first recorded in 1123) by Old French *priur*, *prior*, *prieux*, as found in Middle English forms, such as *priur* (about 1230) and *priour* (about 1330). —**prioress** *n.* About 1300, borrowing of Old French *prieresse*, and borrowed directly from Medieval Latin *priorissa*, from *prior* prior; for suffix see *-ESS*. —**priory** *n.* About 1300 *priorie*, borrowed through Anglo-French *priorie*, from Medieval Latin *prioria*, from *prior* prior; for suffix see *-Y*³.

prism *n.* 1570, borrowed from Late Latin *prisma*, from Greek *prisma*, originally, thing sawed off, from *prēin* to saw. The meaning in optics of a transparent prism is first recorded in English in 1612. —**prismatic** *adj.* 1709, shortened form of *prismatical* (1654); developed by influence of French *prismatique* formed from Greek *prisma* (genitive *prismatos*) + French *-ique* *-ic*.

prison *n.* Before 1112 *prisune* confinement; later, place for confinement (probably before 1200); borrowed from Old French *prison*, *prisoun*, *prison* a prison, imprisonment (influenced by *pris* taken, seized; see PRIZE²), from Latin *prensionem* (nominative *prensio*, contracted from **prehensio*) a seizing, arrest, from *prehens-*, past participle stem of *prehendere* seize. —**prisoner** *n.* Probably 1350–75 *prysner* one kept in prison, or one captured in war; later *prisoner* (before 1375); borrowed from Old French *prisonier*, from *prison* PRISON; for suffix see *-ER*¹.

prissy *adj.* 1895, perhaps humorous alteration of *precise* with suffix *-y*¹, or a blend of *prim* and *sisy*.

pristine *adj.* 1534, borrowed perhaps from Middle French *pristin* (feminine *pristine*) or directly from Latin *pristinus* former, early, original, primitive, from *pris-*, related to *primus* first; for suffix see *-INE*¹.

privacy *n.* 1591 *privacie* a private matter, secret; later, seclusion (1598–1601); formed from English *private*, *adj.* + *(-cie)* *-cy*.

private *adj.* Probably 1384 *pryvat* distinctive, set apart; borrowed from Latin *privatus* apart from the public life, deprived of office, belonging to an individual; originally, past participle of *privare* deprive, free, release, from *privus* one's own, single, individual; related to Old Latin *pri-* before, in the sense of apart from the rest; for suffix see *-ATE*¹. —**n.** 1599, a private citizen; from the adjective.

privateer *n.* 1664, formed from English *private*, *adj.* + *-eer*, probably patterned after *volunteer*; originally a term for *private man of war* (1646).

privation *n.* Before 1398 *privacioun* condition of being deprived, lack; borrowed from Old French *privacion*, and directly from Latin *privatiōnem* (nominative *privatiō*) a taking away, from *privare* deprive; see PRIVATE; for suffix see *-ATION*.

privet *n.* 1542, of uncertain origin.

privilege *n.* 1137 *privilegie* a grant, commission, license; later *privilege* a distinction, power (probably before 1200), and a special right, advantage, or favor (1340); borrowed from Old French *privilege*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *privilegium* law applying to one individual, (later) privilege, prerogative (*privus* individual + *lēx*, genitive *lēgis* law) —**v.** Before 1325 *privelegen* grant a privilege to (implied in *privelegenge*); later *pryvylegen* (about 1390); from the noun, and borrowed from Old French *privelegier*, *privilegier*, from the noun in Old French.

privy *adj.* Probably before 1200 *prive* private, having private knowledge, personal, intimate; later *pryvy* (1303); borrowed from Old French *privé*, from Latin *privatus* private; for suffix see *-Y*³. —**n.** Probably before 1200 *prive* toilet, private place; later, confidant, intimate (about 1300); borrowed from Old French *privé*, from *privé*, *adj.*, private. —**Privy Council** About 1300, confidential advice; later, a secret meeting (about 1383), and group of advisors to a king (about 1390).

prize¹ *n.* reward. 1593, spelling alteration of Middle English *pris* value, reward; see PRICE. —**adj.** 1803, worthy of a prize; from the noun.

prize² *n.* thing taken or captured. 1596, spelling alteration of Middle English *prise* (about 1250; see PRICE); borrowed from Old French *prise* a taking hold, seizure; from *pris* (influenced by *pris* I seized, from Vulgar Latin **prēs*), past participle of *pren* to seize, take, from Latin *pren*ere, contracted from *prehendere* seize.

prize³ *v.* value highly. 1586, spelling alteration of Middle English *prisen* to prize, value (1382; see PRICE).

prize⁴ *n.* lever, leverage. About 1400 *prise* instrument for prying, lever, borrowed from Old French *prise* a taking hold, seizure; see **PRIZE**². The meaning of leverage is first recorded in 1835. —**v.** 1686, from the noun.

pro¹ *adv.* for (a proposition, opinion, etc.). 1572, abstracted from earlier *pro & contra* for and against (probably before 1430); borrowing of New Latin *pro et contra*; see **PRO**⁻¹. —**n.** Probably about 1400, borrowed from Latin *prō* for; see **PRO**⁻¹.

pro² *n., adj.* professional. 1866, shortened form of *professional*, *n.* As an adjective, *pro* appeared in 1932.

pro⁻¹ a prefix meaning: 1 forward, forth, as in *proclaim*, *proceed*, *progress*, *propel*. 2 beforehand, as in *provide*. 3 taking care of, as in *procure*. 4 in place of, as in *proconsul*, *pronoun*. 5 on the side of, favoring, as in *pro-American*. Borrowed from Latin *prō*-, from preposition *prō* on behalf of, in place of, before, for; see also **PRO**⁻².

pro⁻² a prefix meaning before, ahead, in front, earlier than, especially in words borrowed (often through Latin and French) from Greek, as in *prologue*, *prophet*, *prophylactic*, but also in words of later formation, as in *procephalic*, *proseminar*, *provirus*. Borrowed from Greek *pro-*, from preposition *prō* before, in front of. The prefix is also embedded in words such as *problem* and *program*, and as the distinction between **pro**⁻¹ and **pro**⁻² weakened in Middle English, most users became unaware of any differences in sound or meaning, though it survives, in modern coinages and in the sense of favoring (as in *pro-union*), a use not known in Latin.

probable *adj.* Before 1387, likely or plausible; borrowed from Old French *probable*, from Latin *probabilis* that may be proved, from *probāre* to try or test; see **PROVE**; for suffix see **-ABLE**. The meaning of likely to occur, is probably first recorded in English in 1606. —**probability** *n.* About 1443 *probabilite* the fact of being probable, likelihood; borrowed from Middle French *probabilité*, learned borrowing from Latin *probabilitatem* (nominative *probabilitās*) credibility, probability, from *probabilis* **PROBABLE**; for suffix see **-ITY**.

probate *n.* Before 1400 *probeyt* proof, evidence; later *probat* the official approval of a will's validity (about 1439); borrowed from Latin *probātum*, neuter of *probātus*, past participle of *probāre* to test, **PROVE**; for suffix see **-ATE**¹. —**v.** 1570, to prove; later, prove the genuineness of a will (1792); from the noun.

probation *n.* About 1412 *probacioun* a testing or proving; borrowed from Middle French *probacion*, and directly from Latin *probationem* (nominative *probatio*) inspection, examination, from *probāre* to test, **PROVE**; for suffix see **-ATION**. The system by which criminals are put on *probation*, under the supervision of a *probation officer*, was introduced in the United States in the 1800's; these terms are first recorded about 1878.

probe *n.* Probably before 1425, instrument for exploring wounds, cavities, etc.; also, an examination; borrowed from Medieval Latin *proba* examination, in Late Latin, test or proof, from Latin *probāre* to **PROVE**. The meaning of an act of probing is first recorded in English in 1890; from the verb. —**v.** 1649, search into, explore, investigate; from the noun.

probity *n.* About 1425 *probyte*, borrowed from Middle French *probité*, from Latin *probritatem* (nominative *probritās*) uprightness, honesty, from *probus* worthy, good; see **PROVE**; for suffix see **-ITY**.

problem *n.* Before 1382 *probleme* puzzling question, riddle; borrowed from Old French *problème*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *problēma*, from Greek *problēma* a problem, question proposed for solution; literally, a thing put forward, from *probállein* propose, put forward or before (*pro*-forward, *pro*⁻² + *bállein* to throw; see **BALL**²).

The meaning of a difficulty (in mathematics) to be solved is first recorded in English in 1570, and that of a difficult question in 1594, developing from senses of a scholarly question for investigation (before 1387), and that of a difficulty (1464). —**problematic** *adj.* 1609, shortened form of *problematical* (1570, of the nature of a problem; later, doubtful or uncertain, 1611); formed (by influence of Middle French *problématique*) from Late Latin *problēmaticus*, from Greek *problēmatikós* pertaining to a problem, from *problēma* (genitive *problēmatis*) problem + English *-ical*; see also the suffix **-IC**.

proboscis *n.* 1609, borrowing of Latin *proboscis*, from Greek *proboskís* (genitive *proboskídos*) an elephant's trunk; literally, means for taking in food, from *pro*-forward, *pro*⁻² + *bóskein* to nourish, feed, *bóskesthai* graze, be fed.

procaryote or **prokaryote** *n.* 1963, cell without a visible nucleus; borrowed from French *procaryote* (*pro*-before, *pro*⁻² + *caryote* cell nucleus, from Greek *káryon* nut, kernel). The forms *procaryote*, *prokaryote* were influenced by *prokaryotic* and by *prokaryon* (1957).

procedure *n.* 1611, borrowing of French *procédure* manner of proceeding, method, from Old French *proceder* to **PROCEED**; for suffix see **-URE**. —**procedural** *adj.* 1889, formed from English *procedure* + **-al**.

proceed *v.* About 1380 *proceden* spread, continue, come or result from; borrowed from Old French *proceder*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *prōcēdere* go forward, advance, go on (*prō*-forward, *pro*⁻¹ + *cēdere* go). —**n.** proceeds *pl.* 1665, plural of *proceed* that which proceeds from something, outcome, profit (1643); from the verb. An earlier meaning of the act or manner of proceeding is first recorded in 1628. —**proceeding** *n.* 1517 *procedyng* action of going forward; later, what is done, action, conduct, often *proceedings*, *pl.* (1553); from *proceed*, *v.* + **-ing**¹.

process *n.* Before 1338 *proces* content of a discourse, subject matter, meaning; later *proces* proceedings in a legal action (probably about 1350); borrowed from Old French *proces* journey, a going, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *prōcessus* (genitive *prōcessūs*) process, progress, from past participle stem of *prōcēdere* go forward, **PROCEED**. The meaning of a set of actions in a special order (as in *the process of making cloth from wool*), is first recorded in English in 1627. —**v.** 1532, start legal action against; borrowed from Middle French *processer* to prosecute, from Old French *proces*, *n.*, **PROCESS**. The meaning of prepare by a special process, is first recorded in English in 1884, from the noun. —**processor** *n.* 1909, formed from

English *process* + *-or*²; found in such formations as *data processor* in 1958, *microprocessor* in 1970, *word processor* about 1974, and *food processor* in 1977.

procession *n.* 1103, act of marching or proceeding; borrowed from Old French *procession*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Late Latin *processiōnem* (nominative *processiō*) religious procession, from Latin *processiōnem* a marching onwards, from the stem of *processum*, past participle of *prōcedere* to PROCEED; for suffix see -SION. — **processional** *n.* 1440 *processional* book containing hymns, etc., for use in religious processions; borrowed from Medieval Latin *processionale* a processional book, from neuter of *processionalis* of a procession, from Late Latin *processiōnem* (nominative *processiō*) PROCESSION; for suffix see -AL¹. — **adj.** 1611, of or belonging to a procession; formed from English *procession* + *-al*¹, probably by influence of French *processional* and Medieval Latin *processionalis*.

proclaim *v.* Before 1393 *proclamen* make known publicly; borrowed from Old French *proclamer*, and directly from Latin *prōclāmāre* to cry or call out (*prō-* forth, *pro-*¹ + *clāmāre* cry out). The spelling *proclaymen* (about 1425) was influenced by *claymen* to CLAIM. — **proclamation** *n.* 1386 *proclamacion* act of proclaiming; borrowed from Old French *proclamacion*, and directly from Latin *prōclāmātiōnem* (nominative *prōclāmātiō*) a crying or calling out, from *prōclāmāre* PROCLAIM; for suffix see -ATION.

proclivity *n.* Before 1591, borrowed from Middle French *proclivité*, and directly from Latin *prōclivitatē* (nominative *prōclivitas*) a tendency, propensity, from *prōclivis* prone to; literally, sloping or inclining (*prō-* forward, *pro-*¹ + *clivus* a slope, related to *clināre* to bend); for suffix see -ITY.

proconsul *n.* About 1384, governor or military commander of an ancient Roman province; borrowing of Latin *prōcōsul*, from *prō cōsule* (acting) in place of a consul (*prō* in place of; and *cōsule*, ablative case of *cōsul* CONSUL).

procrastinate *v.* 1588, possibly a back formation from *procrastination* and borrowed from Latin *prōcrāstinātus*, past participle of *prōcrāstināre* put off till tomorrow, defer (*prō-* forward, *pro-*¹ + *crāstinus* belonging to tomorrow, from *crās* tomorrow); for suffix see -ATE¹. A verb *procrastine* (before 1548), borrowed from Middle French *procrastiner*, did not survive. — **procrastination** *n.* Before 1548, borrowed from Middle French, and directly from Latin *prōcrāstinātiōnem* (nominative *prōcrāstinātiō*) a putting off, from *prōcrāstināre* put off; for suffix see -ATION.

procreate *v.* 1536, developed from *procreate*, *adj.*, begotten, born (probably before 1425); borrowed from Latin *prōcreātus*, past participle of *prōcreāre* bring forth (offspring), engender (*prō-* forth, *pro-*¹ + *creāre* CREATE); for suffix see -ATE¹; also probably a back formation from *procreation*. — **procreation** *n.* About 1395 *procreacioun* a begetting, generation, reproduction; borrowed from Old French *procreacion*, and directly from Latin *prōcreātiōnem* (nominative *prōcreātiō*) generation, from *prōcreāre* PROCREATE; for suffix see -ATION.

procrustean or **Procrustean** *adj.* Before 1846, aiming to

produce conformity by arbitrary means, formed in allusion to *Procrustes* (robber in Greek legend who caused his captives to fit the length of his bed by stretching their bodies or cutting short their legs) + English *-an*. The name in Greek is *Prokroústēs*, literally, one who stretches, from *prokroúein* to beat or hammer out, stretch out (*pro-* out + *kroúein* to beat).

proctology *n.* branch of medicine dealing with the rectum and anus. 1899, formed from Greek *prōktós* anus + English *-logy*.

proctor *n.* Probably before 1350 *proketour* defender of a realm; earlier as a surname (1301); also *proctour* agent, steward, officer (probably about 1378); contraction of *procuratour* PROCURATOR. The meaning of a university official, is first recorded in English in 1447, from use of *procurator* (1410, from similar use of Latin *procurator*, 1248). — **v.** 1676, from the noun.

procurator *n.* About 1300 *procuratour* steward, overseer, manager; earlier as a surname (1275); also, financial administrator of a college, church, or abbey (about 1410); borrowed from Old French *procuratour*, *procurator*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *prōcūrātor* manager, administrator, from *prōcūrāre* manage; for suffix see -OR².

procure *v.* Probably before 1300 *procouren*, *procuren* cause, bring about, recruit, entice; borrowed from Old French *procurer*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Late Latin *prōcūrāre*, in Latin, manage or take care of (*prō-* in behalf of, *pro-*¹ + *cūrāre* care for). — **procurement** *n.* About 1303, improper use of influence in making an appointment or legal decision, connivance; later, act of bringing about (about 1400); borrowed from Old French *procurement*, from *procurer* PROCURE; for suffix see -MENT. — **procurer** *n.* Before 1398 *procurour* an advocate or spokesman; later, an instigator, contriver (1451); borrowed from Old French *procureur*, *procureor*, refashioned from English *procure* + *-er*¹.

prod *v.* 1535, possibly a variant of *brod* (also perhaps influenced by *poke*); developed from Middle English *brodden* to goad, urge, prod (probably about 1475), from earlier *brode*, *n.*, pointed instrument, goad (before 1425); earlier, a nail (1295), from *brodd* a sprout or shoot (probably about 1200); borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *broddr* shaft, spike, sprout). — **n.** 1787, from the verb.

prodigal *adj.* 1500–20, possibly a back formation from *prodigality*, and borrowed from Middle French *prodigal*, and from Late Latin **prōdigālis* wasteful, from Latin *prōdigus* wasteful, from *prōdigere* drive away, waste (*prōd-*, variant of *prō-* forth, *pro-*¹ + *agere* to drive); for suffix see -AL¹. — **n.** 1596, from the adjective. — **prodigality** *n.* 1340 *prodigalite*, borrowed from Old French *prodigalité*, and directly from Late Latin *prōdigālītatem* (nominative *prōdigālītās*) wastefulness, from **prōdigālis* (found only in Medieval Latin), from Latin *prōdigus* wasteful; for suffix see -ITY.

prodigy *n.* Before 1470 *prodige* extraordinary sign, portent, omen; borrowed from Latin *prōdigium* (*prōd-*, variant of *prō-* forth, *pro-*¹ + *-igium*, of uncertain origin). The meaning of something out of the ordinary, a marvel or wonder, is first

recorded in 1626, and that of a person with exceptional qualities, especially a precocious child 1658. —**prodigious** adj. 1552, ominous, portentous; borrowed from Middle French *prodigieux*, and directly from Latin *prōdigiōsus* marvelous, from *prōdigiū* prodigy; for suffix see -OUS. The meaning of marvelous, astounding, is first recorded in English in 1568, and that of very great, huge, in 1601.

produce *v.* Probably before 1425 *producen* extend, proceed; borrowed from Latin *prōducere* lead or bring forth, draw out (*prō-* forth, *pro-*¹ + *dūcere* to bring, lead). The meaning of bring into existence, give rise to, is first recorded in 1513 (implied in *producer*), that of give birth to, beget, generate, in 1526, and that of yield, furnish, supply, in 1585. —**n.** 1695, from the verb. —**producer** *n.* 1513, formed from English *produce*, *v.* + *-er*¹.

product *n.* About 1450, quantity produced by multiplying numbers; possibly influenced in use by earlier *product*, adj., produced (before 1398), but borrowed from Medieval Latin *productum*, from Latin *prōductum* something produced, noun use of neuter past participle of *prōducere* to bring forth, PRODUCE. The meaning of something produced by any action, operation, or work, is found in English in 1575.

production *n.* 1410 *producioun* act of producing; later, product (about 1450); borrowed from Middle French *production*, and directly from Medieval Latin *productionem* (nominative *productio*), from Latin *prōductus*, past participle of *prōducere* bring forth, PRODUCE; for suffix see -TION. —**productive** adj. 1612, tending to produce, creative, generative; borrowed from French *productif* (feminine *productive*), and directly from Medieval Latin *productivus*, from Latin *prōductus*, past participle of *prōducere* bring forth, PRODUCE; for suffix see -IVE. —**productivity** *n.* 1809–10, power to produce; formed from English *productive* + *-ity*.

profane adj. About 1450 *prophane*, borrowed from Middle French *profane*, *prophane*, and borrowed directly from Latin *profānus* profane, not consecrated, from *prō fānō* not admitted into the temple (with the initiates); literally, out in front of the temple (*prō* before; and *fānō*, ablative case of *fānum* temple). —**v.** About 1384 *prophanen*, borrowed possibly from Old French *profaner*, and directly from Latin *profānāre* to desecrate, from *profānus*, adj., PROFANE. —**profanity** *n.* 1607, quality or condition of being profane, profane word or act; borrowed from Late Latin *profānitās* profaneness, from Latin *profānus*, adj., PROFANE; for suffix see -ITY.

profess *v.* Before 1333 *professen* to take the vows of a religious order; a back formation from earlier *profession*, and probably, borrowed from Old French *profes*, adj., that has taken a religious vow, from Medieval Latin *professus* professed, avowed, Latin *professus*, past participle of *profiteri* declare openly, lay claim to (*pro-* forth, *pro-*¹ + *fatēri* utter, declare, disclose). The meaning of declare openly, acknowledge (1526) was a direct borrowing of the sense from Latin, and its extended meaning of lay claim to, allege, is first recorded in English 1530.

profession *n.* Probably before 1200 *professium* vow made by a person entering a religious order; borrowed from Old French

profession, from Latin *professionem* (nominative *professio*) public declaration, avowal; also, avowed occupation, calling, from *professus*, past participle of *profiteri* declare openly, PROFESS; for suffix see -SION. The meaning of an occupation requiring professed skill or qualified training is first recorded in English in 1541. —**professional** adj. 1747–48, of or having to do with a profession, formed from English *profession* + *-al*¹. An isolated sense of pertaining to a religious order is found about 1420. —**n.** 1811, person who makes a profession of something that others do for pleasure; from the adjective.

professor *n.* Before 1387 *professour* teacher of a branch of knowledge; borrowed from Old French *professeur*, and directly from Latin *professor* person who professes to be expert in some art or science, teacher of the highest rank, from *profiteri* lay claim to, PROFESS; for suffix see -OR². —**professorial** adj. 1713, formed from English *professor* + *-ial*.

proffer *v.* Probably before 1300 *proferen* to offer, deliver; borrowed through Anglo-French *profrier*, and directly from Old French *poroffrir*, *profir* (*por-* forth, from Latin *prō-* *pro-*¹ + *offir* to offer, from Latin *offerre* to OFFER). —**n.** Before 1375 *profer* a petition, request; 1380, an offer; borrowed through Anglo-French *profre*, from *profir* to PROFFER.

proficient adj. About 1590, possibly a back formation from *proficiency*, and borrowed through Old French *proficient*, from Latin *prōficiētem* (nominative *prōficiēs*), present participle of *prōficere* accomplish, make progress, profit, be useful (*prō-* forward, *pro-*¹ + the root of *facere* to make); for suffix see -ENT. —**proficiency** *n.* 1544, progress toward a high degree of skill, probably formed from Latin *prōficiētem* (nominative *prōficiēs*), present participle of *prōficere* + English *-cy*; see -ENCY. The meaning of skill, expertness, is first recorded before 1639.

profile *n.* 1656, sideview or outline, especially of a face; borrowed from Italian *profilo*, from *profilare* to draw in outline; formed from *pro-* forth, from Latin *pro-*; see *PRO-*¹ + *filare* draw out, spin from Late Latin *filāre*; to spin, draw out in a line. —**v.** 1715, draw a profile of; borrowed from Italian *profilare* draw in outline.

profit *n.* 1263 *profit* income, proceeds; borrowed from Old French *profit* advantage, profit, from Latin *prōfectus* (genitive *prōfectūs*) profit, progress, advance, from past participle of *prōficere*; see PROFICIENT. —**v.** About 1330, *profiten* to advance, benefit, gain, from the noun in Middle English, and borrowed from Old French *profiter*, from *profit*, *n.* —**profitable** adj. Probably about 1300, yielding profit; borrowed from Old French *profitable*, from *profit*, *n.*, (also found in Anglo-Latin *profitabilis*); for suffix see -ABLE. —**profiteer** *n.* 1912, formed from English *profit*, *n.* + *-eer*. *v.* 1916, from the noun (but implied in an earlier *profiteering*, 1814).

profligate adj. 1647, borrowed from Latin *prōfligātus* immoral, ruined, past participle of *prōfligāre* to cast down, defeat, ruin (*prō-* down, forth, *pro-*¹ + *-fligāre*, form of *fligere* to strike, dash); for suffix see -ATE¹. The word appears with the now obsolete meaning of overthrown or routed 1535. —**n.** 1709,

from the adjective. —**profligacy** n. 1738, formed from English *profligate* + *-cy*.

profound adj. About 1300, characterized by depth of thought and knowledge, very learned; borrowed from Old French *profond* deep, and directly from Latin *profundus* deep, bottomless, vast (*pro-* forth, *pro-*¹ + *fundus* BOTTOM). —**profundity** n. Probably before 1425 *profundite* bottom or depth of the ocean; borrowed from Old French *profundité*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Late Latin *profunditatem* (nominative *profunditās*) depth, immensity, from Latin *profundus* deep, vast; for suffix see *-ITY*. The meaning of depth of intellect, is first recorded before 1500.

profuse adj. Probably before 1425, lavish, extravagant; borrowed from Latin *profusus* poured forth, spread out, profuse, from past participle of *profundere* pour forth, (*pro-* forth, *pro-*¹ + *fundere* to pour). The meaning of very abundant, bountiful, is first recorded in English before 1610. —**profusion** n. 1545, lavish and wasteful expenditure; borrowed from Middle French *profusion*, and directly from Latin *profusio* (nominative *profusio*) a pouring out, from *profusus*, past participle of *profundere* pour forth; for suffix see *-SION*. The meaning of great abundance is first recorded in English in 1705.

progenitor n. About 1384 *progenitor*, borrowed from Old French *progeniteur*, and directly from Latin *progenitor* ancestor, from *progenit-*, past participle stem of *prognoscere* beget (*pro-* forth, *pro-*¹ + *gnoscere* to produce, beget); for suffix see *-OR*².

progeny n. Before 1325 *progeni*, borrowed from Old French *progenie*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *progenies* descent, offspring, from *prognoscere* beget; see *PROGENITOR*.

prognosis n. 1655, borrowed from Late Latin *prognōsis*, from Greek *prognōsis*, from *prognōskein* come to know beforehand (*pro-* before, *pro-*² + *gnōskein* come to know). The general meaning of prognostication or forecast is first recorded in 1706.

prognosticate v. Probably before 1425 *pronosticaten*; a back formation from Middle English *pronostication*, and borrowed from Medieval Latin *prognosticatus*, *pronosticatus*, past participle of *prognosticare*, from Latin *prognōstika* signs to forecast weather, from the neuter plural of Greek *prognōstikós* foreknowing, from *prognōskein* PROGNOSIS; for suffix see *-ATE*¹. —**prognostication** n. 1392 *pronosticioun* a symptom, something that foretells death; borrowed from Old French *pronostication*, and directly from Medieval Latin *prognosticationem*, **pronosticationem* (nominative *prognosticatio*), from *prognosticare*, foretell; for suffix see *-ATION*.

program n. 1633, public notice; borrowed from Late Latin *programma* proclamation, edict, from Greek *programma* a written public notice, from *gráphein* write publicly (*pro-* forth, *pro-*² + *gráphein* to write).

In the early 1800's, reborrowed from French *programme*, in the sense of a descriptive notice or listing of items or events, as a list of pieces at a musical concert, or playbill for a theatrical event (1805). Computer use for a set of coded instructions has

been recorded since 1945. —**v.** 1896, from the noun. —**programmatic** adj. 1896, formed in English from Greek *programma* (genitive *prográmmatos*) program + English suffix *-ic*. —**programmer** n. 1890, one who draws up a program of events; later, person who programs a computer (1948); formed from English *program*, v. + *-er*¹.

progress n. Probably before 1425 *progresse* course or process (of action, events, narrative, etc.), forward movement; borrowed from Latin *progrēssus* (genitive *progrēssūs*), from past participle of *progrēdi* go forward (*pro-* forward, *pro-*¹ + *grādi* to step, walk).

The meaning of advance, growth, development, is first recorded in 1603. —**v.** About 1590, to journey or travel; from the noun. The meaning of proceed or advance is first recorded in 1595, and that of make progress or develop, in 1610. —**progression** n. About 1380 *progression* action of moving from one state of an operation or development to another; borrowed from Old French *progression*, and directly from Latin *progrēssionem* (nominative *progrēssio*) a going forward, from *progrēssus*, past participle of *progrēdi* go forward; for suffix see *-ION*. —**progressive** adj. 1607–12, making progress; borrowed from French *progressif* (feminine *progressive*), formed as if from Latin **progrēssivus*, from *progrēssus*, past participle of *progrēdi* go forward; for suffix see *-IVE*. —**n.** 1865, one who favors or advocates progress or reforms, especially in political and social matters, from the adjective.

prohibit v. Probably before 1425 *prohibiti*, borrowed from Latin *prohibitus*, past participle of *prohibere* hold back, forbid, prevent (*pro-* away, forth, *pro-*¹ + *habere* to hold); also possibly a back formation from *prohibition*. —**prohibition** n. About 1385 *prohibicion* act of prohibiting; borrowed from Old French *prohibicion*, and directly from Latin *prohibitiōnem* (nominative *prohibitiō*) a hindering or forbidding, from *prohibere* hold back; for suffix see *-TION*. —**prohibitive** adj. 1602, that prohibits; borrowed from French *prohibitif* (feminine *prohibitive*), from Late Latin *prohibitivus*, from Latin *prohibitus*, past participle of *prohibere* hold back; for suffix see *-IVE*.

project n. Probably before 1400 *projecte* plan, draft, scheme; borrowed from Latin *proiectum* something thrown forth, noun use of neuter of *proiectus*, past participle of *proicere* stretch out, throw forth (*pro-* forward, *pro-*¹ + *-icere*, combining form of *jacere* to throw).

The meaning of a group of low-rent apartment buildings first appeared about 1958, as a shortened form of *housing project* (1930's). —**v.** About 1477 *projecten* to plan, devise; developed from earlier *project*, adj., extended, inclined, disposed (probably before 1425); borrowed from Latin *proiectus*, past participle of *proicere*. The meaning of stick out, protrude, appeared in 1718. —**projection** n. 1477 *projection* the conversion of a baser metal into gold; borrowed from Latin; later, representation on a plane in constructing maps (1557); borrowed probably from Middle French *projection*, and directly from Latin *proiectiōnem* (nominative *proiectiō*) extension, projection, from past participle of *proicere* to PROJECT; for suffix see *-TION*. —**projector** n. 1596, formed from English *project*, v. + *-or*².

projectile n. 1665 *projectil*, object that can be thrown or shot;

borrowed from New Latin *projectilis*, from Latin *prōiectus*, past participle of *prōicere* throw forth, PROJECT.

proletarian *n.* 1658, formed in English from Latin *prōletārius* a Roman citizen of the lowest class (one too poor to serve the state except by furnishing it with his offspring) + English *-an*. Latin *prōletārius* derives from *prōlēs* offspring, progeny (*prō*- forth, *pro*-¹ + *-olēs*, as in *sub-olēs* offspring). —**adj.** 1663, formed in English from Latin *prōletārius* of or belonging to the lowest class of Roman citizens + English *-an*. —**proletariat** *n.* 1853, borrowed from French *prolétariat*, from Latin *prōlētārius* a Roman citizen of the lowest class + French *-at* *-ate*³.

proliferation *n.* 1867, reproduction by budding or division; borrowing of French *prolifération*, from *prolifere* producing offspring (*proli*-, from Latin *prōlēs* offspring + *-fere*, from Latin *ferre* BEAR²); for suffix see *-ATION*. —**proliferate** *v.* 1873, back formation from *proliferation*; for suffix see *-ATE*¹.

prolific *adj.* 1650, borrowed from French *prolifère*; from Medieval Latin *prolificus* (from Latin *prōlēs* offspring + the root of *facere* make).

prolix *adj.* Before 1420, lengthy, wordy; borrowed through Middle French *prolix*, and directly from Latin *prōlixus*, literally, poured out (*prō*- forth, *pro*-¹ + **lix-*, related to *liquere* to flow, be fluid). —**prolixity** *n.* About 1385 *prolixitee*, borrowed from Old French *prolixité*, learned borrowing from Latin *prōlixitatem* (nominative *prōlixitās*), from *prōlixus* PROLIX; for suffix see *-ITY*.

prologue *n.* Before 1325 *prolong*; later *prolog*, *prologe* (about 1385); borrowed from Old French *prologue*, *prologe*, and borrowed directly from Latin *prologus*, from Greek *prólogos* prologue of a play, speaker of a prologue (*pro*- before, *pro*-² + *lógos* speech, from *légein* speak).

prolong *v.* Probably about 1408 *prolongen*; probably a back formation from *prolongation*, and borrowed from Middle French *prolonguer*, and directly from Late Latin *prōlongāre* prolong, extend (Latin *prō*- forth, *pro*-¹ + *longus* LONG¹, *adj.*). —**prolongation** *n.* 1392 *prolongacioun* extension, length; borrowed from Old French *prolongation*, formed from Late Latin *prōlongāre* prolong, extend + Old French *-ation*. The sense of a lengthening of duration is recorded in Middle English probably before 1425.

prom *n.* 1894, dance given by a school; shortened form of earlier *promenade*, in the same sense (1887).

promenade *n.* 1567, borrowing of Middle French *promenade*, from *promener* take for a walk, from Latin *prōmināre* drive (a beast) on (*prō*- forward, *pro*-¹ + *mināre* drive with shouts); for suffix see *-ADE*. —**v.** 1588 (implied in *promenading*); from the noun.

promethium *n.* 1948, New Latin, formed in allusion to *Prometheus* (from Greek *Prōmētheús* the Titan in Greek mythology who stole fire from heaven and taught mankind its use) + *-ium*. *Promethium* was associated with *Prometheus*' deed because the element was a product of mankind's new-found ability to harness the energy of nuclear fission.

prominent *adj.* Probably 1440 *promynent* projecting or jutting out; borrowed from Latin *prōminentem* (nominative *prōminēns*), present participle of *prōminere* jut or stand out (*prō*- forward, *pro*-¹ + *-minere*, related to *mōns* MOUNT² hill); for suffix see *-ENT*. The extended meaning of conspicuous or striking is first recorded in 1759, and that of notable, distinguished, leading, in 1849. —**prominence** *n.* 1598, projection or protuberance, borrowed from obsolete French *prominence*, from Latin *prōminētia* a jutting out, from *prōminētem* PROMINENT; for suffix see *-ENCE*. The meaning of distinction, notoriety, conspicuousness, is first recorded in 1828.

promiscuous *adj.* 1603, consisting of a disorderly mixture of persons or things; borrowed from Latin *prōmiscuus* mixed (*prō*- forward, *pro*-¹ + *miscere* to MIX); for suffix see *-OUS*. The meaning of confusedly mingled, indiscriminate, is first recorded in 1605; that of indiscriminate in sexual relations, in 1900, probably from its use in *promiscuity*. —**promiscuity** *n.* Before 1849, borrowed from French *promiscuité*, formed in French from Latin *prōmiscuus* promiscuous + French *-ité* *-ity*. Reference to promiscuous sexual relations is first recorded in 1865.

promise *n.* About 1400, Middle English *promys* a pledge, vow; borrowed from Latin *prōmissum* a promise, noun use of neuter past participle of *prōmittere* send forth, foretell, promise (*prō*- before, *pro*-¹ + *mittere* to put, send). A coexisting form *promisse* (before 1410) was borrowed from Old French *promise*, *promesse*, from Medieval Latin *promissa* a promise, from Latin *prōmissum*. —**v.** Probably before 1400 *promicen* make a promise; later *promysen* (probably before 1425); probably from the noun in Middle English. —**promissory** *adj.* About 1445 *promissorye*; borrowed from Medieval Latin *promissorius*, from Latin *prōmissor* a promiser, from *prōmittere* send forth, PROMISE; for suffix see *-ORY*. —**promising** *adj.* (1592)

promo *n.* 1962, advertising, publicity, or other promotional presentation; shortened form of earlier *promotion*, in the same sense (1925).

promontory *n.* 1548, borrowed perhaps from Middle French *promontoire*, and directly from Medieval Latin *promontorium*, alteration (influenced by Latin *mōns* MOUNT² hill) of Latin *prōmunturium* mountain ridge, headland, probably related to *prōminere* jut out; see PROMINENT; for suffix see *-ORY*.

promote *v.* Before 1387 *promoten* to advance, raise to a higher position; borrowed from Old French *promoter*, and directly from Latin *prōmōtus*, past participle of *prōmovēre* move forward, advance (*prō*- forward, *pro*-¹ + *movēre* drive with shouts); for suffix see *-ADE*. The extended meaning of further the growth, development, or progress of anything, is first recorded before 1400.

Latin *prōmovēre* was also borrowed into Middle English in *promoven* (probably about 1400) in the sense of encourage someone in a certain course of action, promote; but the word gradually became obsolete in the 1600's and even in its derivative forms, such as *promoveant*, is not recorded after 1877. —**promoter** *n.* 1384, one who furthers the interests of another, supporter; borrowed from Old French *promoteur*, *promotor*, and directly from Medieval Latin *promotor*, from Latin

prōmovēre to PROMOTE. —**promotion** n. Before 1400 *promociōne* advancement in rank or position; later *promotion* (1429); borrowed from Old French *promociōn*, and directly from Latin *prōmōtiōnem* (nominative *prōmōtiō*) advancement, from *prōmovēre* advance; for suffix see -TION. —**promotional** adj. 1922, of promotion; formed from English *promotion* + -al.

prompt adj. About 1415, ready, prepared, eager; probably from the verb in Middle English and borrowed from Old French *prompt*, and directly from Latin *prōmptus* visible, at hand, ready, quick, from past participle of *prōmere* bring forth, bring to light (*prō-* forward, *pro-*¹ + *emere*, originally, take). —v. About 1340 *promitten* urge or incite to action; later *prompten* (1440, normalized by influence of *prompt*, adj., and Latin *prōmptus*); probably borrowed from Medieval Latin **promptare*, from Latin *prōmptus* prompt. The meaning of remind (a speaker, learner, actor) of the words or actions needed is recorded in Middle English in 1428. —**prompter** n. 1440 *promptator*; later *prompter* (before 1548).

promulgate v. 1530, possibly developed from *promulgate*, adj., set forth; borrowed from Latin *prōmulgātus*; and borrowed directly from Latin *prōmulgātus*, past participle of *prōmulgāre* make publicly known, perhaps altered from *prōvulgāre* in the same sense (*prō-* forth, *pro-*¹ + *vulgāre* make public, publish); for suffix see -ATE¹. —**promulgation** n. 1604, borrowed from French *promulgation*, from Latin *prōmulgātiōnem* (nominative *prōmulgātiō*) proclamation, publication, from *prōmulgāre* make known, publish; for suffix see -ATION.

prone adj. 1408 *proone* inclined, disposed to; borrowed from Latin *pronus* bent forward, inclined to, perhaps from a lost adverb **prōne* forward, in front, from *prō-* forward, *PRO-*¹; for the Latin ending -*nus* compare Latin *infernus* situated below (INFERNAL) and *externus* outside (EXTERNAL). The meaning of lying face down, is first recorded in 1578.

prong n. Probably about 1425 *prange* pointed instrument; later *pronge* agony, pain (1440); borrowed from Anglo-Latin *pronga* prong, pointed tool; of uncertain origin, perhaps related to Middle Low German *prange* stick, restraining device, *prangen* to press, pinch, Middle Dutch *pranghen* (modern Dutch *pran-gen*), Middle High German *pfrenge*, and Gothic *anapranagan* oppress.

pronominal adj. 1680, borrowed from Late Latin *prōnōminālis* belonging to a pronoun, from Latin *prōnōmen* (genitive *prōnōminis*) PRONOUN; for suffix see -AL¹.

pronoun n. About 1450, formed from English *pro-*¹ + *noun*, modeled on Middle French *pronom*, learned borrowing from Latin, and modeled directly on Latin *prōnōmen* (*prō-* in place of, *pro-*¹ + *nōmen* noun, NAME).

pronounce v. Before 1338 *pronuncen* declare, decree; later *pronuncen* (about 1350), and utter or articulate, speak (1393); borrowed from Old French *pronuncier*, *prononcier*, and directly from Latin *prōnūntiāre* to proclaim, announce, publish, pronounce (*prō-* forth, *pro-*¹ + *nūntiāre* announce, from *nūntius* messenger). —**pronounced** adj. 1577, spoken; formed from English *pronounce* + -ed². The sense of strongly marked, em-

phatic or decided, is first recorded in 1727–41. —**pronouncement** n. 1593, formed from English *pronounce* + -ment. —**pronunciation** n. Probably before 1425 *pronunciation* act of pronouncing, speaking; borrowed perhaps by influence of Middle French *prononciation*, from Latin *prōnūntiātiōnem* (nominative *prōnūntiātiō*) act of speaking; also, a proclamation, publication, from *prōnūntiāre* announce, PRONOUNCE; for suffix see -ATION.

pronto adv. 1850, borrowing of Spanish *pronto*, perhaps also influenced by earlier use of *pronto* (1740) borrowing of Italian *pronto*; both the Spanish and Italian from Latin *prōmptus*, adj.

proof n. Probably before 1200 *preove* that which proves a statement, evidence, in *Ancrene Riwe*; later *prove*, *prōf* (before 1325); borrowed from Anglo-French *prove*, *preove*, Old French *proeve*, *pneue*, from Late Latin *proba* a proof, from Latin *probāre* to PROVE. —**adj.** 1592, in *proof* against; from the noun, as in *proof* of proved or tested power (1456). This sense was extended to use as the second element in such compounds *fireproof* (before 1638), *waterproof* (1736). —**proofread** v. Before 1927, back formation from *proofreader*. —**proofreader** n. 1832, formed from English *proof* trial impression from type, test + *reader*; for suffix see -ER¹.

prop¹ n. support. 1440 *proppe* a stick, rod, pole, beam, or other rigid support; borrowed from Middle Dutch *proppe* vine prop, support, of uncertain origin. —v. 1456 *proppen*; from the Middle English noun.

prop² n. object used in a play. 1911, back formation from *props*, pl. (1841), shortened form of *properties* (1578).

prop³ n. aircraft propeller. 1914, shortened form of *propeller*.

propaganda n. 1718 *Propaganda* committee of cardinals in charge of Catholic missionary activity, founded in 1622; borrowing from New Latin *Congregatio de Propaganda Fide* Congregation for Propagation of the Faith; New Latin *propaganda* is an ablative feminine gerundive construction of Latin *propagāre* to PROPAGATE. —**propagandist** n. (1829) —**propagandize** v. (1844)

propagate v. 1570, multiply by reproduction, cause to breed; back formation from *propagation*; also, probably developed from *propagate*, adj. propagated (before 1548), borrowed from Latin *propagātus*, past participle of *propagāre* multiply plants by means of layers or slips, breed, extend the stock of, from *propagō* (genitive *propaginis*) that which propagates, a layer or slip of a plant, offspring (*pro-* forth, *pro-*¹ + *pāg-*, root of *pangere* to fix, fasten); for suffix see -ATE¹. The meaning of spread, disseminate (as in *propagate a rumor*) is first recorded in 1600. —**propagation** n. Probably 1440 *propagacioun* generation, reproduction; borrowed from Middle French *propagation*, and directly from Latin *propagātiōnem* (nominative *propagātiō*) a propagation or extension from *propagāre* PROPAGATE; for suffix see -ATION. The meaning of dissemination, making widely known, is first recorded in 1588.

propel v. Probably 1440 *propellen* drive away or expel; borrowed from Latin *prōpellere* push forward (*prō-* forward, *pro-*¹ + *pellere* to push, drive). The meaning of drive forward is

recorded in 1658. —**propellant** *n.* 1881, firearm explosive, from *propellant*, *adj.*, that propels a bullet, etc. (1858); formed from English *propel* + *-ant*, as an alteration of *propellent*. Application to the fuel of a rocket is first recorded in 1919. —**propellent** *adj.* 1644, formed from English *propel* + *-ent*, modeled on Latin *prōpellentem* (nominative *prōpellēs*), present participle of *prōpellere* PROPEL. —**n. 1814, from the adjective. —**propeller** *n.* 1780, mechanical contrivance for propelling machinery or a vehicle such as a ship (1809); formed from English *propel* + *-er*. The apparatus to propel a flying machine (as by mechanical flapping wings) is first recorded in 1842 and a mechanism analogous to a ship's propeller is applied to a toy flying machine in 1853.**

propensity *n.* 1570, probably formed from obsolete English *propense*, *adj.*, inclined, disposed, prone (1528) + *-ity*; and perhaps formed as if from Latin **prōpēnsitatem* (nominative **prōpēnsitās*) inclination, from *prōpēns-*, past participle stem of *prōpēndere* incline to, hang forward, weigh over (*prō-* forward, *pro-*¹ + *pendere* hang) + English suffix *-ity*.

proper *adj.* Probably before 1300 *propre* special, commendable; also, *proper* one's own (1303), and appropriate or correct (1340); borrowed from Old French *propre*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *proprius* one's own, particular, special, peculiar. The specialized meaning of socially appropriate, decent, respectable, is first recorded in 1704. —**proper** *noun* *noun* naming a particular person, place, or thing (probably before 1500).

property *n.* About 1303 *properte* nature, quality, characteristic; later, possession, things owned (before 1325), and probably about 1380 *property*; borrowed from Old French *propreté*, *propreté*, and directly from Latin *proprietas* (nominative *proprietas*) special character, propriety, property, from *proprius* one's own, special, proper; for suffix see *-ty*.

prophecy *n.* Probably before 1200 *prophecie*; also *prophesie* (about 1300); borrowed from Old French *prophetie*, *prophecie*, *prophesie*, and directly from Late Latin *prophētia*, from Greek *prophētiā* gift of interpreting the will of the gods, from *prophētēs* PROPHET; for suffix see *-cy*. The spelling of the noun (*prophecy*) and the verb (*prophesy*) did not become fully differentiated until after 1700. —**prophesy** *v.* About 1350 *prophecie*; also *prophesien* (about 1384); borrowed from Old French *prophecie*, *prophesier*, from *prophetie* prophecy. —**prophesier** *n.* 1477, formed from English *prophesy* + *-er*.

prophet *n.* Probably before 1200 *prophete* person who speaks for God, person who foretells, inspired preacher; borrowed from Old French *prophete*, *profete*, and directly from Latin *prophēta*, from Greek *prophētēs* (Doric *prophātās*) an interpreter, spokesman, especially of the will of the gods; also, an inspired person (*pro-* before, *pro-*² + *phā-*, root of *phānai* to speak). The sense of an inspired spokesman, as of some principle, cause, or movement, is first recorded in English in 1848. —**prophetic** *adj.* Before 1475 *prophetyk*, borrowed from Middle French *prophetique*, and directly from Late Latin *prophēticus*, from Greek *prophētikós* pertaining to a prophet or to a prophecy, from *prophētēs* prophet; for suffix see *-ic*.

prophylactic *adj.* 1574, borrowed perhaps from Middle French *prophylactique* (1546), and directly from Greek *prophylaktikós* precautionary, adjective to **prophylaxis*, from *prophylassein* keep guard before (*pro-* before, *pro-*² + *phylassein*, Ionic variant of *phylátein* to guard); for suffix see *-ic*. —**n.** 1642, from the adjective. *Prophylactic* in the sense of a condom is first recorded in 1943; earlier called *preventive* (1822) and *preventative* (1901). —**prophylaxis** *n.* 1842, New Latin, noun formed to Greek *prophylaktikós* PROPHYLACTIC.

propinquity *n.* About 1380 *propinquyte* nearness in relationship, kinship; later, physical proximity (probably before 1425); borrowed from Old French *propinquite*, and directly from Latin *propinquitatem* (nominative *propinquitās*) nearness, vicinity, from *propinquus* near, neighboring, from *prope* near; for suffix see *-ity*.

propitiate *v.* 1583, probably a back formation from *propitiation*, and developed from *propitiate*, *adj.* appeased, conciliated, favorable; borrowed from Latin *propitiatus*, past participle of *propitiare* render favorable, from *propitius* PROPITIOUS; for suffix see *-ate*¹. —**propitiation** *n.* About 1395 *propiciacioun*; borrowed from Late Latin *propitiatiōnem* (nominative *propitiatiō*) an atonement, from Latin *propitiare* render favorable; for suffix see *-ation*.

propitious *adj.* 1440 *propicius* inclined to grant favor, generous; borrowed from Anglo-French *propicius*, *propicios*, Middle French *propicieux* favorable, gracious, and borrowed directly from Latin *propitius* favorable, gracious, kind (*prō-* forward, *pro-*¹ + *petere* go to); for suffix see *-ious*. Earlier *propice* (about 1350), borrowed from Old French *propice*, from Latin *propitius* (see above), gradually disappeared in the 1600's.

proponent *n.* 1588, borrowed from Latin *prōpōnentem* (nominative *prōpōnēs*), present participle of *prōpōnere* put forward, PROPOSE; for suffix see *-ent*; also probably formed in English from *propone*, *v.* to put forth, propose (1402, from Latin *prōpōnere* put forward) + *-ent*.

proportion *n.* Before 1382 *proporcyon* relation between parts, shape, form; also, comparative relation of things, in size, degree, number, etc. (before 1387); borrowed from Old French *proportion*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *prōportiōnem* (nominative *prōportiō*) comparative relation, analogy, from *prō portiōne* according to the relation (of the parts to each other), alteration of *prō* **partiōne*, ablative case of a lost noun **partiō* division, related to *pars* (genitive *partis*) PART; for suffix see *-tion*. —**v.** About 1385 *proporcionen*, from the noun in English, and probably borrowed from Old French *proportionner*, from Old French *proportion*, *n.*, and perhaps from Medieval Latin *proportionare*, formed as a verb to *prōportiōnem* (nominative *prōportiō*; see noun). —**proportional** *adj.* 1392 *proportional*; borrowed, perhaps by influence of Old French *proportionnel*, from Late Latin *prōportiōnālis* pertaining to proportion, from Latin *prōportiō* (genitive *prōportiōnis*) PROPORTION; for suffix see *-al*¹. —**proportionate** *adj.* Before 1398 *proportionate* of proper proportion, appropriate, corresponding; borrowed from Late Latin *prōportiōnātus* proportioned,

from Latin *prōportiō* (genitive *prōportiōnis*) PROPORTION; for suffix see -ATE¹.

propose *v.* 1340 *proposen* to put forward a scheme, form an intention; later, put forward for consideration (before 1398); borrowed from Old French *proposer* (*pro-* forth, *pro-*¹ + *poser* put, place) also influenced in formation by Latin *prōpos-*, perfect stem of *prōponere* put forward, PROFOUND. Latin *prōponere* is also the source of obsolete English *propone*, which coexisted with *propose*, but is now evident only in such words as *propone*.

—**proposal** *n.* 1653, formed from English *propose* + -al². —**proposition** *n.* About 1340 *proposicion* a parable, obscure statement; later, assertion or statement (about 1380); borrowed from Old French *proposition*, learned borrowing from Latin *prōpositiōnem* (nominative *prōpositiō*) a setting forth, purpose, statement, from *prōposit-*, past participle stem of *prōponere* PROFOUND; for suffix see -TION. —**v.** 1924, from the noun.

propound *v.* 1551, alteration of *propowne*, *propoune* (1537), developed from Middle English *propoune* to put forward, propose, assert (1402); borrowed from Latin *prōponere* put forward, declare, propose, intend (*prō-* before, *pro-*¹ + *pōnere* to put, place; see POSITION). The -d in *propound* began to appear in the late 1500's, and is similar in its development to the d of COMPOUND¹ and EXPOUND.

proprietary *adj.* About 1450 *proprietarye* possessing worldly goods in excess of a cleric's needs; later, held in private ownership (1589); probably from earlier noun (1401 *proprietarie* person interested in worldly goods to the distraction of devotion to God; later, property owner, 1473); borrowed from Middle French *propriétaire*, and directly from Medieval Latin *propriarius* owner of property, Late Latin *propriarius* of a property holder, from Latin *proprietas* ownership, PROPERTY; for suffix see -ARY.

proprietor *n.* 1639, owner by royal grant, of an American colony; probably alteration of English *proprietary* property owner (1473); see PROPRIETARY; for suffix see -OR².

propriety *n.* Probably before 1425 *proprie* quality of being proper, appropriateness, fitness; borrowed from Old French *proprieté*, *proprieté*, learned borrowing from Latin *proprietas* (nominative *proprietas*) appropriateness, propriety, ownership; see PROPERTY; for suffix see -TY².

propulsion *n.* 1611, act of driving away, expulsion; formed in English from Latin *propuls-*, past participle stem of *propellere* to PROPEL + English suffix -ION. The meaning of the act of driving forward or condition of being driven forward, propelling force or effect, is first recorded in 1799.

pro rata 1575, borrowing of Latin *prō ratā* (*parte*) according to (the portion) figured for each (*prō* for; and *ratā*, ablative case singular of *ratus*, past participle of *rēre* to count, reckon).

prorate *v.* 1860, from PRO RATA. —**proration** *n.* 1923, formed from English *prorate* + -ion.

prorogue *v.* 1419 *proroguen* prolong or extend (an agreement, truce, etc.); later, discontinue regular meetings of a legislature or parliament for a time (1455); borrowed from Middle French

proroguer, and directly as a learned borrowing from *prōrogāre* defer, prolong (*prō-* forward, *pro-*¹ + *rogāre* ask, propose, request).

prosaic *adj.* 1656, of, in, or having to do with prose; borrowed probably from French *prosaïque*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Late Latin *prōsaicus* in prose, pertaining to prose, from Latin *prōsa* PROSE; for suffix see -IC.

The meaning of characteristic of prose rather than poetry is first recorded in English in 1746, and the extended sense of ordinary, not exciting, in 1813; both senses probably from earlier use in French.

proscenium *n.* 1606, the stage of an ancient theater; borrowed from Latin *proscenium*, from Greek *proskénion* the space in front of the scene or scenery where the action took place, the entrance of a tent (*pro-* in front of, *pro-*² + *skénē* stage, tent). The theatrical meaning of forestage is first recorded in 1807.

prosciutto *n.* About 1938, borrowing of Italian *prosciutto*, alteration (probably influenced by *prosciugato* dried) of *presciutto* (*pre-* an intensive form + *-sciutto*, from Latin *exsūctus* lacking juice, dried up, from past participle of *exsūgere* suck out, draw out moisture, from *ex-* out + *sūgere* to SUCK).

proscribe *v.* Probably before 1425 *proscriben* write before, prefix; later *proscribed* excited, past participle (1445); borrowed from Latin *proscribere* publish in writing, publish as having forfeited one's property, condemn, outlaw (*prō-* before, *pro-*¹ + *scribere* to write). The meaning of prohibit as wrong or dangerous is first recorded in English in 1622. —**proscription** *n.* About 1380 *proscripcion* exile, banishment; borrowed from Latin *proscriptiōnem* (nominative *proscriptiō*) public notice, outlawry, from *proscript-*, past participle stem of *proscribere* PROSCRIBE; for suffix see -TION. —**proscriptive** *adj.* 1757, formed from Latin *proscript-*, past participle stem of *proscribere* PROSCRIBE + English suffix -ive.

prose *n.* Probably before 1300, a story or narration; later, prose writing, language not arranged in verse or meter (about 1338); borrowed from Old French *prose*, and directly from Latin *prōsa* (*ōratiō*) straightforward or direct speech with no ornamental variations as in verse; *prōsa*, feminine of *prōsus*, earlier *prōsus* straightforward, direct, a contraction of Old Latin *prōvorsus* (moving) straight ahead (*prō-* forward, *pro-*¹ + *vorsus* turned, past participle of *vertere* to turn). —**prosy** *adj.* 1837, formed from English *prose* + -y¹.

prosecute *v.* Probably before 1425 *prosecuten* carry out, follow up, pursue; borrowed from Latin *prosecūtus*, past participle of *prosequi* follow after, PURSUE. The meaning of bring before a court of law is first recorded in English in 1579. —**prosecution** *n.* 1564, action to get possession of; also 1567, act of pursuing; borrowed from Middle French *prosecution*, and probably directly from Late Latin *prosecutiōnem* (nominative *prosecutiō*) a following, from Latin *prosecūt-*, past participle stem of *prosequi* pursue. The meaning of legal action is first recorded in 1631. —**prosecutor** *n.* 1599, one who carries out some action; borrowing of Medieval Latin *prosecutor*, from Latin *prosecūt-*, past participle stem of *prosequi* pursue + -or -OR². The

meaning of a person who brings a case before a court of law is first recorded in 1621, and is earlier found in the term *promoter* (1485).

proselyte *n.* convert. About 1384 *proselite*, borrowed from Old French *proselite*, from Late Latin *proselitus*, from Greek *proselitos* one who has come over, stranger, convert; literally, having arrived (*pros-* to, alteration of *proti* toward + *ely-* root of *eleúsesthai* to be going to come, and of *né-ēlys* new-comer). —**proselytize** *v.* 1679, formed from English *proselyte* + *-ize*.

prosody *n.* Probably before 1475 *prosodye*; borrowed from Latin *prosōdia*, from Greek *prosōidiā* song sung to music; also, accent, modulation, etc. (*pros-* to + *ōidē* song, poem, ODE); for suffix see *-Y³*.

prospect *n.* Probably before 1425 *prospecte* outlook, view; learned borrowing of Latin *prospectus* (genitive *prospectūs*) view, outlook, from past participle of *prospicere* look out on, look forward (*prō-* forward, *pro-*¹ + *specere* look at). The meaning of a thing expected or looked forward to is first recorded in 1665, and in its plural form (as in *good prospects for the coming year*) in 1667. —**v.** 1841, explore for gold or other minerals; from *prospect*, *n.*, a spot giving prospects of a mineral deposit (1832). —**prospective** *adj.* 1588, affording an extensive view; borrowed from Old French *prospectif* (feminine *prospective*), and directly from Late Latin *prospectivus* affording a prospect, from Latin *prospectus*, past participle of *prospicere* look out on; see PROSPECT; for suffix see *-IVE*. The meaning of expected, hoped for, future, appeared in 1829. —**prospector** *n.* 1846, from *prospect*, *v.* + *-or*². —**prospectus** *n.* 1777, borrowed from French *prospectus*, and directly from Latin *prospectus* view, outlook, PROSPECT.

prosper *v.* 1350 *prosporn*, borrowed from Old French *prosperer*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *prosperare* cause to succeed, from *prosperus* favorable, fortunate, prosperous. —**prosperity** *n.* Probably before 1200 *prosperite* success, well-being; borrowed from Old French *prosperité*, and directly from Latin *prosperitatem* (nominative *prosperitās*) good fortune, from *prosperus* fortunate, prosperous; for suffix see *-ITY*. —**prosperous** *adj.* About 1425, favorable, fortunate; probably borrowed from Anglo-Latin *prosperosus*, and Middle French *prosperous*, from Latin *prosperus*; and in part a re-formation in Middle English directly from Latin *prosperus* favorable + English *-ous*.

prostaglandin *n.* 1936, hormonelike substance found originally in seminal fluid of the prostate gland; borrowing of German *Prostaglandin* (*Prosta(ta)* prostate or English *prostate*) + *gland* + *-in*).

prostate *n.* 1646, borrowed from Middle French *prostate*, and directly from Medieval Latin *prostata*, from Greek *prostátēs* (*adēn*) prostate (gland), from *prostátēs* one standing in front, from *proistānai* set before (*pro-* before, *pro-*² + *histānai* cause to STAND); so called in allusion to the prostate's position at the base of the bladder.

prosthesis *n.* 1550, addition of a letter or syllable to a word; borrowed from Late Latin, from Greek *prōsthesis* addition,

from *prostithēnai* add to (*pros-* to + *tithēnai* to put, place). The meaning of replacement of a missing part of the body with an artificial one is first recorded in 1706. —**prosthetic** *adj.* 1837, borrowed from Greek *prosthētikós* of the nature of addition, giving additional power, from *prōsthetos* added, verbal adjective of *prostithēnai* add to; for suffix see *-IC*.

prostitute *n.* 1613, woman who has sexual intercourse for payment; borrowed from Latin *prostituta* prostitute, from feminine of *prostitutus*, past participle of *prostituere* to offer for sale, expose publicly to prostitution (*prō-* before, *pro-*¹ + *statuere* cause to stand, establish). —**v.** 1530, to offer oneself or another to prostitution; borrowed from Latin *prostitutus*, past participle of *prostituere* to expose to prostitution. The meaning of put to an unworthy or base use, to defile or dishonor, is first recorded in 1593. —**prostitution** *n.* 1533, borrowed from Middle French *prostitution*, and directly from Latin *prostitutiōnem* (nominative *prostitutiō*), from *prostituere* to PROSTITUTE; for suffix see *-TION*.

prostrate *v.* Before 1425 *prostraten* fall down in submission; from the adjective. —**adj.** Probably about 1350 *prostrat*, borrowed from Latin *prostrātus*, past participle of *prosternere* strew in front, throw down (*prō-* forth, *pro-*¹ + *sternere* to spread out).

prot- a combining form of *proto-* before vowels, as in *protagonist*, *protactinium* (except in proper names, such as *Proto-Indo-European*). Borrowed from Greek *prōt-*, variant (before vowels) of *prōto-* first, *PROTO-*.

protactinium *n.* 1918 *protoactinium*, formed in English from *proto-* + *actinium*, modeled on German *Protactinium*, and replaced in English by *protactinium* (1919). The name derives from the process of radioactive disintegration of protactinium to form the more stable element ACTINIUM.

protagonist *n.* 1671, borrowed from Greek *prōtagōnistēs* actor who plays the chief or first part (*prōt-* first, *prot-* + *agōnistēs* actor, competitor, from *agōn* contest); for suffix see *-IST*.

protean *adj.* 1598, formed in English from *Prōteús* Greek sea god who could assume many different shapes + English *-an*.

protect *v.* About 1456 *protecten* defend or guard from harm or danger; developed from *protecte*, *adj.* defended, cared for (probably before 1425); borrowed from Latin *prōtēctus*, past participle of *prōtegere* cover in front, protect (*prō-* in front, *pro-*¹ + *tegere* to cover); also probably a back formation from *protection*, and perhaps *protector*. —**protection** *n.* About 1350 *protection* act of protecting, shelter, defense; borrowed from Old French *protection*, *protection*, and directly from Latin *prōtēctiōnem* (nominative *prōtēctiō*) a covering over, from *prōtēctus*, past participle of *prōtegere* PROTECT; for suffix see *-TION*. —**protectionist** *n.* 1844, person who supports high duties on imported goods; formed from English *protection* + *-ist*, modeled on French *protectionniste*. *adj.* 1846, supporting the policy of protectionists; from the noun. —**protectionism** *n.* 1852, the policy of protectionists; formed from English *protection* + *-ism*, modeled on French *protectionnisme*. —**protective** *adj.* 1661, defensive; formed from English *protect* + *-ive*. —**pro-**

tector *n.* About 1390 *protectour* one that protects, defender, guardian; borrowed from Old French *protector*, and directly from Latin *protēctor*, from *prōtēct-*, past participle stem of *prōtegere* protect; for suffix see -OR². —**protectorate** *n.* 1692, office of the Protector of the Commonwealth held by Oliver, and later Richard, Cromwell; formed from Middle English *protector* (1426) + -ate³. The meaning of a territory or country under the protection of another country is first recorded in 1795, after French *protectorat* (formed from Latin *prōtēctor* + French -at -ate³).

protégé *n.* 1778, borrowing of French *protégé* one who is protected, from past participle of Middle French *protéger* protect, from Latin *prōtegere* PROTECT.

protein *n.* 1844, borrowed from French *protéine*, from Greek *prōteios* of the first quality, from *prōtos* first; for suffix see -INE².

The French word originally referred to a nitrogenous substance thought to be the essential constituent of all animals and plants; current use (borrowed from German *Protein*) dates from 1907.

protest *n.* Probably about 1400, solemn or formal declaration; borrowed from Old French *protest*, from *protester* declare publicly, and directly from Latin *prōtestārī* declare publicly, testify, protest (*prō-* forth, before, *pro-*¹ + *testārī* testify, from *testis* witness). The meaning of a statement or declaration of objection, disapproval or dissent, is first recorded in English in 1751, from the verb sense in English. —**v.** 1430 *protesten* to vow; later, declare solemnly or formally (1440); borrowed from Middle French *protester* declare publicly. The meaning of object, dissent, or disapprove is first recorded in English in 1608.

—**protestation** *n.* 1382, avowal, declaration, assertion; borrowed from Old French *protestacion*, and directly from Late Latin *prōtestātiōnem* (nominative *prōtestātiō*) a declaration or protest, from Latin *prōtestārī* to PROTEST; for suffix see -ATION.

Protestant *n.* 1539, any one of the German princes who protested the decision of the Diet of Speyer (Spire) in 1529, which had denounced the Reformation; the word *protestant* became a general name (especially among the French, Dutch, and Scandinavians) for an adherent of the Reformation in Germany; borrowed perhaps from German *Protestant*, and from French *protestant*, from Latin *prōtestantem* (nominative *prōtestāns*), present participle of *prōtestārī* to PROTEST; for suffix see -ANT. The meaning of a member or adherent of any of the Christian churches which broke away from the Roman Catholic Church during the Reformation is first recorded in English in 1553. —**adj.** 1539, from the noun. —**Protestantism** *n.* 1649, the religious principles and practices of the Protestants; borrowed from French *protestantisme*, from *protestant* Protestant (from German) + -isme -ism.

protist *n.* 1889 (earlier implied in *Protistic* 1869); borrowed from New Latin *Protista* a third kingdom of one-celled organisms (alongside plants and animals) proposed in 1868, from German *Protisten*, from Greek *prōtistos* the very first, principal, superlative of *prōtos* first; see PROTO-.

proto- a combining form meaning first, with various shades

of meaning: source or parent (Proto-Germanic), preceding (*protohuman*), earliest form (*protogalaxy*), original or model (*prototype*), basic (*protoplasm*). Borrowed from Greek *prōto-*, combining form of *prōtos* first; earlier **prōatos*, related to *prō*, prep., before, forward. Also **prot-** (the usual form before vowels).

protocol *n.* 1541 *prothogall*; later, *prothocoll* original draft or record of a document (1552); borrowed from Middle French *prothocole*, *protocolle* draft of a document, from Medieval Latin *protocollum* the first sheet of a volume with its contents, draft of a document, from Greek *prōtókollon* first sheet (containing date and contents) glued onto a manuscript or papyrus roll and describing the origin of the manuscript (*prōtos* first; see PROTO- + *kōlla* glue).

The meaning of rules of etiquette and procedure to be observed in affairs of state and diplomatic relations is first recorded in 1896, in the context of French diplomacy.

proton *n.* 1920, from Greek *prōton*, neuter of *prōtos* first; modeled on such words as *electron* and *ion*. The word has been attributed to an early hypothesis that hydrogen was a constituent of all elements. *Proton* was used earlier (in 1893) to designate the primitive cell structure from which an embryonic part develops.

protoplasm *n.* 1848, borrowed from German *Protoplasma*, formed from *proto-* first + *Plasma* something molded; see PLASMA.

prototype *n.* 1603, borrowed from French *prototype*, and from both Late Latin *prōtotypus* original, primitive, and Greek *prōtōtypōn* a first or primitive form, from neuter of *prōtōtypos* original, primitive (*prōto-* first + *týpos* impression). *Prototype* replaced *prototypōn* (1596), borrowed directly from Greek *prōtōtypōn*. —**prototypical** *adj.* 1650, formed from English *prototype* + -ical.

Protozoa *n. pl.* Before 1834, a kind of protist that comprises a large group of single-celled organisms, New Latin *Protozoa*; formed from Greek *prōtos* first + *zōia*, plural of *zōion* animal. The classification *Protozoa*, when coined included sponges and corals, but was restricted to the current sense in 1845. —**protozoan** *n.* 1864, formed from English *Protozoa* + -an.

protract *v.* Before 1548, probably a back formation from earlier *protraction*, and borrowed from Latin *prōtractus*, past participle of *prōtrahere* draw forth, prolong, extend, defer (*prō-* forward, *pro-*¹ + *trahere* to draw). —**protraction** *n.* About 1458 *protraccioun* the drawing or writing of numbers; later *protraction* prolongation, extension of time (1535); borrowed from Middle French *protraction*, and directly from Late Latin *prōtractionem* (nominative *prōtractiō*) a drawing out or lengthening, from Latin *prōtract-*, past participle stem of *prōtrahere* PROTRACT; for suffix see -TION. —**protractor** *n.* 1611, one who prolongs or extends something; later, an instrument for drawing or measuring angles (1658); borrowed from Medieval Latin *protractor*, from Latin *prōtract-*, past participle stem of *prōtrahere* PROTRACT; for suffix see -OR².

protrude *v.* 1620, drive along, thrust forward; borrowed from

Latin *prōtrūdere* thrust or push forward (*prō-* forward, *pro-*¹ + *trūdere* to thrust). The meaning of stick out is first recorded before 1626. —**protrusion** *n.* 1646, probably borrowed from French *protrusion*, and formed in English as if from Latin **prōtrūsio*, from *prōtrūs-*, past participle stem of *prōtrūdere* protrude + English suffix *-ion*. The meaning of something that juts out, a swelling or protuberance, is first recorded in 1704.

protuberant *adj.* 1646, borrowed from French *protubérant*, and directly from Late Latin *prōtūberantem* (nominative *prōtūberāns*) protruding, present participle of *prōtūberāre* to swell or bulge, grow forth (Latin *prō-* forward, *pro-*¹ + *tūber* lump, swelling, TUBER); for suffix see *-ANT*. —**protuberance** *n.* 1646, a swelling, bump; borrowed from Late Latin *prōtūberantem* (nominative *prōtūberāns*) present participle of *prōtūberāre*; for suffix see *-ANCE*; also in some instances possibly formed from English *protuberant* + *-ance*.

proud *adj.* Probably about 1150 *prude* noble, excellent, splendid; later *prud*, *prut*, *prute* haughty, arrogant (probably before 1200); and *proud* (probably before 1300); developed from Old English (about 1000) *prūd* and *prūte*.

Old English *prūd* was probably borrowed from Old French *prod*, *prud* (found in *prud'homme*, *produme* brave man, *prou de homme* a stalwart of a man, formations in which the first element represents the oblique case *prou* of the adjective *prouz* brave, valiant). Old French *prouz* is cognate with Italian *prode* valiant, from Vulgar Latin **prōdis*, derived from Late Latin *prōde* advantageous, profitable, of use, abstracted from Latin *prōdesse* be useful (*prōd-*, variant before vowels of *prō-* before, *pro-*¹ + *esse* to be); compare *PROWESS*, *PRUDE*.

Old English *prūte* (before 1000, with final *-te*) was probably borrowed from Old French *prouz* (earlier **proup-s*) and from Old English *prūte* developed the Old English noun *prȳte* pride; compare Old English *prȳde* *PRIDE*.

prove *v.* Probably before 1200 *pruven* to try, test; also *proven* examine, evaluate, demonstrate, prove; borrowed from Old French *prover*, *pruver*, from Latin *probāre* to test, prove worthy, from *probus* worthy, good (*pro-* before, *pro-*¹ + *-bus*, representing the root of *be*). —**provable** *adj.* About 1382, worthy of approval; later, that can be proved (probably before 1400); borrowed from Old French *provable* (*prover* prove + *-able*).

provenance *n.* 1785, borrowed from French *provenance* origin, production, from *provenant*, present participle of Middle French *provenir* come forth, arise, originate, from Latin *prōvenīre* come forth, originate (*prō-* forth, *pro-*¹ + *venīre* COME); for suffix see *-ANCE*.

provender *n.* About 1300 *provendre* allowance paid each chapter member of a cathedral; later, food or provisions (1340); borrowed through Anglo-French *provendir*, Old French *provendier*, *provendre*, variant of *provende*, from Gallo-Romance **prōvenda*, altered (through influence of Latin *prōvidere* supply) from Late Latin *praeberenda* allowance, subsistence, from Latin *praeberenda* (things) to be furnished, neuter plural gerundive of *praeberē* to furnish, offer (contraction of Old Latin *praehibere* to hold before, from *prae-* before, *pre-* + *habere* to hold).

provenience *n.* 1881, probably alteration of *provenance*, influ-

enced by Latin *prōvenientem* (nominative *prōveniēns*), present participle of *prōvenire* originate; see *PROVENANCE*; for suffix see *-ENCE*. The word's formation may have been patterned after English *convenience*.

proverb *n.* 1303 *proverbe*; borrowed from Old French *proverb*, and directly from Latin *prōverbium* a common saying, proverb; literally, words or saying put forward (*prō-* forth, *pro-*¹ + *verbum* WORD). —**proverbial** *adj.* Probably before 1425 (implied in *proverbially*); borrowed from Latin *prōverbialis* of or characteristic of a proverb, from *prōverbium* proverb. The meaning of that has passed into a proverb or common talk, well-known, is first recorded in English in 1571.

provide *v.* Probably about 1408 *provyden* make provision for, prepare; borrowed from Latin *prōvidere* look ahead, prepare, supply (*prō-* ahead, *pro-*¹ + *videre* to see). The meaning of furnish for use is first recorded before 1420. —**provided** *conj.* (about 1460) —**provided** *n.* (1523) —**providing** *conj.* = provided (1423)

providence *n.* Before 1382 *provydence* foresight, provision; also, divine foreknowledge; borrowed from Old French *providence*, and directly from Latin *prōvidentia* foresight, precaution, providence, from *prōvidentem* (nominative *prōvidēns*), present participle of *prōvidere* to PROVIDE; for suffix see *-ENCE*.

The capitalized form *Providence*, applied to God as beneficent caretaker or guide, is first recorded in English 1602, perhaps taken directly from Latin *prōvidentia*. —**providential** *adj.* 1614 (implied in *providentially*) of or proceeding from divine providence; formed from Latin *prōvidentia* PROVIDENCE + English *-al*.

provident *adj.* Probably about 1408, prudent, careful; borrowed from Latin *prōvidentem* (nominative *prōvidēns*), present participle of *prōvidere* to foresee, PROVIDE; for suffix see *-ENT*.

province *n.* Before 1338, a country, territory, or region; borrowing of Old French *province*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *prōvincia* a territory under Roman domination; also, governorship of a territory (traditionally analyzed as *prō-* before, + *vincere* to conquer).

The meaning of duty, office, or business of a person, is first recorded in English before 1626. —**provincial** *adj.* Before 1378, of a province or provinces, (also, as a noun, 1376); borrowed from Old French *provincial*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *prōvincialis* of a province, from *prōvincia* province; for suffix see *-AL*. The meaning of countrified, lacking refinement or polish, is recorded in 1755.

provirus *n.* 1952, formed from English *prō-*² before + *virus*.

provision *n.* Before 1387 *provisioun* appointment to a church office not yet vacant; later, foresight, preparation, (before 1398); borrowed, perhaps through Old French *provision*, from Latin *prōvisiōnem* (nominative *prōvisiō*) foresight, preparation, from *prōvidere* look ahead, PROVIDE; for suffix see *-ION*.

The meaning of something provided, stock or store, is first recorded in English in 1451, and that of a supply of food (usually *provisions*, pl.), in 1610. —**provisional** *adj.* 1601, belonging to a temporary arrangement, provided for present

needs probably formed from English *provision* + *-al*, perhaps by influence of Middle French *provisional*.

proviso *n.* 1434, borrowed from Medieval Latin *proviso quod* it being provided that (a phrase appearing at the beginning of a clause in a legal document), from Latin *prōvisō* provided, ablative case neuter of *prōvisus*, past participle of *prōvidēre* PROVIDE. —**provisory** *adj.* 1611, subject to a proviso, conditional; borrowed through French *provisoire*, or directly from Medieval Latin *provisorius* of or for papal provision, from Latin *prōvisus*, past participle of *prōvidēre*; for suffix see *-ORY*.

provocateur *n.* 1922, shortened from earlier *agent provocateur*—person hired to provoke trouble, agitator (1877); borrowing of French *agent provocateur*; *provocateur* one who provokes, from Latin *prōvocātor* challenger, from *prōvocāre* PROVOKE.

provocation *n.* Before 1400 *provocacyoun* act of provoking or inciting, instigation; borrowed from Old French *provocacion*, and directly from Latin *prōvocātiōnem* (nominative *prōvocātiō*) a calling forth, challenge, from *prōvocāre* PROVOKE; for suffix see *-TION*. —**provocative** *adj.* About 1443, borrowed from Middle French *provocatif* (feminine *provocative*), and directly from Late Latin *prōvocātīvus* calling forth, from Latin *prōvocāre* PROVOKE; for suffix see *-IVE*.

provoke *v.* 1392, (in medicine) to induce, stimulate; also, to incite, urge, persuade (before 1400); borrowed from Old French *provoker*, *provoquer*, and directly from Latin *prōvocāre* to call forth, challenge, appeal, excite (*prō-* forth, *pro-* + *vocāre* to call).

provost *n.* Before 1121 *provost*, developed from Old English (before 900) *profoſt*, *prafost*, and reinforced by Old French *provost*; both from Medieval Latin *propositus*, alteration of Latin *praepositus* a chief, prefect; literally, placed in charge of, from past participle of *praepōnere* put before; see PREPOSITION.

prow *n.* 1555, borrowed from Middle French *proue*, from Genoese *prua*, from Vulgar Latin **prōda* (retained in Italian *proda* shore, bank, but obsolete in the sense of prow of a ship), developed by dissimilation of *r* to *d* in Latin *prōra* prow, from Greek *prōira*, related to *prō* before, forward.

prowess *n.* Probably 1225 *pruesse* an act of bravery; later *prouesse* bravery, valor (about 1280), and *prowesse* (about 1300); borrowed from Old French *proece* (*pro*, *prou*, later variants of *prod*, *prud* brave, valiant + *-ece*, from Latin *-itia*, suffix showing quality or condition). Old French *prod*, *prud*, developed from Vulgar Latin **prōdem*, accusative of **prōdis*; see PROUD.

prowl *v.* About 1395 *prollen* go or move about, especially in search of something; of unknown origin. The meaning of go about stealthily, especially on the lookout for a victim or prey, is first recorded before 1586.

Change in the original from *proll(en)* to *prowl* occurred in the 1500's, but the pronunciation remained (*prōl*). After about 1750 the change in spelling was reflected in the pronunciation (*proul*). —*n.* 1803, act of prowling, from the verb. —**prowled** *n.* 1519 *proller*; later *prowler* (1557); formed from *proll* (later *prowl*) + *-er*.

proximal *adj.* 1727, situated near; formed in English from Latin *proximus* nearest + English *-al*.

proximate *adj.* 1597 (implied in *proximately*); borrowed from Latin *proximātum*, past participle of *proximāre* come near, from *proximus* nearest; for suffix see *-ATE*.

proximity *n.* 1480, borrowed from Middle French *proximité* nearness, from Latin *proximitātem* (nominative *proximitās*) nearness, vicinity, from *proximus* nearest, next, superlative of *prope* near; for suffix see *-ITY*.

proxy *n.* Probably before 1425 *procy* letter containing power of attorney; later *prokecy* stewardship (1440); also *proxi* (1454); contraction of earlier *procracie* annual payment to a bishop (about 1300); borrowed from Anglo-French *procracie*, and directly from Medieval Latin *procuratia* administration, alteration of Latin *prōcūrātiō* care, management, from *prōcūrāre* manage; see PROCURE.

prude *n.* 1704, borrowed from French *prude* excessively prim or demure woman, from Old French *prude*, *prode*, *preude* good, virtuous, modest, (found in Old French *preudefemme*, *prodefemme* virtuous woman, *prou de femme*; formed as a parallel to *prud'homme*, *produme* brave man); see PROUD. —**prudery** *n.* 1709, formed from English *prude* + *-ery*, and perhaps borrowed directly from French *pruderie*, from *prude* *prude*; for suffix see *-ERY*. —**prudish** *adj.* 1717; formed from English *prude* + *-ish*.

prudence *n.* 1340, wisdom to see what is virtuous; earlier as a surname (1203); also foresight, practical wisdom, discretion (probably about 1350); borrowed from Old French *prudence*, and directly from Latin *prudentia* foresight, sagacity, skill, prudence; contraction of *prōvidentia* foresight; see PROVIDENCE; for suffix see *-ENCE*. —**prudent** *adj.* 1382, wise, discerning; borrowed from Old French *prudent*, from Latin *prudentem* (nominative *prūdēns*), contraction of *prōvidentem* having foresight, see PROVIDENT; for suffix see *-ENT*. —**prudential** *adj.* About 1454 *prudential*, probably borrowed from Medieval Latin *prudentialis*, from Latin *prudentia* PRUDENCE; for suffix see *-AL*; also possibly formed in English from Latin *prudentia*.

prune¹ *n.* dried plum. 1345–46 *prunne*; earlier in the place name *Prunhill* (1201); also *prune* (before 1398); borrowed from Old French *prune*, *pronne* plum, from Vulgar Latin **prūna* (feminine singular formed from neuter plural of Latin *prūnum*), and borrowed directly from Latin *prūnum* PLUM.

prune² *v.* cut useless parts from, trim. 1547 *proine*; 1575 *prune*; developed from Middle English *proinen*, found as *pruynen* (of a bird) trim the feathers with the beak, preen (about 1390); also *prunen* (before 1393); borrowed possibly from Old French *proignier*, *proïgnier* cut back, prune, from Gallo-Romance **prō-retundiāre* (*prō-* forth, *pro-* + **retundiāre* round off, from Vulgar Latin **retundus* rounded, from Latin *rotundus* ROUND). The sense of trim useless parts appeared probably before 1430. Related to PREEN.

prurient *adj.* 1639, itching; later, having an itching desire or curiosity (1653); borrowed from Latin *prūrientem* (nominative *prūriēns*), present participle of *prūrire* to itch, long for, be

wanton; perhaps related to *prūna* glowing coals; for suffix see -ENT. The meaning of lewd or lustful is first recorded in English in 1746. —**prurience** *n.* Before 1688, quality or condition of being prurient; formed from English *prurient*, on the analogy of such pairs as *patient*, and *patience*, etc.

prussic acid 1790, borrowed from French *acide prussique* Prussian, in reference to Prussian blue, a pigment chemically related to prussic acid; for suffix see -IC.

pry¹ *v.* look inquisitively. 1307 *prien* to peer in, seek for; later, look about inquisitively, of uncertain origin; perhaps developed from Old English (about 1000) *beprīwan* to wink.

pry² *v.* raise or move by force. 1823, altered form of PRIZE⁴, *v.*, lever.

psalm *n.* Probably before 1200 *psalme*; also *salme*; developed from Old English *psalm* (about 1000); earlier *salm* (before 830); both early borrowings from Latin *psalmus*, from Greek *psalmós* song sung to the harp, *psalm*; originally, performance on a stringed instrument, from *psállēin* play on a stringed instrument, pull. In many languages *p* was later restored on the model of Latin and Greek, and in such cases became a spelling pronunciation. English is almost alone in writing *ps* and pronouncing as if only spelled with *s*. (It should also be noted that *l*, though preserved in Old English, was often omitted in Middle English, as well as Old French.) —**psalmist** *n.* 1483, borrowed from Middle French *psalmiste*, and directly from Late Latin *psalmista*, from Greek *psalmistēs*, from *psalmízein* sing psalms, from Greek *psalmós* psalm; for suffix see -IST. The word replaced in Middle English the earlier *psalmistre* (before 1387), borrowed from Old French, variant of *psalmiste*.

Psalter *n.* Probably before 1200 *sawter*; also *salter* (before 1225) and *psalter* (1440); developed from Old English *psaltere* (about 1000); earlier *saltere* (737); also reinforced in Middle English by borrowing through Anglo-French from Old French *sautier*, *psautier*. Both the Old English and the Old French forms were borrowings from Late Latin *psaltērīum* Psalter, from Latin, stringed instrument, PSALTERY.

psaltery *n.* Probably about 1300 *sautri*; earlier as a surname *Sautre* (1248); also *psautery* (about 1340); borrowed from Old French *sauterie*, *psalterie*, and directly from Latin *psaltērīum* stringed instrument, from Greek *psaltērion* stringed instrument, from *psállēin* play on a stringed instrument, pull, pluck.

pseud- the spelling of the combining form *pseudo-* before vowels, as in *pseudaxis* a false stem, the full form *pseudo-* being sometimes retained, as in *pseudoarchaic*.

pseudo *adj.* 1449, and perhaps before 1400, adjective use of the combining form PSEUDO-. —**n.** About 1380, borrowed from Medieval Latin *pseudo*, from Greek *pseudo-*; and also developed from noun use of the combining form PSEUDO-.

pseudo- a combining form meaning: 1 false, falsely claimed or pretended, as in *pseudoscience*. 2 falsely supposed or appearing, as in *pseudo-hexagonal*. 3 substitute or replacement, as in *pseudonym*. 4 resembling, related, as in *pseudopod*. Borrowed

from Greek *pseudo-*, combining form of *pseúdos* falsehood, fallacy, or *pseúdes* false, from *pseúdein* to falsify, deceive.

Rare in Middle English, *pseudo-* appears chiefly in borrowings from Latin (as in *pseudoprophet*), but is occasionally found in Middle English formations as *pseudofriar* false friar.

pseudonym *n.* 1846, possibly a dictionary word, a back formation from earlier *pseudonymous*, influenced by, and later actually borrowed from, French *pseudonyme*, from Greek *pseudónymon*, neuter of *pseudónymos* falsely named (*pseudo-* false + *ónyma*, dialectal form of *ónoma* NAME). —**pseudonymous** *adj.* 1706, borrowed from Greek *pseudónymos* falsely named; for suffix see -OUS.

psittacosis *n.* 1897, New Latin, formed from Latin *psittacus* parrot, from Greek *psittakós* + New Latin -osis abnormal condition, disease.

psoriasis *n.* 1684, New Latin, formed from Late Latin *psōriasis* mange or scurvy, from Greek *psōriāsīs* a being itchy, from *psōriān* have the itch, from *psōrā* itch or mange, related to *psēn* to rub.

psych *v.* 1917, shortened form of *psychoanalyze* (by influence of *psych*, *n.*, psychology or psychiatry, a shortened form appearing in 1895). The meaning of influence, or figure out psychologically, is first recorded about 1957, probably as a shortened form of *psychologize* (1830).

psych- the combining form of *psycho-* before vowels, as in *psychic*, and in *psychiatry*.

psyche *n.* 1647, animating spirit, soul; borrowing of Latin *psychē*, from Greek *psychē* soul, mind, spirit, breath, life, from *psýchein* to breathe, blow. The specific sense in psychology of the mind as the center of thought, emotions, and behavior, is first recorded in 1910.

psychedelic *adj.* 1957, formed in English from Greek *psychē* mind + *dēloûn* make visible, reveal + English -ic. —**n.** 1956, from the same source as the adjective.

psychiatry *n.* 1846, probably borrowed from French *psychiatrie*, formed from Greek *psychē* PSYCHE + *iātrēā* healing, cure.

—**psychiatric** *adj.* 1847, probably borrowed from French *psychiatrique*, formed from *psychiatrie* psychiatry + -ique -ic.

—**psychiatrist** *n.* 1890, formed from English *psychiatry* + -ist.

psychic *adj.* 1871; borrowed perhaps through French *psychique*, and directly from Greek *psychikós* of the soul, spirit, or mind, from *psychē* soul, mind, PSYCHE; for suffix see -IC. The meaning of characterized by sensitivity to psychic forces (as in *to be psychic*, *psychic gifts*) is first recorded in English in 1895. —**n.** 1871, probably from the adjective. —**psychical** *adj.* 1642, of the soul or mind; formed in English from Greek *psychikós* + English -al. The meaning of having to do with psychic forces or influences is first recorded in English in 1882.

psycho *adj.* 1 psychological (as in *a psycho drama*). 1927, shortened form of *psychological*. 2 psychopathic (as in *a psycho killer*). 1936, shortened form of *psychopathic*. —**n.** 1942, shortened form of *psychopath*.

psycho- a combining form meaning: 1 of the mind, mental, as in *psychoanalysis*. 2 of the brain, as in *psychosurgery*; psychological, as in *psychotherapy*. Borrowed from Greek *psýchō-*, combining form of *psýchē* PSYCHE. —**psychoneurosis** *n.* (1883) —**psychosomatic** *adj.* (1863)

psychoanalysis *n.* 1906, borrowed from German *Psychoanalyse* (*Psycho-* mental, *psycho-* + *Analyse*, from Greek *anál-ysis* ANALYSIS). —**psychoanalyst** *n.* 1911, formed from English *psychoanalysis*, on the pattern of such pairs as *analysis*, *analyst*. —**psychoanalyze** *v.* 1911, back formation from *psychoanalysis*; formed on the pattern of such pairs as *analysis*, *analyze*.

psychology *n.* 1653, study of the human soul; borrowed from New Latin *psychologia*, from Greek *psýchē* PSYCHE + *-logía* -logy. The meaning of the study of the human mind is first recorded in English in 1748. —**psychological** *adj.* Before 1688, formed from English *psychology* + *-ical*. —**psychologist** *n.* 1727, student of the human soul; formed from English *psychology* + *-ist*. The meaning of a student of the human mind is first recorded in 1817. —**psychologize** *v.* 1830, to theorize, speculate, or reason psychologically; formed from English *psychology* + *-ize*.

psychopathic *adj.* 1847, borrowed from German *psychopathisch*, formed from German *psycho-* of the mind + Greek *páthos* suffering; see PATHOS + German *-isch* -ic. —**psychopath** *n.* 1885, probably a back formation from English *psychopathic*.

psychosis *n.* 1847, New Latin, from Greek *psýchē* PSYCHE + New Latin *-osis* abnormal condition. —**psychotic** *adj.* 1890, from *psychosis*, on the pattern of *neurosis*, *neurotic*. —**n. 1910, from the adjective.**

ptarmigan *n.* 1599, borrowed from Gaelic *tarmachan*, (in Scottish use) include *termigan* and *tormichan*. The form *ptarmigan* (1684) said to be influenced by Greek words with *pt-*, newly known and used in zoology at the time and referred to Greek *pterón* wing.

pterodactyl *n.* 1830 *pterodactyle*, borrowed from French *ptérodactyle* (1821), from New Latin *Pterodactylus* the genus name (Greek *pterón* wing + *dáktylos* finger, toe).

ptomaine or **ptomain** *n.* 1880 poison produced in decaying matter, borrowed from Italian *ptomaina*, from Greek *ptōma* corpse; literally, a fall, fallen thing. —**ptomaine poisoning** (1893)

pub *n.* 1859, shortened form of *public house* (1768, tavern; earlier, an inn, 1658; originally, any building open to the public, 1574).

puberty *n.* About 1384 *puberte*, borrowed through Old French *puberté*, and directly from Latin *pūbertātem* (nominative *pūbertās*) age of maturity, manhood, from *pūbēs* (genitive *pūberis*) adult, full grown, manly; for suffix see -TY².

pubescent *adj.* 1646, a back formation from earlier *pubescence*, and borrowed from French *pubescent*, and directly from Latin

pūbēscētem (nominative *pūbēscēns*) reach the age of puberty, present participle of *pūbēscere* arrive at puberty, from *pūbēs* adult, full grown; see PUBERTY; for suffix see -ENT. —**pubescence** *n.* Probably before 1425, borrowed from Medieval Latin *pubescentia*, from Latin *pūbēscētem* (nominative *pūbēscēns*), present participle of *pūbēscere*, see PUBESCENT; for suffix see -ENCE.

pubis or **pubes** *n.* 1 *pubes* pubic hair; about 1570, borrowing of Latin *pubes*; later, the pubic bone (1872, but also as a plural, 1841). 2 *pubis* part of either hipbone that forms the front of the pelvis; 1597, borrowed from Middle French *pubis*, a shortening of New Latin *os pubis* bone of the groin, and borrowed directly as a shortening of Latin *os pūbis*; *os* bone; and *pūbis*, genitive of *pūbēs* genital area, groin, related to *pūbēs* full grown, adult. —**pubic** *adj.* 1831, having to do with the pubes (pubic hair) or the pubis (area formed by pelvic bones); formed from English *pub(is)*, *pub(es)* + *-ic*.

public *adj.* 1394 *pupplik* open to general observation, sight, or knowledge; later *publique* of or concerning the people as a whole (1427), and in the spelling *publik* (1447); borrowed from Old French *public*, *publique*, and directly from Latin *publicus*, alteration (influenced by *pūbēs* adult population, adult) of Old Latin *poplicus* pertaining to the people, from *populus* people. —**n.** Before 1500 *publike* public view, place open to all persons; from the adjective. The meaning of the community, nation, or state, is first recorded in 1611; and that of the people in general in 1665. —**public library** (1614) —**public office** (1792, room or rooms set aside for public business; 1844, position held by a public official) —**public opinion** (1781) —**public school** (1580, endowed private school; 1636, free school maintained by taxes).

publican *n.* Probably before 1200 *publicane* tax collector of ancient Rome; later *publycan* (about 1303); borrowed from Old French *publicain*, *publican*, *pubblican*, from Latin *pūblicānus* a tax collector; originally as an adjective, pertaining to the public revenue, from *pūblium* public revenue, noun use of *pūblicum*, neuter of *pūblicus* PUBLIC; for suffix see -AN. The meaning of a keeper of a pub is first recorded in 1728.

publication *n.* Before 1387 *publicacioun* action of making publicly known; borrowed from Old French *publication*, and directly from Latin *pūblicātiōnem* (nominative *pūblicātiō*) a making public, from *pūblicāre* make public; for suffix see -ATION. The meaning of issuing to the public a book, map, etc., is first recorded in 1576, and that of a work published for public sale, in 1656.

publicist *n.* 1792, a person learned in public law; 1795, writer on current public topics; borrowed from French *publiciste* (*public* PUBLIC + *-iste* -ist).

publicity *n.* 1791, the condition of being public; borrowed from French *publicité* (*public* PUBLIC + *-ité* -ity). The meaning of a making something publicly known, public notice, advertising, is first recorded in 1826. —**publicize** *v.* 1928, formed from English *public*, *adj.* or *n.* + *-ize*.

publish *v.* About 1378 *publisshen*; also *publischen* (1387); formed from Middle English *publicen* by replacement with *-ish* $-ish^2$, as if from Old French **publiss-*, stem of **publir* (not found in Anglo-French or Old French), but actually formed in imitation of other words in Middle English, such as *admonish*, *banish*, and *finish*. The original Middle English *publicen* (before 1338) was borrowed from Old French *publier*, *puplier*, from Latin *publicāre* make public, from *publicus* PUBLIC.

The meaning of issue for sale to the public is first recorded in 1529 in reference to movable type, but reference to publishing a book also occurs about 1450. — **publisher** *n.* About 1453, one who makes something known publicly; later, one who publishes a book, etc. (1654); formed from English *publish* + *-er*¹. — **publishing** *n.* Probably about 1450, the act of making publicly known; about 1454, the issuing of copies of a book for sale to the public; from gerund of English *publish*; for suffix see *-ING*¹.

puck¹ *n.* mischievous fairy in English folklore. Probably before 1300 *puke*, *pouke* the Devil, Satan; later, evil spirit, goblin (about 1378); developed from Old English (before 1000) *pūca*; cognate with Frisian *puk* goblin, Old Icelandic *pūki* devil, and Norwegian *pokker* devil, deuce, of unknown origin. — **puckish** *adj.* 1874, formed from English *puck* + *-ish*¹.

puck² *n.* hard disk used in ice hockey. 1891, from earlier *puck*, *v.*, to hit or strike (1861, perhaps related to *poke*¹ to push).

pucker *v.* 1598, to draw into wrinkles or small folds; possibly formed from English *pock* (dialectal variant of *POKE*² bag, sack) + *-er*², the notion being that of forming small baglike gatherings. Verbs of this type often shorten or obscure the original vowel; compare *clutter*, *flutter*, *putter*, etc. — **n.** 1741 state of agitation, flutter; from the verb. The sense of a wrinkle is first recorded in 1744–50.

pudding *n.* 1287 *puding* animal's stomach or casing stuffed with meat, etc., kind of sausage; earlier as a surname *Pudding* (1176); also *poding* (before 1300); of uncertain origin (perhaps related to Old English *puduc* a wen, with allusion to swelling; or traditionally associated with Old French *bodin*, *boudin* sausage, from the root **bod-* bloated or swollen; and possibly cognate with Low German *puddenwurst* a thick black pudding, *puddig* thick, bloated). German and Dutch forms were borrowed from English.

The soft cooked food resembling custard (1670), comes from food boiled or steamed in a bag, first recorded in 1544.

puddle *n.* Before 1338 *podel* small pool of water; probably a diminutive formed from Old English *pudd* ditch + *-le*¹; and cognate with Low German *pūdel*, High German dialect *Pfüdel* puddle. — **v.** 1440 *pothelen* to dabble or wallow in a puddle, from *pothel*, a variant, of *podel*, *n.*

puhendum *n.* 1634, external genitals, especially of the female; borrowing of Latin *puhendum*, pl. *puhenda*, literally, thing to be ashamed of, neuter gerundive of *puhēre* make ashamed, of uncertain origin. The Latin plural, *puhenda*, is recorded in Middle English before 1398, and an Anglicized singular *puhende* appears before 1425.

pudeur *n.* 1937, modesty, especially in sexual matters, borrowing of French *pudeur*, from Latin *pudōrem*, accusative of *pudor* shame, modesty, from *pudēre* make ashamed. The modern term is a revival of obsolete *pudor* modesty, bashfulness (1623; borrowed directly from Latin *pudor* shame).

pudgy *adj.* 1836, formed from English *pudge* (1808) anything short and thick + *-y*¹.

Both *pudgy* and the variant *podgy* are perhaps related to or variants of, *pudsy* plump (1754, possibly a diminutive and embellished form of *pud* a hand or forepaw, 1654).

pueblo *n.* 1808, borrowing of Spanish *pueblo* village or small town, people, community, from Latin *populum*, accusative of *populus* people.

puerile *adj.* 1661, a back formation from *puerility*, probably influenced by, and in some instances borrowed through, French *puéril* (feminine *puérile*), from Latin *puerilis* childish, boyish, from *puer* child, boy. — **puerility** *n.* About 1475 *puerilite*, borrowed from Middle French *puerilité*, from Latin *puerilitatem* (nominative *puerilitās*), from *puerilis* PUERILE; for suffix see *-ITY*.

puerperal *adj.* 1768, borrowed from New Latin *puerperālis*, from Latin *puerpera* bearing a child, from *puer* child, boy + *parere* to bear (children), bring forth; for suffix see *-AL*¹. It is possible that *puerperal* was formed as a replacement for the awkwardly pronounced *puerperial* (1628); formed in English from *puerpery* (1602) + *-ial*.

puff *v.* Probably before 1200 *puffen* blow with short, quick blasts; developed from Old English (about 1000) *pyffan*, of imitative origin. — **n.** Probably before 1200 *puf*, *puffe*, short, quick blast; later, light, airy pastry (before 1399); from the verb in Middle English, and in Old English. The figurative meaning of flattery, inflated praise, is first recorded in 1732, probably developed from the earlier sense of bombast. — **puffy** *adj.* 1599, vain, bombastic; formed from English *puff*, *n.* + *-y*¹. The meaning of swollen, puffed out, is first recorded in 1664.

puffin *n.* 1337 *pofooun*; earlier as a surname *Puffin* (1279); also *poffin* (1345); of uncertain origin, perhaps connected with *puff*, referring to the “puffy” appearance of the bird.

pug *n.* 1749 *Pug-dog*; earlier *Pug*, nickname for a monkey or dog (1731); extended sense of *pug* monkey (1664), sprite, imp (1616); of uncertain origin.

pugilism *n.* 1791, formed in English from Latin *pugil* boxer (related to *pugnis* fist) + English *-ism*. — **pugilist** *n.* 1790, formed in English from Latin *pugil* boxer + English *-ist*. — **pugilistic** *adj.* 1789, either formed from English *pugilist* + *-ic*, or from French *pugiliste* (1789) + English *-ic*. These words are probably not formed on English *pugil* boxer (1646) which was a rare word in English, and though once popular among sportswriters, have largely died out except in *pugil stick* used in the military as a substitute for a rifle in training for close combat (1962).

pugnacious *adj.* 1642, perhaps a back formation from earlier *pugnacity*; or formed in English as an adjective to *pugnacity*,

from Latin *pugnācis* genitive of *pugnāx* combative, from *pugnāre* to fight, from *pugnus* fist + English *-ous*. —**pugnacity** *n.* 1605, borrowed from Latin *pugnācitas*, from *pugnāx* (genitive *pugnācis*) combative; for suffix see *-ITY*.

puissant *adj.* 1450 *puissaunt*; either formed in English as an adjective to *puissance*; or borrowed from Middle French *puissant* being powerful, from *puiss-*, stem of Old French *poeir* to be able; see *POWER*; for suffix see *-ANT*. —**puissance** *n.* About 1410 *pusaunce* power, strength, authority; later *puissance* (1431); borrowed from Middle French *puissance*, *puissance*, from *puissant* *PUISSANT*; for suffix see *-ANCE*.

puke *v.* 1600, perhaps of imitative origin. —**n.** 1737, from the verb.

pull *v.* About 1300 *pullen* to drag, move by pulling; developed from Old English (about 1000) *pullian* to pluck or draw out; of uncertain origin, perhaps cognate with Frisian *púlje* to shell, husk, Middle Low German *pulen* to shell, pluck, tear, Middle Dutch *polen* to peel, strip (modern Dutch *peul* husk, shell), and modern Icelandic *púla* work hard, all with underlying similarity of form and meaning of draw toward or out. —**n.** Before 1338 *pul*; earlier, a fishing net (1303), from the verb. The sense of personal influence used to one's advantage is first recorded in 1887. —**pullover** *adj.* 1907 *Pullover Storm Coat*. —**n.** 1875, hat covering; a sweater put on by pulling it over the head (1925).

pullet *n.* Before 1376 *pulettis*, pl., earlier as a surname *Pulete* (1297); borrowed through Anglo-French *pullet*, Old French *polet*, *pollet*, *poulette*, diminutives of *poule* hen, from Vulgar Latin **pulla*, feminine of Latin *pullus* young animal, young fowl; for suffix see *-ET*.

pulley *n.* 1296 *puly*; later *poley* (1324), and *pullyes* (1468); borrowed from Old French *polie*, *pulie*, and from Medieval Latin *poliva*, *puliva*; both probably from Medieval Greek **polidia*, plural of **poldion*, diminutive of Greek *pólos* pivot, axis.

Pullman *n.* 1867 *Pullman car*, in allusion to George M. Pullman, who designed a railroad passenger car with folding berths.

pulmonary *adj.* 1704, borrowed, perhaps by influence of French *pulmonaire*, from Latin *pulmōnārius* the lungs, from *pulmō* (genitive *pulmōnis*) lung; for suffix see *-ARY*. Compare *LIGHTS*, *PNEUMONIA*.

pulp *n.* Before 1400 *pulpe*, borrowed from Latin *pulpa* (earlier **pelpā*) animal or plant pulp, pith of wood. —**v.** 1662 (implied in *pulping*), from the noun. —**pulpy** *adj.* 1591, formed from English *pulp*, *n.* + *-y*¹.

pulpit *n.* Before 1338 *pulpite*; later *pulpit* (about 1395); borrowed from Late Latin *pulpitum*, from Old French *pulpite*, and directly from Latin, scaffold, platform.

pulsar *n.* 1968, formed from English *pulse*¹ or *puls(ation)* + *-ar*, on the analogy of earlier *quasar*.

pulsate *v.* 1794, back formation from earlier *pulsation*; for suffix see *-ATE*¹. —**pulsation** *n.* Probably before 1425

pulsacioun throbbing of the blood, beating; borrowed probably through Middle French *pulsation*, and directly from Latin *pulsationem* (nominative *pulsatio*) a beating or striking, from *pulsare* to beat, strike, or push; for suffix see *-ATION*.

pulse¹ *n.* beating of the arteries. Before 1338 *pous*; later *puls*, *pulse* (before 1390); borrowed from Old French *pous*, *pulse*, and directly from Latin *pulsus*, (genitive *pulsus*) from past participle of *pellere* to push, drive. The sense of the throbbing of life, etc. (as in *to feel the pulse of public sentiment*) is first recorded about 1540. —**v.** Probably before 1425 *pulsen* to throb; borrowed from Latin *pulsare* to beat, strike, push, frequentative form of *pellere* to push.

pulse² *n.* peas, beans, and lentils, used as food. 1297 *pols* (in the compound *polscorn*); later *puls* (1388–89); borrowed from Old French *pols*, *pouls*, and directly from Latin *puls* (genitive *pultis*) porridge, probably, through Etruscan, from Greek *póltos* porridge.

pulverize *v.* Probably before 1425 *pulverizen*, borrowed from Late Latin *pulverizāre* reduce to powder or dust, from Latin *pulvis* (genitive *pulveris*) dust; for suffix see *-IZE*.

—**pulverization** *n.* 1658, borrowed from French *pulvérisation*, from Middle French *pulveriser* pulverize + *-ation*.

puma *n.* 1777, borrowing of Spanish *puma*, from Quechua (Peru) *puma*.

pumice *n.* 1400 *pomyse*; later *pumyce* (probably about 1475); borrowed through Anglo-French *pomis*, Old French *pomis*, from Late Latin *pōmex* (genitive *pōmicis*), an adaptation of Oscan **poimex*, variant of Latin *pūmex* pumice. —**v.** Before 1425 *pomeysen*; probably about 1425 *pumycen*; from the noun.

pummel *v.* 1548 *pumble*, *poumle* strike repeatedly, alteration of *POMMEL*, *v.* The spelling *pummel* is first recorded in 1608.

pump¹ *n.* apparatus for forcing liquids, air, etc. in or out of things. 1420 *pomp* ship's pump; 1427 *pumpe*; possibly borrowed from Middle Dutch *pompe* water conduit, pipe, and Middle Low German *pumpe* pump (modern German *Pumpe*), both derived probably from the same source in nautical use. —**v.** 1508, from the noun.

pump² *n.* shoe without fasteners. 1555, a light, close-fitting, slipperlike shoe; of unknown origin.

pumpnickel *n.* 1839, borrowing of German *Pumpnickel*, from dialectal German of Westphalia; originally an abusive term, a compound of *pumpen* to break wind + *Nickel* goblin, rascal. An early example, spelled *Pompernickel*, is recorded in 1756.

pumpkin *n.* 1647, alteration (with *-kin*) of earlier *pompon*, *pumpion* melon or pumpkin (1545); borrowed from Middle French *pompon*, *pepon*, from Latin *pepōn* melon, from Greek *pépōn*, originally, cooked by the sun, ripe, from *péptein*, *pésein* to cook.

The spelling *punkin* appeared in 1825.

pun *n.* 1662, of uncertain origin. *Pun* was probably a clipped word which came into fashionable slang in the late 1600's, such

as *punnet* or *pundrigion*. While *punnet* may have been a diminutive, *pundrigion* suggests an original shortening from Italian *puntiglio* equivocation, trivial objection, small or fine point, though nothing has been found to confirm the origin of *pun*. —**v.** 1670, from the noun. —**punster** *n.* 1700, formed from English *pun*, *n.* + *-ster*.

punch¹ *v.* to pierce, hit. About 1384 *punchen* to poke or prod; later, to stab, pierce (1440); borrowed from Old French *ponchonner*, *poinçonner* to punch, prick, from *ponchon*, *poinçon* pointed tool, piercing weapon, from Vulgar Latin **punctionem* (nominative **punctiō*) pointed tool, from **punctiāre* to pierce, prick, from Latin *punct-* past participle stem of *pungere* to pierce.

The meaning of hit with the fist is first recorded in 1530, and that of pierce, cut, stamp, enboss, etc., with a tool, in 1423. —**n.** Before 1400 *punche* a stab or thrust; later, a dagger, a tool for piercing, etc. (1505); probably a variant of *ponchon*; see PUNCHEON². The meaning of quick blow (1580) is probably from the verb. The sense of vigorous force or effectiveness is found in 1911.

punch² *n.* mixed drink. 1632, of uncertain origin.

Punch *n.* 1709, shortened from PUNCHINELLO. *Punch* is the name of a puppet who quarrels violently with his wife Judy in the puppet show *Punch and Judy*.

puncheon¹ *n.* cask for liquor. 1400 *pynson*; later *pownchon* (1419–20) and *ponchon* (1468); borrowed from Middle French *poinchon*, *poinçon*, *ponson*, of uncertain origin.

Although the forms in Middle French and English are identical with *puncheon²*, and the barrel staves of a *puncheon* are reminiscent of “upright slabs of timber,” there seems to be little else that provides a connection in the meaning between the two words.

puncheon² *n.* slab of timber, short upright piece of wood. 1348 *pounchon*, 1374 *punchon* short supporting beam, strut; earlier, as a surname *Punchian* (1274); also *ponson*, *ponchon* pointed tool for piercing, punch (1370); borrowed from Old French *ponchon*, *poinçon*; see PUNCH¹, *v.*

punchinello *n.* 1666 *punchinello*, (also) *Polichinello*, borrowed from Italian *Pulcinella* (or Neapolitan dialect *Pollecina*), diminutive of *pollecena* turkey pullet (the beak of which bears a resemblance to the nose of *Pulcinella*), from Latin *pullus* young fowl. *Punchinello* was originally the name of the principal character in a traditional Italian puppet show, the prototype of *Punch*.

punctilio *n.* 1596 *puntilio* small point or mark; probably borrowed from Italian *puntiglio* small or fine point, from Spanish *puntillo* small point, diminutive of *punto* point, from Latin *punctum* prick, POINT. The specific sense of a detail of conduct, a petty formality, is first recorded in English in 1599, and was influenced by Latin *punctum*. —**punctilious** *adj.* 1634 *puntillious*, probably borrowed from Italian *puntiglioso*, from *puntiglio* fine point; for suffix see -OUS. The spelling *punctilious* is first recorded in 1742 (earlier *punctillious*, 1653), influenced by English *punctilio* or by Latin *punctum*.

punctual *adj.* Before 1400, having a sharp point, producing

small punctures; borrowed (perhaps through influence of Old French *punctuel*) from Medieval Latin *punctualis*, from Latin *punctus* (genitive *punctūs*) a pricking, POINT; for suffix see -AL¹. The meaning of prompt, is found in 1675. —**punctuality** *n.* 1620, exactness, precision, apparently formed from English *punctual* + *-ity*. The sense of promptness is first recorded in 1777.

punctuate *v.* 1818, probably a back formation from the earlier English *punctuation*; for suffix see -ATE¹. —**punctuation** *n.* Before 1539, insertion of points to mark pauses in a text; borrowed, perhaps through Middle French *punctuation*, and directly from Medieval Latin *punctuationem* (nominative *punctuatio*) a marking with points, from *punctuare* to mark with points or dots, from Latin *punctus* a prick, POINT; for suffix see -ATION. —**punctuation mark** (1866)

puncture *n.* 1392, small perforation or wound, act of pricking or stinging; borrowed from Late Latin *punctura* a pricking, a puncture, from Latin *punctus*, past participle of *pungere* to prick, pierce; for suffix see -URE. —**v.** 1699, to prick, pierce, from the noun.

pundit *n.* 1672, very learned Hindu, borrowed from Hindi *paṇḍī* a learned man, master, teacher, from Sanskrit *paṇḍitā-s* a learned man, scholar; —**adj.** learned, skilled. The meaning of any learned person or authority is first recorded in English in 1816.

pungent *adj.* 1597, sharp, keen, acute; borrowed from Latin *pungentem* (nominative *pungēns*), present participle of *pungere* to prick, pierce, sting; related to *pugnis* fist; for suffix see -ENT.

The meaning of sharply affecting the organs of smell or taste appeared in English in 1668. —**pungency** *n.* 1649, sharpness, poignancy, piquancy; formed from English *pungent* + *-cy*.

punish *v.* About 1303 *ponysshēn* to inflict divine retribution on; later *punissen* to cause pain, loss, or discomfort to for a fault or offense (1340), and in the spelling *punishen* (1348); borrowed from Old French *puniss-*, stem of *punir*, from Latin *pūnīre* inflict a penalty on, cause pain for some offense, formed from *poena* penalty, punishment; see PAIN; for suffix see -ISH². —**punishment** *n.* 1385 *punishment*, borrowed through Anglo-French *punissement*, from Old French *punissement*, from *puniss-*, stem of *punir* punish; for suffix see -MENT.

punitive *adj.* 1624, borrowed from French *punitif* (feminine *punitive*), from Medieval Latin *punitivus*, from Latin *pūnīre* PUNISH; for suffix see -IVE.

punk *n.* 1687, rotten wood used as tinder, probably borrowed from Algonquian (Delaware) *ponk*, literally, living ashes.

The sense of something rotten or worthless, nonsense, is first recorded in 1869, and that of a worthless person, young hoodlum, in 1917. This latter use was probably shortened from the earlier underworld slang term *punk* *kid* a criminal's apprentice (1908). —**adj.** 1902, (of wood) rotten, decayed; from the noun. The sense of worthless, rotten, inferior, is first recorded in 1896.

punt¹ *n.* shallow, flat-bottomed boat. 1568, shortened form of

earlier *pontebot* punt boat (1500); developed from Old English (about 1000) *punt*, borrowed from Latin *pontō* flat-bottomed boat, PONTON. The Old English word probably continued into the Middle English, although there are no recorded examples until early modern English. —**v.** 1816, from the noun.

punt² *v.* to kick (a football or soccer ball). 1845, perhaps special use of dialectal English *punt* to push, strike, alteration of *bunt*, of uncertain origin. —**n.** 1845, from the same source as the verb.

puny *adj.* Before 1577, subordinate, inferior in rank; borrowed from Middle French *puiné*, from Old French *puisé* born later, younger, (*puis* afterwards, from Vulgar Latin **postius*, from Latin *postea*, from *post* after + Old French *né* born, from Latin *nātus*, past participle of *nāscī* be born). The *-y* is often considered suffixal, but is no more than a representation of *-é* from the French form. The sense of small, weak, insignificant, appeared in 1593. *Puny* is the original spelling in English, preceding the form *puise* (pyü'nē) in most senses by some 25 to 50 years. The French form was adopted in English during the 1600's and died out in the 1700's, except for reference to junior judges of a superior court.

pup *n.* 1773, young dog, shortened variant form of PUPPY. The sense of conceited person, is found in 1589.

pupa *n.* 1773, stage between the larva and adult insect, New Latin, special use of Latin *pūpa* girl, doll, puppet; see PUPIL¹. —**pupal** *adj.* (1866) —**pupate** *v.* 1879; formed from New Latin *pupa* + English *-ate*¹.

pupil¹ *n.* student. 1384 *pupille* an orphan child, ward; borrowed from Old French *pupille*, and directly from Latin *pupillus* (feminine *pupilla*) orphan, ward, minor, diminutives of *pūpus* boy (feminine *pūpa* girl), probably related to *puer* child, boy. The meaning of disciple, student, is first recorded in English in 1563.

pupil² *n.* spot in the iris of the eye. 1392 *pupilla* (as a Latinate form); before 1400 *pupille*; later *pupil* (about 1425); borrowed from Old French *pupille*, and directly from Latin *pupilla*, originally, little doll, diminutive of *pūpa* girl, doll (see PUPIL¹); so called from the tiny image of oneself that can be seen reflected in the pupils when looking into another person's eyes.

puppet *n.* 1538, doll moved by strings or wires; developed from Middle English *poppet*, *popet* doll (1413; earlier, wax figure, probably before 1300, and as a surname *Pupet*, 1191); probably borrowed from Old French (compare Middle French *poupette* little doll, diminutive of Old French *poupée* doll, from Vulgar Latin **puppa*, from Latin *pūpa* girl, doll; see PUPIL¹); for suffix see *-ET*. The meaning of a person whose actions are manipulated by another is first recorded in English in the spelling *poppet* (1550). —**puppetry** *n.* 1528, action of or representation by puppets; formed from English *puppet* + *-ry*. —**puppet show** (1650; earlier *puppet play*, 1599, and implied in *puppet-playing*, 1552).

puppy *n.* 1486 *popi* woman's small pet dog; of uncertain origin, but on the analogy of a small pet dog being considered a toy, possibly borrowed from Middle French *poupée* doll, toy,

from Vulgar Latin **puppa*, from Latin *pūpa* girl, doll; see PUPIL¹; for suffix see *-y*¹. The meaning of a young dog, is first found in 1591; the sense of a vain, impertinent young man, *fof*, is attested since 1589.

purblind *adj.* About 1300 *pur blind* pure (entirely) blind; earlier a near-sighted person (before 1300). A meaning of partially blind or blind in one eye, appeared before 1382, and the sense of having imperfect perception, dull, is found in 1533.

purchase *v.* Probably before 1300 *purchasen*, *purchacen* acquire, buy; borrowed through Anglo-French *purchaser* go after, pursue, from Old French *porchacier*, *pouchacier*, *purchacier* (purforth, from Latin *prō-* forth, *pro-*¹ + Old French *chacier* run after, CHASE¹). —**n.** Probably before 1300 *purchas* booty, spoil; also, *porchas* something acquired, a possession (about 1300), and in the spelling *purchace* (before 1338); borrowed through Anglo-French *purchase*, *purchaz*, from Old French *purchas*, from *purchacier* to purchase. The meaning of a firm hold to help move something appeared in 1711, from the verb sense of haul in (a rope), in effect to gain or acquire one portion after another (1567).

pure *adj.* About 1250 *pur* refined, unmixed, unalloyed; earlier as a surname (1178); also with the spelling *pure* (about 1280); borrowed from Old French *pur*, *pure*, and directly from Latin *pūrus* clean, clear, unmixed, chaste.

purée *n.* 1707, borrowing of French *purée*, from past participle of *purier* to strain, cleanse, from Latin *pūrare* purify, from *pūrus* PURE. —**v.** Before 1934, from the noun.

purgatory *n.* Probably before 1200 *purgatoire*, later *purgatorie* (before 1250); borrowed from Old French *purgatore*, *purgatoire*, and directly from Medieval Latin *purgatorium*, from Late Latin, means of cleansing, from neuter of *pūrgātōrius*, *adj.*, purging, cleansing, from Latin *pūrgāre* to PURGE; for suffix see *-ORY*.

purge *v.* About 1300 *purgien* to clear of a charge or suspicion of guilt, establish innocence; later *purgen* cleanse, clear, get rid of, purify (1398); borrowed through Anglo-French *purger*, Old French *purgier*, and directly from Latin *pūrgāre* cleanse, purify, Old Latin *pūrigāre*, from a lost adjective **pūrigus* purifying (*pūrus* PURE + the root of *agere* to drive, make). —**n.** 1447, an examination in a court of law to clear of a charge or suspicion of guilt; later, a purgative (1563); and act of purging (1598); in all senses probably from the verb in English. —**purgation** *n.* About 1382 *purgacioun* purification from sin; also, discharge of waste matter (1387); borrowed from Old French *purgacion*, and directly from Latin *pūrgātiōnem* (nominative *pūrgātiō*) a cleansing, *pūrgāre* to PURGE; for suffix see *-ATION*. —**purgative** *adj.* Before 1398 *purgatif*, borrowed from Old French *purgatif* (feminine *purgative*), and directly from Late Latin *pūrgātīvus*, from Latin *pūrgāre* to PURGE; for suffix see *-IVE*. —**n.** Probably before 1425, from the adjective in English, and perhaps borrowed from Middle French *purgatif*.

purify *v.* Before 1338 *purisien*, borrowed from Old French *purifier*, from Latin *pūrificāre*, from a lost adjective **pūrificus* (*pūrus* PURE + the root of *facere* to make); for suffix see *-FY*.

—**purification** *n.* 1350 *purificaciun* Feast of the Purification of the Virgin Mary; borrowed through Old French *purification*, and directly from Latin *pūrficātiōnem* (nominative *pūrficātiō*) a purifying, from *pūrficāre* PURIFY; for suffix see -ATION. The sense of freeing from impurities is found in 1598.

purism *n.* 1803 *purisms*, pl. uses of language that reflect strict observance of purity or “correctness” in language; 1804, strict observance of purity in language, style, etc.; borrowed from French *purisme* (*pur* PURE + *-isme* -ism), and formed from English *pur(e)* + *-ism*. —**purist** *n.* 1706, formed from English *pur(e)* + *-ist*, and borrowed from French *puriste* (*pur* pure + *-iste* -ist).

Puritan *n.* 1564, opponent of the Anglican hierarchy’s directives in matters of ritual and vestments; later, person within the Church of England who demanded further reformation in the direction of Presbyterianism (1571); probably formed from English *purify* + *-an*.

From 1592 on, *Puritan* *puritan*, *puritane* was commonly applied to anyone considered overly strict in religion and morals. By the 1800’s, especially in the United States in reference to the Puritans who settled in New England in the early 1600’s, the term became largely historical. —**puritanical** *adj.* 1607, formed from English *Puritan* + *-ical*. —**puritanism** *n.* 1573, doctrines and principles of the Puritans; later, excessive strictness in morals or religion (1592); formed from English *Puritan* + *-ism*.

purity *n.* Probably before 1200 *purte* quality or condition of being pure; later *puryte* (about 1380); borrowed from Old French *purte*, *pureté*, and directly from Late Latin *pūritātem* (nominative *pūritās*) cleanness, pureness, from Latin *pūrus* PURE; for suffix see -ITY.

purl¹ *v.* flow with rippling motions and murmuring sound. Before 1586 (implied in *purling*); perhaps borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Norwegian *purla* purl). —**n.** 1650, purling motion or sound; earlier *perle* a surge of water (before 1500); perhaps borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Norwegian *purl* purl).

purl² *v.* knit with inverted stitches. 1526 *pirle*, *pyrle* to embroider with metallic thread; related to earlier *pirle* to twist thread (1523), and probably with Middle English *pirlyng* revolving or twisting (1448–49); of uncertain origin. —**n.** 1394, bordering, edging, frilling of twisted loops; later, metallic thread used for bordering and embroidering (1535); from the verb.

purlieu *n.* 1482 *purlwe* piece of land on the border of a forest, perhaps an alteration (influenced by Middle French *lieu* place) of Middle English *porale* royal or official perambulation to determine boundaries of a manor, district, or forest (1306); later *purale* (1338); borrowed through Anglo-French *purale*, *puralee*, originally, a going through, Old French *porale*, from *poraler* go through (*por-*, from Latin *prō-* forth, *pro-*¹ + *aler* to go; see ALLEY). The figurative sense of one’s haunt or resort is first recorded in 1643.

purloin *v.* 1348 *purloinen* remove, misappropriate; borrowed through Anglo-French *purloigner*, *purloiner* remove, and di-

rectly from Old French *porloigner* put off (*por-*, from Latin *prō-* forth, *pro-*¹ + Old French *loing* far, from Latin *longē*, from *longus* LONG¹, *adj.*).

purple *adj.* About 1250 *purpel*, later *purple* (1436); developed from Old English *purpul*, *purpble* (about 950), from earlier *purpure* purple garment (before 899); borrowed from Latin *purpura* purple-dyed cloth, purple dye, shellfish yielding a purple dye, from Greek *porphyrā*. Related to PORPHYRY. The Old English form *purpul* probably developed by dissimilation of the second *r* to *l*, as found in *marble* (from the original *marbre*, *marbra*). —**n.** About 1390 *purpul*, *purpel* rich cloth dyed purple; later, *purpil* the color purple (probably before 1439); from the adjective.

purport *n.* 1422 *purporte*; borrowed from Anglo-French *purport* contents (Anglo-Latin *purportum*, Old French *purport*) from *purporter* to contain (Old French *porporter* convey, carry); formed from *pur-* *por-* forth, from Latin *prō-* forth, *pro-*¹ + Old French *porter* carry; see PORT⁴ bearing. —**v.** 1424 *purporten* to indicate, express, set forth; originally borrowed from Anglo-French *purporter* (Old French *porporter*); formed as in the noun; later perhaps from the noun in English.

purpose *n.* About 1300 *porpos* intention, aim, goal; 1307 *purpos*; later *purpose* (about 1350); borrowed through Anglo-French *purpos* aim, intention, from *purposer* to design, intend; and directly from Old French *porpos* aim, intention, from *porposer* to put forth (*pur-*, *por-* forth, from Latin *prō-* forth, *pro-*¹ + Old French *poser* to put, place, POSE, influenced by the perfect stem *prōpos-* of Latin *prōponere* put forward, PRO-FOUND). —**v.** About 1380 *purposen* to state, set forth; probably from the noun in Middle English, influenced by, or in some instances borrowed through Anglo-French *purposer*, to design, intend, Old French *porposer* intend. —**purposely** *adv.* 1590, replacing earlier of *purpose*, recorded before 1382.

purr *n.* 1601, of imitative origin. —**v.** 1620, of imitative origin.

purse *n.* About 1250 *purse*; earlier *purs* (probably before 1200); found in Old English (before 1000) *purs* small bag for carrying money, alteration (perhaps influenced by Old English *pusa* bag) of Medieval Latin *bursa* purse, from Late Latin, variant of *byrsa* hide, from Greek *býrsa*. —**v.** 1303 *pursen* put in a purse; from the noun in Middle English. The meaning of draw together (as one does the strings of a purse or money bag), press into wrinkles, is first recorded in 1604. —**purser** *n.* 1445 *purser* treasurer, ship’s officer of accounts and provisions; earlier as a surname *Pursere* (1272); formed from Middle English *purse*, *n.* + *-er*¹.

purslane *n.* Before 1392 *purcelane*; later *purslane* (1440); probably borrowed through Anglo-French *purcelane*, and directly from Old French *porcelaine*, alteration (influenced by confusion in form with *porcelaine* PORCELAIN) of Latin *porcilāca*, variant of *portulāca* purslane; see PORTULACA.

pursue *v.* About 1280 *pursuwiēn* to harass, torment, persecute; later, to chase, follow, seek after (about 1300), and in the spelling *pursuen* (about 1350); borrowed through Anglo-

French *pursuer*, and directly from Old French *poursuïr*, *porsuïr*, variants of *porsivre*, *porsivir*, from Vulgar Latin **prōsequere*, from Latin *prōsequi* follow after (*prō-* forward, *pro-*¹ + *sequi* follow).

—**pursuance** *n.* 1596, probably borrowed from Middle French *poursuance* act of pursuing, from Old French *poursuïr* PURSUE; for suffix see -ANCE. —**pursuant** *adj.* 1691, following; earlier, prosecuting (1542–43); possibly borrowed from Middle French *poursuivant*, present participle of Old French *poursuïr* PURSUE; and developed from the noun in English, recorded until sometime before 1657, and first found before 1393 as *poursuivant* one who seeks or aspires; borrowed through Anglo-French *pursuant*, present participle of *pursuer*, and directly from Old French *poursuivant*; for suffix see -ANT. —**pursuit** *n.* About 1383 *pursuyt* persecution; before 1387 act of pursuing; borrowed through Anglo-French *pursuite*, and directly from Old French *poursuïte*, from *poursuivre*, *porsivre* PURSUE. The meaning of occupation, interest, etc., that one pursues, is first recorded in 1529.

pursy *adj.* 1440 *purcy*, later, *pursy* (before 1475); alteration of Middle English *pursyf* asthmatic, short-winded; borrowed from Anglo-French *pursif*, *porsif* (Old French *poussif*), variants of Old French *polsif*, from *poulser* to pant, PUSH. The associated meaning of fat developed in English by 1576.

purulent *adj.* Probably before 1425 *purulente* of the coloring of pus; borrowed from Middle French *purulent*, and directly from Latin *pūulentus* full of pus, from *pūs* (genitive *pūris*) pus; for suffix see -ENT.

purvey *v.* Probably before 1300 *purvaïen*, *porvaïen* to make preparations, prepare, supply; about 1300 *purveïen*, *porveïen*; borrowed through Anglo-French *purveier*, *purvëer*, and directly from Old French *porvëer*, *porvëoir*, from Latin *prōvidēre* PROVIDE. —**purveyance** *n.* About 1300 *purveance*, *porveance* foresight, prudence; later, provisions, supplies (before 1325), and *purveyance* (1334); borrowed through Anglo-French *purveance*, and directly from Old French *porveance*, from *porvëer* PURVEY; for suffix see -ANCE.

purview *n.* 1442 *purveu* provisional clause, proviso; later *purveue* provision or scope of a statute; borrowed from Anglo-French *purveuest* it is provided, or *purveu que* provided that (clauses that introduce a statute), from Old French *porveü*, past participle of *porvëer*, *porvëoir* provide, PURVEY. The sense of scope or extent is first recorded in 1788. The form *purview* (influenced by *view*) is first recorded before 1677, and the meaning (influenced by *view*) of range of vision, outlook, range of experience or thought (1837).

pus *n.* 1392, borrowing of Latin *pūs* (genitive *pūris*) pus; related to PURULENT, PUTRID.

push *v.* About 1325 *pushen*; earlier *possen* to shove, thrust, surge; borrowed from Old French *pousser*, earlier *poulser*, from Latin *pulsare* to beat, strike, push, frequentative form of *pellere* to push, drive, beat. The meaning of promote (as in *to push a book*) appeared in 1714. From it developed the sense of to peddle drugs illegally (1938). —**n.** 1563, from the verb. —**pusher** *n.* 1591, formed from English *push*, *v.* + -*er*¹. The sense of a local dealer in illegal drugs is first recorded in 1935.

—**pushy** *adj.* Forward, aggressive. 1936, formed from *push*, *n.* or *v.* + -*y*¹.

pusillanimous *adj.* Before 1425 *pusillanimus*, borrowed from Late Latin *pusillanimus*, *pusillanimis* having little courage (from Latin *pusillus* little, diminutive of *pullus* young animal + *animus* spirit, courage); for suffix see -OUS.

puss *n.* cat. Before 1530, a conventional name for a cat; perhaps originally merely a call to attract a cat, common to several Germanic languages (compare Dutch *poes*, Low German *pus*, *pus-katte*, Norwegian *puse*, *pus*). —**pussy** *n.* 1726, diminutive of *puss*. —**pussyfoot** *v.* (1903) —**pussy willow** (1869)

pustule *n.* 1392, borrowed from Old French *pustule*, and directly from Latin *pustula* blister, pimple, also *pussula*; for suffix see -ULE.

put *v.* Probably before 1200 *putten*, *puten* to thrust, push, move, place; developed from Old English **putian*, implied in *putung* instigation, urging (about 1050); related to Old English *potian* to push (about 1000) and to Old English *pȳtan* put out, thrust out (about 1100). Old English *potian* is cognate with Middle Dutch and Middle Low German *pōten* to plant, Icelandic *pota* to poke, thrust, and Danish *putte* to put. —**n.** About 1300 *put*, from the verb in Middle English. The sense in commerce of an option is first recorded in 1717. —**put-down** *n.* (1962) —**put-on** *n.* (1621) *adj.* pretended; 1937 *n.* a ruse

putative *adj.* Probably before 1425, borrowed perhaps through Middle French *putatif* (feminine *putative*), from Latin *putātivus* supposed, from *putāre* think, suppose (related to *pūnus* PURE); for suffix see -IVE.

putrescent *adj.* 1732, back formation from *putrescence*, possibly by influence of French *putrescent*, from Latin *putrēscētem* (nominative *putrēscēs*), present participle of *putrēscere* grow rotten, from *putrēre* be rotten, PUTRID; for suffix see -ENT. —**putrescence** *n.* 1646, formed as if from Latin **putrēscētia*, from *putrēscētem* (nominative *putrēscēs*), present participle of *putrēscere* grow rotten; for suffix see -ENCE.

putrid *adj.* Before 1398 *putrida*, a Latinate form; borrowed directly from Latin *putridus*; later *putred* (probably before 1425); borrowed from Middle French *putride*, from Latin *putridus*, from *putrēre* be rotten, from *putris* rotten, crumbling; related to *pūtēre* to stink.

putt *v.* 1743 (implied in *putter*), Scottish, special use of PUT, *v.*, and found in earlier *putting* pushing, shoving, thrusting (before 1398, probably associated with *putting*, now known in *shot putting*, about 1300). —**n.** 1743, Scottish; either from the verb or the same source as the verb.

puttee *n.* 1886, borrowed from Hindi *paṭṭī* bandage, strip, from Sanskrit *paṭṭikā*, from *paṭṭa-s* strip of cloth.

putter¹ *v.* keep busy in a rather useless way. 1877, alteration of POTTER².

putter² *n.* golf club used in putting. 1743; formed from *putt* + -*er*¹. It is difficult to determine when the differentiation in

pronunciation took place between the golf putter (put'ər) and the track and field shot-putter (pùt'ər), perhaps by 1909.

putter³ *n.* 1820, found in *shot-putter*.

putty *n.* 1663, powder used for polishing; borrowed from French *potée* a polishing powder; originally, potful, contents of a pot, from Old French *pot* container. The soft mixture of powdered chalk and linseed oil is first recorded in 1706. —*v.* 1734, from the noun.

puzzle *v.* About 1595 *pusle* bewilder, confound, possibly a frequentative form of POSE, *v.* (as *nuzzle* is of *nose*); for suffix see -LE³. —*n.* 1607-12, puzzled condition; later, a hard problem (1655); from the verb. —**puzzler** *n.* (before 1652)

pygmy or **pigmy** *n.* About 1384 *Pigmei* member of an ancient race of dwarfs inhabiting Ethiopia and India; borrowed from Latin *Pygmaei*, from Greek *Pygmaioi* a tribe of dwarfs, referred to by Homer and Herodotus; originally, as a plural adjective in the sense of dwarfish ("no taller than a cubit"), from *pygmē* cubit, fist; see PUNGENT. —**adj.** 1591, from the noun.

pylon *n.* 1850, monumental gateway to an Egyptian temple; borrowed from Greek *pylōn* gateway, from *pylē* gate. The meaning of a steel tower for carrying high-tension electric lines (1923), developed from the now obsolete tower for guiding aviators (1909).

pylorus *n.* 1615, borrowing of Late Latin *pylōrus*, from Greek *pylōrōs* lower opening of the stomach; originally **pylāhorōs* gatekeeper (*pylē* gate + *-horōs* watcher). —**pyloric** *adj.* 1807, formed from English *pylorus* + *-ic*.

pyorrhea *n.* 1811, New Latin; formed from Greek *pyōn* pus; see FOUL + *rhoiā* a flow, from *rhein* to flow.

pyr- a combining form of *pyro-* before vowels in derivatives, as in *pyruvic acid*.

pyramid *n.* 1549 *Pyramides* (singular and then plural, 1552); borrowed from Latin *p̄ramidēs*, plural of *p̄ramis* one of the stone pyramids of Egypt or any structure like it, from Greek *p̄ramis* (plural *p̄ramides*), apparently alteration by transposition of *m* and *r* in Egyptian *pimar* pyramid.

The form *piramis* (borrowed from Latin *p̄ramis* as a singular form) is recorded in Middle English before 1398. —*v.* 1845, from the noun. —**pyramidal** *adj.* Before 1398 *piramidal*, borrowed perhaps through Old French *pyramidal*, and directly from Medieval Latin *pyramidalis*, from Latin *p̄ramis* (genitive *p̄ramidis*) pyramid; for suffix see -AL¹.

pyre *n.* 1658, borrowed from Latin *pyra*, and probably directly from Greek *pyrā* a hearth, a funeral pile, from *p̄r* (genitive *pyrōs*) fire.

pyretic *adj.* 1858, borrowed, perhaps by influence of French *pyrétique*, from New Latin *pyreticus* feverish, from Greek *pyretōs* fever, from *p̄r* (genitive *pyrōs*) fire; for suffix see -IC.

Pyrex *n.* 1915, an invented word for a type of glassware, formed by association with Greek *p̄r* fire + *-ex* an arbitrary ending.

pyrite *n.* 1868, yellow mineral that glitters so that it suggests gold, fool's gold; also known as iron *pyrites* (1567); from *pyrite*, before 1500, and *perides* firestone, before 1398; borrowed from Old French *pyrite*, and directly from Latin *pyritēs* firestone, flint, from Greek *pyritēs lithos* stone of fire, flint, from *p̄r* (genitive *pyrōs*) fire; for suffix see -ITE.

pyro- a combining form meaning: of, having to do with, using, or caused by fire, as in *pyromania*; heat, high temperatures, as in *pyrometer*; formed by heat, as in *pyroacid*. Borrowed through Latin, especially New Latin *pyro-*, from Greek *pyro-*, combining form of *p̄r* (genitive *pyrōs*) fire.

pyromania *n.* 1842, formed from English *pyro-* + *mania*. —**pyromaniac** *n.* 1887, from *pyromania*, on the analogy of *mania*, *maniac*.

pyrotechnics *n.* 1729, formed from earlier English *pyrotechnic*, *adj.* (1704, of or relating to the use of fire in chemistry, metallurgy, etc.) + the plural suffix -s¹; see -ICS. The adjective *pyrotechnic* is a shortened form of *pyrotechnical*. The sense of a brilliant display (as in *orchestral pyrotechnics*) is first recorded in 1901. —**pyrotechnical** *adj.* 1610, formed from English *pyrotechny* (1579, borrowed from French *pyrotechnie*, and formed from English *pyro-* + Greek *téchnē* art, skill) + *-ical*.

Pyrrhic *adj.* 1885, formed in allusion to *Pyrrhus*, king of Epirus in Greece, who defeated the Roman armies in 280 B.C., but lost so many men he was unable to attack Rome itself; for suffix see -IC.

pyruvic acid 1838, formed from *PYR-* + Latin *ūva* grape + English *-ic*; so called because this acid is produced by the distillation of an acid found in grapes.

python *n.* 1836, borrowed probably from French *python*, from Latin *P̄ythōn* the huge serpent killed near Delphi by Apollo, from Greek *P̄ythōn*, probably related to *P̄ythō*, older name of Delphi. As the name of the fabled serpent, *Python* is first recorded in English in 1590.

Q

quack¹ *v.* make the characteristic sound of a duck. 1617, of imitative origin; variant of earlier *quake* (before 1529) and *queken* (before 1333, also found as *quelke* before 1325). The Middle English form *queken* was probably developed from the interjection *quek* sound made by a duck or goose (1342). Though similar forms are found in Middle Dutch *quacken* (modern Dutch *kwaken*) and German *quaken*, it is unlikely the English word was borrowed, as similarities of imitative words appear independently in numerous languages. —**n.** 1839, the sound of a duck; from the verb.

quack² *n.* impostor, charlatan. 1638, shortened form of QUACKSALVER. —**adj.** 1653, from the noun. —**quackery** *n.* 1709–11, formed from English *quack*², *n.* + *-ery*.

quacksalver *n.* 1579, borrowed from Dutch *quacksalver*, literally, a hawker of salve (from Middle Dutch *quacken* to boast of, *quack* + *salve* SALVE¹, *n.*); for suffix see *-ER*¹.

quad¹ *n.* quadrangle of a college. 1820, shortened form of QUADRANGLE.

quad² *n.* quadruplet. 1896, a bicycle with four riders, shortened form of QUADRUPLET. *Quad*, one of four children born at the same time to the same mother, is first recorded in 1951, although this was the earliest meaning of *quadruplet*, first recorded in 1787.

quad³ *n.* unit of energy equal to one quadrillion British thermal units. 1974, shortened form of QUADRILLION.

quad⁴ *adj.*, *n.* quadraphonic. 1970, adjective; 1971, noun; shortened form of QUADRAPHONIC.

quadr- the form of *quadri-* before vowels, as in *quadrangle*, *quadrant*.

quadrangle *n.* Before 1398, plane figure with four angles and four sides; borrowed from Old French *quadrangle*, *adj.*, and directly from Late Latin *quadrangulum* a four-sided figure, from neuter of Latin *quadrangulus*, *quadrangulus*, *adj.*, having four corners (*quadri-* four, *quadri-* + *angulus* ANGLE¹). The sense of a four-sided court is first recorded in English in 1593.

quadrant *n.* Before 1398, quarter of a day; borrowed from Latin *quadrantem* (nominative *quadrans*) a fourth, related to *quattuor* four.

The meaning of an instrument with a scale of 90 degrees,

used for angular measurements, is first recorded before 1400, and that of a quarter of a circle in 1571.

quadraphonic *adj.* 1970, alteration of earlier *quadriphonic* (1969, *quadri-* four + *phonic*).

quadrante *adj.* Before 1398; borrowed from Latin *quadrātus* square, from *quadrum* a square, related to *quattuor* four; for suffix see *-ATE*¹. —**n.** Probably about 1400 *quadrat*; borrowed from Latin *quadrātum* a square, from neuter of *quadrātus*, *adj.*, square. —**quadratic** *adj.* 1656, formed from English *quadrante*, *n.* + *-ic*. The meaning in algebra of involving the square of an unknown quantity is first recorded in 1668.

quadrature *n.* Before 1460, square formation of troops; borrowed from Middle French *quadrature*, and directly from Latin *quadrātūra*, from *quadrāre* make square, from *quadrum* a square, QUADRATE; for suffix see *-URE*. The meaning of the position of one celestial body relative to another is first recorded in 1591, and that of the finding of a square of a given surface in 1596.

quadrennial *adj.* 1656 *quadriniennial* lasting four years; later, occurring every four years (1701, probably from the noun); originally formed from Latin *quadriniennial* period of four years (*quadri-* four + *-ennium*, from *annus* year) + English *-al*¹. —**n.** Before 1646 *quadriniennial* event that occurs every four years; formed as if from Latin **quadriniennialis*, *adj.*, from *quadriniennial* period of four years; for suffix see *-AL*¹.

quadri- a combining form meaning four, as in *quadrilateral*, *quadrivalent*. Also *quadr-* before vowels and *quadru-* before *p*. Borrowed from Latin *quadri-* (for expected **quatr-*); related to *quattuor* four.

quadrilateral *adj.* having four sides and four angles. 1656, formed from Latin *quadrilaterus* (*quadri-* four + *latus*, genitive *lateris* side) + English *-al*¹. —**n.** 1650, either from the adjective or formed independently of the adjective in English from Latin *quadrilaterus*, *adj.*

quadrille *n.* 1773, square dance for four couples; earlier, one of four groups of horsemen taking part in a tournament or carousel (1738); borrowing of French *quadrille*, originally, one of four groups of horsemen, from Spanish *cuadrilla*, from *cuadro* square formation (in battle), from Latin *quadrum* a square, related to *quattuor* four. *Quadrille* is recorded earlier with the

meaning of a card game for four people (1726); also borrowed from French.

quadrillion *n.* 1674, (in Great Britain) fourth power of a million; borrowed from French *quadrillion*, formed from *quadri-* four + (*m*)illion, from Old French *million* MILLION. In the United States, Canada, and France, quadrillion is the fifth power of a thousand.

quadruplegia *n.* 1921, formed from English *quadri-* four + Greek *plēgē* stroke, from the root of *plēssein* to strike; for suffix *-ia* compare *poinsettia*. —**quadruplegic** *adj.* 1921, formed as an adjective to English *quadruplegia* with the suffix *-ic*. —*n.* 1958, from the adjective.

quadru- the form of *quadri-* before *p*, as in *quadruped*, *quadru-plex*. In Latin, *quadru-* was the older form which survived before *p* when in other words it became *quadri-* by analogy with *tri-* three.

quadruped *n.* 1646 *quadrupede*, borrowed from French *quadrupède*, from Middle French, and borrowed directly from Latin *quadrupēs* (genitive *quadrupedis*) four-footed, a four-footed animal (*quadru-* four + *pēs* foot). —**adj.** 1741, from the noun.

quadruple *adj.* 1557, from the noun, possibly by influence of Middle French *quadruple* and Latin *quadruplus*, *adj.*, *quadruplum*, *n.*, quadruple. —*v.* 1375 *quadruplen*, borrowed from Latin *quadruplāre* make fourfold, from *quadruplum*, *n.*, quadruple. —*n.* About 1425 *quadruple* a fourfold amount (probably influenced by *triple*, and found as *quatriple* probably before 1425); earlier *quadruple* tooth having a quadruple root (probably before 1425), and *quadruply*, *pl.* (before 1398); borrowed from Old French *quadruple*, variant of *quadruple*, and directly from Latin *quadruplum* (*quadru-* four + *-plus* -fold). —**quadruplet** *n.* 1787, one of four children born at one birth; formed from English *quadruple*, *adj.* + *-et*.

quaff *v.* 1523 *quaff*; later, *quaff* (1555); of uncertain origin (usually suggested as imitative of the sound of drinking deeply). —*n.* 1579, from the verb.

quagmire *n.* 1579–80, formed from *quag* bog (variant of earlier *quabbe* a marsh, bog, as a surname 1208–09; developed from Old English **cwabba*) + MIRE. The sense of a difficult situation is first recorded in 1775.

quahog *n.* 1753 *quogue*, borrowed from Algonquian (probably Pequot) *p'quaghhaug* hard clam.

quail¹ *n.* kind of game bird. About 1380 *quayle*; earlier as a surname (1327); borrowed from Old French *quaille*, of uncertain origin (perhaps from a word in Medieval Latin *quacula*, **quaquila*, or Gallo-Romance **coacula*; or from a Germanic source, as Old High German *quahtala*, *wahtala* quail, modern German *Wachtel*).

quail² *v.* cower. About 1450 *quaylen* to fade, fail, give way; earlier (with substitution of *w* for *qu*) *wailen* to grow sick or feeble (probably before 1425), and *weilynge* having a morbid craving (about 1400); probably borrowed from Middle Dutch

quelen, *queilen* to suffer, be ill, cognate with Old High German *quelan*, from Proto-Germanic **kwel-* to die. The sense of lose courage or cower is first recorded in English in 1555.

quaint *adj.* Probably before 1200 *cointe* cunning, or proud; later *queynte* wise, clever (about 1280); elaborate, skillfully made (about 1300); with the spelling *quaint* (before 1325); and unusual, strange in a clever way (before 1338); borrowed from Old French *cointe*, *queinte* pretty, clever, knowing, from Latin *cognitus* known, past participle of *cognōscere* get or come to know well. The sense of uncommon or old-fashioned but pleasing, is first recorded in 1795.

quake *v.* Probably before 1200 *cwakien*, *quakien* to shake or tremble; later *quaken* (about 1250); developed from Old English (about 830) *cwacian*, related to *cweccan* to cause to shake, of unknown origin. —*n.* Before 1325 *quak*; later *quake* (before 1400); from *quaken*, *v.* The sense of an earthquake is first recorded in indirect reference before 1643, and in the verb sense probably about 1200.

Quaker *n.* 1651, member of the Religious Society of Friends; formed from English *quake*, *v.* + *-er*¹. By tradition the name was first given in 1650 because they, "Tremble at the Word of the Lord." However, the name was used previously in reference to a foreign sect of women given to fits of shaking in religious fervor (1647). —**Quakerism** *n.* 1656, formed from English *Quaker* + *-ism*.

qualify *v.* 1465 *qualifyen* to make a document legal; later, to limit, modify (1533); borrowed from Medieval Latin *qualificare* attribute a quality to, from a lost adjective **qualificus* (Latin *qualis* of what sort + the root of *facere* to make); for suffix see *-FY*. The sense of make oneself fit for a job, etc., appeared before 1588. —**qualification** *n.* 1543–44, modification, limitation; borrowed from Middle French *qualification*, and directly from Medieval Latin *qualificationem* (nominative *qualificatio*), from *qualificare* qualify; for suffix see *-ATION*.

quality *n.* About 1300 *qualite* character, disposition; late, grade of excellence (before 1396); borrowed from Old French *qualité*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *qualitātem* (nominative *qualitās*; said to be coined by Cicero as a loan translation of Greek *poiôtēs*), from *quālis* of what sort, related to *quis* WHO; for suffix see *-ITY*. —**qualitative** *adj.* Probably before 1425 *qualitatyve* (of a medicine) that produces one of the four qualities of heat, cold, moisture, or dryness; borrowed from Medieval Latin *qualitativus*; later revived in English in the sense of concerned with quality (1607); borrowed from French *qualitatif* (feminine *qualitative*), or reborrowed from Medieval or Late Latin *qualitativus*, from Latin *qualitās* quality; for suffix see *-IVE*.

qualm *n.* About 1530, feeling of faintness or sickness; possibly identical with Middle English *qualm* pestilence, plague (probably before 1200); developed from Old English (West Saxon) *cwealm* death, destruction, plague (before 899 and corresponding to Anglian *-cwaln* in *ūtualm* utter destruction, before 800); cognate with Old Saxon and Old High German *qualm* death, destruction, and related to Old English *cwellan* to kill and *cwelan* to die; see QUELL. The sense of uneasiness, doubt, is first

recorded before 1555; and that of scruple of conscience in 1649.

quandary *n.* 1579, of uncertain origin.

quantify *v.* About 1840, (in logic) make explicit the quantity or extent of; borrowed from Medieval Latin *quantificare*, from a lost adjective **quantificus* (Latin *quantus* how great + the root of *facere* make); for suffix see -FY. — **quantification** *n.* About 1840, probably formed from English *quantify*, on the analogy of *qualify*, *qualification*; for suffix see -ATION.

quantity *n.* Before 1325 *quantite* amount or extent; later, size, magnitude (about 1380); borrowed from Old French *quantité*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *quantitatem* (nominative *quantitās*; coined as a loan translation of Greek *posōtes*) relative greatness or extent, from *quantus* how great, related to *quam* how, and *quis* WHO; for suffix see -ITY. — **quantitative** *adj.* 1581, having quantity; later, measurable (1656); borrowed from Medieval Latin *quantitativus*, from Latin *quantitās* quantity; for suffix see -IVE.

quantize *v.* 1922, formed from English *quantum* + -ize.

quantum *n.*, pl. **quanta**. 1619, sum or quantity; borrowed from Latin *quantum* how much, neuter of *quantus* how great; see QUANTITY. The meaning in physics of the smallest amount of radiant energy capable of existing independently, is first recorded in 1910. — **adj.** 1971, of sudden, spectacular significance or effect; abstracted from the earlier *quantum jump* (1955) and *quantum leap* (1970) referring to the sudden jump of an electron, etc., from one energy level to another.

quarantine *n.* 1) 1523, a period of forty days in which a widow had the right to remain in her dead husband's house. 2) 1663, period a ship suspected of carrying disease is kept in isolation; borrowed from Italian *quarantina*, from *quaranta* forty (in Venice vessels suspected of carrying disease were banned from the port for forty days), from Latin *quadrāgintā* forty, related to *quattuor* four. Any period, instance, etc., of isolation, is first recorded before 1680, developed perhaps in allusion to Middle English *quarentyne* the desert in which Christ wandered and fasted for forty days (probably 1458); borrowed from Medieval Latin *quarentina* forty days, and *quarentena* the desert of Christ's fast. — **v.** 1804, from the noun.

quark *n.* 1964, hypothetical nuclear particle smaller than a proton or neutron. Perhaps originally in association with German *Quark* curds, rubbish but whimsically adopted in reference to the theory that there were three types of quarks from which protons and other elementary particles were composed, from the use of *quark* in Joyce's *Finnegans Wake* (1939).

quarrel¹ *n.* angry dispute. 1340 *querelle* a dispute; later *quarrel* complaint, cause for a dispute (probably about 1375); borrowed from Old French *quarrel*, *querelle*, and directly from Latin *querella*, variant of *querēla* a complaining, complaint, from *queri* to complain, lament. — **v.** Before 1393 *querelen* to dispute, from the noun in Middle English. — **quarrelsome** *adj.* 1596, formed from English *quarrel*, *n.* + -some¹. Though the spelling *quar-* has been the established form from late Middle English times, the spelling *quer-* has remained in *querulous*.

quarrel² *n.* a square-headed bolt used with a crossbow. Before 1250 *quarreis*, pl.; later *quarel* (probably before 1300); borrowed from Old French *quarel*, plural *quarreus*, from Vulgar Latin **quadrellus*, diminutive of Late Latin *quadrus*, *adj.*, square, related to *quattuor* four. The sense of a square or diamond-shaped pane of glass is first recorded in English in 1447.

quarry¹ *n.* place where stone is dug out for use in building. Before 1382 *quarre*; earlier as a place name (1266); borrowed from Medieval Latin *quarea*, dissimilated (by loss of the second *r*) from earlier *quareria*, a Latinized form based on Old French *quarriere* quarry, from **quarre* cut stone, from Latin *quadrum* a square, related to *quattuor* four; for suffix see -Y³. An earlier form existed in Middle English *quarriere* (before 1375, and as a surname, 1166); also found as *quarrieris* (before 1382); borrowed from Anglo-French **quarriere*, Old French *quarriere* quarry. — **v.** 1774, from the noun.

quarry² *n.* animal chased in a hunt. Probably before 1300 *quarre* entrails of deer, placed on the hide and given to dogs of the chase as a reward; later *querre* game killed in the chase (probably about 1390), and *quary* (before 1400); borrowed through Anglo-French *quairie*, and directly from Old French *curee*, *cuirie*, alteration (influenced by *cuir* skin, hide, from Latin *corium* hide) of Old French *corée* viscera, entrails, from Vulgar Latin **corāta*, from Latin *cor* heart. The sense of anything hunted or eagerly pursued is first recorded in 1615.

quart *n.* Probably before 1325 *quarte* a quart container; later *quart* a liquid measure (probably about 1350); borrowed from Old French *quarte* a fourth part, from Latin *quārta*, feminine of *quārtus* fourth, related to *quattuor* four through development from **quatvortos* to **quavortos* to *quārtus*.

quarter *n.* Probably before 1300 *quarter* one fourth, fourth part (of some measure or standard); earlier as a surname (1267); borrowed from Old French *quarter*, *quartier*, from Latin *quārtarius* a fourth part, from *quārtus* fourth, related to *quattuor* four; see QUART.

The meaning of the fourth part of a year is first recorded in 1389, that of the lunar period, before 1420; the meaning of a quarter of an hour is attested before 1456. The word was used for one of the four principal divisions of the horizon as early as 1391, and in the sense of any region or locality before 1300, though a particular area of a town (as in *the French quarter*) is not found before 1526. The meaning of dwelling place (*quarters*) is first recorded in 1591. A meaning of a coin worth a quarter of a dollar is peculiar to American English and is first recorded in 1783. Origin of the meaning of mercy shown to an enemy (as *to give no quarter*, 1611) may have derived from the military meaning of assigned position (1549). — **v.** About 1353 *quarteren*, from the noun. — **adj.** About 1390, from the noun. — **quarterback** *n.* (1879) — **quarter horse** strong horse bred for racing on quarter-mile tracks (1834). — **quarterly** *adj.* (1563) — **adv. (1418) — **n. (1830) — **quartermaster** *n.* (1415).****

quartet *n.* 1790, borrowed from French *quartette*, from Italian *quartetto*, diminutive of *quarto* fourth, from Latin *quārtus*; see QUART.

quartile *n.* 1450, developed from *quartile*, *adj.*, of or pertaining to the relative position of two celestial bodies; borrowed from Middle French *quartil*, and directly from Medieval Latin *quartilis* of a quartile, from Latin *quārtus* fourth; see **QUART**.

quarto *n.* 1475, in *quareto*; borrowing of Medieval Latin *in quarto* in the fourth part of a sheet; *quārtō*, ablative case of Latin *quārtus* fourth; see **QUART**.

quartz *n.* 1756, borrowed from German *Quarz* rock crystal, quartz, from late Middle High German *twarc*, *quarc*, *zwarc*; probably borrowed from a West Slavic source (compare Czech *tvrdý*, Polish *twardy* quartz, Old Slavic *tvrdŭ* hard). Spelling with *t* is also found in French *quartz* and Dutch *kwarts*.

quasar *n.* 1964, acronym formed from earlier *quas(i-stell)ar*, as in *quasi-stellar radio source* (1963) or *quasi-stellar object* (1964); so called because the object gives a starlike image on a photographic plate though it is much larger and brighter than any star.

quash¹ *v.* to crush. Before 1387 *quaschen*; also *quasshen* (probably before 1425); borrowed from Old French *quasser* to break, smash, from Latin *quassāre* to shatter, frequentative form of *quātere* to shake (past participle *quassus*).

Though not always analyzed as two different words in English (differences in meaning are considered literal for *quash*¹ and figurative for *quash*²), these two words come from different sources in Latin and Medieval Latin and they maintain a distinction in meaning in Old French, also evident in English.

quash² *v.* make void, annul. Before 1338 *quassen*; earlier *quessen* to suppress, overcome (about 1250); borrowed from Old French *quasser* to annul, and probably directly from Medieval Latin *quassare* make null and void, alteration (influenced by Latin *quassāre* shatter; see **QUASH**¹) of *cassare*, from Latin *cassus* empty, void, null, probably related to *carere* be devoid of, lack, and *castus* pure or chaste.

quasi *adv.* 1485, as it were, as if; borrowed from Middle French *quasi*, and directly from Latin *quasi* as if, as it were, almost, from *quam* how, as + *sī* if. —**adj.** 1643, from the adverb.

quasi- a prefix added to nouns, adjectives, and adverbs, and meaning literally as if, applied to substitutes and replacements that resemble or serve as a designated thing, as in *quasiscience*, *quasigovernmental*, *quasi-judicially*. Abstracted from **QUASI**, *adv.*, *adj.*

quaternary *n.* About 1450, the number four; borrowed from Latin *quaternarius*, *adj.*, consisting of four each, from *quaterni* four each, from *quater* four times (earlier **quatrus*), related to *quattuor* four; for suffix see **-ARY**. —**adj.** 1605, borrowed from Latin *quaternarius* consisting of four each.

quatrain *n.* 1585, borrowing of Middle French *quatrain* stanza of four lines, from Old French *quatre* four, from Latin *quattuor* four + *-ain* *-AN*.

quaver *v.* Probably before 1425 *quaveren*, probably a frequentative form of earlier *cwavien* to tremble, shake (probably about

1225), of unknown origin; for suffix see **-ER**⁴. The coexisting form *quaven* (about 1378) may have developed from Old English **cwafian* (compare Middle English *cwavien* and **QUAKE**). The meaning of use trills or quavers in singing is first recorded in 1538. —**n.** 1570, an eighth note; from the verb. The sense of a trill in singing is first recorded in 1611, probably from the earlier verb use, and that of a shake or tremble in the voice in 1748.

quay *n.* 1696, variant of earlier *key* (1548); developed from Middle English *keye* (before 1400) *caye* (1306); borrowed from Old North French *cai*, *caie*, from Gaulish (compare Welsh *cae* fence, field, hedge). The form *quay* was influenced by French *quai*, of the same meaning, from Old North French *cai*, *caie*.

quean *n.* hussy. Probably before 1200 *quene* a woman, old woman; later, a low-born woman (probably before 1300), and with the spelling *queane* (probably before 1425); developed from Old English (before 1000) *cwene* woman, hussy, prostitute; cognate with Old Saxon *quena* woman, wife, Middle Dutch *quene*, Old High German *quena*, Old Icelandic *kona* (Swedish *kvinna*), and Gothic *qinō*, from Proto-Germanic **kwenōn*. Old English *cwene* woman, is also related to Old English *cwēn* **QUEEN**.

queasy *adj.* About 1450 *kyse* unsettling to the stomach; later *queysy* uncertain, unsettled; possibly from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *keisa* in *idhra-keisa* bowel pains). In the sense of unsettled with the spelling *coisy* there may be some influence of Anglo-French *queisier*, Old French *coisier* to wound, hurt, make uneasy, apparently of Germanic origin, from the same root as the Scandinavian word cited above.

queen *n.* Probably before 1200 *quene*, *quen* king's wife; developed from Old English (before 725) *cwēn* queen, woman, wife, earlier *cwēn*, from Proto-Germanic **kweniz* and cognate with Old Saxon *quān* wife, Old Icelandic *kvæn*, *kvān*, and Gothic *qēns*; compare **QUEAN**.

queer *adj.* 1508, Scottish, probably borrowed from Low German (perhaps Brunswick) *queer* oblique, off-center, related to German *quer* oblique, perverse, odd, from Old High German *twerh* oblique; see **THWART**. The sense of homosexual is first recorded in 1922. —**v.** 1812, to spoil, ruin, probably from the adjective. An earlier sense of trick, swindle, cheat, is recorded about 1790. —**n.** 1935, homosexual, from the adjective.

quell *v.* Probably before 1200 *quellen* put to death, kill, destroy; developed from Old English (before 725) *cwellan* to kill; cognate with Old Saxon *quellian* to torture or kill, Middle Dutch *quelen* (modern Dutch *kwellen* harass, torment), Old High German *quellen* to torture, kill (modern German *quälen* to pain, torment), and Old Icelandic *kvæla* to torture, kill (Swedish *kvälja*, Danish *kvæle*), from Proto-Germanic **kwaljanan*. The same Proto-Germanic root **kwal-*/**kwel-* is the source of Old English *cwelan* to die, *cwalu* death, destruction, found in **QUAIL**². Other cognates (through Old English *cwealm* death, *cweyllan* to die) include Old Saxon *quelan* die, *quāladeath*, destruction, Middle Dutch *quelen* suffer, be ill, *quāle* death (modern Dutch *kwaal* disease, trouble), Old High German *quelen*

die, *quāla*, *qualm*, death, destruction (modern German *Qual* pain, torment, grief), and Old Icelandic *kvǫl* torment, torture.

The sense of put an end to, suppress, subdue, is first recorded probably about 1200.

quench *v.* Probably about 1175 *quenchen* put out, extinguish; later, put an end to, bring to naught (probably about 1200); developed from Old English *-awencan* (as in *āwencan* to quench, before 899). Old English *-awencan* is a causative form that arose by analogy (as *drencan* drench is the causative of *drincan* drink) to correspond to the strong verb *wincan* go out, be extinguished (found in *āwincan*, about 1000) and cognate with Old Frisian *quinka* disappear.

querulous *adj.* Probably about 1400 *querelouse* litigious; also later *querulose* quarrelsome (1450–75); borrowed from Old French *querelos*, and directly from Late Latin *querulosus*, from Latin *querulus* full of complaints, complaining, from *queri* to complain; for suffix see -OUS.

query *n.* Before 1635 *quaery*, alteration (influenced by *inquiry*) of earlier *quere*, *quaere* question (1589); borrowed from Latin *quaere* ask, imperative of *quaerere* to seek, gain, ask. The spelling *query* is first recorded in 1645. —*v.* 1654, to question; 1657, to ask about; from the noun.

quest *n.* About 1303 *quest* search, official inquiry; borrowed from Old French *queste*, and directly from Medieval Latin *questa* search, inquiry, from Vulgar Latin **questa*, from pre-Latin **quaesta*, **quaesita*, feminine of **quaestus*, **quaesitus*, original past participle of *quaerere* seek, gain, ask, QUERY. —*v.* About 1350 *questen*, perhaps from the noun, and in part borrowed from Old French *quester*, from the noun in Old French.

question *n.* Before 1200 *questiun* a philosophical or theological problem; later *questioun* any problem or thing asked, also the act of asking (before 1325); borrowed through Anglo-French *questiun*, and directly from Old French *question* legal inquest, learned borrowing from Latin *quaestio* (nominative *quaestio*) a seeking, inquiry, from *quaes-*, root of *quaerere* to ask, QUERY; for suffix see -TION. —*v.* Before 1470 *questionen*, perhaps from the noun, and in part borrowed from Middle French *questionner*, from the noun in Middle French. —**question mark** 1869; earlier *question stop* (1862).

questionnaire *n.* 1901, borrowing of French *questionnaire*, from *questionner* to question, from Middle French; see QUESTION, *v.*

queue *n.* 1592, tail of a beast; later, a braid of hair (1748); borrowing of French *queue* a tail, from Old French *cue*, *coue*, *coe* tail, from Latin *cōda* (dialect variant of *cauda*) tail. In late Middle English the word had the meaning of a line of dancers (before 1500), found as an extended meaning in a line of people, vehicles, etc. (1837). —*v.* 1777, put up (hair) in a braid; later, move, form, or stand in a line (1893); from the noun.

quibble *n.* 1611, play on words, pun; later, equivocation (1670); probably a diminutive of *quib* evasion of a point at issue (before 1550); borrowed from Latin *quibus* by what (things)? (dative and ablative plural of *quid* what, neuter of *quis* WHO), a

word said to be much used in legal jargon and hence associated with legal quibbles; for suffix see -LE¹. —*v.* Before 1629, to play on words, pun; later, to indulge in quibbles (1656); from the noun. Though related by etymology, *quibble* and *quip* are independent formations in English. The evidence for separate borrowing lies not only in the difference in form but also in the original meanings of *quibble* a play on words (1611) and *quip* a sharp or sarcastic remark (1532).

quiche *n.* 1949, borrowing of French *quiche* (1810), from dialectal German (Alsace-Lorraine) *Küche*, diminutive of German *Kuchen* CAKE.

quick *adj.* Probably about 1175 *quik* alive, lively; also ready to act, swift; later *quick* (before 1325); developed from Old English *cwic* alive (about 725, in *Beowulf*); earlier *cwic-* (as in *cwic-bēam* aspen; about 700); cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *quik* alive, Middle Dutch *quic* (modern Dutch *kwik* quicksilver, mercury), Old High German *quēc* (modern German *keck* lively, bold), Old Icelandic *kvíkr* (Swedish *quick*, Danish *kvik*, Norwegian *kvikk*), from Proto-Germanic **kwik-waz*, and Gothic *qiwai* (nominative plural). —*adv.* Probably before 1300 *quyk*; from the adjective. —*n.* Probably before 1200 *quike* living persons; developed from Old English (before 899) *cwic*; from the adjective. The sense of the tender flesh under a fingernail or toenail (1523), followed by that of a tender, sensitive part of one's feelings (as in *cut to the quick*) in 1526. —**quicken** *v.* About 1300 *quikkenen*, formed from *quik*, *adj.* + *-en*¹, replacing earlier *quiken* (recorded probably before 1200), probably developed from Old English *gecwician* (before 830). —**quicklime** *n.* Probably before 1375 *quyke lyme*; Middle English *quyke* living, and *lyme* lime¹; loan translation of Latin *calx viva*. —**quicksand** *n.* 1300 *Quyksond*; Middle English *quyk* living + *sond* sand. —**quicksilver** *n.* 1387–95 *quyk silver*; Middle English *quyk* living + *silver* silver. —**quick-witted** *adj.* (1530)

quid¹ *n.* piece (of tobacco, etc.) to be chewed. 1727, from a dialectal variant of Middle English *cudde*, *cud*; developed from Old English *cudu*, *cwidu* CUD.

quid² *n.* one pound sterling. 1688, possibly borrowed from Latin *quid* what (see QUIDDITY), shortening of *quid pro quo* one thing for another (in English since 1565).

quiddity *n.* 1539, fine point in argument, quibble (alluding to scholastic arguments on the *quidditas* or essence of things); borrowed perhaps from Middle French *quiddité*, and directly from Medieval Latin *quidditas*; literally, whatness, from Latin *quid* what, neuter of *quis* WHO; for suffix see -ITY. The Medieval Latin sense of the essence of a thing is found in Middle English *quidite* (before 1398).

quiescent *adj.* 1646, borrowed from Latin *quiescentem* (nominative *quiescens*), present participle of *quiescere* to come to rest, be quiet, from *quies* rest, quiet; for suffix see -ENT. —**quiescence** *n.* Before 1631, borrowed from Late Latin *quiescentia*, from Latin *quiescens*; for suffix see -ENCE.

quiet *n.* Probably before 1300 *quiet* calmness, rest, stillness; borrowed from Old French *quiete*, and directly from Latin

quiēs (genitive *quiētis*) rest, quiet. —**adj.** Before 1382 *quyete* at rest, still; borrowed through Old French *quiet*, *quiete*, and directly from Latin *quiētus* resting, peaceful, calm, from past participle of *quiēscere* to come to rest; see QUIESCENT. —**v.** Before 1398 *quieten* subdue, lessen, make quiet; possibly from the adjective in Middle English, and borrowed from Late Latin *quiētāre* put to rest, calm, from Latin *quiētus* resting. —**adv.** 1573, from the adjective.

quill *n.* Probably before 1425 *quille*, of uncertain origin, but probably cognate with Middle High German *kil* quill (modern German *Kiel*), and Low German *Quiele*. The writing pen made from a quill is found in English in 1552, and the spines of a porcupine in 1602.

quilt *n.* Probably about 1300 *quoilt*, *quille* mattress with a soft lining; borrowed through Anglo-French *quille*, *coille*, Old French *cuite*, *coute*, from Latin *culcita* mattress, of unknown origin. The thick outer bed covering is found in the 1500's. —**v.** 1555, stitch together with a soft lining; from the noun.

quince *n.* Before 1325, in *quince tre*; also *coyns*, pl., quince (about 1350); borrowed from Old French *cooin*, from Latin *cōtōneum mālum* quince fruit, probably a variant of *cydōnium mālum*, from Greek *kydōnion mālon*, apparently a variant of *kōdymālon* apple of Kodu (*kodū-* a Lydian name for the fruit, associated with *Kydōnīā* Cydonia, ancient city in Crete).

quinine *n.* 1826, formed in English from Spanish *quina* cinchona bark + English *-ine*²; from the bark of a cinchona tree. Spanish *quina*, from Quechua (Peru) *kina* is found in *quinic* (also *kinic* 1814) in the form *quinaquina* (1727), also called *China China* (1707).

quinque- a combining form meaning five, as in *quinquevalent* (having a valence of five). Also *quinq-* before vowels. Borrowed from Latin *quinq-*, from *quinq-* FIVE.

quinquennial *adj.* About 1475, *quinquennale* lasting five years, formed from Latin *quīquennium* period of five years (*quīnque* five + *-ennium*, from *annus* year) + English *-al*¹. The sense of occurring every five years is first recorded in 1610. —**n.** 1895, person holding office for five years; later, fifth anniversary (1903); from the adjective.

quinsy *n.* 1373 *quyncie* tonsillitis with pus; about 1450 *quinsy*; borrowed from Old French *quinancie*, and through Anglo-Latin *quinancia*, from Late Latin *cynanchē*, from Greek *kynānchē* dog quinsy; originally, dog's collar (*kýōn*, genitive *kynós* dog + *ánchein* to strangle).

quint *n.* 1935, shortened form of QUINTUPLET. The corresponding British form is *quin* (1935). An earlier use of *quint* group of five people, is recorded before 1678.

quintal *n.* 1401 *quyntowes*, pl. 100 pounds, hundredweight; later *quintale* (about 1436); borrowed from Old French *quintal*, and directly from Medieval Latin *quintale*, from Arabic *qintār*, from Late Greek *kentēnāron*, from Latin *centēnārius* containing a hundred; see CENTENARY. The plural *quyntowes* was influenced by the Old French plural *quintaus*.

quintessence *n.* Probably about 1435 *quyntessence* the fifth essence (ether) of ancient and medieval philosophy; borrowed from Middle French *quinte* essence, and directly from Medieval Latin *quinta essentia* fifth essence (from Latin *quīnta*, feminine of *quīntus* fifth; *essentia* ESSENCE); a loan translation of Greek *pēmp̄tē ousiā*, the ether of Aristotle, a fifth element (added to water, earth, fire, and air) permeating all things. The sense of pure essence, purest form, is first recorded in English in 1570. —**quintessential** *adj.* 1605, formed from English *quintessence*, on analogy of *essence*, *essential*; for suffix see *-AL*¹.

quintet or quintette *n.* 1811 *quintet*, probably borrowed from Italian *quintetto*, diminutive of *quinto* fifth, from Latin *quīntus*, related to *quīnque* FIVE. The form *quintette* (1864), was borrowed from French *quintette*, from Italian *quintetto*.

quintillion *n.* 1674, (in Great Britain) fifth power of a million, formed from Latin *quīntus* fifth + English (m)illion. In the United States, Canada, and France, a quintillion is the sixth power of a thousand.

quintuple *adj.* 1570, borrowed from Middle French *quintuple*, from Latin *quīntus* fifth; modeled on Middle French *quadruple*. —**v.** 1639, from the adjective; modeled on verb use of *quadruple*. —**n.** 1684, from the adjective. —**quintuplet** *n.* 1873, group of five; formed from English *quintuple*, *adj.* + *-et*. The meaning of one of five children born at one birth appeared in 1889.

quip *n.* 1532, from *quippy* (1519), perhaps borrowed from Latin *quippe* indeed, really (used sarcastically), from *quid* what, neuter of *quis* WHO; compare QUIBBLE. —**v.** 1579, from the noun.

quire *n.* Probably before 1200 *quaer*, *cuaer* a book or treatise; later *quaiers* standard unit for selling paper (1393); also *quayr* a set of folded pages for a book; originally, a set of four such pages (1438); borrowed through Anglo-French *quier*, Old French *quaier*; earlier *quaer*, *caier*, from Vulgar Latin **quaternus*, from Latin *quaterni* four each, from *quater* four times.

quirk *n.* 1565, quibble, evasion; of uncertain origin. The sense of a peculiarity or mannerism is found in 1601, and that of a sudden twist or curve, in 1605. —**v.** 1596, to subject to quirks, from the noun. The meaning of move with sudden twists appears in 1821. —**quirky** *adj.* (1806)

quirt *n.* 1845, borrowed from American Spanish *cuarta* whip; originally, said to be a whip long enough to reach the guide mule of a team of four, from dialectal Spanish *cuarta* guide mule.

quisling *n.* 1940 *Quisling*, in allusion to Vidkun Quisling, Norwegian politician who was premier of the puppet government during the German occupation of Norway in World War II.

quit *adj.* Probably before 1200 *cwite* free, clear, rid (as of debt or obligation); later *quite*, *quit* (1275); borrowed from Old French *quite* free, clear, from Medieval Latin **quiētus*, from Latin *quiētus* free (from war, debts, etc.), calm, resting. —**v.** Probably before 1200 *cwiten* to pay, settle (a debt or obligation);

later *quiten* to release, clear, give up (before 1250); borrowed from Old French *quiter* to free, clear, from the adjective in Old French. The sense of leave, separate, or part from, is first recorded in about 1390, and that of cease, stop, discontinue, in the early 1300's. —**quitclaim** *n.* (probably before 1300) —**quits** *adj.* 1478, discharged of a liability, free, clear; from *quit* rid of debt (probably before 1200), perhaps by influence of Medieval Latin *quittus* free of debt or claim. Such a development parallels *finis* time out or quits, possibly a shortening of Latin *finis*; or perhaps by the process that produced *times* time out.

quite *adv.* Probably before 1300 *quite*, *quit*, developed as the adverb form to the adjective *quite*, *quit* free, clear, QUIT.

quiver¹ *v.* to tremble, shake. 1490 *quiveren*, possibly an alteration of *quaveren* to QUAVEN; or developed from the adjective *quiver* active, nimble, quick (before 1398), *cwiver* (before 1250); developed from Old English *cwifer-* (in *cwiferlice* actively, quickly), perhaps related to *cwic* alive; see QUICK. —**n.** 1715, from the verb.

quiver² *n.* case to hold arrows. 1322, borrowed through Anglo-French *quiveir*, Old French *quivre*, *coivre*, probably from a Germanic source (compare Old High German *kohhari* quiver, modern German *Köcher*, Old Saxon *kokar*, and Old Frisian *koker*); itself probably borrowed (along with Medieval Latin *cucura* quiver) from **keukur* container, said to be from the language of the Huns, who invaded the Roman Empire in the early 400's.

quixotic *adj.* 1815, formed from *Quixote* visionary and impractical person (1786; earlier *Quixot* 1648) + English *-ic*, in allusion to Don *Quixote*, the romantic and very impractical hero of Cervantes' novel *Don Quixote de la Mancha* (1605).

quiz *v.* 1847 *quies*; perhaps borrowed from Latin *quī es?* who are you? the first question of former oral exams in Latin in grammar schools. The spelling *quiz* (1886), may have been influenced by the noun. —**n.** 1867, an examination; from the verb. While the spelling is unusual, it is difficult to associate *quiz* question, with earlier *quiz* an odd person (1782).

quizzical *adj.* 1800, formed from earlier *quiz* an odd or eccentric person (1782); of unknown origin, + *-ical*. The sense of teasing, questioning (as in a *quizzical smile*), is first recorded in 1801.

quoins *n.* 1532, external angle of a wall or building; later, wedge-shaped block (1570); variant of COIN.

quoit *n.* 1388 *coytes*, pl., game played by throwing quoits; later *cote* a flat stone (1410) and *quoit* a quoit (1477); borrowed from Old French *coite* flat stone, cushion, variant of *coille*; see QUILT.

Quonset hut 1942, named after Quonset Point, Naval Air Station, Rhode Island, where this type of structure was first built in 1941.

quorum *n.* 1426, justices whose presence was necessary to make a court session legal; borrowing of Latin *quorum* of whom, genitive plural of *quī* WHO. The sense of a fixed number of members of a group or body whose presence is necessary for transaction of business is first recorded in English in 1616.

quota *n.* 1668, share (of men or supplies) to be contributed by a particular district; borrowed from Medieval Latin *quota*, from Latin *quota pars* how large a part; *quota*, feminine singular of *quotus* which or what number (in a sequence); see QUOTE.

quotation *n.* 1456, a numbering, number; later, a marginal notation (1532); probably formed from *quote*, *v.* + *-ation*, and also borrowed from Medieval Latin *quotationem* (nominative *quotatio*), from *quotare* to number chapters, see QUOTE; for suffix see *-ATION*. The meaning of an act of citing or quoting is first recorded in 1646, and that of a passage quoted from a book, etc., in 1690. —**quotation mark** (1888).

quote *v.* Before 1387 *coten* mark (a book) with numbers or marginal references; borrowed from Old French *coter*; also later *quoten* (probably before 1425); from Medieval Latin *quotare* to number chapters; both the Old French and Medieval Latin forms derive from Latin *quotus* which or what number (in a sequence), from *quot* how many, related to *quis* WHO. The meaning of cite or refer to passages from (a particular source) is first recorded in 1574, and that of copy out or repeat exactly the words of another, before 1680. —**n.** 1600, marginal reference; from the verb. The meaning of a quotation is first recorded in 1885.

quotient *n.* About 1450 *quocient*; borrowed from Latin *quotiens* how many times, from *quot* how many, related to *quis* WHO. The Latin adverb *quotiens* was mistaken in Middle English for a present participle ending in *-ēns*, producing the late Middle English form *quocient*.

qwerty or **QWERTY** *n.* 1929, an attributive use of the acronym formed from *q, w, e, r, t, y*, the first six keys in the upper row of letters on a standard typewriter (and now computer) keyboard.

R

rabbet *n.* 1382 *rabet*, groove made on the edge or surface of a board, stone, etc.; borrowed from Old French *rabat*, *rabat* a recess in a wall; literally, a beating down, from *rabattre* beat down; see **REBATE**. —**v.** 1440, implied in *rabetyng* the joining together of boards; later, cut a rabbet in (1572); from the noun.

rabbi *n.* Before 1325 *rabi*, *rabbi* master; borrowed from Old French *rabi*, and directly from Late Latin *rabbi*, from Greek *rhabbī*, from Hebrew *rabbi* my master (*rabh* master + pronoun suffix -ī). An isolated example of *rabbi* occurs before 1050, but the meaning of a Jewish religious leader is not found until 1387. —**rabbinate** *n.* 1702, formed from English *rabbīn* *rabbi* (1531) + *-ate*³. English *rabbīn* was borrowed through French, probably from Aramaic *rabbīn*, plural of *rab* master. —**rabbinical** *adj.* 1622, formed from English *rabbīn* (1612) + *-al*¹, or from English *rabbīn* *rabbi* (1531) + *-ical*.

rabbit *n.* Before 1398 *rabbete*; later *rabet* (probably about 1425); borrowed from a dialectal old French source (compare modern French dialect *rabbotte* rabbit, and Walloon *robète*, in form a diminutive), found in Flemish or Middle Dutch *robbe* rabbit; of uncertain origin. The original reference in English was to the young animal only; the adult was called *cony*.

rabble *n.* About 1389 *rabul* meaningless string of words; also, probably about 1390 *rabul* crowd of people; possibly related to *rablen* speak in a rapid confused manner (before 1410); borrowed from Middle Dutch *rabbelen* to chatter, cognate with Low German *rabbeln* to chatter.

rabid *adj.* About 1611, furious or raging; borrowed from Latin *rabidus*, from *rabere* be mad, rave; see **RAGE**. The specific medical sense of affected with rabies, made mad by rabies, is first recorded in 1804.

rabies *n.* 1598, borrowed from Latin *rabiēs* madness, rage, fury; related to *rabere* be mad, rave.

raccoon *n.* 1608 *arocoun*, borrowed from Algonquian (Powhatan) *ārāhkuṇ*, from *ārāhkuṇēm* he scratches with the hands; so called perhaps from the animal's habit of leaving long scratches on the trees it climbs or in reference to the use of its paws in hunting for shellfish and insects.

race¹ *n.* contest of speed. Probably before 1300 *ras* a charge in a battle, an onslaught; later, onward movement, act of running, (before 1325); and in the spelling *race* (probably before 1350); borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old

Icelandic *rās* running, rush); cognate with Middle Dutch *rāsen*, modern Dutch *razen* to rage, Middle Low German *rās* strong current, and Old English *rās* running, rush which developed into Middle English *resen* and did not survive into modern English); derived from Proto-Germanic **rāses-*. The meaning of a contest of speed is first recorded in English in 1513, developed from the earlier sense of an act of running. The meaning of a strong current of water is found in 1375, perhaps in part from Old French *ras*, *raz* strong current of water. —**v.** Probably before 1200 *rasen* to rush; borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *rasa* to rush); later reinforced by the noun in English (1513) and implied in **race horse** (before 1626), **racier** (1649).

race² *n.* group of people of common descent or origin. 1520, a class of wine with a characteristic flavor; also, a group of people of a particular set (as in *a new race of poets*); later, a generation (probably 1549), a group of people of common origin (1570); borrowed from Middle French *race*; earlier *rasse* breed, lineage, family, from Italian *razza* race, breed, lineage; of uncertain origin. —**racial** *adj.* (1862), —**racism** *n.* (1936), —**racist** *n.* (1932); *adj.* (1938).

raceme *n.* 1785, borrowed from Latin *racēmus* cluster of grapes or berries, but recorded with the meaning of a RAISIN or currant probably before 1425.

rack¹ *n.* frame with bars. About 1300 *rekke*; 1343–44 *rakke*, *rekke*, possibly borrowed from Middle Dutch *rec* framework, related to *recken* to stretch out, cognate with Old English *reccan* to stretch out, Old Frisian *reza*, Old Saxon *rekkian*, Old High German *rechen* (modern German *recken*), Old Icelandic *rekja*, and Gothic *ufrakjan*, from Proto-Germanic **rakjanan*.

The instrument of torture is first recorded about 1425, and its figurative sense of agony, in 1591, anticipated by the *recys* the racks, pain in the side (1373). —**v.** Probably 1435 *rakken* to stretch on a frame for drying; about 1433, to torture; from the noun, possibly reinforced by borrowing from Middle Dutch *recken* to stretch out. The sense of torment is found in 1601.

rack² *n.* Archaic. wreck, destruction. 1599, in *go to rack and ruin* to be destroyed; variant of **WRACK**.

rack³ *v.* (of a horse) move with a kind of fast, lively gait. 1530, of uncertain origin; perhaps from French *racquassure* "racking of a horse in his pace," itself of unknown origin. —**n.** 1580, probably from the verb.

rack⁴ *n.* broken clouds driven before the wind. Probably about 1380 *rak* rain cloud; earlier, rapid movement, rush (probably before 1300); possibly found in Old English *racu* cloud, reinforced by a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *rek* jetsam, wreckage, Swedish dialect *rak*). It is also possible the noun was formed by influence of Old English *wrac* something driven. —*v.* Probably before 1200, move quickly, rush; possibly found in Old English *racian* hasten.

racket¹ or **racquet** *n.* oval frame with netting and a long handle to hit a ball in tennis, etc. About 1385 *raket* game like tennis in which players use their palm; later *rakket* racket used in tennis, badminton, etc. (1500–20); borrowed from Old French *requette*, *rechet* racket or battledore, palm of the hand (perhaps reinforced by Spanish *raqueta*), from Arabic *rāḥat*, a form of *rāḥa* palm of the hand.

racket² *n.* loud noise, loud talk. 1565, of uncertain origin; said to be of imitative origin. The meaning of any dishonest scheme or activity (1812) is perhaps from *racket*¹ with the underlying sense of *game* (a scheme) and possibly reinforced by the sense of *rack*¹ in *rack-rent* extortionate rent. —**racketeer** *n.* (1928).

racy *adj.* 1654, having the characteristic taste; formed from English *race*² a class of wine + *-y*¹. The meaning of having a quality of vigor (1667) was extended to so lively as to be improper, risqué, in 1901.

rad *n.* 1918, unit of a dose of X rays, shortened form of *radiation*. The later meaning of 100 ergs per gram of absorbing material (1954) is said to be from the first letters of *radiation absorbed dose*.

radar *n.* 1941, formed from *ra*(dio) *d*(etecting) *a*(nd) *r*(anging).

radial *adj.* Before 1400, pertaining to a surgical instrument with raylike parts; borrowed from Medieval Latin *radialis*, from Latin *radius* beam of light, *RAY*¹; for suffix see *-AL*¹.

radiant *adj.* About 1450, borrowed through Middle French *radiant*, and directly from Latin *radiantem* (nominative *radiāns*) shining, present participle of *radiāre* to beam, shine; for suffix see *-ANT*. —**radiance** *n.* 1601, adopted to English from Late Latin *radiantia* with the suffix *-ence*, later *-ance*.

radiate *v.* Before 1619, to spread in all directions; back formation from *radiation*, and reinforced by Latin *radiātum*, past participle of *radiāre* to beam, shine; for suffix see *-ATE*¹. The sense of give off in rays (said of light or heat) is first recorded in 1704. —**radiation** *n.* Before 1450, act or process of radiating; later, ray or rays emitted (1570); borrowed from Middle French *radiation*, and directly from Latin *radiātiōnem* (nominative *radiātiō*), from *radiāre* to beam, shine, radiate, from *radius* beam of light; for suffix see *-ATION*. —**radiator** *n.* 1836, thing that radiates; formed from English *radiate* + *-or*². The meaning of a device which radiates heat is first recorded in 1851.

radical *adj.* Before 1398, of or in a plant root or in the ground and thereby fundamental to existence; also (of bodily organs or fluids) vital to life, fundamental; borrowed from Late Latin

radīcalis of or having roots, from Latin *radīx* (genitive *radīcis*) *ROOT*; for suffix see *-AL*¹. The sense of advocating fundamental reform is recorded in 1800, and that of unconventional as in *radical in design*, in the 1920's. —*n.* 1641, root part of a word, from the adjective. The sense of a person advocating fundamental reform is first found in 1802. The meaning of an atom or group of atoms acting as a unit in a chemical reaction (1816), is a direct borrowing from modern French. —**radicalism** *n.* (1820) —**radical sign** (1668, in mathematics).

radio *n.* 1903 (in *radio-receiver*) transmission and reception through the atmosphere of voice signals; abstracted from such earlier combinations as *radiophone* (1881, used by Bell of Mercadier in producing sound from radiant energy) and *radioconductor* (1898, a device used in early wireless telegraphy), also associated with *radiotelegraphy* transmission through the atmosphere of telegraph signals (1898); formed from English *radio* + *telegraphy* (after the work of Marconi). —*adj.* 1912, from the noun. —*v.* 1919, from the noun. —**radio astronomy** (1948) —**radio station** (1912)

radio- a combining form meaning: 1 radiant energy, as in *radiometer* (1875), *radioactive* (1900), *radiotherapy* (1903). 2 radioactive, radiation, as in *radioisotope* (1946), *radiology* (1900). 3 radio, as in *radiobroadcast* (1922), *radiojournalism* (1968). In the sense of radioactive, *radio-* is a combining form in English abstracted from *radiation*; in the sense of radio or electronic it is a combining form of *radio*; abstracted from earlier combinations, such as *radiotelegraphy*; both meanings adapted from Latin *radius* spoke of a wheel, radius of a circle, beam of light.

radiosonde *n.* 1937, airborne device for transmitting atmospheric data; borrowing of German *Radio-sonde* (*Radio-* radio- + *Sonde* depth sounding, probe, from French *sonde*, literally, sounding line).

radish *n.* Before 1200 *redic*; later *redich* (before 1300), and *radisse* (1373); developed from Old English (about 1000) *rædic*; borrowed from Latin *radicem* (nominative) *radix* *ROOT*. The spelling with *-ish* was perhaps influenced by Old French *radise*, variant of *radice*, from Latin *radīx* root.

radium *n.* 1899, New Latin, formed from Latin *radius* ray¹ + New Latin *-ium*; so called because the element was found to give off radioactive rays.

radius *n.* 1597, staff of a cross, borrowed from Latin *radius* radius, staff, spoke, beam of light. The meaning of a line drawn straight from the center to the outside of a circle or sphere is first recorded in 1611.

radon *n.* 1918, borrowed from German *Radon*, from *Rad(ium)* radium + *-on*, as in the other inert gases *argon*, *neon*, *xenon*; so called because this element is formed by the radioactive decay of radium.

raffia *n.* 1882; earlier *raphia* (1866) and probably *rofia* (1729 *rofeer*); borrowed from Malagasy *rafia*.

raffish *adj.* 1801, formed from English *raff* + *-ish*¹; *raff* people, probably of a lower sort; apparently abstracted from *rif* and *raf* everyone, every scrap (1338); found in Anglo-French and Old

French *rif et raf*, Middle Dutch *rieffende raf*, and probably related to Swedish *rafs* rubbish, also in Middle English, scrap, rubbish (1440); see RIFFRAFF.

raffle *n.* About 1390 *raffe* dice game; borrowed from Old French *raffe* dice game, plundering, stripping; perhaps from a Germanic source (compare Middle Dutch *raffel* dice game; cognate with Middle High German and modern German *raffen* to grab, Middle Low German *reppen* to move, Old Frisian *hreppa* to move, and Old Icelandic *hreppa* to reach, get), from Proto-Germanic **Hrap-*. The meaning of a sale of chances to win an item is first recorded in English in 1766. —**v.** Before 1680, from the noun.

raft *n.* floating platform. Probably about 1300, beam, rafter; later, floating platform of logs (1497); borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *raptr* log, with *pt* for *ft*); see RAFTER. —**v.** 1706, from the noun.

raft *n.* large collection, crowd. 1833, variant of earlier *raff* heap, large amount (before 1677); also large crowd (1673); from Middle English *raf*, probably identical with *raf* in *rif and raf*; see RAFFISH and RIFFRAFF.

rafter *n.* Before 1200 *refter* a beam or pole; also about 1200, *rafire*; developed from Old English (West Saxon, before 899) *ræftras*, pl. and (Mercian, about 700) *reftras*; cognates with Middle Low German *rafter*, *rachter* rafter, and Old Icelandic *raptr* (Swedish and Danish *rafi*), related to *räfi*, *räfi* roof made with rafters, from Proto-Germanic **rāf-/raf-*.

rag *n.* scrap of cloth. About 1325 *ragge*; borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *ragg* shaggy tuft, earlier *raggw-*, and Old Danish *rag*; see RUG). —**ragged** *adj.* About 1300 *ragged* rough, shaggy, frayed; formed from *rag* + *-ed*, reinforced by borrowing from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *raggathr* shaggy, Swedish *raggig* shaggy, rough, Norwegian *raggad*). Earlier Old English *raggig* raglike, shaggy, was almost surely developed from Scandinavian.

rag *v.* to scold. 1739, of uncertain origin. The meaning of annoy, tease, torment (1808), is found in the stronger sense of intimidate in the combination *ballarag* (1807).

rag *n.* style of jazz, ragtime. 1895, possibly a shortened form of *ragged*; from the rhythmic imbalance of the music. The compound *ragtime* (presumably *rag* + *time*) appeared in 1897.

raga *n.* 1788, borrowed from Sanskrit *rāga-s* harmony, melody; literally, color or mood, related to *rājyati* it is dyed.

ragamuffin *n.* 1344 *ragamuffyn*, formed from Middle English *raggi*, *adj.*, ragged + Middle Dutch *muffe*, *moffe* mitten.

rage *n.* Probably before 1300 *rage* violent anger, madness, passion; borrowed from Old French *rage*, *raige*, from Medieval Latin *rabia*, also Late Latin, from Latin *rabies* madness, rage, fury; related to *rabere* be mad, rave. —**v.** About 1250, to play, romp; later, to be furious (before 1325); from the noun.

raglan *n.* 1863, in allusion to Lord Raglan, British field marshal in the Crimean War, from the Welsh place name *Raglan*, *Rhaglan*. —**adj.** 1906, from the noun.

ragout *n.* 1656–57, borrowing of French *ragoût*, from Middle French *ragoûter* awaken the appetite (Old French *re-* back + *à* to + *goût* taste, from Latin *gustum*, nominative *gustus*; see GUSTO).

ragweed *n.* 1790, *rag* + *weed*; from the ragged shape of the leaves; applied earlier to another plant (1658).

raid *n.* About 1425, military expedition on horseback, Scottish and Northern English form of *rade* a riding, journey (about 1200); developed from Old English *rād* a riding (871), cognate with Old High German *reita*, *reiti* foray, raid; see ROAD. *Raid* is not recorded after the 1500's as a place where ships may anchor. Modern use is attributed to revival by Scott in 1805 and 1818, with the extended sense of an attack, foray. —**v.** 1785, take part in a raid; implied in *raiding*, from the noun.

rail *n.* bar of wood or metal. Probably about 1300 *raile*; earlier *reyle* the railing of a ship (1294–95); borrowed from Old French *reille*, *raille*, from Latin *rēgula* straight stick, diminutive form related to *regere* to straighten, guide; see RIGHT. —**v.** About 1385 *railen* to fence in with rails; from the noun. —**railing** *n.* 1432 *raylynge* rail or framework; later, a fence (1440); formed from *railen* fence in with rails (about 1385). —**railroad** *n.* (1757), **railway** *n.* (1776) road laid with rails for wagons with heavy loads; later, a track for trains (1825).

rail *v.* complain bitterly. Before 1470 *railen*; borrowed from Middle French *railler* to tease or joke, from Old Provençal *ralhar* to chat, joke, from Vulgar Latin **ragulāre* to bray, from Late Latin *ragere* to roar. Related to RALLY² to tease.

rail *n.* kind of small bird. Before 1450 *rale*; later *rayl* (probably about 1475); borrowed from Old French *raale*, related to *rāler* to rattle, of uncertain origin.

railery *n.* 1653, borrowed from French *raillerie*, from Middle French *railler* to tease; see RAIL², *v.*; for suffix see -ERY.

raiment *n.* About 1400 *rameunt*; also *rayment* (before 1425), shortening of *arayment* clothing (before 1399); borrowed through Anglo-French *araiement*, Old French *areement* (*arēer* to ARRAY + *-ment* -ment).

rain *n.* 1116 *rein*; later *rain* (before 1325); developed from Old English *regn* rain (before 725) and in *regnwurm* rainworm or earthworm (about 700); sometimes contracted to *rēn-*, *rēn*; cognates with Old Frisian *rein* rain, Old Saxon *regan*, Middle Dutch *reghen* (modern Dutch *regen*), Old High German *regan* (modern German *Regen*), Old Icelandic, modern Danish, Norwegian, and Swedish *regn*, and Gothic *rign*, from Proto-Germanic **regna-*. —**v.** Probably before 1200 *reinen* to rain; developed from Old English (about 950) *regnian*, but usually *rinan*, a contraction of *rignan*; cognates with Middle Dutch *reghenen* to rain (modern Dutch *regenen*), Old High German *reganōn* (modern German *regnen*), Old Icelandic *regna* (Danish and Norwegian *regne*, Swedish *regna*), and Gothic *rignjan*.

—**rainbow** *n.* About 1250 *reinbowe*, developed from Old English *rēnboga* (about 1000); formed from *rēn* rain, *n.* + *boga* bend, BOW² (weapon). —**raincheck** *n.* (1884) —**raincoat** *n.* (1830) —**raindrop** *n.* About 1400 *reindrope*; developed from

Old English (about 1000) *rēndropa*. —**rainfall** *n.* (1854) —**rain forest** (1903, possibly a loan translation of German *Regenwald*) —**rainstorm** *n.* (1816) —**rainy** *adj.* About 1384 *reyny*; developed from Old English (before 1000) *rēnig* (formed from *rēn* rain + *-ig* *-y*¹).

raise *v.* Probably about 1200 *reysen* lift up, give rise to, make greater, increase; later, *raisen* (before 1250); borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *reisa* to raise; see REAR², *v.*). —**n.** About 1500, a levy; later, act of raising (1538); from the verb. The sense of an increase in amount, value, etc., is first recorded in 1728.

raisin *n.* Probably before 1300 *reisyn* grape, raisin; later *raysyn* (probably about 1425); borrowed through Anglo-French *reisin*, Old French *raisin* grape, raisin, from Vulgar Latin **racimus*, alteration of Latin *racemus* cluster of grapes or berries; probably from the same (Mediterranean) source as Greek *rháx* (genitive *rhágós*) grape, berry.

rajah or **raja** *n.* 1555, borrowed as *rājā*, a transliteration from Hindi, from Sanskrit *rājā*, nominative of *rājan* king; cognate with Latin *rēx* (genitive *rēgis*) king; see REGAL.

rake¹ *n.* tool for gathering leaves, hay, etc. Before 1325 *rake*, developed from Old English *raca* rake (about 1000); earlier *ræce* (before 800); cognates with Middle Low German *rake* rake, from Proto-Germanic **rak-*, and with Old High German *rehho* rake, *rehhan* gather, heap up (modern German *Rechen* rake), Middle Dutch *reke*, Old Icelandic *reka* spade, shovel, and Gothic *rikan* heap up, from Proto-Germanic **rek-*. —**v.** About 1250 *raken* gather, rake; borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *raka* to scrape, rake).

rake² *n.* scoundrel. 1653, shortened form of earlier *rakehell* (1554 and as an adjective, before 1547), possibly alteration (by association with *rake*¹ and *hell*) of Middle English *rakel*, *adj.*, hasty, rash, headstrong (before 1300); probably from *raken*, *v.* to go, proceed (compare *rakeden* went hastily, rushed, probably before 1200), of unknown origin.

rake³ *n.* slant or slope. 1626, sloping cut of a ship's hull; perhaps from the verb. —**v.** 1627, to have a sloping cut to a ship's hull; of uncertain origin (compare Old Swedish *raka* project, reach, Danish *rage* protrude).

rakish¹ *adj.* of or like a scoundrel. 1706, formed from English *rake*² + *-ish*¹.

rakish² *adj.* smart, jaunty, dashing. 1824, probably formed from English *rake*³ + *-ish*¹.

rally¹ *v.* bring together. 1603, borrowed from French *rallier*, from Old French *ralier* reassemble, unite again (*re-* again + *alier* unite). The sense of pull together, revive, rouse, is first recorded in 1667. —**n.** 1651, rapid reunion for renewed effort, from the verb. A mass meeting to arouse group support is first recorded in 1840, and that of a gathering of automobile enthusiasts, as for a race, was borrowed about 1930 from French *rallye*, which was borrowed from English *rally*¹, *n.*, about 1911. The act of hitting a ball, shuttlecock, etc., a number of times after service, appeared in 1878.

rally² *v.* to make fun of, tease. 1668, borrowed from French *railler* to rail, reproach, from Middle French; see RAIL², *v.*

ram *n.* Before 1325 *ram*, *rom* male sheep; earlier in a place name *Ramtune* (1086); also, a pile driver (1256); found in Old English *ramm* male sheep, battering ram (about 1000); earlier *rom* male sheep (before 725); cognates with Middle Low German, Middle Dutch, modern Dutch, and Old High German *ram* ram, and probably with Old Icelandic *rammr*, *ramr* sharp, strong, of unknown origin. —**v.** Probably before 1300 *rammen* to tramp down earth; probably from the noun in Middle English.

ramada *n.* 1869, arbor or porch, borrowed from American-Spanish *ramada* tent, shelter, from Spanish *ramada* an arbor, from *rama* branch, from Vulgar Latin **rāma*, a collective (perhaps formed on the model of Latin *folia* leaves) from Latin *rāmus* branch.

Ramadan *n.* 1595, borrowed from Arabic *Ramaḍān*, originally, the hot month, from *ramiḍa* be burnt, scorched.

ramble *v.* About 1443 *ramblen*, perhaps a frequentative form of **ramben*, variant of *romen*, *v.* to walk, go, ROAM; or perhaps an alteration of *romblen* to *ramble* (about 1378), also a frequentative form of *romen* to ROAM; for suffix see -LE³. —**n.** 1654, from the verb. —**rambler** *n.* (1624) —**rambling** *adj.* 1623, from the verb.

rambunctious *adj.* 1830 *rumbunctious*; later *rambunctious* (1859); alterations of earlier *rambustious* (1853, possibly influenced by *ram*, *v.*) and *rumbustious* (1778, an arbitrary reformation probably influenced by *rum*¹, of *robustious* boisterous, before 1548). It is also possible re-formation of the medial syllable was in part influenced by *bumptious*.

ramekin or **ramequin** *n.* 1706, borrowing of French *ramequin*, perhaps also from early modern Dutch *rammeken* toasted bread; or from Low German *ramken*, diminutive of *ram* cream, from Middle Low German *rōm*, *rōme*.

ramify *v.* Probably before 1425 *ramifien* branch out; borrowed from Middle French *ramifier*, from Medieval Latin *ramificare*, from a lost adjective **ramificus* (Latin *rāmus* branch; + the root of *facere* make); for suffix see -FY. —**ramification** *n.* 1677, branch or offshoot; borrowed from French *ramification*, from Medieval Latin *ramificare* ramify; for suffix see -FICATION. The sense of outgrowth, consequence, is first recorded in 1755.

ramp¹ *n.* a sloping way. 1778, borrowed from French *rampe*, from Old French *ramper* to climb; see RAMP². An earlier meaning of difference in level between the supports of an arch is recorded in 1725.

ramp² *v.* rush wildly about. Before 1325, especially as present participle *rampand* standing on the hind legs, rearing; later *rampyng* (about 1400), forms of the present participle of *raumpen*; borrowed from Old French *ramper* to creep, climb, from Frankish (compare Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *ramp* creep, Middle High German *rampf*, and Old High German *rimpfan* to wrinkle). Later use of *ramp*, may have been affected by the coeval *raumpaunt*, *adj.*, rampant.

rampage *v.* 1715, Scottish; probably formed from *ramp*² rave, rage (about 1390) + *-age*, on the model of *ramagen* be furious, rage (before 1500, from the adjective *ramage* wild, violent, about 1300). —**n.** 1861, from the noun.

rampant *adj.* Before 1382 *raumpaunt* fierce, ravenous; earlier, rearing or standing on the hind legs (about 1300); borrowed from Old French *rampant*, present participle of *rampier* to creep, climb; see *RAMP*², *v.* The sense of growing without check (as in *vines* running rampant over the fence) is first recorded in 1619 and is the only use of the French meaning of creep or climb found in English.

rampart *n.* 1583, borrowing of Middle French *rampart*, *rem-part* (with added *t*), from *remparer* to fortify (*re-* again + *emparer* fortify, from Old Provençal *amparar*, from Vulgar Latin **ante-parāre* prepare, from Latin *ante-* before + *parāre* prepare).

ramrod *n.* 1757, rod for pushing the charge of a gun in place. —**v.** 1948, to push forward vigorously.

ramshackle *adj.* 1830, from *ranshacked* (1675), alteration of *ransackled*, past participle of *ransackle* to RANSACK; for suffix see *-LE*³.

ranch *n.* 1808, hut or house in the country; later, farm for raising animals or crops (1831); borrowed through American Spanish *ranchito* small farm, group of farm huts, from Spanish *ranchito*, originally, group of persons who eat together, from *ranchar*, *ranchear* to lodge or station, from Old French *ranger* install in a position, from *rang* row or line; see *RANK*¹, *n.* —**v.** 1866, from the noun. —**rancher** *n.* 1836, formed from English *ranch*, *n.* and *v.* + *-er*¹ and borrowed from American Spanish *ranchero* (1827).

rancid *adj.* 1646, borrowed from Latin *rancidus* rank, stinking, offensive, from *rancēre* be spoiled or rotten (found only in *rancēns* present participle).

rancor *n.* Probably before 1200 *rancor* bitter resentment or ill will; borrowed from Old French and directly from Late Latin *rancor* rancidness, grudge, bitterness, from Latin *rancēre*, see *RANCID*; for suffix see *-OR*¹.

rand *n.* 1961, borrowed from Afrikaans *rand*, from Dutch *rand* field border; so called from The Rand (Witwatersrand), a gold-mining district in the Transvaal.

random *adj.* 1655, by chance or with no plan; abstracted from *at random*, *at random* by chance, with no plan; originally, at great speed, without care or control (1565), developed from Middle English *randun* impetuosity, speed (about 1300; later *random*, before 1470; also *o randon* before 1300); borrowed from Old French *randon*, *randum* rush, disorder, from *randir* to run fast, from Frankish **rant* a running (compare Old High German *rennen* to cause to RUN). For a similar shift of the terminal consonant from *n* to *m* see *RANSOM*.

randy *adj.* 1698, rude, disorderly; Scottish, probably formed from obsolete English *rand* to rave, *RANT* (1601) + *-y*¹. The sense of lewd or lustful appeared before 1847.

range *n.* Before 1325 *range* row, line, act of arranging; bor-

rowed from Old French *range*, *reng* range or rank, from *rangier*, *ranger* to place in a row, arrange, from *rang*, *reng* row or line; see *RANK*¹.

The meaning of scope or extent appeared in 1666, and that of an extensive area over which animals range for food, in 1626. —**v.** 1375 *rangen* to place in a row, arrange; borrowed from Old French *rangier*, *rengier* to place in a row. The meaning of move over a large area, roam, appeared about 1477. —**ranger** *n.* 1388, gamekeeper; formed from *range*, *v.* + *-er*¹. The group of armed men to police an area appeared in 1670, and such a group acting as soldiers, in 1742. —**rangy** *adj.* 1868, adapted for ranging; later, having a long slender form (1876); formed from *range*, *n.* and *v.* + *-y*¹.

rank¹ *n.* row or line. Before 1325, row, line, series; borrowed from Old French *ranc*, *rang*, *reng*, from Frankish (compare Old High German *hring* circle, *RING*). The meaning of a social division or group, (as in *people of rank*) is first recorded probably about 1430, and that of relative position (as in *the first rank*) in 1605. —**v.** 1573, arrange in lines, from the noun. The sense of put in order, classify, is first recorded in 1592. —**rank and file** 1598, in reference to soldiers in marching formation; later, common soldiers (1796), and common people (1860).

rank² *adj.* large and coarse. Probably about 1200 *ranc* proud, determined; about 1250, strong, violent; also, growing thickly and coarsely; found in Old English (about 1000) *ranc* proud, overbearing, showy; cognate with Middle Dutch *ranc* slender, slim (modern Dutch *rank*), Middle Low German and modern German *rank* long and thin, and Old Icelandic *rakkr* erect, bold, from Proto-Germanic **rankaz*. The meaning of strongly marked, extreme perhaps also in the sense of excessive, about 1303, and that of having a strong, bad smell, before 1529.

rankle *v.* Probably about 1300 *ranclen* to fester; borrowed from Old French *rancler*, *raoncler*, from *draoncle* festering sore, from Latin *dracunculus* little snake, diminutive of *dracō* (genitive *dracōnis*) serpent, dragon.

ransack *v.* About 1250 *ransaken* search thoroughly, plunder; borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *raunnsaka* search the house; *rann* house, cognate with Old English *cern*, *ern* place or house, Old Frisian *-ern*, and Gothic *razn* house, from Proto-Germanic **rasnan*; + *-saka* to search, related to Old Icelandic *sækja* seek).

ransom *n.* Probably before 1200 *rancun* payment made for an offense, fine; later *raunson* price paid for release of a captive (about 1300), and in the spelling *ransome* (probably before 1425); borrowed from Old French *rançon*; earlier, *raençon* ransom, redemption, from Latin *redēptionem* (nominative *redēptiō*) a redeeming; from *redimere* to redeem. —**v.** Before 1325 *ransunen* make amends for a wrong; also, redeem; later *raunsonen* pay for release of a captive (about 1378), and in the spelling *ransomen* (before 1387); borrowed from Old French *rançonner*; earlier *raençonner* redeem, from the noun.

The shift of the terminal consonant from *n* to *m* is also found in such English forms as *random* and *seldom*.

rant *v.* 1598, borrowed from obsolete Dutch *randten*, *ranten*,

randen talk foolishly, rave; of uncertain origin. —**n.** 1649, from the verb.

rap¹ *n.* quick, light blow. About 1300 *rappe*, possibly of imitative origin, but similar in form and meaning to Swedish *rapp* a rap, tap, smart blow, also to Norwegian *rapp* and Danish *rap* which suggests a Scandinavian source. The transferred meaning of a rebuke or criticism is first recorded in 1777, and possibly from this developed the sense of a criminal charge (1903), and that of a prison sentence (as in *take or beat the rap*) in 1927. —**v.** Probably before 1350 *rappen* to strike, hit; later, to knock at a door (1440), possibly from the noun or of independent imitative origin.

rap² *v.* to talk or converse informally, chat. 1929; later popularized (about 1965), possibly by way of Caribbean English, from the British slang sense of say or utter (1879), originally with the specific meaning of let off (an oath, etc.) sharply or suddenly (1541), an expressive use of **RAP¹** knock sharply. —**n.** 1898, from contemporary use of the verb.

rap³ *n.* the least bit. 1724, counterfeit coin used in the 1700's in Ireland for a halfpenny; of uncertain origin. The figurative sense of the least bit (as in *not to care a rap*, 1834) is from the extended meaning of a coin of little or no value.

rapacious *adj.* 1651, formed in English probably from *rapacity* with substitution of *-ious* or *-ous*, perhaps further influenced by French *rapace*, from Latin *rapāx* (genitive *rapācis*) grasping, plundering, from *rapere* seize. —**rapacity** *n.* 1543, borrowed from Middle French *rapacité*, from Latin *rapācītatē* (nominative *rapācītās*) greediness, from *rapāx* grasping, rapacious; for suffix see *-ITY*.

rape¹ *v.* assault sexually. Probably 1387 *rapen* seize prey, take by force; developed from the noun in Middle English, and a borrowing, perhaps through Anglo-French *rape*, of the learned (legal) Old French *rapere* to seize, abduct, and directly from Latin *rapere* seize, carry off, ravish. The sense of abduct (a woman) is recorded in Middle English probably before 1425. —**n.** Before 1325, booty or prey; later, act of seizing, raid, robbery (probably about 1350); borrowed through Anglo-French *rap*, *rape*, and directly from Latin *rapere* seize. The sense of abduction or assault is recorded in Middle English, probably about 1400. —**rapist** *n.* (1883)

rape² *n.* kind of small plant. Before 1398 *rape* rape, turnip, borrowed from Old French *rape*, and directly from Latin *rāpa*, *rāpum* turnip. Germanic cognates include Middle Low German *rōve* turnip, Middle Dutch *roeve*, and Old High German *rāba*, *rūba* (modern German *Rübe*).

rapid *adj.* 1634, moving at great speed, swift, very quick; borrowed from French *rapide*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *rapidus* hasty, snatching, from *rapere* hurry away, carry off, seize, plunder. —**n.** rapids pl. 1765, formed from English *rapid*, *adj.* + *-s*, by influence of French *rapides*, and borrowed from the French. —**rapidity** *n.* 1654, borrowed from French *rapidité*, and directly from Latin *rapiditās* swiftness, from *rapidus* rapid; for suffix see *-ITY*.

rapier *n.* 1553, borrowed from Middle French *rapière* from

Old French *espee rapiere* rapier sword, of uncertain origin; perhaps earlier referred to as a *raspiere* a poker or scraper in a derisive sense.

rapine *n.* About 1412, borrowed from Middle French *rapine*, learned borrowing from Latin *rapīna* robbery, plunder, from *rapere* seize, carry off, rob.

rappe *n.* 1931, descent from a cliff or rock face, reborrowing of French *rappel*, literally, recall, from Old French *rapel*, from *rapeler* to recall, summon; see **REPEAL**. An earlier borrowing of a drum roll to summon soldiers is first recorded in English in 1848. —**v.** 1957, from the noun.

rapport *n.* 1661, reference, relationship; borrowing of French *rapport*, from *rapporter* bring back; formed in Old French from *re-* again + *apporter* to bring, from Latin *adportāre* (*ad-* to + *portāre* carry). The meaning of harmonious accord or full communication, is found in 1915.

rapprochement *n.* 1809, borrowing of French *rapprochement* reunion, reconciliation, from *rapprocher* bring near (Old French *re-* back, again + *aprochier* to **APPROACH**) + French *-ment*.

rapscallion *n.* 1699, alteration of *rascallion* (1649), a fanciful derivative of **RASCAL**, and probably a parallel term of *ram-pallion* (1593), possibly formed on *ramp*, *n.*, ill-behaved woman (before 1450), and *ramp*, *v.*, to behave in a loose, immodest way (1530).

rapt *adj.* About 1390, carried away in an ecstatic trance; borrowed from Latin *raptus*, past participle of *rapere* seize, carry off. The sense of engrossed appeared in 1509.

raptorial *adj.* 1825, formed from Latin *raptor* robber + English *-ial*. Latin *raptor* is formed from *rapt-*, past participle stem of *rapere* seize + *-or* or *-or²*.

rapture *n.* 1600, act of carrying off; borrowed from Middle French *rapture*, formed from *rapt* rape, kidnapping, from Latin *raptus* (genitive *raptūs*) a carrying off, from *rapere* to seize; for suffix see *-URE*. The sense of spiritual ecstasy is first recorded in 1629. —**rapturous** *adj.* 1678, formed from English *rapture* + *-ous*.

rare¹ *adj.* unusual. 1392 *rere* thin, airy, porous; also *rare* (before 1400); borrowed from Old French *rere*, *rer*, *rare* sparse, and directly from Latin *rārus* thin, airy, porous, unusual. The meaning of unusual, exceptional, is recorded in English in 1447. —**rarity** *n.* Probably before 1425 *rarite* thinness; later, fewness (1560–61); borrowed from Middle French *rarité*, and directly from Latin *rāritās* thinness, fewness, from *rārus* rare; for suffix see *-ITY*.

rare² *adj.* undercooked. 1655 (of eggs) soft-cooked, variant of dialectal *rear*, in Middle English *rere* (1392); developed from Old English (about 1000) *hrēr* lightly cooked; probably related to *hrēran* to stir, move, cognate with Old Frisian *hrēra* to stir or move, Old Saxon *hrōrian*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *roeren*, Old High German *hruoren* (modern German *rühren*), and Old Icelandic *hræra*; in modern English not recorded in reference to cooking meat before 1784.

rare³ *v.* to rise up, rear. 1833, in *rare up* (of an animal); dialectal variant of **REAR**². The sense of eager to start, in raring to go, is first recorded in 1909.

rarefy *v.* Before 1398 *rarefien*, borrowed from Old French *rarefier*, and directly from Medieval Latin *rarificare*, and from Latin *rārefacere* make rare (*rārus* RARE¹ + *facere* make); for suffix see -FY. The sense of refine or purify is first recorded in 1599. —**rarefaction** *n.* 1603, borrowed from French *raréfaction*, and directly from Medieval Latin *raréfactionem* (nominative *raréfactio*), from Latin *rārefact-*, past participle stem of *rārefacere* RAR-EFY; for suffix see -TION.

rascal *n.* Before 1338 *rascaile* persons of the lowest class, rabble, mob; borrowed from Old French *rascaille*, perhaps from *rasque* mud, filth, from Vulgar Latin **rāscāre* to scrape; see RASH².

The form *rascal* and the singular sense of a person belonging to the rabble are first recorded about 1475, but the extended sense of a low, dishonest person, rogue, is recorded before 1338.

rash¹ *adj.* reckless. About 1380 *rasch* active, impetuous, unrestrained; earlier as a surname *Rasshe* (1316); perhaps developed from Old English *-ræsc* (as in *līgræsc* flash of lightning, before 1050); and possibly borrowed from Middle Low German or Middle Dutch *rasch* fast, active; cognates with Old High German *rasc* fast, strong (modern German *rasch* fast, hasty), Old Icelandic *rasker* brave, vigorous (Swedish and Danish *rask* quick, nimble), from Proto-Germanic **raskuz*, earlier **rathskuz*.

The meaning of too hasty, careless, reckless, is first recorded in 1509.

rash² *n.* small red spots on the skin. 1709, borrowed from obsolete French *rache* a sore, Old French *rache* ringworm, from Vulgar Latin **rāscāre* to scrape, from Latin *rāsus* scraped, past participle of *rādere* to scrape. The sense of a sudden outbreak or proliferation is first recorded in 1820.

rasp *v.* About 1250 *rospen* to scrape, scratch, or score, especially with a rough instrument; later *raspen* (probably about 1380); borrowed from Middle Dutch *raspen* and from Old French *rasper* to grate, rasp, from a Germanic source (compare Old High German *raspōn* scrape together, related to *hrespan* to pluck, Old Frisian *hrespa* to tear, Old English *gehrespan*). The sense of utter with a grating sound is first recorded in 1843. —**n.** 1541, coarse file; borrowed from Middle French *raspe*, from Old French *rasper* to rasp. The sense of a grating sound is first recorded in English before 1851.

raspberry *n.* 1623, formed in English from earlier *raspis berry* (before 1548); also *raspis* raspberry (about 1532); possibly related to, if not developed from *raspise* a sweet, rose-colored wine (before 1475), earlier *rospeys* (1440), from Anglo-Latin *vinum raspeys* (compare Old French *raspe* and Medieval Latin *raspecia*, *raspeium* raspberry), of uncertain origin.

Rastafari *n.* 1955, Jamaican cult that worships Haile Selassie, former Emperor of Ethiopia, as God; formed in English from *Ras Tafari*, the title of Haile Selassie (*Ras*, borrowed from Amharic *rās* chief head, from Arabic *rās*; and *Tafari*, borrowed

from Amharic *tāfāri* to be feared). —**Rastafarian** *n.* 1955, formed in English from *Ras Tafari* + -an.

raster *n.* 1934, pattern of parallel scanning lines, as in a cathode-ray tube; borrowed from German *Raster* screen; from Latin *rāstrum* rake, from *rādere* to scrape or scratch.

rat *n.* 1378 *rat*; earlier in a place name *Rat* (1185); found in Old English (about 1000) *ræt*. The relationship to each other of the Germanic, Romance, and Celtic words for *rat* is uncertain. Germanic cognates are considered to include Old Saxon *ratta* rat, Middle Low German *rotte*, Middle Dutch *ratte* (modern Dutch *rat*), Old High German *rato* (feminine *ratta*), also *ratza* (modern German *Ratte*, dialectal *Ratz*), Old Icelandic *rottur*, an element in proper names (Swedish *råtta*, Danish and Norwegian *rotte*, and Icelandic *rottá*).

Old French *raton* (augmentative of *rat*) is also found in Middle English *ratoun* (about 1350); earlier *raton* (before 1325), and as a surname *Ratun* (1275); however, this form fell out of use in the 1500's. —**v.** 1812, to desert one's party or associates, from the noun sense of one who deserts his party (1792); so called from the popular belief that rats leave a house about to fall or a ship about to sink. The sense of turn traitor, act as an informer (1934) is from the earlier noun sense of police informer or spy (1902). —**ratty** *adj.* 1865, full of rats, formed from English *rat*, *n.* + -y¹. The sense of poor in quality, shabby, is first recorded in 1867.

ratchet *n.* 1659 *rochet*, borrowing of French *rochet* bobbin or spindle, from Italian *rochetto* spool, ratchet, diminutive of *rocca* distaff (stick for holding wool or flax during spinning); for suffix see -ET. The form **ratchet** (1721) was influenced by synonymous *ratch*, perhaps borrowed from German *Rätsche*, *Ratsche* ratchet.

rate *n.* 1425, estimated worth or quantity, amount or degree in proportion to something else; borrowed from Middle French *rate* price or value, and directly from Medieval Latin *rata* (*pars*) fixed (amount), from Latin *rata* fixed, settled, feminine past participle of *rēri* to reckon, think; see REASON. The degree of speed is first recorded in 1652. —**v.** 1457–58 *raten* to allot, settle the amount or value of, from *rate*, *n.* The sense of consider (as in *rated as best of the lot*) is first recorded in 1565.

rather *adv.* Probably about 1175 *rather* more readily, properly, or quickly, sooner (comparative form of now archaic *rathe*); later, instead of (probably before 1200); developed from Old English *hrathor* (about 725, in *Beowulf*) a comparative form of *hrathe*, *hræthe* quickly (before 725), related to *hræth* quick; cognate with Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *rat* quick, Old High German *hrad*, *rad*, and Old Icelandic *hradhr*, from Proto-Germanic **Hrathaz*.

ratify *v.* About 1357 *ratifien*, borrowed from Old French *ratifier*, from Medieval Latin *ratificare* confirm, approve, from a lost adjective **ratificus* making valid (from Latin *ratus* fixed, valid, past participle of *rēri* to reckon, think; + the root of *facere* make); for suffix see -FY. —**ratification** *n.* About 1435, borrowed through Middle French *ratification*, and directly from Medieval Latin *ratificationem* (nominative *ratificatio*), from *ratificare* RATIFY; for suffix see -ATION.

ratio *n.* 1636, reason or cause; later, relation between two numbers or quantities (1660); borrowed from Latin *ratio* (genitive *rationis*) reckoning, calculation, reason, from *rat-*, past participle stem of *rēri* to reckon, calculate, think.

ration *n.* 1550, reasoning; later, relation of one number or quantity to another, ratio (1666); and fixed allowance of food, often *rations* (1702–11); borrowed from French *ration* (in the sense of fixed allowance), and (in earlier senses) as a learned borrowing directly from Latin *rationem* (nominative *ratio*) reckoning, calculation, proportion; for suffix see *-TION*. —**v.** 1859, from the noun. The sense of apportion in fixed amounts is first recorded in 1870.

rational *adj.* Before 1398 *racional* able to reason; borrowed from Old French *racional*, and directly from Latin *rationalis* of or belonging to reason, reasonable, from *ratio* (genitive *rationis*) reckoning, calculation, reason, from *rat-*, past participle stem of *rēri* to reckon, calculate, think; for suffix see *-AL*¹.

The meaning of sensible, reasonable, is first recorded in English about 1450 and that of a positive or negative whole number in 1570. —**rationalism** *n.* 1800, use of medical treatments based on reason; formed from English *rational* + *-ism*, and in the philosophical principle that reason is the basis of knowledge and truth, (1827), influenced by French *rationalisme*. —**rationalist** *n.* Before 1626, formed from English *rational* + *-ist*, by influence of French *rationaliste* a physician whose treatment is based on reason; applied to philosophical doctrine, *rationalist* is first recorded in English in 1647. —**rationality** *n.* 1628, formed from English *rational* + *-ity*, after Latin *rationalitās* reasonableness. —**rationalize** *v.* 1817, explain on a rational basis, formed from English *rational* + *-ize*.

rationale *n.* 1657, statement of reasons or principles; borrowed from Late Latin *rationāle*, noun use of neuter of Latin *rationālis* of reason, RATIONAL. The sense of rational basis, is first recorded in English in 1688.

ratline or **ratlin** *n.* 1481–90 *ratling*, *radelyng* thin line or rope, of uncertain origin. The spelling *ratlin* is not recorded before 1711, and *ratline* not before 1773 (both influenced by *line*¹, *n.*).

rattan *n.* 1660 *rattoon* switch or stick made from the stem of a rattan; borrowed from Malay *rōtan*.

rattle *v.* Probably before 1300 *ratelen*; possibly borrowed from Middle Dutch *ratelen* to rattle; cognate with Middle Low German *rettelen*, and Middle High German *razzeln*, *razzen* (modern German *rasseln*); probably of imitative origin. The sense of agitate, fluster is first recorded in 1869. —**n.** 1500–20, from the verb. —**rattler** *n.* About 1449, one who talks at great length; earlier as a surname *Rateler* (1309); formed from Middle English *ratelen*, *v.* + *-er*¹. The meaning of a rattlesnake is first recorded in 1827. —**rattlesnake** *n.* (1630) —**rattletrap** *n.* (1766).

raucous *adj.* 1769, borrowed from Latin *raucus* hoarse, related to *ravus* hoarse; for suffix see *-OUS*. The meaning of hoarse was known earlier in Middle English *rauc* (probably before 1425).

raunchy *adj.* 1939, clumsy, careless, sloppy (in Air Force

slang); of unknown origin. The sense of coarse, vulgar, smutty, appeared in the 1960's.

ravage *v.* 1611, borrowed from French *ravager* lay waste, devastate, from Old French *ravage* destruction, especially by violent rush of water, rain and snowfall, from *ravir* to take away hastily, RAVISH; for suffix see *-AGE*. —**n.** 1611, borrowed from French *ravage* havoc, destruction, from Old French *ravage* destruction especially by storm.

rave *v.* Before 1325 *reven*; also *raven* talk wildly (probably about 1325); borrowed from Old French *raver*, *rever*, variants of *resver* to dream, wander, rave; of uncertain origin; see REVERIE. The sense of talk with great enthusiasm is first recorded before 1704. —**n.** 1598, from the verb. —**raving** *adj.* About 1475, delirious, frenzied, raging; formed from English *rave*, *v.* + *-ing*². The meaning of remarkable, as in *a raving beauty*, is first recorded in 1841.

ravel *v.* 1582, to untangle, unwind; also, to become tangled or confused (before 1585); borrowed from Dutch *ravelen* (now *rafelen*) to tangle, fray, unweave, from *rafel* frayed thread; cognate with Old Icelandic *refill* piece of cloth. Both *ravel* and *unravel* have long been synonyms in the sense of disentangle, unwind, and antonyms, in that *ravel* has also carried the meaning of entangle, confuse. The reason is that as threads become unwoven, their ends tangle. —**n.** 1634, a tangle, complication, from the verb. The meaning of frayed thread is first recorded in 1832.

raven *n.* Probably before 1200 *reaven*, *reven*; also *raven* (probably about 1200); developed from Old English (Mercian) *hræfn* (before 800) and *hrefn* (before 830), *hræfn* (Northumbrian and West Saxon); cognate with Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *rāven* raven (modern Dutch *raaf*), Old High German *hraban* (from Proto-Germanic **Hrabanās*) and Old Icelandic *hrafn* (Danish *ravn*, Norwegian *ramn*). Old English also had the forms *hræmn*, *hrem*, *hremm*, found in Old High German *hram*, *ram*, Middle High German *ram*, *ramm*, and Old Swedish *ramn*. —**adj.** 1634, from the noun.

ravenous *adj.* Probably before 1387 *ravenes* devouring eagerly, rapacious; borrowed from Old French *ravinos*, *ravineus* rapacious, violent, from *raviner* to seize, fall impetuously, from *ravine* violent rush, robbery; see RAVINE; for suffix see *-OUS*.

ravine *n.* 1779 *ravine* deep narrow gorge, especially one eroded by water; earlier *ravin* (1760–72); borrowed from French *ravin* a gully, from Old French *raviner* to hollow out; also borrowed from French *ravine* a gully, a violent rush of water; from Old French *ravine* violent rush, robbery, rapine, from Latin *rapina* RAPINE.

An earlier word *ravine* booty, plunder (about 1350), later robbery (about 1380), borrowed from Old French *ravine* a violent rush, is not found in English after 1500 which makes the appearance of English *ravine* in the 1700's a reborrowing from French.

ravioli *n. pl.* 1611 *raviol* small meatballs baked in a crust; borrowed from Italian *raviolo*; in Middle English *raffyolys* (probably about 1425), and *rafyols* (before 1399), borrowed from Old

French *raviolle* and directly from Italian *rafioli*. It appears that each occurrence may be a separate borrowing, including that in 1841, which is a direct borrowing of Italian *ravioli*, *raviuoli*, from plural of dialectal *raviolo*, *raviuolo*, diminutive of some noun now unknown.

ravish *v.* About 1303 *ravyshen* to carry off by force, rape; also *ravissen* to plunder (about 1300), and transport with emotion (probably before 1300); borrowed from Old French *raviss-*, stem of *ravir* to seize, take away hastily, from Vulgar Latin **rapire*, from Latin *rapere* to seize, hurry away; for suffix see -ISH². —**ravishing** *adj.* About 1340, seizing upon prey, ravenous; later, enchanting (about 1380); from Middle English present participle of *ravishen*.

raw *adj.* Before 1325 *rau* uncooked, unfinished, crude; developed from Old English (about 1000) *hrēaw* uncooked, raw; cognate with Old Saxon *hrāo* raw, Middle Low German *rō*, *rōer*, Middle Dutch *rau* (modern Dutch *rau*), Old High German *hrao*, *hrawēr* (modern German *roh*), and Old Icelandic *hrār* (Norwegian and Swedish *rå*, Danish *raa*); from Proto-Germanic **Hrawaz*.

The sense of tender, sore, is first recorded about 1390, and that of inexperienced probably before 1590. The meaning of damp and chilly is found in 1546. —**n.** 1823, from the adjective. —**rawhide** *n.* (1658) —**raw material** (1796)

ray¹ *n.* beam of light. Probably about 1380, borrowed from Old French *rai* ray, spoke, from Latin *radius* ray, spoke, staff, rod.

ray² *n.* variety of fish, related to the sharks. 1323–24, borrowed from Old French *raie*, and directly from Latin *raia*.

rayon *n.* 1924, probably borrowed from French *rayon* beam of light, ray, derived from *rai* **RAY**¹; so called from its shiny appearance. This fiber was patented in 1884 under the name of artificial silk.

raze *v.* Before 1547, alteration of *racen* to pull or knock down (before 1375); earlier *rasen* to scratch, slash, scrape, erase (before 1349); borrowed from Old French *raser* to scrape, shave, and directly from Medieval Latin *rasare*, frequentative form of Latin *rādere* to scrape, shave.

razor *n.* Probably before 1300 *rasoure* sharp-edged tool, especially for shaving; later *razur* (1392); borrowed from Old French *rasor*, *rasour* a razor, from *raser* to scrape, shave; see **RAZE**; for suffix see -OR².

razz *n.* Before 1919, shortened form and altered spelling of *raspberry* (derisive sound, 1890). —**v.** 1921, from the noun.

razzle-dazzle *n.* 1889, varied reduplication of **DAZZLE**.

razzmatazz *n.* 1899, perhaps a varied reduplication of *jazz* from the word's early association with that form of music.

re¹ *n.* second note of the musical scale. About 1325, borrowed from Medieval Latin *re*, from the initial syllable of Latin *resonāre* to resound, the word sung to this note in the Hymn for St. John the Baptist's day; see **GAMUT**.

re² *prep.* with reference to. 1707, borrowed from Latin *rē* in the matter of, ablative case of *rēs* matter, thing.

re- a prefix in modern English with the meaning again, anew, once more, as in *reappear*, *rebuild*, *reheat*, *reopen*, or back, as in *repay*, *recall*, *react*, that can be added to any English verb, adjective, or noun or to derivatives whether found either as a part of an original borrowing (*reform* = to make better) or as a new emphatic (*re-form* = to form again, take a new shape). Borrowed through Old French, and directly from Latin *re-*, *red-* again, back. In many borrowings from Latin or Old French, the precise sense of *re-* is not clear, and often secondary meanings develop that further obscure the original sense. In general, appearance of Latin and Old French *re-* can be analyzed into senses that denote: 1) movement back or in reverse, as in *recede*, *repel*; 2) withdrawal, reversal of an earlier process, as in *retract*, *reveal*; 3) restoration or renewal, as in *restitution*, *relegate*; 4) response or opposition, as in *reluctant*, *repugnant*; 5) repeated or intensified action, as in *revise*, *resume*. These are not fixed meanings and for the most part *re-* can be glossed only in terms of its function in a particular word as "intensive," "opposite," etc.

In some words any sense of *re-* has been so weakened as to seem artificial in English; examples include *receive*, *recommend*, *reduce*, *rejoice*, *religion*, *remain*, *repair*, *report*, *require*.

reach *v.* Probably before 1200 *reachen*; developed from Old English *ræcan* to extend, hold forth (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *rēka*, *rētsa* to reach, Middle Low German *rēken*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *reiken*, Old High German and modern German *reichen* (from Proto-Germanic **raikjanau*). —**n.** 1536, part of a river between bends; earlier, a bay (1526); from the verb. The meaning of extent or distance of reaching is first recorded before 1548.

react *v.* 1611, implied in *reacting*; formed from English *re-* again, anew + *act*, *v.*; probably by influence of French *réagir* *react*, from Middle French; and directly from Late Latin *reagere* (past participle *reāctus*), formed from Latin *re-* back + *agere* to do, act. —**reactant** *n.* (1928) —**reaction** *n.* 1611, formed in English from *re-* again, anew + *action*, *n.*, by influence of obsolete Italian *reazione* and French *réaction*; from Medieval Latin *reactionem* (nominative *reactio*), from Late Latin *reāct-*, past participle stem of *reagere* *react*; for suffix see -TION.

reactionary *adj.* 1840, formed from English *reaction* + *-ary*, on the model of French *réactionnaire*, from *réaction* *reaction*, from Medieval Latin *reactionem* (nominative *reactio*) **REACTION**. —**n.** 1858, from the adjective.

reactor *n.* 1890 *reacter* person or animal that reacts; formed from English *react* + *-er*¹, *-or*². The meaning in the term *nuclear reactor* appeared in 1945.

read *v.* Probably about 1175 *reden* consider, discern, read (writing); developed from Old English (West Saxon) *rædan* to explain, read, rule, advise (before 899), and (Anglian) *rēdan* (compare Mercian *berēdan* to advise falsely, betray, about 700); related to *ræd*, *rēd* advice. The sense of advise, counsel, consider or explain is common to various Germanic languages as found in the cognates Old Frisian *rēda* to advise, Old Saxon

rādan, Middle Low German *raden*, Middle Dutch *rāden* (modern Dutch *raden*), Old High German *rātan* (modern German *raden*), Old Icelandic *rādha*, and Gothic *garēdan* to consider, from Proto-Germanic **raedanān*. But transfer of this sense to apprehending the meaning of written symbols is apparently unique to English and Old Icelandic *rādha*. —**n.** 1825, from the verb. —**adj.** 1586, as in a *well-read man*; originally past participle of the verb, now considered a separate form in most general dictionaries. —**readable** *adj.* (1570) —**reader** *n.* Probably about 1200 *redere*, developed from Old English (about 961) *rēdere* person who reads aloud to others. —**reading** *n.* Probably before 1200 *redunge* act of reading, skill in reading, about 1300 *reding*; developed from Old English *rēding*, from *read*, *v.* The meaning of interpretation (as in *one's reading of a situation*) is first recorded in reference to the interpretation of dreams probably before 1350. —**adj.** used in reading, as in a *reading book* (before 1333).

ready *adj.* Probably before 1200 *rædi*, also *redi*; formed from Old English *ræde*, *geræde* ready (before 899) + Middle English *-i*, shortened from Old English *-ig* *-y*¹. Old English *ræde*, *geræde* is cognate with Old Frisian *rēde* ready, Middle Low German *rēde*, Middle Dutch *gereit*, *gereet* (modern Dutch *gerede*), Old High German *reiti* (modern German *bereit*), Old Icelandic *greidhr*, Gothic *garaiθs* ordered (from Proto-Germanic **garaidijaz*). —**v.** Before 1338 *redyen* prepare; earlier, to direct or guide (before 1225); from *redi*, *adj.* —**n.** 1688, (slang) cash, from the adjective. The sense of a being ready (as in *at the ready*), is first recorded in 1837. —**readily** *adv.* Before 1300 *redily* willingly; later, quickly (as in *answer readily*, before 1375), and easily (as in *readily accessible*, about 1380). —**ready-made** *adj.* (probably before 1425)

reagent *n.* 1797, formed from English *re-* + *agent* substance that produces a chemical reaction (1756), perhaps influenced by French *réagir* react.

real¹ *adj.* actual, true. Probably before 1325 *real* having physical existence, actual; later, genuine or authentic (1440); in law, pertaining to property (1444); borrowed from Old French *rēal*, *rēal*, from Late Latin *reālis* actual, from Latin *rēs* matter or thing. —**adv.** 1658, from the adjective. —**real estate** (1666) —**realism** *n.* 1817, formed from English *real*¹, *adj.* + *-ism*, perhaps after French *réalisme*. —**realist** *n.* 1605, one concerned with things rather than words; formed from English *real*¹ + *-ist*, after French *réaliste*. —**realistic** *adj.* (1856) —**reality** *n.* 1550, quality of being real; reborrowed from Middle French *réalité*, and directly from Medieval Latin *realitas*, from Late Latin *reālis* real; for suffix see *-ITY*.

real² *n.* Spanish silver coin. 1611, borrowing of Spanish *real*, noun use of *real* regal, from Latin *rēgālis* REGAL; also known in Middle and early modern English as an adjective meaning royal or fit for a king, lavish, beautiful, etc. (probably about 1300) and in Middle English as a noun especially with the meaning of a noble (before 1400) and a gold coin (1471), a real of eight or a piece of eight (1420). The term was borrowed immediately, however, from Old French *rēal*, *rial*, not from Spanish.

realize *v.* 1611, bring into real existence; borrowed from French *réaliser* make real, from Middle French *real* actual, from Old French *REAL*¹ + *-iser* *-ize*. The sense of understand clearly is first found in 1775. —**realization** *n.* 1611, action of becoming real; borrowed from French *réalisation* a making real, from *réaliser* realize; for suffix see *-ATION*.

really *adv.* Before 1400, in reality, with reference to the presence of Christ in the Eucharist; later, actually (before 1425); formed from *real*¹ + *-ly*¹.

realm *n.* Probably before 1300 *rem* kingdom; borrowed as a reduced form of Old French *rēaume*; also about 1300 *reaume*, borrowed directly from Old French *rēaume*; and later *realme* (about 1380), borrowed from Old French *rēalme*. Old French *rēaume* is probably formed from *roiaume*, *reiemme* kingdom, from Gallo-Romance, while *rēalme* is an alteration (by influence of Old French *real* regal, from Latin *rēgālis* REGAL) of a possible Gallo-Romance **regiminem*, formed as an accusative on Latin *regimen* government, rule, REGIMEN.

The sense of any sphere or area of influence is first recorded about 1380.

Realtor *n.* 1916 *realtor* real-estate agent; formed from *realty*(*y*) + *-or*². The service mark *Realtor* was patented in 1948.

realty *n.* 1670, real estate; earlier, a right, real possession (1618); formed from English *real*¹, *adj.* + *-ty*².

ream¹ *n.* quantity of paper. 1356 *rem*; borrowed from Old French *rame*, *reyme*, from Spanish *resma*, from Arabic *rizmah* bundle. The word was introduced into Europe through Spanish by the Moors, who brought manufacture of cotton paper to Spain. A later spelling in English *rym* (1473–74) shows probable Dutch influence from *riem*, borrowed into Dutch from Spanish, probably during the time the Spanish Hapsburgs controlled Holland.

ream² *v.* enlarge a hole. 1815 (implied in *reaming*), found in Middle English *remen* (probably before 1300), dialectal variant of *rimen* make room, clear (probably about 1150); developed from Old English *rȳman* widen, extend, enlarge (before 725); cognate with Old Frisian *rēma* make room, Old Saxon *rūmian*, Middle Dutch *rūmen* (modern Dutch *ruimen*), Old High German *rūmen* (modern German *räumen*), and Old Icelandic *rýma*, from Proto-Germanic **rūmijanan*, from **rūmaz* spacious. —**reamer** *n.* (1825)

reap *v.* Probably about 1175 *repen* to cut grain, gather, obtain; developed from Old English (before 830) *reopan*, Mercian form of *ripan* to reap; cognate with Middle Low German *repen* remove seeds from flax, Middle Dutch *reipen* to tear, comb flax, and Norwegian *ripe* to score, scratch, and related to Old English *ripe* RIPE. —**reaper** *n.* Before 1382; earlier as a surname *Reper* (1327); developed from Old English *riper* (about 950 in the compound *hripemann*).

rear¹ *n.* back part. Before 1338 *rere* back part of an army, abstracted from *rereward* rear guard (probably before 1300); borrowed through Anglo-French *rereward*, Old French *nieregarde* (*rere*, *riere* behind, from Latin *retrō* back, behind, + *garde* GUARD). The spelling *rear* appears about 1557. —**adj.**

About 1303 *rere* late, last; later, hindmost (probably before 1325); borrowed from Old French *rere*, *riere* behind. —**rearward** adv., adj. 1598, from the noun *rearward* hindmost part (before 1450), misconstrued as *rear*, n. + *ward*.

rear² *v.* to raise. Probably about 1150 *veren* to bring into being, bring about, cause; later, bring up (as in *rear a child*, probably before 1200); also in Middle English, rise on the hind legs (1375); developed from Old English (before 725) *ræran* to raise; cognate with Old High German *rēren* cause to fall, Old Icelandic *reisa* to raise, and Gothic *urraisjan* lift up, from Proto-Germanic **raizijanau* to raise (causative of **rīsanau* to rise).

reason *n.* Probably before 1200 *reison* cause or motive for an action, explanation, ability to think; also *resoun* (about 1200); later *reason* (probably before 1400); borrowed through Anglo-French *resoun*, *raisun*, Old French *reson*, *raison*, from Latin *rationem* (nominative *ratio*) reckoning, understanding, motive, cause; related to *rēri* to reckon, think. —**v.** Before 1325 *resumen* to question, argue, discuss; borrowed from Old French *resoner*, *raisoner*, from *raison*, n.; also probably in part a development from earlier *reason*, n., parallel to development found in Old French and in Latin. —**reasonable** adj. Before 1325 *resonabil*; earlier *resonable* (1303); borrowed from Old French *raisonable*, and directly from Latin *rationābilis*, from *ratio* reason; for suffix see -ABLE. —**reasonably** adv. (about 1378) —**reasoning** *n.* (about 1380)

rebate *v.* Before 1398 *rebaten* to reduce or diminish; later, to subtract or deduct (1425); borrowed from Old French *rabatre*, *rebatte* beat down, drive back; also, deduct (*re-* repeatedly + *abatre* beat down). —**n.** 1656, probably from the verb in English, and also borrowed from French *rabat* a discount, from Middle French *rabatre*, *rebatte* beat down.

rebel adj. Probably before 1300, borrowed from Old French *rebelle*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *rebellis* insurgent, rebellious, from *rebellāre* to rebel, wage war against (*re-* opposite, against + *bellāre* wage war, from *bellum* war). —**n.** About 1350, from the adjective, and probably borrowed from Old French *rebelle*, n. —**v.** 1340 *rebelen*, borrowed from Old French *rebeller*, and directly from Latin *rebellāre* to rebel. —**rebellion** *n.* About 1340, borrowed from Old French *rebellion*, and directly from Latin *rebelliōnem* (nominative *rebelliō*) rebellion, renewal of a war, from *rebellis* rebellious; for suffix see -ION. —**rebellious** adj. Probably before 1425 *rebellous*; formed in English from Latin *rebellis* rebel + English -ous, perhaps by influence of Old French *rebelleux*.

rebound *v.* About 1380, to spring, leap; also, return to afflict (before 1382); borrowed from Old French *rebondir*, *rebundir* leap back, resound (*re-* back + *bondir* leap, bound, or *bundir* resound).

rebuff *v.* Before 1586, borrowed from obsolete French *rebuffe* to check, snub, from Italian *ribuffare*, *rabbuffare* to check, chide, snub, from *ribuffo*, *rabbuffo* a snub (*ri-* back, from Latin *re-* + *buffo* a puff, of imitative origin). —**n.** 1611, borrowed from obsolete French *rebuffe*, from Italian *ribuffo*, *rabbuffo* a snub.

rebuken *v.* About 1330 *rebouken* chide severely, scold; later

rebuken (probably before 1350); borrowed from Anglo-French *rebuker*, Old French *rebuchier* (*re-* back + *buschier* to strike, chop wood, from *bûche*, *busche* wood). —**n.** Before 1420, shame, disgrace; also, scolding (about 1433); from the verb.

rebus *n.* 1605, borrowed through French *rēbus*, and directly from Latin *rēbus* by means of objects, ablative case plural of *rēs* thing, object. Perhaps first used in *de rebus quae geruntur* of things which are going on, in reference to satirical pieces composed at carnivals, referring to current topics in pictures suggesting words, phrases, or syllables of names.

rebut *v.* Probably before 1300 *rebuten* rebuke, assail; later *rebuten* repel (before 1325); borrowed from Old French *rebuter*, *rebouter*, *reboter* (*re-* back + *boter* to thrust, hit). The sense of try to disprove, refute, is first recorded in 1817. —**rebuttal** *n.* 1830, act of rebutting; formed from English *rebut* + -al².

recalcitrant adj. 1843, borrowed from French *récalcitrant*, or directly from Latin *recalcitrāns*, present participle of *recalcitrāre* to kick back (*re-* back + *calcitrāre* to kick, from a lost noun **calcitrus* a kick, from *calx*, genitive *calcis* heel); for suffix see -ANT. It is also possible that *recalcitrant* was formed in English from the earlier verb *recalcitrate* (1623, to kick out, and resist obstinately, 1759). —**n.** 1865, from the adjective. —**recalcitrance** *n.* 1856, perhaps borrowed from French *récalcitrance*, or formed in English as a noun to *recalcitrant*; for suffix see -ANCE.

recall *v.* 1582, call back; formed from English *re-* + *call*, *v.*; perhaps in some instances, a loan translation of Middle French *rappeler*, see REPEAL; and in the political or legal sense a loan translation of Latin *revocāre*; see REVOKE. —**n.** 1611, a calling back; from the noun.

recant *v.* 1535, borrowed from Latin *recantāre* recall, revoke (*re-* back + *cantāre* to chant), loan translation of Greek *palinōideîn* recant, (*pálin* back + *aideîn*, *alideîn* to sing).

recap¹ *v.* put a strip of rubber on the tread of a tire. 1856, to cap again, formed from English *re-* again + *cap*, *v.* The sense relating to an automobile tire appeared before 1927.

recap² *v.* recapitulate. 1920's, shortened form of *recapitulate*. —**n.** 1930's, shortened form of *recapitulation*.

recapitulate *v.* 1570, back formation from *recapitulation*, and borrowed from Late Latin *recapitulātus*, past participle of *recapitulāre* recapitulate; for suffix see -ATE¹. —**recapitulation** *n.* Before 1387 *recapitulacion* a summarizing; brief restatement (1392); borrowed through Old French *recapitulacion* and directly from Late Latin *recapitulātiōnem* (nominative *recapitulātiō*), from *recapitulāre* go over the main points of a thing again; literally, restate by heads or chapters (*re-* again + *capitulum* main part, CHAPTER); for suffix see -ATION.

recede *v.* Probably before 1425 *receden* to move backward, retreat, depart; borrowed from Middle French *receder*, and directly from Latin *recēdere* (*re-* back + *cēdere* to go; see CEDE).

receipt *n.* Before 1349 *resseite* the act of receiving; later *reseit* a sum of money received (1390), and *receit* a medicinal recipe (1392); borrowed from Anglo-French or Old North French

receite receipt, recipe, alteration (by influence of *receit* he receives, from Vulgar Latin **recipit*) of Old French *recete*, from Latin *recepta* received, feminine past participle of *recipere* to RECEIVE.

The English spelling with *p* (in imitation of the Latin form) is first recorded in the late 1300's, but did not become the established form until the 1700's. —**v.** 1787, from the noun.

receive *v.* Probably before 1300 *resceiven* take something offered or sent; later *receiven* (before 1325); borrowed from Old French *receivre*, from Latin *recipere* (re- back + -cipere, combining form of *capere* to take). —**receiver** *n.* Before 1338, person who buys and sells stolen goods; also, a tax collector or rental agent; earlier as a surname (1251); borrowed from Anglo-French *receivour*, *receptor*, Old French *receveor*, from *receptor*; for suffix see -ER¹. Later meanings in English, such as a person appointed to administer property (1793), and the part of a telephone held to the ear (1877), etc., were formed from English *receive* + -ER¹.

recent *adj.* Probably before 1425, borrowed from Latin *recentem* (nominative *recēns*) lately done or made, new, fresh.

receptacle *n.* 1392, borrowed from Old French *receptacle*, and directly from Latin *receptāculum* place to receive and store things in, a receptacle, from *receptāre*, frequentative form of *recipere* to hold, contain RECEIVE.

reception *n.* Before 1393 *reception* the effect of two planets on each other; later, act of receiving, (probably before 1425); borrowed from Old French *reception*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *receptionem* (nominative *receptiō*) a receiving, from *recipere* RECEIVE; for suffix see -TION. —**receptionist** *n.* (1867) —**receptive** *adj.* Probably before 1425; borrowed from Medieval Latin *receptivus* able to receive, from Latin *receptus*, past participle of *recipere* RECEIVE; for suffix see -IVE. —**receptor** *n.* Before 1450, borrowed through Anglo-French *receptour*, Old French *recepteur*, and directly from Latin *receptor*, from *receptus*, past participle of *recipere* RECEIVE; for suffix see -OR².

recess *n.* 1531, act of receding; borrowed from Middle French *reces*, *recez*, and directly from Latin *recessus* (genitive *recessūs*) a going back, a retreat, a retired place, from *recessum*, past participle of *recedere* to RECEDE. The meaning of a hidden or remote part is first recorded in English in 1616, and that of a period of stopping from usual work, in 1620. —**v.** 1809, put in a recess, from the noun. The meaning of take a recess from work is first recorded in 1893. —**recession** *n.* 1646; borrowed from Latin *recessionem* (nominative *recessiō*) a going back, receding, from *recedere* to RECEDE; for suffix see -SION. The meaning of a decline in business activity is first recorded in 1929. —**recessional** *n.* (1867) —**recessive** *adj.* 1672–73, tending to recede; formed from English *recess* + -ive on the model of Latin *recessivus*, from *recess-*, past participle stem of *recedere* to recede; for suffix see -IVE. The meaning in genetics is first recorded in English in 1900, after German *recessiv*.

recharge *v.* Probably before 1430, formed from English *re-* again + *charge* load, modeled on Middle French *recharger*, *recharger*.

recidivist *n.* 1880, borrowed from French *récidiviste*, from *récidiver* to fall back or relapse, from Medieval Latin *recidivare* to relapse into sin, from Latin *recidivus* falling back, from *recidere* fall back (re- back + -cidere, combining form of *cadere* to fall); for suffix see -IST. *Recidivist* replaced earlier *recidive*, *n.* (1854), as a complement to *recidivation* relapse into sin, crime, etc. (before 1415). —**recidivism** *n.* 1886, from *recidivist*, on the analogy of *baptist*, *baptism*, etc.; for suffix see -ISM.

recipe *n.* 1584, medical prescription, borrowed from Middle French *recipé*, and directly from Latin *recipe!* take!, imperative of *recipere* to take, RECEIVE. The sense of instructions for preparing food is found in 1743, and that of a directive in medical prescriptions, now, only the abbreviation R or Rx.

recipient *n.* 1558, borrowed from Middle French *recipient*, and directly from Latin *recipientem* (nominative *recipiēns*), present participle of *recipere* to RECEIVE; for suffix see -ENT. —**adj.** 1610, from the noun.

reciprocal *adj.* 1570, inversely related; formed from Latin *reciprocus* returning the same way, alternating + English -al¹. Latin *reciprocus* is reconstructed from a pre-Latin form **reco-proco-* back and forth, from **recus* (re- back + -cus adjective formative) and **procus* (pro- forward + -cus adjective formative).

The sense of existing on both sides, mutual, is first recorded in 1579, and that of done (or felt, given, etc.) in return, in 1596. —**n.** 1570, from the adjective.

reciprocate *v.* 1611, probably a back formation from *reciprocation*; for suffix see -ATE¹. —**reciprocation** *n.* 1561, act of reciprocating; earlier, reflexive mode of expression (1530); borrowed from Latin *reciprocationem* (nominative *reciprocātiō*) retrogression, alternation, ebb, from *reciprocāre* move back and forth, alternate, from *reciprocus* alternating, RECIPROCAL; for suffix see -ATION. —**reciprocity** *n.* 1766, borrowed from French *réciprocité*, from *réproque* reciprocal, from Latin *reciprocus* + -itē -ity.

recite *v.* 1430 *reciten* to repeat aloud, relate in detail; borrowed through Middle French *reciter*, and directly from Latin *recitāre* read aloud, repeat from memory (re- back, again + *citāre* to summon). —**recital** *n.* 1512, formal statement of relevant facts in a legal document, formed from English *recite* + -al². The sense of an act of reciting is first recorded in 1612, and that of musical entertainment, is found in 1811. —**recitation** *n.* 1484, act of detailing; later, act of repeating aloud (1611); borrowed through Middle French *recitation*, and directly from Latin *recitationem* (nominative *recitātiō*) a reading aloud, from *recitāre* read aloud, recite; for suffix see -ATION. —**recitative** *n.* 1656, borrowed from Italian *recitativo*, from *recitare* recite, from Latin *recitāre*; for suffix see -IVE.

reckless *adj.* Probably about 1200 *reckelaes* without care or heed, variant of *recheles* (probably before 1200); developed from Old English *reclēas* careless, thoughtless, heedless (before 899); earlier *recilēas* (before 800); formed from **reccē*, *reccē* care, heed (related to, if not developed from *reccan* to care, heed) + -lēas -less, possibly on the model of a parallel compound, as suggested by later Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *roekeloos*,

Middle Low German *rōkelōs*, and Middle High German *ruochelōs* (modern German *nuchlos*) careless, untroubled, wicked. —**reck** v. Probably about 1200 *rekken*, variant of *rechen* (1123); developed from Old English *rēcan* to care, heed (before 900); earlier *reccan* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Saxon *rōkjan* to care, heed, Middle Dutch *roeken*, Old High German *ruohen*, *ruohhen*, and Old Icelandic *rækja*, from Proto-Germanic **rōkijanan*.

reckon v. Probably before 1200 *rikenin* to list, count up, consider, answer for; variant of *recenen* (probably about 1200), and *rekenen* (about 1280); developed from Old English (before 1000) *gerecenian* to recount, relate; cognate with Old Frisian *rekenia* to reckon, Middle Low German *rekenen*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *rekenen*, Old High German *rehhanōn* (modern German *rechnen*), from Proto-Germanic **(ga-)rekenōjanan*, built on the adjective **rekenaz* ready, rapid. —**reckoning** n. Before 1325 *reckining* narrative account, also *rechning*; later *rekening* an accounting, settling of an account (1340), and calculation (about 1380); formed from English *reckon* + *-ing*¹.

reclaim v. Before 1325 *reclaymen* call or bring back, exclaim, also *reclamen* (before 1393); borrowed from Old French *reclamer*, *reclamer* to invoke or appeal, and directly from Latin *reclāmāre* cry out against, appeal (*re-* opposite, against + *clāmāre* cry out).

The meaning of bring (waste or submerged land) to a state fit for use is first recorded in 1764. —**reclamation** n. Before 1475 *reclamacion*; borrowed from Middle French *reclamation*, and directly from Latin *reclāmātiōnem* (nominative *reclāmātiō*) a cry of opposition, from *reclāmāre* see RECLAIM; for suffix see -ATION.

recline v. Probably before 1425 *reclynen* lie or lay down; borrowed through Middle French *recliner*, and directly from Latin *reclināre* (*re-* back or against + *clināre* to bend, LEAN¹).

recluse n. Probably before 1200, person who lives withdrawn from the world; borrowed from Old French *reclus* (feminine *recluse*), noun use of *reclus*, adj., shut up, from Late Latin *reclūsus*, past participle of *recludere* to shut up, enclose (Latin *re-* intensive + *cludere* to shut, CLOSE¹). —**adj.** Probably before 1200 *reclus*, *reclused* living in seclusion, cloistered; originally past participle of *reclusen* to shut up, confine; borrowed from Old French *reclus*, past participle of *reclure*, from Late Latin *recludere* to shut up. —**reclusive** adj. 1599, formed from English *recluse*, v., seclude, borrowed from Late Latin *reclūsus*, past participle + *-ive*.

recognition n. About 1450 *recognycon* knowledge of an event; *recognition* acknowledgment of someone's right to property (about 1460); borrowed from Middle French *recognition*, and directly from Latin *recognitiōnem* (nominative *recognitiō*) act of recognizing, from *recognit-*, past participle stem of *recognoscere* to acknowledge, know again, examine; see RECOGNIZE; for suffix see -TION.

recognizance n. 1414 *recognisanze*, borrowed from Old French *recognissance*, *recognissance*, and eventually displacing earlier Middle English *reconnaissance* (recorded before 1325; bor-

rowed from Old French *reconnaissance*, *reconnaissance* acknowledgment, recognition, from *reconnoiss-*, stem of *reconoistre* RECOGNIZE; for suffix see -ANCE. Compare RECONNAISSANCE.

recognize v. 1414 *recognisen* resume possession of land; borrowed from Middle French *reconnoiss-*, stem of *reconoistre* to know again, identify, recognize, from Old French, from Latin *recognoscere* acknowledge, recall to mind, know again, examine, certify (*re-* again + *cognoscere* know); for suffix see -IZE. Early forms, such as *recunyse* and *racunnisen* were direct borrowing from French, but fell away by influence of Medieval Latin *recognizare*. The meaning of perceive (someone or something) as already known, recognize, is first recorded in 1533 in the obsolete form *recognos* (*recognosce*, borrowed from Latin *recognoscere*).

recoil v. Probably before 1200 *reculen* force back, retreat; later *recoilen* (before 1250); borrowed from Old French *reculer*, from Vulgar Latin **reculāre* (from Latin *re-* back + *cūlus* backside). The meaning of shrink back is first recorded in 1513, and that of spring back, in reference to firearms, in 1530. —**n.** Probably before 1300; from the verb in Middle English, and borrowed from Old French *recul* recoil, from the verb in Old French.

recommend v. About 1375 *recomenden* commit, dedicate; borrowed from Medieval Latin *recommendare* (from Latin *re-* intensive + *commendare* commit, COMMEND). The meaning of praise or present as worthy is first recorded about 1378. The forms *recommend* and the now obsolete *recommand* were identical in Middle and early modern English, paralleling use of *commend*, *command* in Middle English and the mixed use in Medieval Latin. Later, however, the original sense of *commend* in Latin was reborrowed from Latin *commendāre*, and English *command* in the sense of convey, entrust, fell out of use. —**recommendation** n. 1408, a greeting dedication; borrowed from Old French *recommandation*, and directly from Medieval Latin *recommēdatiōnem* (nominative *recommēdatiō*), from *recommēdare*; for suffix see -ATION.

recompense v. Before 1400 *recompensen* to redress or remedy; later, to reward, repay, compensate (1422); borrowed from Middle French *recompenser*, and directly from Late Latin *recompēnsāre* (Latin *re-* again + *compēnsāre* balance out). —**n.** About 1420, payment, reward, amends; borrowed from Middle French *recompense*, from *recompenser* to recompense.

reconcile v. Probably about 1350 *reconcylen*; borrowed through Old French *reconcilier*, and directly from Latin *reconciliāre* (*re-* again + *conciliāre* make friendly). The meaning of make consistent, harmonize, is first recorded before 1398. —**reconciliation** n. About 1350 *reconsiliacioun*; borrowed through Old French *reconciliation*, and directly from Latin *reconciliātiōnem* (nominative *reconciliātiō*), from *reconciliāre* RECONCILE; for suffix see -ATION.

recondite adj. 1649, hidden from view, kept out of sight; borrowed from Latin *reconditus*, past participle of *recondere* store away (*re-* away + *condere* to store). The meaning of profound, abstruse, is first recorded in English before 1652.

reconnaissance *n.* 1810, borrowing of French *reconnaissance* act of surveying; literally, recognition, from Old French. The word was borrowed earlier as found in *reconisaunce* a legal inquiry (about 1460), and a bond acknowledging a debt (before 1325); from Old French *reconnaissance* RECOGNIZANCE.

reconnoiter *v.* 1707 *reconnoitre*, borrowing of obsolete French *reconnoître* (now *reconnaitre*), from Middle French *reconoistre* to identify, RECOGNIZE.

record *v.* Probably before 1200 *recorden* to repeat, recite; later, to set down in writing (1340); borrowed from Old French *recorder* repeat, recite, report, and directly from Latin *recordārī* remember, call to mind (*re-* restore + *cor*, genitive *cordis* heart, as the seat of memory). The meaning of put (sounds or images) into a permanent form on disks, cylinders, or tape, is first attested in 1892, probably from the noun. —**n.** Probably before 1300 *rekord* testimony; later *record* state or fact of being recorded (before 1325), and an official written account (1399); borrowed from Old French *record*, from *recorder* to record; also probably from the verb in Middle English. The disk on which sounds or images have been recorded, is first attested in 1878, and the best achievement in a sport or other endeavor, in 1883.

recorder *n.* 1 person who is in charge of record keeping, chief legal officer of a city. 1415 *recordour*, borrowed through Anglo-French *recordour*, Old French *recordēor* person who records, a witness, judge, from Medieval Latin *recordator*, from Latin *recordārī* remember. 2 wooden musical wind instrument. Probably before 1425 *recorde*, formed from English *record*, *v.* + *-er* and borrowed from Old French *recordēor*. It became very rare by the mid-1800's, as it lost popularity to the much-improved design of the flute, but revived interest in ancient instruments popularized the easily-played recorder, after 1911.

recount *v.* 1456 *recounten*; borrowed from Middle French *recontier*, from Old French (*re-* again + *conter* to relate, reckon, count).

recoup *v.* 1628, (in law) to deduct; borrowed from French *recouper* to cut back, from Old French (*re-* back + *couper* to cut, from *coup* a blow). The sense of recompense for loss or outlay is first recorded in 1664.

recourse *n.* About 1380 *recours* course or movement; also, act of relying on for help or protection (about 1385); borrowed from Old French *recours*, *recors*, and directly from Latin *recursus* (genitive *recursūs*) return or retreat, from *recurs-*, stem of the past participle of *currere* run back, return RECUR.

recover *v.* Probably before 1300 *rekeveren*, *recoveren* get back something lost, etc.; also, to regain strength or health, recuperate; borrowed through Anglo-French *rekeverer*, *recoverer*, Old French *recouper*, from Latin *recuperāre* to recover. —**recovery** *n.* Possibly about 1303 *recouere* help; later, a coming back to health or normal condition (before 1338), and *recoveree* a gaining possession by legal action (1424); borrowed through Anglo-French *recoverie*, *recovery*, *rekevere*, Old French *recouree*, from past participle of *recouper* RECOVER.

recreant *adj.* Probably before 1300 *recreaunt* defeated; later, *recreant* surrender, subdued (before 1338), cowardly (probably

about 1390); borrowed from Old French *recreant*, *adj.* and *n.*, yielding or giving, present participle of *recoire* to yield in a trial by combat, surrender allegiance (*re-* again + *croire* entrust, believe, from Latin *crēdere*); for suffix see -ANT. —**n.** Probably before 1400, coward, from the adjective; later traitor, apostate, (1570).

recreation *n.* Before 1393 *recreacioun* refreshment or curing of a person, refreshment by eating; borrowed from Old French *recreación*, and directly from Latin *recreātiōnem* (nominative *recreātiō*) recovery from illness, from *recreāre* to refresh, restore (*re-* again + *creāre* to CREATE); for suffix see -ATION. The meaning of refreshing oneself by some amusement (as in *to read for recreation*) is found about 1400, and that of a means of refreshing oneself (as in *reading is her recreation*) in 1410. —**recreate** *v.* About 1425 *recreaten* refresh (oneself); probably borrowed from Latin *recreātus*, past participle of *recreāre* refresh; and a later back formation from *recreation*; for suffix see -ATE¹. —**recreational** *adj.* (1656).

recriminate *v.* 1603, borrowed, by influence of Middle French *récriminer*, from Medieval Latin *recriminatus*, past participle of *recriminari* (from Latin *re-* again or back + *crīmīnārī* to accuse, from *crimen*, genitive *crīmīnis* a charge, CRIME); for suffix see -ATE¹. —**recrimination** *n.* 1611, borrowed from French *recrimination* the making of a counter-accusation, from Medieval Latin *recriminationem* (nominative *recriminatio*), from *recriminari* recriminate; for suffix see -ATION.

recrudescence *n.* 1721, formed from Latin *recrūdescere* (of wounds) reopen + English *-ence*. —**recrudescence** *adj.* 1727, formed in English after Latin *recrūdescens* (nominative *recrūdescēns*), present participle of *recrūdescere* reopen; for suffix see -ENT.

recruit *n.* Before 1643, recovery or renewal; borrowed from obsolete French *recrute*, variant of *recrue*, literally, new growth, from Old French *recrēū*, past participle of *recrēistre* grow or increase again (*re-* again + *creistre* to grow, from Latin *crēscere* grow). The form *recruit* is a replacement of *recrue* a body of military reinforcements (1619). —**v.** 1655, to enlist new soldiers; borrowed from French *recruter*, from *recrute*, variant of *recrue* recruit, *n.*

rectangle *n.* 1571, borrowed from Middle French *rectangle* (*rect-*, combining form from Latin *rectus* RIGHT + Old French *angle* ANGLE¹). The form *rectangle* was also known from Medieval Latin *rectangulum* a triangle having a right angle, from *rectangulus* having a right angle (altered from Late Latin *rectiāngulus*, from Latin *rectus* right + *angulus* an angle). The Medieval Latin *rectangulus* was the source for the now obsolete *rectangle*, *rectangled*, *adj.*, having a right angle (1570). —**rectangular** *adj.* 1624, shaped like a rectangle; borrowed from Middle French *rectangulaire* (*rect-* right + *angulaire* angular, from Latin *angulāris* ANGULAR); for suffix see -AR.

rectify *v.* 1392 *rectifier*; borrowed from Old French *rectifier*, Medieval Latin *rectificare* make right, from a lost adjective **rectificus* (from Latin *rectus* straight, RIGHT + the root of *facere* to make); for suffix see -FY. —**rectification** *n.* Before 1400, borrowed through Middle or Old French *rectificacion*, and

directly from Medieval Latin *rectificationem* (nominative *rectificatio*) the act or fact of making right or remedying, from *rectificare* to RECTIFY; for suffix see -FICATION.

rectitude *n.* Probably before 1425, straightness; borrowed from Middle French *rectitude*, and directly from Late Latin *rectitudo* straightness, uprightness, from Latin *rectus* straight, RIGHT; for suffix see -TUDE. The sense of upright conduct or character, appeared in English before 1533.

rector *n.* Before 1387 *rector* ruler, head of a school, clergyman in charge of a parish; borrowed from Old French *rector*, *rectour* and directly from Latin *rector* ruler, governor, guide, from *rect-*, past participle stem of *regere* to rule, guide; see RIGHT; for suffix see -OR². —**rectory** *n.* 1448, house of a rector (implied in *rectory-bok* account book of a parish); borrowed from Middle French *rectorie*, and directly from Medieval Latin *rectoria* the office of a rector, house of a rector, from Latin *rector* ruler; for suffix see -Y³.

rectum *n.* Probably before 1425, borrowing of Latin *rectum* in *intestinum rectum* straight intestine, with *rectum*, *n.* from neuter past participle of *regere* to straighten, rule; see RIGHT. —**rectal** *adj.* 1872, formed from English *rectum* + -al¹.

recumbent *adj.* 1705, borrowed from Latin *recumbentem* (nominative *recumbens*), present participle of *recumbere* to recline (*re-* back + *-cumbere* to lie down, related to *cubare* be lying); for suffix see -ENT.

recuperate *v.* 1542, get back, regain, recover; borrowed from Latin *recuperatus*, past participle of *recuperare* to recover, related to *recipere* to RECEIVE; for suffix see -ATE¹. —**recuperation** *n.* 1481, recovery or regaining of things; borrowed from Middle French *recupération*, and directly from Latin *recuperationem* (nominative *recuperatio*), from *recuperare* recover; for suffix see -ATION.

recur *v.* 1529, have recourse, resort; later, go back or return (1620); borrowed from Latin *recurere* to return, come back (*re-*back, again + *curre* to run). The meaning of happen again, is first recorded in 1673. —**recurrence** *n.* 1646, renewed, frequent, or periodical occurrence, formed from English *recur* + -ence; as a noun to *recurrent*. —**recurrent** *adj.* 1611, borrowed from Latin *recurrentem* (nominative *recurrens*), present participle of *recurere* to RECUR; for suffix see -ENT.

recycle *v.* 1926, implied in *recycling*; formed from English *re-*again + *cycle*, *v.*

red *adj.* Probably before 1200 *red*, developed from Old English (about 700) *rēad* red; cognate with Old Frisian *rād* red, Old Saxon *rōd*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *rood*, Old High German *rōt* (modern German *rot*), Old Icelandic *raudhr* (Swedish *röd*, Danish and Norwegian *rod*), and Gothic *rauths*, from Proto-Germanic **raudaz*.

The original long vowel of Old and Middle English remains in the surnames *Read*, *Reade*, but was supplanted by a short vowel in the adjective which is phonetically parallel with the development of *lead*, *bread*, etc., that also had a long vowel in Middle and Old English. —**n.** About 1250 *rede*, from the adjective. The sense of *red* as a noun and adjective referring to

the revolutionary political movements in Europe, developed from the meaning of marked by blood or violence, found as early as 1297, and from reference to the red flag carried as a sign of defiance in battle (1602). First specific political reference in English is recorded in 1848 in news reports about the Second French Republic, styled the *Red Republic* by the British press. —**redbird** *n.* (1260) —**redbreast** *n.* (before 1425) —**red cent** a form of copper penny no longer circulated. 1839 (found in *not worth a red cent*). —**redde** *v.* Before 1393 *reden*, developed from Old English (about 950) *rēadian*. —**reddish** *adj.* 1392, *redisch*; formed from Middle English *rēd*, *adj.* + -ish. —**red-faced** *adj.* (1948; earlier, *red in the face*, about 1475). —**red-handed** *adj.* (1819) —**redhead** *n.* (1256) —**red herring** 1884, something used to draw attention away from the real issue, referring to a herring (reddened by the smoking process, before 1333) supposedly used by fugitives to put bloodhounds off their trail (1686). —**red-hot** *adj.* (probably before 1425) —**red lead (1295) —**red-letter** *adj.* 1704 **red-letter day** memorable; originally, a saint's day, indicated on church calendars by red letters (about 1385). —**red tape** 1736, excessive bureaucratic routine; so called in allusion to the red-colored tape formerly used in Great Britain for tying up legal and official documents. —**red wine** (about 1150) —**redwood** *n.* 1832; earlier, wood yielding red dye (1634).**

red- a variant of the prefix *re-* before vowels in some words, such as *redaction*, *redeem*, *redolent*, *redundant*.

redeem *v.* About 1415 *redemen* buy back, pay off, free, deliver; possibly a back formation from *redemption*, and borrowed with alteration from Middle French *redimer* buy back, from Latin *redimere* (*red-*, back + *-imere*, combining form of *emere* to take, buy, gain, procure). —**redeemer** *n.* (probably before 1425) —**redemption** *n.* About 1340 *redempcioun*, borrowed from Old French *redemption*, and directly from Latin *redemptionem* (nominative *redemptio*) a buying back, releasing, ransoming, from *redempt-*, past participle stem of *redimere* to redeem; for suffix see -TION.

redingote *n.* 1793, borrowed from French *redingote* (1725), alteration of English *riding coat* long overcoat worn to protect a horseback rider from rain, mud, etc. *Riding coat* is first recorded in English as *riding cote* (1507).

redolent *adj.* Probably about 1400, borrowed from Middle or Old French *redolent* emitting an odor, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *redolentem* (nominative *redolens*), present participle of *redolere* emit a scent (*red-* intensive form + *olere* give off a smell); for suffix see -ENT. —**redolence** *n.* Probably before 1425, borrowed from Middle French *redolence*, from *redolent*, and probably directly from Medieval Latin *redolentia*, from Latin *redolere*; for suffix see -ENCE; also formed in Middle English as a noun to the earlier adjective *redolent*.

redouble *v.* About 1443 *redoublen*; borrowed from Middle French *redoubler*, *redobler*, from Old French (*re-* again + *doubler* to DOUBLE).

redoubt *n.* Before 1608, borrowed from French *redoute*, from Italian *ridotto*, from Medieval Latin *reductus* (genitive *reductus*) refuge, retreat, from Latin *reduct-*, stem of the past participle of

Latin *redūcere* to lead or bring back. The *b* in *redoubt* and in the verb *redoubten* to dread, fear (1417), is an alteration influenced by English *doubt*.

redoubtable *adj.* About 1380 *redoutable* venerable; borrowed from Old French *redoutable*, from *redouter* to dread (*re-* intensive + *douter* be afraid of, DOUBT) + *-able* -able.

The spelling with *b* is probably by association with *doubt*.

redound *v.* 1382 *redounden* to overflow, flow back, come back as a result; borrowed from Old French *redonder* overflow, abound, from Latin *redundāre* to overflow; see REDUNDANT. The sense of contribute, in *redound to*, is first recorded probably before 1425.

redox *n.* 1928, chemical reaction, acronym formed from *red(uction)* + *ox(idation)*.

redress *v.* Probably before 1350 *redressen*, borrowed from Old French *redrecier*, *redresser* (*re-* again + *drecier*, *dresser* to straighten, arrange).

The sense of restore, correct, remedy, is first recorded in 1375, and that of set right by compensation, in 1395. —**n.** About 1385, borrowed from Old French *redrece*, *redresse*, from *redresser* to REDRESS.

reduce *v.* About 1375 *redusen* bring or lead back, bring down; also, to trace to a source (probably about 1378); borrowed from Old French *reducer*, *reducier*, and Latin *redūcere* (*re-* back + *dūcere* bring, lead). The meaning of diminish, lower, lessen, is first recorded in Middle English about 1380. —**reduction** *n.* Probably before 1425 *reduccioun* action of bringing back; borrowed from Middle French *réduction*, and directly from Latin *reductiōnem* (nominative *reductiō*) a leading back, restoration, from *reduct-*, past participle stem of *redūcere* to lead or bring back, drawback; for suffix see -TION.

redundant *adj.* 1594, excessive, superfluous; borrowed, perhaps by influence of French *redondant*, from Latin *redundantem* (nominative *redundāns*), present participle of *redundāre* to overflow, come back, contribute (*red-* again + *undāre* rise in waves, from *unda* a wave); for suffix see -ANT. —**redundancy** *n.* 1601–02, state or quality of being redundant; borrowed from Latin *redundantia* an overflow, excess, from *redundantem* (nominative *redundāns*), present participle of *redundāre*, see REDUNDANT; for suffix see -ANCY.

reed *n.* Before 1250 *red*; developed from Old English (about 700) *hrēod* reed; cognate with Old Frisian *hriād* reed, Old Saxon *hriod*, Middle Low German *rēt*, Middle Dutch *ried* (modern Dutch *riet*), and Old High German *hriot*, riot (modern German *Ried*), from Proto-Germanic **Hreudān*. —**reedy** *adj.* (before 1382).

reef¹ *n.* narrow ridge near the surface of the water. 1584 *riffe*, *riff*, probably borrowed from earlier Dutch *riffe*, from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *rif* ridge, rib; probably related to *reef*²).

reef² *n.* section of a sail. Before 1336–37 *riff* (in the compound *rifrope*) from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *rif* reef (of a sail), probably a transferred use of *rif* ridge, rib and

thereby probably related to *reef*¹). The spelling *reef* (1667) was reshaped perhaps under influence of Middle English *ref* garment). —**v.** 1667, from the noun.

reefer¹ *n.* 1818, one who reefs, especially a midshipman; formed from English *reef*², *v.* + *-er*¹. The short coat of thick cloth, worn originally by sailors and fishermen, is first recorded in 1878.

reefer² *n.* a marijuana cigarette. 1931, of uncertain origin (perhaps an alteration of Mexican Spanish *grifo* marijuana, drug addict + *-er*¹, or from *reef*² a section of rolled sail + *-er*¹ in reference to rolling such a cigarette).

reek *n.* About 1250 *reke*, smoke, vapor, mist; developed from Old English (before 725) *rēc* (Anglian) and **rie*c (possibly West Saxon); probably borrowed as a loan word from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *reykr*), from Proto-Germanic **raukiz*. The Old English and Old Icelandic forms are cognate with Old Frisian *rēk* smoke, Old Saxon and Middle Low German *rōk*, Middle Dutch *rooc* (modern Dutch *rook*), and Old High German *rouh* (modern German *Rauch*). —**v.** About 1300 *reken* send out vapor or smoke; earlier (of smoke or stench) to rise (about 1250); developed from Old English, (before 725) Anglian *rēcan*, (about 1000) West Saxon *rēcān*; cognates with Old Frisian *rēka* to smoke, Middle Low German *rēken* to smell, *rōken* to smoke, Middle Dutch *rūken*, *rieken* to smell (modern Dutch *ruiken*, *rieken*), Old High German *rouhhan*, *riohhan* to smoke, smell (modern German *rauchen* to smoke, *riechen* to smell), and Old Icelandic *rjúka* to smoke (Norwegian *ryke*, *øyke*, Swedish *ryka*, Danish *ryge*), from Proto-Germanic **reukanan*.

reel¹ *n.* frame turning on an axis. Before 1325 *reel*; developed from Old English (about 1050) *hrēol* reel for winding thread (from Proto-Germanic **HreHulaz*); probably related to *hrægel*, *hrægl* garment, clothing, which are cognate with Old Icelandic *hræll* spindle, Old High German *hregil* garment, and Old Frisian *hreil*. —**v.** Probably before 1387 *reelen*, from the noun in Middle English.

reel² *v.* to sway, swing, or rock. 1375 *relen* to whirl, rush about, sway; probably from *reel*¹, *n.*, suggested by the spinning action of a *reel*. —**n.** 1572, from the verb.

reel³ *n.* lively dance of the Scottish Highlanders. Before 1585, probably special use of REEL².

reentry *n.* 1443 *reentre*, formed from Middle English *re-* + *entre*, *n.*, entry, probably on the model of Middle French *rentree*. —**reenter** *v.* 1439 *reentren*, formed from Middle English *re-* + *entren*, probably on the model of Middle French *rentrer*.

refectory *n.* Probably before 1425, borrowed from Late Latin *refectōrium*, from Latin *refect-*, past participle stem of *reficere* to refresh (*re-* again + the root of *facere* make); for suffix see -ORY.

refer *v.* About 1380 *referren* trace back, assign, or attribute (something) to a person or thing; borrowed from Old French *referer*, or directly from Latin *referre* (*re-* back + *ferre* carry). —**reference** *n.* 1589, formed from English *refer* + *-ence*.

—**referent** *n.* 1844, formed from English *refer* + *-ent*.
 —**referral** *n.* 1920's, formed from *refer* + *-al*².

referee *n.* 1621, person who examines patent applications; formed from English *refer* + *-ee*. A person to whom a dispute is referred is first recorded in 1670, and the judge of play in games and sports, in 1840. —**v.** 1889, from the noun.

referendum *n.* 1847, borrowed through French *référéndum* and German *Referendum*, from Latin *referendum* that which must be referred; literally, thing to be brought back, from neuter gerundive of *referre* to bring or take back, **REFER**.

refine *v.* 1582, but possibly implied earlier in *refined* as a past tense taking on past participial use, formed from English *re-intensive* + *fine*, *v.*, make fine. —**refined** *adj.* 1574, subtle; either as a past tense of *refine* or as a past participle formed from English *refine* + *-ed*². The sense of cultivated, elegant, is first recorded in 1588. —**refinement** *n.* 1611, state of being refined; formed from English *refine* + *-ment*. —**refinery** *n.* 1727, formed from English *refine* + *-ery*.

reflect *v.* 1392 *reflecten* to turn or bend back; later, to deflect, divert (before 1420); borrowed from Old French *reflecer*, and directly from Latin *reflectere* bend back (*re-* back + *flectere* to bend). The meaning of turn back or throw back (light, etc.) is first recorded in 1429, probably from earlier use of this sense in *reflection*. —**reflection** *n.* About 1380 *reflexion* something that reflects a person's temperament; later, reflecting from a surface (1395); borrowed from Old French *reflexion*, and directly from Late Latin *reflexiōnem* (nominative *reflexiō*), from Latin *reflex-*, past participle stem of *reflectere* reflect; for suffix see *-ION*. The spelling with *t* (recorded before 1398) became the established form by the 1700's, influenced by the verb. —**reflector** *n.* (1665)

reflex *n.* 1508, reflected light, reflection of light; from the verb in English, and probably borrowed from Middle French *réflexe*, from Latin *reflexus*, from past participle of *reflectere* to reflect. The meaning of involuntary nerve stimulation is first recorded in 1877. —**adj.** 1649, directed back upon the mind; from the noun, and borrowed from Latin *reflexus*, past participle of *reflectere*. The meaning of involuntary is first recorded in 1833. —**v.** Before 1425 *reflexen* reflect or deflect; borrowed from Latin *reflexus* a bending back, from past participle of *reflectere* to **REFLECT**. —**reflexive** *adj.* 1588, capable of bending back; borrowed from Medieval Latin *reflexivus*, from Latin *reflexus*, past participle; for suffix see *-IVE*. The meaning in grammar is first recorded in 1837.

reform *v.* 1340 *reformen* make again, improve; borrowed from Old French *reformer*, from Latin *reformāre* (*re-* again + *formāre* to **FORM**). —**n.** 1663, improvement, removal of some abuse or wrong; from the verb. —**reformation** *n.* Before 1398 *reformacioun* restoration; later, improvement (about 1440); borrowed from Old French *reformation*, from Latin *reformātiōnem* (nominative *reformātiō*) a reforming, amending, transformation, from *reformāre* to **REFORM**; for suffix see *-ATION*. The *Reformation*, referring to the European religious movement is first recorded in English *reformation*, perhaps before 1548. —**reformatory** *n.* 1837, formed as if from Latin **reform-*

mātōrium, from *reformāt-*, past participle stem of *reformāre* to **REFORM**; for suffix see *-ORY*.

refract *v.* 1612, back formation from *refraction*, and borrowed from Latin *refractus*, past participle of *refringere* break up (*re-* back + *-fringere*, combining form of *frangere* to **BREAK**). —**refraction** *n.* 1578, action of breaking up; later, process of bending a ray (1603); borrowed from Late Latin *refrāctiōnem* (nominative *refrāctiō*) a breaking up, from Latin *refract-*, past participle stem of *refringere* break up; for suffix see *-TION*. —**refractory** *adj.* 1606, alteration of *refractarie*, *refractory* (1604, and as a noun, 1599); borrowed, perhaps by influence of French *réfractaire*, from Latin *refrāctārius* obstinate, from *refract-*, past participle stem of *refringere*; for suffix see *-ORY*, *-ARY*.

refrain¹ *v.* hold back. Probably about 1350 *refreynen* to restrain; borrowed from Old French *refreiner*, *refreiner*, *refraigner* restrain, repress, from Late Latin *refrēnāre* bridle, hold in with a bit (*re-* back + *frēnāre* to restrain, furnish with a bridle, from *frēnum* a bridle).

refrain² *n.* verse repeated in a song or poem. About 1385 *refrein*, borrowed from Old French *refrain*, alteration of *refrait*, from past participle of *refraindre* repeat; also, break off, from Vulgar Latin **refrangere* break off, alteration of Latin *refringere*; see **REFRACT**.

refrangible *adj.* 1673, formed as if from Latin **refrangere* (alteration of *refringere* break up) + English *-ible*.

refresh *v.* About 1380 *refresshen*, *refresschen* make fresh, restore, strengthen; borrowed from Old French *refrescher* (*re-* again + *fresche* fresh, from a Germanic source; compare Old High German *frisc* **FRESH**). —**refresher** *n.* (before 1449) —**refreshment** *n.* About 1385, borrowed from Old French *refreschement*, from *refrescher* to refresh; for suffix see *-MENT*. Use of *refreshments*, *pl.*, food or drink, is first recorded in 1665.

refrigerate *v.* 1534, to cool, make cold, freeze; back formation from *refrigeration* and from *refrigerate*, *adj.* (probably about 1440); borrowed from Latin *refrigerātus*, past participle of *refrigerāre* (*re-* again + *frigerāre* make cool, from the lost stem **friger-* of the noun *frigus*, genitive *frigoris*, cold); for suffix see *-ATE*¹. —**refrigeration** *n.* 1471 *refrygeracion* act of cooling or freezing; borrowed from Latin *refrigerātiōnem* (nominative *refrigerātiō*) mitigation of heat, especially in a diseased condition, from *refrigerāre* to **REFRIGERATE**; for suffix see *-ATION*. —**refrigerator** *n.* 1611, something that cools; formed from English *refrigerate* + *-or*². The cabinet for keeping food cool is first recorded in 1824.

refuge *n.* About 1385, borrowed from Old French *refuge*, from Latin *refugium* a taking refuge, place to flee back to (*re-* back + *fugere* to flee + *-ium* place for). —**refugee** *n.* 1685 *refugie*; (1687) *refugee*; borrowed from French *refugié*, past participle of *refugier* to take shelter, protect, either from the noun in Old French or from Latin *refugium* refuge.

refulgent *adj.* Before 1500, brilliant; borrowed from Middle French *refulgent*, or directly from Latin *refulgens* (nominative *refulgens*), present participle of *refulgere* flash back, shine brilliantly (*re-* back + *fulgere* to shine); for suffix see *-ENT*.

—**refulgence** *n.* 1634, borrowed from Latin *refulgentia* reflected luster, splendor, from *refulgēns*, present participle of *refulgere*; for suffix see -ENCE.

refund¹ *v.* pay back. Probably before 1425 *refunden* to transmit influence, restore; borrowed from Old French *refunder* restore, and directly as a learned borrowing from Latin *refundere* pour back, give back, restore (*re-* back + *fundere* to pour). —*n.* return of money paid. 1866, from the verb (but the sense of restoration of money paid is found in *refundment*, 1826).

refund² *v.* change debt into new form. 1860, formed from *re-* again + *fund*, *v.*

refurbish *v.* 1611, formed from English from *re-* again + *furbish*, on the model of French *refourbir*.

refuse¹ *v.* decline to accept. Probably before 1300 *refusen* reject, decline; borrowed from Old French *refuser*, from Vulgar Latin **refūsare*, frequentative form with past participle stem *refūs-* of Latin *refundere* pour back, give back; see REFUND¹. It is also possible that Old French *refuser* was an alteration confused with *refute* in borrowing of Latin *refutāre* drive back, repress; see REFUTE. —**refusal** *n.* 1474, formed from English *refuse*¹ + *-al*².

refuse² *n.* waste. Before 1338 *refous* an outcast; later, waste or trash (about 1390); borrowed from Old French *refus* waste product, rubbish, from *refuser* to REFUSE¹. —**adj.** About 1385 *refus* despised, rejected; possibly borrowed from Old French *refuse*, past participle of *refuser* to refuse; also perhaps confused with Old French *refus* refugee, *refus* refuge; also possibly the adjective use developed from the noun.

refute *v.* 1513, to refuse or reject; borrowed from Middle French *réfuter*, and directly from Latin *refutāre* drive back, repress, repel, rebut (*re-* back + *-fūtāre* to beat). The meaning of prove to be incorrect is first recorded in 1545. —**refutation** *n.* Before 1548, borrowed from Middle French *réfutation*, and directly from Latin *refutātiōnem* (nominative *refutātiō*) disproof of a claim or argument, from *refutāre* to refute; for suffix see -ATION.

regal *adj.* About 1380, possibly, developed from the now obsolete noun in the sense of sovereignty, royal person, borrowed from Old French *regal*, *regale*; also borrowed from Latin *regālis* royal, kingly, from *rēx* (genitive *rēgis*) king; for suffix see -AL¹.

regale *v.* 1656, to feast or entertain sumptuously; borrowed from French *régaler* to entertain or feast, from Old French *regale*, *rigale* feast, from *gale* merriment, from *galer* make merry, of uncertain origin. Old French *rigale* was influenced by *se rigoler* amuse oneself, rejoice, also of uncertain origin.

regalia *n. pl.* Before 1540, royal powers or privileges; later, emblems of royalty (1626); reborrowed from Latin *regālia* royal things, from neuter plural of *regālis* REGAL, and replacing earlier Middle English *regalie* royal powers or status (before 1393), emblems of royalty (before 1420); borrowed from Latin *regālia*, possibly by influence of Old French *regale* royal powers, also from Latin *regālia*.

regard *n.* 1348, consideration; later, appearance (about 1380); borrowed from Old French *regard*, from *regarder*, *reguarder* take notice of (*re-* intensive + *garder*, *guarder* look, heed). The meaning of esteem, kindly feeling, is first found probably before 1396. —*v.* About 1348 *regarden* to consider; later, take notice of (about 1430); borrowed from Old French *regarder*, *reguarder*. —**regardless** *adj.* 1591, indifferent. —**adv.** 1872, in spite of all, anyway.

regatta *n.* 1652, name of a boat race among gondoliers held on the Grand Canal in Venice; borrowing of Italian (Venetian dialect) *regatta* literally, a contention for mastery, from *regattare* to compete, haggle, sell at retail, possibly from *recatare*, **recattare*. The general meaning of a boat or yacht race, is first recorded in English in 1775.

regenerate *v.* 1541, form or grow again; probably a back formation from *regeneration*, and developed from adjective and past participle *regenerate*; replacing earlier *regeneren* to cause to grow again (before 1400; borrowed from Old French *regenerer*, and directly from Latin *regenerāre*); for suffix see -ATE¹. —**adj.** 1433, reborn, formed anew, borrowed from Latin *regenerātus*, past participle of *regenerāre* to REGENERATE. —**regeneration** *n.* About 1350 *regeneraciun* spiritual rebirth; later, act of forming or growing again (probably before 1425); borrowed through Old French *regeneration* and directly from Late Latin *regene-rātiōnem* (nominative *regenerātiō*) a being born again, the act or fact of forming anew, from Latin *regenerāre* make over, generate again (*re-* again + *generāre* to produce, GENERATE); for suffix see -ATION. —**regenerative** *adj.* 1392, borrowed through Old French *regeneratif* (feminine *regenerative*), and directly from Medieval Latin *regenerativus*, from Latin *regenerāre* to REGENERATE.

regent *n.* About 1400, one who rules or governs; earlier, member of a university faculty (before 1397); borrowed through Old French *regent*, and directly from Medieval Latin *regentem* (nominative *regens*), from Latin *regēs* ruler, governor; also present participle of *regere* to rule, direct; for suffix see -ENT. The person appointed to rule in place of the actual king, is first recorded in before 1420. —**adj.** Before 1387, acting as a university regent; borrowed through Old French *regent*, and directly from Medieval Latin *regentem* (nominative *regens*) from Latin *regēs*, present participle of *regere* to rule; for suffix see -ENT. —**regency** *n.* Probably before 1430 *regencie*; borrowed from Medieval Latin *regentia*; from *regens* regent; for suffix see -CY.

reggae *n.* 1968, Jamaican English, of uncertain origin (compare *rege-rege* a quarrel, protest; literally, ragged clothes, variant form of *raga-raga*, alteration and reduplication of English *rag*).

regicide¹ *n.* crime of killing a king. 1602, formed from Latin *rēx* (genitive *rēgis*) king + English suffix *-icide*².

regicide² *n.* person who kills a king. Before 1548; formed from Latin *rēx* (genitive *rēgis*) king + English suffix *-icide*¹.

regime or **régime** *n.* About 1475, course of diet, exercise, etc., prescribed for health, borrowed from Middle French *regime*, from Latin *regimen*; later, system of government or rule

(1792), borrowed from French *régime*, from Latin *regimen* rule, guidance, government.

regimen *n.* Before 1400, course of diet, exercise, etc., prescribed for health; borrowed from Latin *regimen* rule, guidance, government, from *regere* to rule.

regiment *n.* Before 1393, government, rule, control; borrowed from Old French *regiment* government, rule, from Late Latin *regimentum* rule, direction, from Latin *regere* to rule; for suffix see -MENT. The meaning of a unit of an army is first recorded in English in 1579, from French. —**v.** 1617, from the noun. The meaning of organize systematically is first recorded in 1698. —**regimental** *adj.* 1702, formed from English *regiment*, *n.* + -AL. —**regimentation** *n.* 1877, the act or process of regimenting; formed from English *regiment*, *v.* + -ation.

region *n.* Probably before 1300 *regioun* large tract of land, country, territory, kingdom; later *region* (before 1338); borrowed through Anglo-French *regioun*, Old French *region*, from Latin *regiōnem* (nominative *regiō*) direction, boundary, district, country, from *regere* to direct, rule; for suffix see -ION. —**regional** *adj.* Probably before 1425 *regionale*, borrowed from Latin *regiōnālis* of or belonging to a region, from *regiō* region; for suffix see -AL.

register *n.* About 1378 *registre*, borrowed from Old French *registre*, and directly from Medieval Latin *registrum*, alteration of Late Latin *regesta* list, matters recorded, from Latin *regesta*, neuter plural of *regestus*, past participle of *regerere* to record (*re-* back + *gerere* carry, bear).

The device by which data is automatically recorded, is first attested in 1830, and was later extended to *cash register* in 1875; from the verb. —**v.** Before 1393 *registren*, borrowed from Old French *registren*, *registrer*, and directly from Medieval Latin *registrare*, from *registrum* register, *n.* —**registration** *n.* Apparently 1566, act of registering; borrowed through Middle French *registration*, and directly from Medieval Latin *registrationem* (nominative *registratio*), from *registrare* to register; for suffix see -ATION. —**registry** *n.* 1483, formed from English *register*, *v.* + -ry.

registrar *n.* 1675, shortened form of *registrary* registrar (about 1541), and replacing *registerer* (about 1475), and *register*, *registre* (before 1443), both from the noun in Middle English. The form in modern English was borrowed from Medieval Latin *registrarius* one who keeps a record.

regnant *adj.* 1600, perhaps from noun in the sense of sovereign (before 1500), borrowed from Latin *regnātem* (nominative *regnāns*) reigning, present participle of *regnāre* to REIGN; for suffix see -ANT. The sense of predominant is first recorded in 1621, and that of widespread in 1625.

regress *n.* About 1375 *regresse* a going back, return; borrowed from Latin *regressus* (genitive *regressūs*) a return, from *regress-*, stem of the past participle of *regredi* to go back (*re-* back + *gradi* to step, walk). —**v.** 1552, to return to a former state; borrowed from Latin *regressus*, past participle of *regredi* to go back. —**regression** *n.* Probably before 1425, repetition; borrowed from Latin *regressiōnem* (nominative *regressiō*) a going back,

return, from *regress-*, past participle stem of *regredi* go back; for suffix see -SION. The meaning of reversion or relapse, is first recorded in 1646. —**regressive** *adj.* 1634, formed from English *regress*, *v.* + -ive.

regret *v.* Probably about 1380 *regretten* feel sorry for or about, lament; borrowed from Old French *regreter* long after, bewail, lament, *regrater* (*re-* intensive + *-greter*, *-grater*, possibly from a Frankish form cognate with Gothic *grētan* weep, Old English *grāetan*, and Old Icelandic *grāta* to weep, groan).

The sense of feel distress (as in *to regret causing trouble*) is first recorded in 1553. —**n.** 1533, complaint, lament; borrowed from Middle French *regret*, from Old French, from *regreter* to regret. The meaning of sorrow, disappointment, is first recorded in 1590.

regular *adj.* Before 1387 *reguler* belonging to a religious order bound by certain rules; borrowed from Old French *reguler*, and directly as a learned borrowing from Late Latin *rēgularis* containing rules for guidance, from Latin *rēgula* RULE; for suffix see -AR.

The meaning of following some rule or principle, symmetrical, is first recorded in 1571, and that of marked by steadiness or uniformity, habitual, constant, is implied in *regularly* in order, systematically, 1392. —**n.** About 1400, member of a religious order bound by certain rules, from the adjective. —**regularity** *n.* 1603, formed from English *regular* + -ity, perhaps on the model of French *régularité*.

regulate *v.* Probably before 1425, borrowed from Late Latin *rēgulātus*, past participle of *rēgulāre* to control by rule, direct, from Latin *rēgula* rule; for suffix see -ATE. —**regulation** *n.* 1672, act of regulating; later, rule, law (before 1715); formed from English *regulate* + -ation. —**regulator** *n.* 1655, formed from English *regulate* + -or.

regurgitate *v.* Before 1640, to surge or flow back; possibly a back formation from *regurgitation*, and borrowed from Medieval Latin *regurgitatus*, past participle of *regurgitare* to overflow (Late Latin *re-* back + *gurgitāre* engulf, flood, found in Latin *ingurgitāre* to pour in, gorge; *gurgitāre*, from *gurgēs* whirlpool, abyss); for suffix see -ATE.

The meaning of throw up, vomit, is first recorded in English in 1753. —**regurgitation** *n.* 1601, act of regurgitating; probably in part borrowed from Middle French *rēgurgitation*, and directly from Medieval Latin *regurgitationem* (nominative *regurgitatio*), from *regurgitare* to overflow; for suffix see -ATION. It is also possible that *regurgitation* is a formation in English on *gurgitation* (1542), or that it was formed as a complement to *ingurgitation* 1530.

rehabilitate *v.* 1580–81, restore to a former rank, privilege, or reputation; possibly a back formation from *rehabilitation*, and borrowed from Medieval Latin *rehabilitatus*, past participle of *rehabilitare* (*re-* again + *habilitare* make fit, from Latin *habilis* easily managed, fit); for suffix see -ATE. The meaning of restore to a good condition is first recorded in English in 1845. —**rehabilitation** *n.* 1533–34, act of rehabilitating; borrowed from Middle French *rēhabilitation*, and directly from Medieval

Latin *rehabilitationem* (nominative *rehabilitatio*) restoration, from *rehabilitare*; for suffix see -ATION.

rehearse *v.* Probably before 1300 *rehercen* utter, express; also, repeat, reiterate (before 1325); borrowed through Anglo-French *rehearser*, Old French *rehercier*, *reherser* to rake over (*re-* again + *hercier* to rake, harrow, from *herce* harrow). The meaning of practice a play, part, etc., is first recorded in 1579–80, from the sense of go over or through some subject matter (before 1376). —**rehearsal** *n.* About 1395, act of recounting, recital; formed from *rehearse* + *-al*².

reify *v.* 1854, back formation from *reification*, as found in *deify*, *deification*. —**reification** *n.* 1846, formed from Latin *rē-* (stem of *rēs* thing, matter) + English connective *-i-* + English suffix *-fication*, as found in *deification*.

reign *n.* Probably about 1225 *rengne* kingdom; later *reyn* (before 1300), *regne* (about 1300); borrowed from Old French *reigne*, from Latin *rēgnū* dominion, rule, realm. The Old French spelling with *i* began to appear before 1387 but did not prevail until the 1600's. The period of a sovereign's rule is first recorded before 1338. —**v.** Probably about 1280 *regner*, borrowed from Old French *regner*, from Latin *rēgnāre*, from *rēgnū* reign, *n.*

reimburse *v.* 1611, formed from English *re-* back + obsolete *imburse* to pay, enrich, put in a purse (about 1530), borrowed from Middle French *embourser* (Old French *em-* in + *borser* to get money, from *borse* purse, from Medieval Latin *bursa* PURSE). The form *reimburse* was probably influenced by French *rembourser* reimburse. —**reimbursement** *n.* 1611, formed from English *re-* back + (obsolete) *imburse* + *-ment*.

rein *n.* Probably before 1300 *rein* strap fastened to a bridle; borrowed from Old French *reine*, *rene*, *resne*, probably from Vulgar Latin **retina* a bond, check, from Latin *retinēre* hold back, RETAIN.

The meaning of control, a check or restraint, is first recorded about 1325. —**v.** Probably about 1300 *reinen* tether; from the noun. The meaning of put a check or restraint on is first recorded in 1588.

reindeer *n.* Before 1400 *rayne-dere*; also *reyndere* (probably about 1408); borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *hreindýri* reindeer, formed of *hreinn* the usual name for the reindeer + *dýr* animal; see DEER). Old Icelandic *hreinn* is cognate with Old English *hrān* reindeer, from Proto-Germanic **Hrainaz*.

reinforce *v.* 1600, strengthen (a military force) with additional men; formed from English *re-* again + *inforce*, *enforce*. —**reinforcement** *n.* 1607, renewal of force; later, act of reinforcing (1617); formed from English *reinforce* + *-ment*.

reiterate *v.* Probably before 1425, borrowed from Late Latin *reiterātus*, past participle of *reiterāre* to repeat (Latin *re-* again + *iterāre* to repeat); for suffix see -ATE¹, and replacing *reiteren* (1392), borrowed from Old French *reiterer*. —**reiteration** *n.* Probably before 1425, act of reiterating; borrowed through Middle French *réitération*, and directly from Medieval Latin

reiterationem (nominative *reiteratio*) repetition, from Late Latin *reiterāre* repeat; for suffix see -ATION.

reject *v.* About 1415 *reecten* cast out, dismiss; later, refuse to recognize, submit to, etc. (1426); borrowed from Latin *reiectus*, past participle of *reicere* to throw back (*re-* back + *-icere*, combining form of *jacere* to throw). —**n.** 1464, refusal; from the verb. —**rejection** *n.* Before 1464, borrowed from Latin *rejectionem* (nominative *rejectionis*), from *re-* back, past participle stem of *reicere* to throw back; for suffix see -TION.

rejoice *v.* About 1303 *reioshen* to own, possess; later *rejoysen* to gladden (about 1370), to be glad about (about 1380); borrowed from Old French *rejoiss-*, stem of *rejoissant*, present participle of *rejoir* gladden, rejoice (*re-* intensive + *joir* be glad, from Latin *gaudēre* rejoice).

rejoin¹ *v.* join again. 1526, formed from English *re-* again + *join*, perhaps influenced by Middle French *rejoin-*, stem of *rejoindre*; see REJOIN².

rejoin² *v.* answer. 1447 *rejoinden* (in law) to answer the plaintiff's reply to the defendant's plea; borrowed from Middle French *rejoin-*, stem of *rejoindre* (Old French *re-* back + *joindre* to JOIN). The general meaning of say in answer is first recorded in 1637. —**rejoinder** *n.* 1447 *rejoinder* (in law) the defendant's answer; borrowed from Middle French *rejoindre*, infinitive used as a noun; for suffix see -ER³.

rejuvenate *v.* 1807, formed in English from *re-* again + Latin *juvenis* YOUNG + English *-ate*¹. —**rejuvenation** *n.* 1834, restoration to youth; formed from English *rejuvenate* + *-ation*.

relapse *v.* Before 1415 *relapsen* to renounce; later, to fall back into a former state, as of illness, etc. (1568); borrowed from Latin *relapsus*, past participle of *relābī* slip back (*re-* back + *lābī* to slip). —**n.** 1459, from the verb in English, and possibly from Medieval Latin *relapsus*, *n.*, from Latin *relāpsus*, past participle of *relābī*.

relate *v.* 1530, to tell; borrowed from Middle French *relater* refer, report, from Latin *relātus*, a form serving as the past participle of *referre* to tell of, to refer; for suffix see -ATE¹. The meaning of have reference to is first recorded in 1606. —**relation** *n.* About 1378 *relacion* connection, correspondence; borrowed through Anglo-French *relacioun*, Old French *relacion*, from Latin *relātiōnem* (nominative *relātiō*) a bringing back, restoring, a report, association, from *relāt-*, serving as the past participle stem of *referre* refer; for suffix see -TION. The meaning of a person related to one by blood or marriage, relative, is first recorded in 1502. —**relationship** *n.* (before 1744)

relative *n.* 1387 *relative* word that refers to an antecedent; later, person or thing that stands in a relation to another (probably before 1430); borrowed through Old French *relatif* (feminine *relative*), and directly from Late Latin *relātīvus* having reference or relation, from Latin *relātus*, a form serving as the past participle of *referre* to refer; for suffix see -IVE. The person who belongs to the same family is first recorded in 1657. —**adj.** Probably before 1425, having reference; borrowed through Middle French *relatif* (feminine *relative*), and directly from Late Latin *relātīvus*, *adj.* and *n.* The sense of related or compared to

each other is first recorded in 1594. —**relativity** *n.* Before 1834, condition of being relative, probably borrowed from French *relativité*, from *relatif* (feminine *relative*) relative, *adj.*; for suffix see -ITY.

relax *v.* Before 1398 *relaxen* loosen, ease; borrowed from Old French *relaxer*, and directly from Latin *relaxāre* relax, loosen, open (*re-* back + *laxāre* loosen, from *laxus* loose). The sense of decrease tension is first recorded probably before 1425, and that of make less strict or severe, in 1662. —**relaxation** *n.* 1392 *relaxacioun* a rupture of some bodily part; borrowed through Old French *relaxacion*, and directly from Latin *relaxātiōnem* (nominative *relaxātiō*), from *relaxāre* RELAX; for suffix see -ATION. The sense of relief from work, recreation, is first recorded in 1548.

relay *n.* 1369 *relay* hounds placed along a line of chase; borrowed from Middle French *relai* reserve pack of hounds or other animals, from Old French *relaier* to exchange tired animals for fresh, leave behind (*re-* back + *laier* to leave). The meaning of an electromagnetic device which acts as a switch is first recorded in 1860. —**v.** Probably before 1400 *relayen* change horses; borrowed from Middle French *relaier* to relay, leave behind. The meaning of retransmit by electrical relays is found in 1878.

release *v.* About 1300 *relesen* revoke, relieve, surrender, discharge; borrowed from Old French *relaissier* relinquish, quit, let go, variant of *relacher* release, relax, from Latin *relaxāre* to RELAX. The meaning of set free, let go, is first recorded in Middle English about 1350, from earlier free from pain (about 1300). —**n.** Before 1325 *reles* relief, surrender, discharge; borrowed from Old French *reles*, *relais*, *n.*, from *relaissier* to release.

relegate *v.* Before 1420 *relegat*, past participle of *relegaten* to banish, send into exile; borrowed from Latin *relēgātus*, past participle of *relēgāre* remove, dismiss, banish (*re-* back + *lēgāre* send with a commission); for suffix see -ATE¹. The meaning of send away or consign to another, is first recorded in 1790.

relent *v.* 1392 *relenten* to melt, soften, dissolve; perhaps formed in English from *re-* intensive + Latin *lentus* slow, supple. The meaning of become less harsh or cruel, is first recorded in 1526. —**relentless** *adj.* (1592).

relevant *adj.* 1560, bearing upon, pertaining to (the matter at hand); borrowed from Medieval Latin *relevantem* (nominative *relevans*), from present participle of Latin *relevāre* to lessen, lighten, RELIEVE; for suffix see -ANT. *Relevant* and its related words did not come into general English use until after 1800, but did have earlier currency as Scottish legal terms. —**relevance** *n.* 1733, formed from English *relevant* + *-ance*, or as a back formation from *relevancy*. —**relevancy** *n.* 1561, formed as if from Latin **relevantia* + English suffix *-cy*.

reliable *adj.* 1569 (Scottish) *raliabil*; later *reliable* trustworthy, safe, sure (1624); formed from English *rely* + *-able*. Before 1850 *reliable* was not in common use and thereafter was for some time considered a barbarism of American invention.

reliance *n.* 1607, formed from English *rely* + *-ance*. —**reliant** *adj.* 1856, formed from English *rely* + *-ant*.

relic *n.* Probably before 1200 *relik* object, especially body part of holy person, kept as a sacred memorial; borrowed from Old French *relique*, from Late Latin *reliquiae*, pl., remains of a martyr, from Latin, remains or remnants, from *reliquus* remaining (*re-* back + root of *linquere* to leave). The plural *relics* remains, ruins (about 1340), is found in its religious reference in Old English *reliquias*, as a direct borrowing from Latin.

relict *n.* 1 widow. About 1460 *relicte*, borrowed from Medieval Latin *relicta* widow, noun use of feminine past participle of Latin *relinquere* to leave behind. 2 Usually **relics** pl. a surviving specimen or artifact. 1905, developed from the sense of remains (1598); borrowed from Middle French *relict*, from Latin *relictus* that left behind, from masculine past participle of *relinquere* to leave behind.

relief¹ *n.* ease or alleviation. Before 1338 *releve* payment made on taking possession of an estate; borrowed from Anglo-French *relif*, from Old French *relief*, *relief* assistance, from *relever* to RELIEVE; or borrowed from Medieval Latin *relevium*, from past participle of Latin *relevāre* raise, lighten, RELIEVE. The English spelling *relief* appeared about 1390. The meaning of alleviation by lessening a burden, pain, etc., is first recorded about 1375, and that of charity before 1200.

relief² *n.* projection of a figure or design from a surface. 1606 *relieve*; later *relief* (1662); borrowed through French *relief*, or directly from Italian *rilievo*, from *rilevare* to raise, from Latin *relevāre* to raise, lighten, RELIEVE.

relieve *v.* About 1370 *releeven* to ease, assist; borrowed from Old French *relever*, from Latin *relevāre* to raise, alleviate (*re-* intensive + *levāre* to lift up, lighten, from *levis* not heavy). The spelling *relieve* appeared before 1393. The meaning of release from duty is first recorded in 1416.

religion *n.* Probably before 1200 *religiun* a religious order or community; borrowed from Old French *religion* religious community, and borrowed directly from Latin *religiōnem* (nominative *religiō*) respect for what is sacred; for suffix see -ION. Derivation of the Latin may be from *relegere* go through, or read again (*re-* again + *legere* read) with comparison of *religēns* revering the gods, pious, to *negligēns* negligent. There is also in popular etymology (by way of *religiō* nominative to *religiōnem*) a connection with *religāre* to bind fast, in the sense of place an obligation on. —**religious** *adj.* Probably before 1200, devout, pious; borrowed from Old French *religiosus*, *religieus*, and directly from Latin *religiōsus*, from *religiō* religion; for suffix see -OUS. —**n.** Probably before 1200, person bound by a religious vow; borrowed from Old French *religiosus*, *religieus*, and directly from Latin *religiōsus* religious, *adj.*

relinquish *v.* 1454 *relinquishen* to desert, abandon; borrowed from Middle French *relinquiss-*, extended stem of *relinquir*, from Latin *relinquere* leave behind, forsake, abandon, give up (*re-* back + *linquere* to leave); for suffix see -ISH². The sense of give up, desist from, is first recorded in 1497

reliquary *n.* 1656, borrowed from French *reliquaire*, from Old French *relique* RELIC; for suffix see -ARY.

relish *n.* 1530, taste, flavor, alteration of *reles* scent, taste,

aftertaste (probably before 1300); borrowed from Old French *reles* something remaining, **RELEASE**. The meaning of something that adds flavor condiment, is recorded in 1798. —**v.** 1586, give flavor to; from the noun. The meaning of be pleased with, like, is first recorded in 1594.

reluctance *n.* 1641, the act of struggling, resistance, opposition; probably formed from obsolete English *reluct* to struggle or rebel against (1526), from Latin *reluctārī* to struggle against (*re-* against *luctārī* to struggle) + English *-ance*; also possibly a back formation from *reluctancy* (1621, probably formed from English *reluct* + *-ancy*). The meaning of unwillingness or disinclination is first recorded in 1667. —**reluctant** *adj.* 1667, struggling, probably formed in English as an adjective to *reluctance* or *reluctancy*, on the model of, if not borrowed from, Latin *reluctantem* (nominative *reluctāns*), present participle of *reluctārī* to struggle against; for suffix see **-ANT**.

rely *v.* Before 1338 *relien* to gather, assemble, rally; borrowed from Old French *relier* fasten, attach, rally, oblige, from Latin *religare* fasten, bind fast (*re-* intensive + *ligāre* to bind). The meaning of depend, trust, is first recorded in 1574.

rem *n.* 1947, unit for measuring radiation; acronym formed from the initial letters of *r*(oentgen) *e*(quivalent) *m*(an).

REM *n.* 1957, acronym formed from the initial letters of *r*(apid) *e*(ye) *m*(ovement).

remain *v.* Before 1425 *remanen* to be left; borrowed from Old French *reman-*, stressed stem (as in *remanent* they remain) of *remanoir*, *remanier*, from Latin *remanēre* remain (*re-* back + *manēre* to stay, remain). —**n.** **remains** *pl.* 1456, remaining members of a group; possibly from the verb in English + *-s*, probably influenced by Middle French *reman*, from Old French *remanier* to remain; also probably influenced by *remainder*. The meaning of what is left, remaining parts, is first recorded in 1500–20, and that of a dead body, in 1700. —**remainder** *n.* 1394, (in law) future estate to take effect after another has ended; borrowed from Anglo-French *remainder*, noun use of Old French *remanindre* to remain; for suffix see **-ER**³. The meaning of the part left over is first recorded before 1547.

remand *v.* 1439 *remaunden* to send back, return; borrowed from Middle French *remaner*, from Late Latin *remanāre* to send back word, repeat a command (Latin *re-* back + *mandāre* to consign, order, **MANDATE**). The meaning of send (a prisoner) back into custody is first recorded in 1643. —**n.** 1771, from the verb.

remark *v.* 1633, to mark out or distinguish; re-formed in English from *re-* + *mark*, *v.* after borrowing of French *remarquer* to mark, note, heed, from Middle French (*re-* intensive + *marquer* to mark, probably from a Germanic source; compare Old High German *markōn*, *markōn* to delimit, **MARK**¹). The meaning of notice, observe, is first recorded in 1675, and that of make a comment, before 1704. —**n.** 1654 *remarque* noteworthy; later, a remark (1663); re-formed like the verb from English *re-* + *mark*, *n.* after a borrowing of French *remarque*, from *remarquer* to remark. —**remarkable** *adj.* 1604,

re-formed in English from *re-* + *mark* + *-able* after borrowing of French *remarquable*, from *remarquer* to remark + *-able* *-able*.

remedy *n.* Probably before 1200 *remedie* way of avoiding temptation; later, cure, relief (about 1340); borrowed through Anglo-French *remedie*, Old French *remede*, and directly from Latin *remedium* a cure, remedy (*re-* intensive + *medērī* to heal); for suffix see **-Y**³. —**v.** Probably about 1400 *remedien*; borrowed from Middle French *remedier*, from Latin *remediāre* to cure, remedy, from *remedium* remedy, *n.* —**remedial** *adj.* 1651, curing or relieving; borrowed from Late Latin *remediālis* healing, curing, from Latin *remedium* remedy; for suffix see **-AL**¹. The meaning of intended to improve skills is first recorded in 1924.

remember *v.* Before 1338 *remembren*, borrowed from Old French *remembrer*, from Latin *rememorārī* recall to mind, remember (*re-* again + *memorārī* be mindful of, from *memor* mindful). —**remembrance** *n.* Probably before 1300 *remembraunce*, borrowed from Old French *remembraunce*, from *remembrer* **REMEMBER**; for suffix see **-ANCE**.

remind *v.* 1645, to recall to mind, remember; formed from English *re-* again + *mind*, *v.* —**reminder** *n.* (1653)

reminiscence *n.* 1589, act of remembering; borrowed through Middle French *reminiscence*, and directly from Latin *reminiscentia* remembrance, from *reminiscentem* (nominative *reminiscēns*), present participle of *reminiscī* remember, recall to mind (*re-* again + *-miniscī*, from the root of *mēns* **MIND**); for suffix see **-ENCE**. —**reminiscent** *adj.* 1705, relating to reminiscence; probably formed in English as an adjective to *reminiscence*, after Latin *reminiscentem*, present participle of *reminiscī* remember; for suffix see **-ENT**. The sense of suggestive, is first recorded in 1880. —**reminisce** *v.* 1829, to remember; back formation from *reminiscence*.

remiss *adj.* Probably before 1425 *remisse* weak, loose; borrowed from Latin *remissus*, past participle of *remittere* slacken, let go; see **REMIT**. The meaning of careless, negligent, is first recorded about 1450.

remission *n.* Probably before 1200 *remissiun* forgiveness; later, a decrease of intensity, force, etc. (before 1398); borrowed from Old French *remission*, from Latin *remissionem* (nominative *remissio*) relaxation, from *remiss-*, past participle stem of *remittere* slacken, let go; see **REMIT**; for suffix see **-SION**. The sense of a temporary abatement of disease is first recorded probably before 1425.

remit *v.* 1393–94 *remitten* forgive, give up; later, refer (probably before 1400), and to send, send back (1414); borrowed from Latin *remittere* send back, slacken, let go (*re-* back + *mittere* to send). The meaning of send money to a person is first recorded in 1640. —**remittance** *n.* 1705, formed from English *remit* + *-ance*.

remnant *n.* Before 1375 *remnant*, contraction of *remanant* (probably before 1300); borrowed from Old French *remanant*, present participle of *remanoir*, *remanindre* to **REMAIN**; for suffix see **-ANT**.

remonstrate *v.* 1599, demonstrate, show; probably a back formation from *remonstratō*; for suffix see -ATE¹. The sense of say in protest, object, is first recorded in 1695. —**remonstrance** *n.* About 1477, an appeal, request; borrowed from Middle French *remonstrance* to show, from Medieval Latin *remonstrantia*, from *remonstrans*, present participle of *remonstrare* point out, show (from Latin *re-* intensive + *mōnstrāre* to show, from *mōnstrum* evil omen, MONSTER); for suffix see -ANCE. —**remonstratō** *n.* About 1489, borrowed through Middle French *remonstratō*, from Medieval Latin *remonstratōnem* (nominative *remonstratō*), from *remonstrare* point out, show; for suffix see -ATION.

remorse *n.* About 1385 *remors* feeling of deep regret; borrowed from Old French *remors*, from Medieval Latin *remorsum*, from neuter past participle of Latin *remordēre* to vex, disturb (*re-* again + *mordēre* to bite). —**remorseful** *adj.* (1591)

remote *adj.* About 1440, distant; borrowed from Middle French *remot* (feminine *remote*), or directly from Latin *remōtus*, past participle of *removēre* move back or away, REMOVE.

remove *v.* Probably before 1325 *removen* to move, take away, dismiss; borrowed from Old French *remouvoir*, from Latin *removēre* move back or away (*re-* back, away + *movēre* to MOVE). —**removal** *n.* (1597).

remunerate *v.* 1523, back formation from *remuneration*, perhaps influenced by Latin *remunerātus*, past participle of *remunerāre* to reward (*re-* back + *mūnerāre* to give from *mūnus*, genitive *mūneris*, gift, office, duty); for suffix see -ATE¹. —**remuneration** *n.* About 1400 *remuneration* reward, recompense, payment; borrowed through Middle French *remunération*, and directly from Latin *remunerātiōnem* (nominative *remunerātiō*), from *remunerāre* to reward; for suffix see -ATION.

renaissance *n.* 1872, a new birth or revival; earlier, in reference to the great revival of art and learning in Europe beginning in the 1300's (1840), and in the spelling *Renaissance* (1845); borrowing of French *renaissance*, from Old French *renaissance* rebirth, from *renātre* be born again, from Vulgar Latin **renāscere*, from Latin *renāscī* be born again; for suffix see -ANCE.

renal *adj.* 1656, borrowed through French *rénal*, and directly from Late Latin *renālis* of or belonging to the kidneys, from Latin *rēnēs* kidneys; for suffix see -AL¹.

renascent *adj.* 1727, borrowed from Latin *renāscētem* (nominative *renāscēs*), present participle of *renāscī* be born again (*re-* again + *nāscī* be born); for suffix see -ENT. —**renascence** *n.* 1727, probably formed from English *renascent* with substitution of -ence. The term was used in reference to, and as a variant of *Renaissance*, as early as 1869.

rend *v.* Probably before 1200 *renden*, developed from Old English (about 950) *rendon* (from Proto-Germanic **randi-janan*); cognate with Old Frisian *renda* to tear, Middle Low German *rende* broken things, and Old High German *rinda*, *rinta*, bark (modern German *Rinde* bark, crust). Related to RIND.

render *v.* Before 1376 *rendren* say over, recite; later, hand over, deliver (probably before 1400); borrowed from Old French *rendre* give back, present, yield, from Vulgar Latin **rendere*, alteration of Latin *reddere* give back, return, restore (*red-* back + *-dere*, combining form of *dare* to give).

rendezvous *n.* 1591 *rendevous* place for assembling, appointed meeting place; borrowed from Middle French *rendez-vous*, noun use of *rendez vous* present yourselves (*rendez*, imperative of *rendre* present + *vous* you). —**v.** About 1645, from the noun.

rendition *n.* 1601, surrender of a place, possession, etc.; borrowed from obsolete French *rendition*, from Old French *rendre* to deliver or yield; for suffix see -TION. The meaning of a rendering in another language, translation, is first recorded in 1659.

renegade *n.* 1583, probably borrowed from Spanish *renegado*, and replacing Middle English *renegat* (about 1390), *renegate* (about 1400); both the Middle English and Spanish forms borrowed from Medieval Latin *renegatus*, past participle of *renegare* to deny; see RENEGE; for suffix see -ADE.

renege *v.* 1548, deny, renounce, abandon; borrowed from Medieval Latin *renegare* (Latin *re-* intensive form + *negāre* deny, NEGATE). The sense of change one's mind, back out, is found in 1784.

renew *v.* Before 1382 *renewen* make like new, revive, restore; formed from Middle English *re-* again + *newen* resume, revive, renew. —**renewal** *n.* 1681–86, formed from *renew* + -AL².

rennet *n.* About 1450 *rennet*; developed probably from Old English **rynet*. Middle English *rennet* is related to **rennen* to coagulate or curdle, found in Old English *gerennan* cause to run together, because rennet makes milk run or curdle; cognate with Old Frisian *renna* coagulate, Old Saxon *rennian*, Old High German *rennen*, Old Icelandic *renna*, and Gothic *urrannjan* coagulate, from Proto-Germanic **rannijanan*, causative to **renwanan* RUN, *v.*

rennin *n.* 1897, formed from English *rennet* + -in².

renounce *v.* About 1380 *renouncen* give up, resign; borrowed from Old French *renoncer*, from Latin *renūntiāre* proclaim, protest against, renounce (*re-* against + *nūntiāre* to report, announce, from *nūntius* messenger).

renovate *v.* 1535, to renew, resume, either a back formation from *renovation*, and developed from *renovare*, *adj.* renewed (probably 1440); borrowed from Latin *renovātus*, past participle of *renovāre* renew, restore (*re-* again + *novāre* make new, from *novus* NEW); for suffix see -ATE¹. —**renovation** *n.* Before 1400 *renovacyoun* spiritual rebirth, regeneration; borrowed through Middle French *renovation*, or directly from Latin *renovātiōnem* (nominative *renovātiō*), from *renovāre* RENOVA; for suffix see -ATION. The sense of rebuilding, reconstruction, appeared in Middle English probably before 1425.

renown *n.* Probably before 1300 *renoun* fame; borrowed through Anglo-French *renoun*, Old French *renon*, *renom*, from *renommer* make famous (*re-* repeatedly + *nommer* to name, from

Latin *nōmināre* to name). —**renowned** adj. Probably before 1400 *renowned* celebrated, famous; formed from *renoun* renown + *-ed*².

rent¹ *n.* payment for the use of property. 1137 *rente* source of income, revenue; borrowed from Old French *rente*, from Vulgar Latin **rendita*, from feminine past participle of *rendere* to RENDER. The payment made by a tenant to a landlord, rent, is first recorded in Middle English about 1330. —**v.** Before 1376 *renten* provide with revenues; from the noun. —**rental** *n.* Before 1376, record of the rents due; borrowed from Anglo-French *rental* register of income (1279) and Medieval Latin *rentale* rent book, both from Old French and Middle English *rente*, *n.*; for suffix see *-AL*². The meaning of something rented (as in *few rentals are available*) is first found in 1952.

rent² *n.* torn place. 1535, noun use of *renten* to tear, rend (before 1325), variant of *renden* to REND.

renunciation *n.* 1399, borrowed from Latin *renūntiātiōnem* (nominative *renūntiātiō*), from *renūntiāre* RENOUNCE; for suffix see *-ATION*.

reovirus *n.* 1959, acronym formed from *r*(espiratory) *e*(nteric) *o*(rphan) *v*irus; called “orphan virus” because it is not known to cause any of the diseases it is associated with. Compare ECHO-VIRUS.

rep *n.* 1925, shortened form of *repertory* or *repertoire* (company or theater).

repair¹ *v.* put in good condition. Probably before 1350 *reparen* to restore; later *reparen* (probably before 1425); borrowed from Old French *reparer*, from Latin *reparāre* repair, restore, renew (*re-* again + *parāre* make ready, prepare). —**n.** Probably before 1400, from the verb. —**repairable** adj. 1489, formed from Middle English *reparen* repair + *-able*.

repair² *v.* go to a place. Probably before 1300 *reparen*; borrowed from Old French *reparer*, earlier *reparier* to frequent, return, from Late Latin *repatriāre* return to one's own country.

reparable adj. 1570, borrowed from Middle French *reparable*, from Latin *reparābilis* able to be restored, from *reparāre* restore, REPAIR¹; for suffix see *-ABLE*.

reparation *n.* About 1380 *reparacion* compensation, amends, recompense; borrowed from Old French *reparacion*, and directly from Late Latin *reparātiōnem* (nominative *reparātiō*) act of repairing, restoration, from Latin *reparāre* restore, REPAIR¹; for suffix see *-ATION*.

repatee *n.* About 1645, borrowed from French *repartie*, noun use of the feminine past participle of Old French *repartir* to reply promptly, start out again (*re-* back + *partir* to PART).

repast *n.* Before 1382, rest or repose; also, a meal (probably before 1387); borrowed from Old French *repast* a meal, from Late Latin *repāstus*, *n.*, meal, from past participle stem of *repāscere* feed in turn (Latin *re-* repeatedly + *pāscere* to graze).

repatriate *v.* 1611, borrowed from Late Latin *repatriātus*, past participle of *repatriāre* return to one's own country (Latin *re-*

back + *patria* native land); for suffix see *-ATE*¹. —**repatriation** *n.* 1592, borrowed from Medieval Latin *repatriationem* (nominative *repatriatio*), from Late Latin *repatriāre* REPATRIATE; for suffix see *-ATION*.

repeal *v.* About 1385 *repealen* to do away with, revoke, recall; but generally found in the spelling *repelen*; borrowed from Anglo-French *repeler*, alteration of Old French *rapeler* call back, revoke, repeal (*re-* back + *apeler* to call). —**n.** 1483, a recall, summoning; borrowed from Anglo-French *repel*, from the verb in Anglo-French and Old French.

repeat *v.* Before 1382 *repeten* return, turn again; later, say again, reiterate (1427); borrowed from Old French *repeter* say or do again, get back, demand the return of, from Latin *repetere* do or say again, attack again (*re-* again + *petere* go toward, seek, demand, attack). —**n.** About 1450, repeated words, refrain; from the verb.

repel *v.* Probably about 1421 *repellen* drive away, repulse; borrowed through Old French *repeller*, or directly from Latin *repellere* to drive back (*re-* back + *pellere* to drive, strike). —**repellent** adj. 1643, (of medicine) serving to reduce tumors; borrowed from Latin *repellentem* (nominative *repellēns*), present participle of *repellere* repel. The meaning of distasteful, disagreeable, is first recorded in English in 1797. —**n.** 1661, medicine that reduces tumors; from the adjective. The meaning of a substance that repels insects, appeared 1908.

repent *v.* Probably before 1300, to regret, be sorry; also, feel regret for sin (about 1300); borrowed from Old French *repentir* (*re-* intensive + Vulgar Latin **paenitire* to regret, from Latin *paenitēre* make sorry). —**repentance** *n.* About 1300 *repentance* act of repenting, contrition; probably formed in English as a noun to *repentant* on the model of (and in some instances probably borrowed directly from) Old French *repentance*, from *repentant*; see REPENT; for suffix see *-ANCE*. —**repentant** adj. About 1230, borrowed from Old French *repentant*, past participle of *repentir* REPENT; for suffix see *-ANT*.

repercussion *n.* Probably before 1425, act of driving back; borrowed from Middle French *répercussion*, from Latin *repercussiónem* (nominative *repercussió*), from *repercuss-*, past participle stem of *repercutere* to strike or beat back (*re-* back + *percutere* to strike or thrust through); for suffix see *-ION*. The meaning of reverberation, echo, is first recorded in 1595, and that of an influence or reaction from an event, in the early 1600's.

repertoire *n.* 1847, borrowing of French *répertoire*, from Late Latin *repertōrium* inventory.

repertory *n.* 1552, index or list, catalogue; borrowed from Late Latin *repertōrium* inventory, list, from Latin *repertus*, past participle of *reperire* to find, get, invent (*re-* intensive form + *parere* produce, bring forth); for suffix see *-ORY*. The meaning of a list of performances an actor, musician, etc., is prepared to make, is first recorded in 1845.

repetition *n.* Probably before 1425 *repeticioun*, borrowed from Middle French *répétition*, and directly from Latin *repetitiōnem* (nominative *repetitiō*), from *repetere* do or say again, REPEAT; for suffix see *-TION*. —**repetitious** adj. 1675; borrowed from

Latin *repetitus*, past participle of *repetere* repeat. —**repetitive** adj. 1839, formed from English *repetition* + *-ive*.

repine *v.* 1449, to grieve; probably formed from English *re-* intensive + *pine*², *v.*, yearn. The sense of long for something is first recorded in 1742.

replenish *v.* About 1380 *replenishen* to fill or supply; borrowed from Old French *repleniss-*, extended stem of *replenir* (*re-* intensive + *-plenir*, from Latin *plēnus* full); for suffix see *-ISH*². The meaning of provide a new supply for is first recorded in 1612. —**replenishment** *n.* (1526).

replete adj. 1384 *repleet*; *replete* (before 1398); borrowed from Old French *replet*, *replete* filled up, from Latin *replētus*, past participle of *replēre* to fill (*re-* intensive + *plēre* to fill). —**repletion** *n.* About 1390 *replecioun* condition of being filled up; borrowed from Old French *repletion*, from Late Latin *replētiōnem* (nominative *replētiō*) a filling up, from Latin *replēre* to fill; for suffix see *-TION*.

replica *n.* 1824, borrowed from Italian *replica* copy, repetition, reply, from *replicare* to repeat or reply, from Latin *replicāre* to repeat; see *REPLY*. —**replicate** *v.* Probably before 1425 *replecate* to repeat; borrowed from Latin *replicātus*, past participle of *replicāre* to repeat, *REPLY*; for suffix see *-ATE*¹. Later use developed as a back formation from *replication*. The meaning of copy or reproduce is first recorded in 1882. —**replication** *n.* About 1380 *replicacioun* legal reply, rejoinder, answer; borrowed probably through Anglo-French *replicacioun*, Old French *replication*, from Latin *replicātiōnem* (nominative *replicātiō*) a reply, repetition, a folding back, from *replicāre* to repeat, reply, fold back; see *REPLY*; for suffix see *-ATION*. The meaning of a copy or reproduction is first recorded in 1692. The specific sense in biology of duplicating genetic material is first recorded in 1948.

reply *v.* Before 1382 *replien* to repeat; also, to answer (about 1386); borrowed from Old French *replier* to reply, turn back, fold again, from Latin *replicāre* to reply, repeat, fold back (*re-* back + *plicāre* to fold). —**n.** 1560, answer; from the verb.

report *n.* About 1385, rumor, gossip, common talk; borrowed from Old French *report*, *n.*, from *reporter* to tell, relate from Latin *reportāre* carry back (*re-* back + *portāre* to carry).

The sense of an account of some matter is first recorded about 1410. The extended sense of a resounding noise, is not recorded before 1590. —**v.** About 1385 *reporten* to relate, repeat, give an account of; borrowed from Old French *reporter* to report. —**reporter** *n.* 1450, developed by alteration (in association with *-er*¹) of *reportour* (about 1387–95); borrowed from Old French *reportour*, from *reporter* to report.

repose¹ *v.* lie at rest. About 1450 *reposen*; borrowed from Middle French *reposer*, from Late Latin *repausāre* cause to rest (Latin *re-* intensive + Late Latin *pausāre* to stop). —**n.** 1509; either borrowed from Middle French *repos*, from *reposer* to repose; or developed from the verb in English.

repose² *v.* put, place. Probably 1440 *reposen* replace, put back; borrowed from Latin *repos-*, perfect stem of *repōnere* put back, put away (*re-* back, away + *pōnere* to put, place), on the pattern

of other English verbs such as *dispose* and *depose*. The meaning of place (confidence, trust, etc.) is first recorded in 1560.

repository *n.* 1485, container where things are stored; borrowed from Middle French *repositoire*, and directly from Late Latin *repositōrium* store, from Latin, a stand on which food is placed, from *reposit-*, past participle stem of *repōnere* put away, store; for suffix see *-ORY*.

reprehend *v.* Before 1340 *reprehenden* reprove; borrowed from Latin *reprehendere*, originally, pull back (*re-* back + *prehendere* to grasp, seize). —**reprehensible** adj. About 1384, borrowed perhaps through Old French *reprehensible*, or directly from Late Latin *reprehensibilis*, from Latin *reprehēnsus*, past participle of *reprehendere* to reprove; for suffix see *-IBLE*. —**reprehension** *n.* About 1385 *reprehencioun*, borrowed perhaps through Old French *reprehension*, or directly from Latin *reprehēnsiōnem* (nominative *reprehēnsiō*), from *reprehendere* to reprove; for suffix see *-SION*.

represent *v.* 1375 *representen* to present, bring before the mind; borrowed from Old French *repraesenter*, from Latin *repraesentāre* (*re-* intensive form + *praesentāre* place before; *PRESENT*²). The meaning of portray, depict, is first recorded in 1392 and that of act in place of, stand for, in 1389. —**representation** *n.* Probably before 1400 *representacioun*; borrowed from Old French *representation*, and directly from Latin *repraesentātiōnem* (nominative *repraesentātiō*) a showing, exhibiting, from *repraesentāre* represent; for suffix see *-ATION*. —**representative** adj. About 1385 *representative* serving to portray or represent; borrowed from Old French *representatif* (feminine *representative*), from Medieval Latin *repraesentativus*, from Latin *repraesentāre* represent; for suffix see *-ATIVE*. The meaning of having its citizens represented by chosen persons is first recorded in 1628. —**n.** 1647, example, type, from the adjective. The meaning of a person appointed or elected to represent others is first recorded in 1635, and that of a legislative body, as found in *Representatives*, in 1694.

repress *v.* About 1385 *repressen* to check, restrain, weaken, keep down; borrowed from Latin *repressus*, past participle of *reprimere* hold back, check (*re-* back + *primere* to push, *PRESS*¹).

—**repression** *n.* About 1385 *repression* ability to repress; borrowed from Medieval Latin *repressionem* (nominative *repressio*) act of repressing, from Latin *repress-*, past participle stem of *reprimere*; for suffix see *-ION*. —**repressive** adj. About 1425, borrowed from Middle French *répressif* (feminine *répressive*), from Latin *repress-*, past participle stem of Latin *reprimere* repress; for suffix see *-IVE*.

reprieve *v.* 1571 *reprive* take back to prison, remand; alteration (perhaps influenced by Middle English *repreven* refute, disprove, variant of *reproven* *REPROVE*) of Middle English *repyren* to remand, detain (1494); probably borrowed from Middle French *repris*, past participle of *repandre* take back; see *REPRISE*.

The spelling *reprieve* first appeared in 1647, formed on analogy with *achieve* (*acheve*), and probably *chief* (*chef*). —**n.** 1598, from the verb.

reprimand *n.* 1636, borrowed from French *réprimande*, from

Middle French *reprimende* reproof, from Latin *reprimenda* that is to be repressed, feminine singular of *reprimendus*, gerundive form of *reprimere* reprove; see REPRESS. —**v.** 1681, either borrowed from French *réprimander*, from *réprimande*, *n.*; or from the noun in English.

reprisal *n.* 1419 *reprisail* seizing in retaliation for injury or loss; borrowed from Middle French *reprisaille*, from Italian *ripresaglia* (now *rappresaglia*), from *ripreso*, past participle of *riprendere* take back, from Latin *reprehendere*, earlier *reprehendere* REPREHEND.

reprise *n.* Before 1393, loss, expense; later, act of taking back (before 1475); borrowed from Old French *reprise* act of taking back, from feminine of *repris*, past participle of *reprenre* take back, from Latin *reprehendere*, earlier *reprehendere* recover.

The meaning of a renewal or resumption of an action is first recorded in 1685, and the sense in music of repetition or return to the first theme, subject or passage, in 1879. —**v.** About 1410 *reprisesen*, borrowed from Middle and Old French *repris*, past participle of *reprenre*.

reproach *n.* About 1350 *reproce* a rebuke, insult, object of scorn; later *reproche* a rebuking (about 1390); borrowed from Old French *reproche*, from *reprocher* to blame, bring up against, bring near to, from Vulgar Latin **repropiare* (Latin *re-* opposite + *prope* near). —**v.** About 1350 *reprocen* to rebuke; later *reprochen* (about 1400); borrowed from Old French *reprocher*.

reprobate *v.* Probably before 1425 *reprobaten*, a back formation from *reprobation*, and borrowed from Late Latin *reprobātus*, past participle of *reprobāre* disapprove, reject, condemn (Latin *re-* opposite + *probāre* prove to be worthy); for suffix see -ATE¹. The verb also probably developed from the adjective as a past participle in English. —**adj.** Probably before 1425; borrowed from Late Latin *reprobātus*, past participle of *reprobāre*. The meaning of unprincipled is first recorded in 1660. —**n.** 1545, person beyond salvation; from the adjective, or possibly a noun use of Late Latin *reprobātus*, past participle of *reprobāre*. The meaning of a scoundrel is first recorded in 1592. —**reprobation** *n.* Before 1400 *reprobacyoun* rejection; borrowed from Late Latin *reprobatiōnem* (nominative *reprobātiō*) blame, censure, rejection, from Latin *reprobāre* reject, condemn; for suffix see -ATION.

reproduce *v.* 1611, produce again, create anew; formed from English *re-* again + *produce*, *v.* The meaning of make a copy of is first recorded in 1850, and that of produce (offspring), multiply by generation, in 1894. —**reproduction** *n.* 1659, formed in English from *reproduce* + *-tion*, on the pattern of *produce*, *production*.

reproof *n.* Before 1338, *reprof*, reprove, repreve; borrowed from Old French *reprove*, *reprouve*, from *reprover* to blame, REPROVE.

reprove *v.* About 1303 *reproven* to accuse; later, to rebuke, scold (about 1350); borrowed from Old French *reprover*, from Late Latin *reprobāre* disapprove, reject, condemn; see REPROBATE.

reptile *n.* Before 1393 *reptil* creeping or crawling animal;

borrowed through Old French *reptile*, and directly from Late Latin *reptile*, from neuter of *reptilis*, *adj.*, creeping, crawling, from Latin *rept-*, past participle stem of *reperere* to crawl, creep. —**adj.** 1607, borrowed from Late Latin *reptilis*, and from the noun. —**reptilian** *adj.* 1846, formed from New Latin *Reptilia* the class name of reptiles (from Late Latin *reptilia*, plural of *reptile* reptile) + English *-an*.

republic *n.* 1604, nation governed by elected representatives, commonwealth; borrowed from French *république*, from Latin *rēs publica* public interest, the state (*rēs* affair, matter, thing, and *publica*, feminine of *publicus* public); for suffix see -IC. —**republican** *adj.* 1712, like that of a republic; formed from English *republic* + *-an*, probably on the model of French *républicain*. —**n.** 1697, one who favors a republic; from the adjective. The meaning in U.S. politics of a member of a Republican party is first recorded in 1782.

repudiate *v.* 1545, to cast off by divorce, from *repudiate*, *adj.* divorced, rejected, condemned (1464); borrowed from Latin *repudiātus*, past participle of *repudiāre* to divorce or reject, from *repudium* divorce, rejection (*re-* back or away + *-pudium*, probably related to *ped-*, *pēs* FOOT, and having originally the sense of push away with the foot, but associated in popular etymology with *pudēre* cause shame to); for suffix see -ATE¹.

—**repudiation** *n.* 1545, divorce; borrowed from Middle French *repudiatiōn*, from Latin *repudiatiōnem* (nominative *repudiātiō*), from *repudiāre* repudiate; for suffix see -ATION.

repugnant *adj.* About 1385 *repugnaunt* contradictory, opposing; borrowed through Old French *repugnant*, or directly from Latin *repugnantem* (nominative *repugnāns*), present participle of *repugnāre* to resist (*re-* back + *pugnāre* to fight); for suffix see -ANT. —**repugnance** *n.* 1385 *repugnaunce* contradiction, opposition; borrowed through Old French *repugnance*, or directly from Latin *repugnantia* resistance, opposition, contradiction, from *repugnantem*; for suffix see -ANCE. The meaning of a strong dislike or aversion, is first recorded in 1643.

repulse *v.* Probably before 1425 *repulsen*, borrowed from Latin *repulsus*, past participle of *repellere* REPEL. —**n.** 1533, refusal, rejection, denial; from the verb in English. —**repulsion** *n.* Before 1420, repudiation, divorce, borrowed from Late Latin *repulsiōnem* (nominative *repulsiō*) act of repelling, from Latin *repuls-*, past participle stem of *repellere* repel; for suffix see -ION. The meaning of a strong dislike or aversion is first found in 1751. —**repulsive** *adj.* Probably before 1425, able to repel, repelling; borrowed through Middle French *répulsif* (feminine *répulsive*), and directly from Medieval Latin *repulsivus*, from Latin *repuls-*, past participle stem of *repellere* repel; for suffix see -IVE. The meaning of causing disgust, strong dislike, is first recorded in 1816.

repute *v.* About 1399 *reputen* to believe; to attribute borrowed from Middle French *reputer*, from Latin *reputāre* reflect upon, reckon (*re-* repeatedly + *putāre* to reckon, consider). The meaning of consider, is first recorded in 1442. —**n.** 1551, opinion, estimate; from the verb. —**reputable** *adj.* 1611, formed from English *repute*, *v.* + *-able*. —**reputation** *n.* Probably about 1350 *reputacioun* credit, good reputation, borrowed

from Latin *reputātiōnem* (nominative *reputātiō*) consideration, from *reputāre*; for suffix see -ATION. —**reputed** adj. 1549, held in repute; later, supposed to be such (1576); replacing earlier *repute*, past participle (about 1375); from *repute*, v.

request n. Before 1338 *requeste* act of asking; borrowed from Old French *requeste* a request, from Vulgar Latin **requaesita*, replacing Latin *requisita* a thing asked for, feminine of *requisitus* requested, demanded, REQUISITE. —v. 1533, from the noun in English, probably influenced by Middle French *requester*, from Old French *requeste*, n.

requiem n. About 1303, borrowing of Latin *requiem*, accusative of *requies* rest, repose (*re-* intensive + *quies* quiet). *Requiem* is the first word of the beginning of the Mass for the dead in the Latin liturgy: “Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine. . . (Eternal rest give to them, O Lord. . .).”

require v. About 1381 *requeren*; later *requiren* (before 1400); borrowed from Old French *requerre*, from Vulgar Latin **requaerere*, alteration (influenced by Latin *quaerere* ask) of Latin *requirere* seek to know, ask (*re-* repeatedly + *quaerere* ask, seek). —**requirement** n. 1530, request; formed from English *require* + *-ment*. A thing required is first recorded in 1662.

requisite adj. 1442, borrowed from Latin *requisitus*, from past participle of *requirere* REQUIRE. —**requisition** n. Probably before 1402, borrowed through Middle French *réquisition*, and directly from Medieval Latin *requisitionem* (nominative *requisitio*), from Latin, a searching, investigation, from *requisit-*, past participle stem of *requirere* REQUIRE. —v. 1837, from the noun.

requite v. Probably before 1400 *requiten*; formed from Middle English *re-* back + *quite* to clear, pay up; QUIT, v. —**requital** n. 1579, formed from English *requite* + *-al*².

reredos n. 1372–73, borrowing of Anglo-French *reredos*, variant of *areredos*, from Old French *arere*, *arrere*, *ariere* behind, backward + *dos* back, from Latin *dossum*, *dorsum*; see DORSAL.

rescind v. 1637–50, borrowed through French *rescinder*, and directly from Latin *rescindere* (*re-* back + *scindere* to cut, split). —**rescission** n. 1611, borrowed from Late Latin *rescissionem* (nominative *rescissio*), from Latin *resciss-*, past participle stem of *rescindere* rescind.

rescue v. Probably about 1300 *rescouen*, *rescuwen* to save from some evil, or harm; borrowed from Old French *rescou-*, stem of *rescourre* (*re-* intensive + *escourre* to cast off, discharge, from Latin *excutere*, from *ex-* out + *-cutere*, combining form of *quater* to shake). —n. Probably about 1380 *rescoghe* act of rescuing; also *rescoue* (about 1390); later *rescu* (about 1425); from the verb.

research n. 1577, careful search; borrowed from Middle French *recherche*, from Old French *rechercher* seek out, search closely (*re-* intensive + *cercher* to seek for). The meaning of a careful hunting for facts is first recorded in English before 1639. —v. 1593, borrowed from Middle French *rechercher*, from Old French.

resemble v. 1340 *resemblen* be like or similar to; borrowed from Old French *resembler* (*re-* intensive + *sembler* to appear, from Latin *simulāre* to copy). —**resemblance** n. Before 1393, likeness, similarity; borrowed from Anglo-French *resemblance*, from Old French *resembler* to resemble; for suffix see -ANCE.

resent v. 1605, to feel pain or distress; borrowed from French *ressentir* feel pain, regret, from Old French *resentir* (*re-* intensive + *sentir* to feel, from Latin *sentire*). The meaning of feel angry at (some wrong, insult, etc.) is first recorded in 1628–29. —**resentful** adj. (1654) —**resentment** n. 1619, borrowed from French *ressentiment*, from *ressentir* to resent.

reserve v. 1357 *reserven* to retain; later, keep back, store up, set apart (before 1382); borrowed from Old French *reserver*, and directly from Latin *reservāre* keep back, save back (*re-* back + *servāre* to keep). —n. 1612, stock, store; borrowed from French *réserve* a reserve, from Old French *reserver* to reserve. The meaning of self-restraint, is first recorded in 1655. —adj. 1719, from the noun. —**reservation** n. 1377 *reservacioun*; borrowed from Old French *reservation*, and directly from Late Latin *reservātiōnem* (nominative *reservātiō*), from Latin *reservāre* to reserve; for suffix see -ATION.

reservoir n. 1690, borrowing of French *réservoir* storehouse, from Old French *reserver* to RESERVE + suffix *-oir* (see -ORY).

reside v. Before 1475 *residen* to remain or settle in some place; borrowed through Middle French *resider*, and directly from Latin *residēre* remain behind (*re-* back + *sedēre* to SIT). It is also probable that in some instances *reside* is a back formation from *resident*. —**residence** n. Probably about 1378, act or fact of residing; also, a dwelling place; borrowed from Old French *residence*, and directly from Medieval Latin *residentia*, from Latin *residentem* (nominative *residēns*) residing or dwelling, present participle of *residēre* reside; for suffix see -ENCE. —**residency** n. 1579, act or fact of residing; formed from English *resident* + *-cy*. —**resident** adj. About 1384; borrowed through Anglo-French and Old French *resident*, from Latin *residentem*; see RESIDENCE; for suffix see -ENT. —n. 1464, from the adjective, probably influenced by Middle French *résident*, n. —**residential** adj. formed from English *resident* + *-ial*.

residue n. Probably before 1350, borrowed from Old French *residu*, from Latin *residuum* a remainder, neuter of *residuus* remaining, left over, from *residēre* remain behind. —**residual** adj. 1570, left after subtraction; formed from Latin *residuum* remainder + English *-al*¹. —n. 1570, a residual quantity, probably from the adjective. The fee or royalty paid a taped or filmed performance, is first recorded about 1960.

resign v. About 1370 *resignen* give up, surrender, abandon, submit; borrowed from Old French *resigner*, from Latin *resignāre* to check off, cancel, give up (*re-* opposite + *signāre* to make an entry in an account book, SIGN). In this use, *resignāre* denoted making an entry (by a mark, *signum*) opposite (on the credit side), balancing the former mark and thus canceling the claim for which it stood. The meaning of give up or relinquish a position is first recorded before 1387. —**resignation** n. Before 1387, borrowed from Old French *resignation*, and di-

rectly from Medieval Latin *resignationem* (nominative *resignatio*), from Latin *resignare*; for suffix see -ATION.

resilient *adj.* 1644, formed in English as an adjective to *resilience* on the model of Latin *resilientem* (nominative *resiliens*), present participle of *resilire* to rebound, recoil (*re-* back + *salire* to jump, leap); for suffix see -ENT. —**resilience** *n.* 1626, formed in English from Latin *resilire* to rebound + English -ence.

resin *n.* Before 1382, borrowed from Old French *resine*, and directly from Latin *rēsina* resin. —**resinous** *adj.* 1646, borrowed, perhaps by influence of French *résineux*, from Latin *rēsinosus*, from *rēsina* resin; for suffix see -OUS.

resist *v.* About 1380 *resisten* stop or hinder, stand against; borrowed from Old French *resister*, and directly from Latin *resistere* stand back or still, withstand (*re-* against + *sistere* take a stand, stand firm). —**resistance** *n.* Probably about 1350, act of resisting; borrowed from Old French *resistance*, from Late Latin *resistentia*, from Latin *resistentem* (nominative *resistens*), present participle of *resistere* to RESIST; for suffix see -ANCE. —**resistant** *adj.* 1410, resisting, opposed; borrowed from Middle French *résistant*, present participle of *résister*, from Old French *resister* to resist; for suffix see -ANT. —**resistor** *n.* 1905, formed from English *resist* + -or².

resolute *adj.* Probably before 1425, dissolved, softened; also, dissolute; later, the sense of breaking into parts, final, absolute (1501) developed into the meaning of resolved, firmly determined, first recorded in 1533; borrowed from Latin *resolūtus* unrestrained, from past participle of *resolvere* to loosen, undo, settle, RESOLVE. —**resolution** *n.* Before 1397 *resolucion* a breaking up into parts, a resolving; borrowed through Old French *resolution*, or directly from Latin *resolūtiōnem* (nominative *resolūtiō*), from *resolūt-*, past participle stem of *resolvere* loosen, RESOLVE. The meaning of a solving or answering is first recorded in 1548, and that of power of holding firmly to a purpose, in 1588.

resolve *v.* About 1380 *resolven* dissolve, break into parts; borrowed through Old French *resolver*, or directly from Latin *resolvere* to loosen, undo, settle (*re-* intensive + *solvere* loosen; see SOLVE). —**n.** 1591, determination, firmness of purpose, from the verb.

resonance *n.* Before 1460, reinforcement or prolongation of sound; borrowed from Middle French *resonance*, from Latin *resonantia* echo, from *resonare* RESOUND; for suffix see -ANCE. —**resonant** *adj.* 1592, borrowed perhaps through Middle French *résonnant*, from Latin *resonantem* (nominative *resonans*), present participle of *resonare* RESOUND; for suffix see -ANT. —**resonate** *v.* 1873, borrowed from Latin *resonātum*, past participle of *resonare* RESOUND; for suffix see -ATE¹.

resort *v.* About 1400 *resorten* to return, revert; also, turn for help (about 1410); borrowed from Middle French *resortir* go out again (Old French *re-* again + *sortir* go out). —**n.** About 1385 *resort* source of help, recourse; borrowed from Old French *resort* resource or help, from *resortir* to RESORT. The

meaning of a place people go to, especially for recreation or relief, appeared in 1754.

resound *v.* About 1380 *resounen* to ring or reecho with some sound; borrowed from Old French *resoner*, from Latin *resonare* sound again, resound, echo (*re-* back, again + *sonare* to SOUND). The current spelling (influenced by *sound*) began to appear probably about 1450.

resource *n.* 1611, stock or reserve available; borrowed from French *resource*, *ressource*, from the feminine form of the past participle *resors*, **resours* of Old French *resourdre* to rally, rise again, from Latin *resurgere* rise again; see RESURGENT. The plural form *resources* a country's actual potential wealth or means, is first recorded in 1779. —**v.** 1975, from the noun. —**resourceful** *adj.* (1851).

respect *n.* Probably about 1380 *respekte* relation, reference, regard; borrowed from Old French *respect*, and directly from Latin *respectus* (genitive *respectūs*) regard; literally, act of looking back at one, from *respe-*, past participle stem of *respicere* look back at, regard, consider (*re-* back + *specere* look at). —**v.** 1548, to regard, consider, take into account; probably from the noun reinforced by Middle French *respector* look back, delay, respect, and Latin *respective*, frequentative form of *respicere* look back at, regard. —**respectability** *n.* 1785, formed as a noun to *respectable*, after such pairs as *capable*, *capability*. —**respectable** *adj.* Before 1586, worthy of notice or consideration; probably formed from English *respect*, possibly by influence of Middle French *respectable*. —**respectful** *adj.* (1598)

respective *adj.* About 1454, relating to, relative; borrowed perhaps through Middle French *respectif* (feminine *respective*) from Medieval Latin *respectivus* having regard for, from Latin *respectus*, past participle of *respicere* look back, have regard for, see RESPECT; for suffix see -IVE.

The meaning of with regard to each particular individual, is first recorded in English in 1646, probably from the earlier adverb use. —**respectively** *adv.* About 1454, relatively; formed from English *respective* + -ly¹. The sense of individually, separately, singly, is first recorded in 1626.

respire *v.* 1385 *respiren* come up for breath, breathe again; borrowed from Old French *respirer*, and directly from Latin *respirare* breathe again, breathe in and out (*re-* again + *spirare* to breathe).

The general meaning of breathe, draw breath, is first recorded probably before 1425. —**respiration** *n.* 1392 *respiracioun*; borrowed from Latin *respiratiōnem* (nominative *respiratiō*), from *respirare* breathe, RESPIRE; for suffix see -ATION. —**respirator** *n.* 1836, formed in English as if from Latin **respirātor*, from *respirare* to breathe, respire; for suffix see -OR². —**respiratory** *adj.* 1790, borrowed from French *respiratoire*, from Late Latin *respirātorius* of or for breathing, from Latin *respirāt-*, past participle stem of *respirare* breathe, RESPIRE; for suffix see -ORY.

respite *n.* About 1250 *respit*; borrowed from Old French *respit* delay, respect, from Latin *respectus* consideration, recourse, regard. —**v.** Before 1330, *respit*; borrowed from Old French *respit* postpone, respect, from *respit*, *n.*

resplendent *adj.* Probably 1440, brilliant; borrowed, perhaps through influence of Middle French *resplendant*, *resplendent*, from Latin *resplendentem* (nominative *resplendēns*) brilliant, radiant, present participle of *resplendēre* to glitter, shine (*re-* intensive + *splendēre* to shine); for suffix see -ENT. —**resplendence** *n.* Probably before 1425, borrowed from Late Latin *resplendentia* brilliance, radiance, from Latin *resplendentem*; see RESPLENDENT; for suffix see -ENCE.

respond *v.* About 1300 *responde* answer, reply; borrowed from Old French *responde* respond or correspond, from Vulgar Latin **respondere*, altered from Latin *respondēre* respond, answer to, promise in return (*re-* back + *spondēre* to promise). —**respondent** *adj.* 1533, correspondent (to something else); probably borrowed directly from Latin *respondentem* (nominative *respondēns*), present participle of *respondēre* respond; for suffix see -ENT. The meaning of answering or responding is first recorded in 1726, from *respondent*, *n.* —**n.** 1528, probably borrowed directly from Latin *respondentem* (nominative *respondēns*) a respondent, from present participle of *respondēre*.

response *n.* About 1300 *response* an answer or reply; later *respons* (before 1338); borrowed from Old French *respons* (feminine *response*), and directly from Latin *respōsum* answer, from neuter past participle of *respondēre* to RESPOND. —**responsive** *adj.* 1419, responding, answering; borrowed through Middle French *responsif* (feminine *responsive*), and directly from Late Latin *respōnsivus*, from Latin *respōsus*, past participle of *respondēre* to RESPOND; for suffix see -IVE.

responsible *adj.* 1599, corresponding or answering to something; borrowed from obsolete French *responsible*, from Latin *respōsus*, past participle of *respondēre* to RESPOND; for suffix see -IBLE. The meaning of answerable or accountable is first recorded in English in 1643. —**responsibility** *n.* (1787)

rest¹ *n.* sleep, stillness. Before 1121 *reste*, developed from Old English *ræste*, *reste* rest, bed, forms found in both Anglian and West Saxon sources: *reste* (before 830), and *ræste*, *selereste* (about 725, in *Beowulf*). Old English *reste* (from Proto-Germanic **rastjō*) is cognate with Old Frisian *rest* bed, Old Saxon *resta*, Old High German *resta*; Old English *ræsta* (from Proto-Germanic **rastō*) is cognate with Old Saxon *rasta* bed, resting place, Old High German *rasta* league (measure of distance) (modern German *Rast* rest), Old Icelandic *rust* (Norwegian *rast*, Swedish *rast*) league, distance after which one rests, Gothic *rasta* mile, a stage of a journey. —**v.** About 1175 *resten*, developed from Old English *ræstan*, *restan* to rest, *ræstan* (about 950), and *restan* (about 725, in *Beowulf*). Old English *restan* is cognate with Old Frisian *resta* to rest, Old Saxon *restian*; Old English *ræstan* is cognate with Old High German *rastōn* (modern German *rasten*) to rest. The verb in Old English is related to, if not derived from *ræste*, *reste* rest, *n.* —**restful** *adj.* 1340 *restevol*, *restvol* characterized by rest, contemplative; later *restful* quiet, peaceful (about 1395); formed from Middle English *reste* rest + *-ful*. —**restless** *adj.* Probably about 1380 *restlez* unceasing, endless; later *resteles* unable to rest, uneasy (about 1385); formed from Middle English *reste* rest + *-less*.

rest² *n.* remainder. About 1440; borrowed from Middle

French *reste* remnant, from *rester* to remain, from Latin *restāre* stand back, be left (*re-* back + *stāre* to STAND).

restaurant *n.* 1827, a public dining room (such as those first found in Paris); borrowing of French *restaurant* a restaurant; originally, food that restores, noun use of present participle of *restaurer* to restore or refresh, from Old French *restorer* RESTORE. —**restaurateur** *n.* 1796, a French word; formed from *restaurer* to restore + *-eur*, on the model of Late Latin *restaurātor* restorer, from Latin *restaurāre* RESTORE.

restitution *n.* Before 1325 *restituciun* the act of restoring something to its owner, or of paying back a debt, etc.; later *restitution* (1423); borrowed from Old French *restitucion*, and directly from Latin *restitūtiōnem* (nominative *restitūtiō*) a restoring, from past participle of *restituere* restore, rebuild, replace (*re-* again + *statuere* to set up); for suffix see -TION.

restive *adj.* About 1410 *restif* not moving forward, stationary; later, (of a horse) refusing to go forward, unmanageable; borrowed from Middle French *restif* (feminine *restive*) motionless, from *rester* to remain, REST²; for suffix see -IVE.

restore *v.* About 1300 *restoren* give back, compensate for, rebuild, renew; borrowed from Old French *restorer*, from Latin *restaurāre* repair, rebuild, renew, restore (*re-* back, again + *-staurāre*, as in *instaurāre* restore). —**restoration** *n.* Probably before 1500 *restoracion* renewal, alteration (influenced by *restore*) of *restauracion* a restoring to health (before 1393); borrowed from Old French *restauration*, and perhaps directly from Latin *restaurātiōnem* (nominative *restaurātiō*), from *restaurāre* restore; for suffix see -ATION. —**restorative** *adj.* Before 1398 *restoratif*, alteration (influenced by *restore*) of *restauratif* (before 1393); borrowed from Old French *restauratif*, from Latin *restaurātus*, past participle of *restaurāre* restore; for suffix see -IVE. —**n.** Probably before 1435 *restoratif*; from the adjective.

restrain *v.* Before 1349 *restreynen* hold back, keep in check, stop; later, *restraynen* (about 1375); borrowed from Old French *restraindre*, *restreindre*, from Latin *restringere* draw back tightly, confine, check; see RESTRICT. —**restraint** *n.* About 1412, act of restraining, check, hindrance; borrowed from Middle French *restrainte*, noun use of feminine past participle of Old French *restraindre* to restrain.

restrict *v.* 1535, keep within limits, confine; probably a back formation from *restriction*; but possibly also borrowed from Latin *restrictus*, past participle of *restringere* bind fast, check, restrain (*re-* back + *stringere* draw tight). —**restriction** *n.* About 1412 *restriccioun* a cessation; borrowed through Middle French *restriction*, and directly from Late Latin *restricciōnem* (nominative *restricciō*) limitation, from Latin *restrict-*, past participle stem of *restringere* restrict; for suffix see -TION. —**restrictive** *adj.* Probably before 1425, astringent, binding; borrowed from Middle French *restrictif* (feminine *restrictive*), from Latin *restrictus*, past participle; for suffix see -IVE.

result *v.* Probably before 1425 *resulten* follow as an outcome; borrowed from Latin *resultāre* to spring back, rebound, frequentative form derived from the past participle of *resilire* to rebound. —**n.** 1626, act of springing back; from the verb.

—**resultant** adj. 1639, possibly formed from English *result* + *-ant*, and borrowed from Latin *resultantem* (nominative *resultans*), present participle of *resultare* to rebound; for suffix see *-ANT*.

resume *v.* 1404 *resumen* to get or take again; later, begin again (about 1450); borrowed from Middle French *resumer*, and directly from Latin *resumere* take again, assume again (*re-* again + *sumere* take up). —**resumption** *n.* 1443 *resumpcion* repossessing by grant; borrowed from Middle French *resumption*, and directly from Late Latin *resumptiōnem* (nominative *resumptiō*), from Latin *resumpt-*, past participle stem of *resumere* to resume; for suffix see *-TION*.

résumé *n.* 1804, borrowing of French *résumé*, noun use of past participle of Middle French *resumer* to sum up. The biographical summary, as of a person's career, is first recorded before 1950.

resurgent adj. 1808, probably formed from English *resurge* rise again (1575, borrowed from Latin *resurgere* rise again) + *-ent*. —**resurgence** *n.* Before 1834, formed from English *resurgent* + *-ence*.

resurrection *n.* About 1300, church festival commemorating the rising again of Christ; borrowed from Anglo-French *resurrection* and from Old French *resurrection*, and directly from Late Latin *resurrectiōnem* (nominative *resurrectiō*), from Latin *resurrect-*, past participle stem of *resurgere* rise again; for suffix see *-TION*.

The meaning of revival, restoration, is first recorded in 1649, from the sense of rebirth (about 1475). —**resurrect** *v.* 1772, back formation from *resurrection*.

resuscitate *v.* Probably about 1425, revive, restore; borrowed from Latin *resuscitatus*, past participle of *resuscitare* rouse again, revive (*re-* again + *suscitare* to raise, revive); for suffix see *-ATE*¹.

After 1535 *resuscitate* displaced the variant Middle English verb *resusciten* (recorded probably about 1450); borrowed through Middle French *resusciter*, or directly from Latin *resuscitare* resuscitate. —**resuscitation** *n.* Probably about 1425 *resuscitacion* restoration; borrowed from Middle French *ressuscitation*, and directly from Late Latin *resuscitātiōnem* (nominative *resuscitātiō*), from Latin *resuscitare* resuscitate; for suffix see *-ATION*.

retail *n.* 1413 *retayll*, 1417 *retaille*; borrowed from Middle French *retail* (feminine *retaille*) piece cut off, shred, scrap, paring (also found in Italian *ritaglio* a selling by the piece), from Old French *retailleur* to cut off, pare, clip, divide (*re-* back + *taillier* to cut, trim). —*v.* 1419 *retaylen* sell in small quantities; borrowed from Middle French *retailleur* to cut off, divide. The meaning of recount or tell over again, is first recorded in 1594. —*adj.* 1601, from the noun. —**retailer** *n.* Probably 1466, earlier *retailleur* (1444); formed from Middle English *retailen* to retail + *-er*¹ or *-or*².

retain *v.* About 1386 *reteinen* hold back, restrain; later *retaynen* (probably before 1400); borrowed from Old French *retenir*, from Latin *retinere* hold back (*re-* back + *tenere* to hold). The

meaning of continue keeping, is first recorded about 1450 and that of employ or secure the services of in 1437.

retainer¹ *n.* fee paid to secure services. 1453 *reteignour* retention of revenue from customs; later *reteiner* engagement of a person as a servant or for some other position (1467–68); formed from English *retain*, *v.* + *-er*³, influenced by noun use of Old French *retenir* to RETAIN.

retainer² *n.* servant, attendant. 1540 *retaynour*, 1570 *reteyner*; formed from English *retain*, *v.* + *-er*¹, on the model of Old French *reteneor*, from *retenir* to RETAIN.

retaliate *v.* 1611, probably a back formation from *retaliation*; for suffix see *-ATE*¹. —**retaliation** *n.* 1581, formed from Latin *retaliare* pay back in kind (*re-* back + *taliō* exaction of payment in kind) + English *-ation*. —**retaliatory** adj. (1813)

retard *v.* About 1477 *retarden* keep back, delay, hinder; borrowed from Middle French *retarder*, from Latin *retardare* to make slow, delay (*re-* intensive + *tardare* to slow). —**retardant** adj. 1642, formed from English *retard* + *-ant*. —*n.* 1952, from the adjective. —**retardation** *n.* Probably before 1430, act of retarding, delay; borrowed from Middle French *retardation*, and directly from Latin *retardātiōnem* (nominative *retardātiō*), from *retardare* to retard; for suffix see *-ATION*. The meaning of mental slowness is first recorded in English in 1914. —**retarded** adj. 1910, from the past participle of English *retard*.

retch *v.* 1548, to clear the throat noisily, bring up phlegm (implied in *retching*), alteration (probably by influence of *retch* to stretch) of Middle English *rechen* to belch, retch (1392); developed from Old English *hræcan* to cough up, spit (before 899), from Proto-Germanic **Hrækkjanan*, and related to *hræca* phlegm, from Proto-Germanic **Hrækōn*.

The meaning of make efforts to vomit is first recorded in 1801.

retention *n.* 1392 *retencioun* power or capacity to retain; borrowed through Old French *retention*, and directly from Latin *retentiōnem* (nominative *retentiō*) a retaining, from *retent-*, past participle stem of *retinere* RETAIN; for suffix see *-ION*. —**retentive** adj. About 1390 *retentif* able to hold or keep; borrowed from Old French *retentif* (feminine *retentive*), from Medieval Latin *retentivus* restraining, confining, from Latin *retent-*, past participle stem of *retinere* RETAIN; for suffix see *-IVE*.

reticence *n.* 1603, borrowed from French *reticence*, from Latin *reticentia* silence, from *reticere* keep silent (*re-* intensive + *tacere* be silent; see TACIT); for suffix see *-ENCE*. —**reticent** adj. Before 1834, formed in English as an adjective to *reticence*, on the model of Latin *reticentem* (nominative *reticēns*), present participle of *reticere*; for suffix see *-ENT*.

reticulate adj. 1658, borrowed from Latin *reticulatus* having a netlike pattern, from *reticulum* little net, diminutive of *rete* net; for suffix see *-ATE*¹. —**reticular** adj. 1597, borrowed from New Latin *reticularis* of or formed like a network, from Latin

rēticulum little net; for suffix see -AR. —**reticulation** *n.* 1671, formed from English *reticulate* + -ion.

retina *n.* 1392, membrane at the back of the eyeball; borrowing of Medieval Latin *retina*, possibly abstracted from Vulgar Latin (*tunica*) **rētina* netlike (tunic), enveloping the vitreous body of the eye, (accidentally associated with Latin **rēfina* rein or a shortening from Latin *retināculum* tether, halter, but probably ultimately formed on Latin *rēte* net). The Vulgar Latin form may be a literal translation of Arabic (*tabaqa*) *ṣabakīva* netlike (layer), itself a translation of Greek *amphiblestroeidēs* (*chitōn*) netlike (tunic), from Latin *rēte* net; so called from its blood vessels as a fine network.

retinue *n.* About 1385, state of being in service; also, group of attendants; borrowed from Old French *retenue* group of followers, state of service, from feminine past participle of *retenir* to employ, RETAIN.

retire *v.* 1533, to retreat, go back; borrowed from Middle French *retirer* (*re-* back + Old French *tirer* to draw). The meaning of go away, as for seclusion or rest, is first recorded in 1538, and that of withdraw from an occupation in 1667. —**retirement** *n.* 1596, act of falling back or retreating; possibly formed from English *retire* + -ment, but also found in Middle French *retirement*, from *retirer* to retire; for suffix see -MENT. The meaning of withdrawal from an occupation, is first attested in 1648.

retort¹ *v.* About 1557, to return (an insult, wrong, etc.), retaliate; borrowed from Latin *retortus*, past participle of *retorquere* turn back (*re-* back + *torquere* to twist). —**n.** 1600, probably extended from the verb sense of retaliate.

retort² *n.* container with a curved neck, used for distilling. 1605, borrowed from French *retorte* a vessel with a curved neck, from Medieval Latin *retorta* thing with a twisted neck, from feminine past participle of Latin *retorquere* turn or bend back.

retract *v.* Probably before 1425 *retracten* draw in or pull back; borrowed from Latin *retractus*, past participle of *retrahere* draw back (*re-* back + *trahere* to draw).

The various senses of *retract* (in general, draw in or back, and withdraw or revoke) have become confused in English, but etymologically they represent distinct borrowings and the sense of *retract* to withdraw (an opinion, declaration, etc.), revoke, recall (1545) was originally either a back formation from *retraction* or borrowed from Latin *retractare* revoke or cancel (*re-* back + *tractare* draw violently, frequentative form of *trahere* to draw). —**retraction** *n.* About 1390 *retraccioun* withdrawal of an opinion, etc.; borrowed from Latin *retractiōnem* (nominative *retractiō*), from Latin *retractare* revoke, cancel. The generalized sense of a drawing back, found later in Middle English (probably before 1425), was borrowed from *retract-*, past participle stem of *retrahere* draw back; for suffix see -TION.

retreat *n.* Probably about 1300 *retret* a step backwards; later, signal for military withdrawal (1375); borrowed from Old French *retret*, *retrait*, noun use of past participle of *retrere*, *retraire* draw back, from Latin *retrahere* draw back (*re-* back + *trahere* to

draw). The meaning of an act of withdrawing is first recorded in 1393, and that of a place for seclusion probably before 1437. —**v.** 1422 *rereten* draw back or in; later, to withdraw from battle (before 1460); from *retret*, *n.*, and borrowed from Old French *retret*, *retrait*, past participle of *retrere*, *retraire* draw back.

retrench *v.* 1607, cut short, check, repress; later, cut down, reduce (1625); back formation from *retrenchment*, and borrowed from obsolete French *retrencher*, now *retrancher* (*re-* back + Old French *trenchier* to cut). —**retrenchment** *n.* About 1600, the act of cutting down or out, curtailment, reduction; borrowed from obsolete French *retrenchement* (now *retranchement*).

retribution *n.* About 1384 *retribucion* repayment, recompense, return; borrowed from Latin *retributiōnem* (nominative *retributiō*) recompense, repayment, from *retribuere* hand back, repay (*re-* back + *tribuere* to assign, allot); for suffix see -TION. —**retributive** *adj.* 1678, formed from earlier English *retribute*, *v.*, give in return (1575, borrowed from Latin *retributus*, past participle of *retribuere*) + -ive.

retrieve *v.* About 1410 *retriven* (of dogs) to find again (lost game); borrowed from Middle French *retruer*-, stem of *retro-uer* find again (*re-* again + *trouver* to find, probably from Vulgar Latin **tropare* to compose). The meaning of recover, regain, restore (anything) is first recorded in English in 1567. —**n.** 1575, from the verb. —**retrieval** *n.* Before 1643, act of retrieving, recovery; formed from English *retrieve*, *v.* + -al². —**retriever** *n.* 1486, dog used for retrieving game; formed from Middle English *retriven*, *v.* + -er¹.

retro- a prefix meaning backward, back, behind, as in *retroactive*, *retrocede*, *retrogress*. Borrowed from Latin *retro-*, from *retro*, prep., adv., backward, back, behind, probably originally the ablative form of a lost contrastive adjective **reteros*, based on *re-* back.

This combining form became especially productive in reference to a rocket's backward or opposing thrust as in *retrofire* (1961), *retro-rocket* (1957).

retroactive *adj.* 1611, having an effect on what is past; borrowed from French *rétroactif* (feminine *rétroactive*) casting or relating back, from Latin *retroactus*, past participle of *retroagere* drive or turn back (*retro-* back, *retro-* + *agere* to drive).

retrofit *v.* 1954, formed from *retro(ative)* + *fit*, *v.* —**n.** 1956, from the verb.

retrograde *adj.* 1392, (of a planet) appearing to move backward or contrary to the normal movement; borrowed from Latin *retrogradus* going backward, from *retrogradī* move backward (*retro-* backward + *gradī* to go, step). —**v.** 1582, turn back, reverse, revert; borrowed from Latin *retrogradī*.

retrogress *v.* 1819, probably a back formation from *retrogression*; and perhaps borrowed (on the model of English *progress*) as if from Latin **retrogressus*, past participle of *retrogradī* move backward. —**retrogression** *n.* 1646, apparent backward movement of a planet or other celestial body; formed (on the model of English *progression*) as if from Latin **retrogressiōnem*, from **retrogressus*, past participle of *retrogradī* move backward;

for suffix see **-ION**. The act or fact of moving backward in development, is first recorded in English about 1768.

retrospect *n.* 1602, reference to a precedent or authority; borrowed as if from Latin **retrōspect-*, past participle stem of *retrōspicere* look back (*retrō-* back, *retro-* + *specere* look at). —**retrospection** *n.* 1633, act of looking back; borrowed as if from Latin **retrōspectiōnem* (nominative **retrōspectiō*), from the past participle stem of *retrōspicere* look back; for suffix see **-TION**. —**retrospective** *adj.* 1664, looking back on things past; formed from English *retrospect*, *n.* + *-ive*. —**n.** 1932, from the adjective.

retrovirus *n.* 1977, formed from English *retro-* backward + *virus*; so called because it contains an enzyme (reverse transcriptase) that uses RNA instead of DNA to encode genetic information, reversing the usual pattern of encoding. The choice of *retro-* may also have been influenced by the initial letters of *re(verse) tr(anscriptase)*.

return *v.* Before 1325 *retornen* come or go back; later *retornen* (about 1386); borrowed from Old French *retornier*, *retourner* turn back, return (*re-* back + *torner*, *tourner* to TURN). The meaning of to bring or send back is first recorded about 1380. —**n.** Before 1393 *retorn* act of returning; borrowed from Old French *retorn*, from *retornier* to return.

reunite *v.* 1591, from earlier participial adjective *reunit* reunited (before 1500); borrowed from Medieval Latin *reunitus*, past participle of *reunire* unite again (Latin *re-* again + *unire* join together, UNITE). —**reunion** *n.* 1610, borrowed from French *réunion* a reuniting (*re-* again + *union* UNION).

revamp *v.* 1850, from *re-* again + *vamp*¹ patch up.

revanchist *n.* 1926, formed in English from *revanche* revenge (1858, borrowed from French *revanche*, from Middle French *revanche*, *revence* REVENGE) + *-ist* anyone seeking to avenge Germany's defeat in World War I by recovering lost territory, probably modeled on French *revanchard*, used in reference to the defeat of France in the Franco-Prussian War.

reveal *v.* About 1400 *revelen* disclose, make known; borrowed from Old French *reveler*, from Latin *revēlare* reveal, unveil (*re-* opposite of + *vēlare* to cover, veil, from *vēlum* a veil).

veille *n.* 1644, borrowed from French *réveillez* awaken!, imperative plural of *réveiller* to awaken (Middle French *re-* again + *eveiller* to rouse, from Vulgar Latin **exvigilāre*, from Latin *ex-* out + *vigilāre* be awake, keep watch).

revel *v.* About 1390 *revelen* make merry; borrowed from Old French *reveler* be disorderly, make merry, from Latin *rebellāre* to rebel. The meaning of take great pleasure (in) is first recorded in 1754. —**n.** Before 1375, as a surname (1201); borrowed from Old French *revel*, from *reveler* to revel. —**revelry** *n.* About 1410, formed from Middle English *revel*, *n.* + *-ry*.

revelation *n.* About 1303 *revelacyun* disclosure or communication of divine knowledge; borrowed through Old French *revelation*, or directly from Late Latin *revēlātiōnem* (nominative *revēlātiō*), from Latin *revēlare* to REVEAL; for suffix see **-ATION**.

Revelation as the name of the last book of the New Testament is first found in Middle English about 1384.

revenge *v.* 1375 *revengen* take vengeance; borrowed from Old French *revengier*, variant of *revenchier* (*re-* intensive + *vengier* take revenge). —**n.** 1547, borrowed from Middle French *revange*, *revanche* revenge, from Old French *revengier*, *revenchier* to revenge.

revenue *n.* 1419, profit from property or other source of income; 1422, return, yield; borrowing of Middle French *revenue*, from Old French *revenue* a return, from feminine past participle of *revenir* come back, from Latin *revenire* return, come back (*re-* back + *venire* come). The meaning of income from taxes, etc., that a government receives, is first recorded in English in 1690. —**revenueur** *n.* (1880).

reverberate *v.* 1547, to beat, drive, or force back; probably a back formation from earlier *reverberation*, formed on the model of Latin *reverberātus*, past participle of *reverberāre* beat back (*re-* back + *verberāre* to beat, from *verber* whip, lash, rod); for suffix see **-ATE**¹. *Reverberate* replaced Middle English *reverberen* (recorded probably before 1425); borrowed from Middle French *réverbérer*, from Latin *reverberāre*.

The meaning of *reecho*, is first recorded in English in 1591. —**reverberation** *n.* About 1395 *reverberacioun* fact of being driven or forced back; later *reverberation* (probably about 1425); borrowed from Old French *reverberation*, from Medieval Latin *reverberationem* (nominative *reverberatio*), from Latin *reverberāre* beat back; for suffix see **-ATION**.

revere *v.* 1661, to respect greatly, venerate; borrowed from French *révéler* revere, and possibly as a learned borrowing from Latin *reverēri* (*re-* intensive + *verēri* stand in awe of, fear). —**reverence** *n.* About 1280, deep respect; borrowing of Old French *reverence*, from Latin *reverentia* reverence, from *reverēri* to revere; for suffix see **-ENCE**. —**reverent** *adj.* About 1380, inspiring or worthy of reverence; showing respect (about 1390); probably formed in English as an adjective to the noun *reverence*, on the model of Latin *reverentem* (nominative *reverēns*), present participle of *reverēri* to revere; for suffix see **-ENT**. —**reverential** *adj.* About 1555, formed from Latin *reverentia* reverence + English *-al*¹.

reverend *adj.* 1428, borrowed from Middle French *reverend*, from Latin *reverendus* (he who is) to be respected, gerundive of *reverēri* to REVERE. *Reverend* as a respectful form of address or epithet applied to a member of the clergy is first recorded in 1484. —**n.** Before 1500, from the adjective.

reverie *n.* About 1350 *ryvori* wild conduct, frolic, revelry; later *reverye* (about 1390); borrowed from Old French *reverie* revelry, raving, delirium, from *rever*, *resver* to dream, wander, rave, of uncertain origin. The meaning daydream, is first recorded in English in 1657.

reverse *adj.* About 1303 *revers* opposite or contrary in character, order, etc.; borrowed from Old French *revers* reverse, cross, from Latin *reversus*, past participle of *revertere* turn back, REVERT. —**n.** About 1350, *revers* the opposite of something; from the adjective. —**v.** Before 1333 *reversen* change, alter;

later go backward (probably before 1425); borrowed from Old French *reverser* turn in an opposite direction, from Late Latin *reversāre* turn round, frequentative form of *revertere* turn back, REVERT. —**reversal** n. 1488, act of reversing; formed from English *reverse*, v. + -al². —**reversible** adj. 1648, formed from English *reverse*, v. + -ible. —**n.** 1863, a reversible garment; from the adjective. —**reversion** n. 1394, (in law) an estate returned to a donor; borrowed from Old French *reversion*, and possibly as a learned borrowing from Latin *reversio* (nominative *reversio*) act of turning back, from *revers-*, past participle stem of *revertere* turn back; for suffix see -SION.

revert v. Probably before 1300 *reverten* revive, recover consciousness; later, return to a previous condition (about 1450); borrowed from Old French *revertir*, from Vulgar Latin **revertere*, variant of Latin *revertere* turn back (*re-* back + *vertere* to turn).

review n. 1441 *review* an inspection of military forces; later, a looking over something, a revision (1565); borrowed from Middle French *reveüe*, *revue* a reviewing or review, from feminine past participle of *reveür* to see again, go to see again, from Latin *revidere* (*re-* again + *videre* to see). —**v.** 1576, formed from English *re-* again + *view*, v., developed from *review*, n.

revile v. About 1303 *revilen* to degrade, abuse; borrowed from Old French *reviler* consider vile, despise (*re-* intensive + *vil* VILE).

revise v. 1567, borrowed from Middle French *reviser*, from Latin *revisere* look at again, visit again, frequentative form of *revidere* (*re-* again + *videre* to see). —**n.** 1591, from the verb. —**revision** n. 1611, borrowing of French *revision*, from Late Latin *revisio* (nominative *revisio*), from Latin *revisere* look at again; for suffix see -SION.

revive v. Probably before 1425 *reviven* return to consciousness; also, restore to health (about 1425); borrowed from Middle French *revivre*, from Latin *revivere* to live again (*re-* again + *vivere* to live). The meaning of bring back to notice, use or fashion, is first recorded in 1442. —**revival** n. 1651, act of reviving; formed from English *revive* + -al². —**revivalist** n. (1820)

revivify v. 1675, borrowed from French *revivifier*, from Late Latin *revivificāre* revivify (*re-* again + *vivificāre* make alive).

revocation n. About 1410 *revocacioun* act of revoking, retraction; borrowed from Middle French *revocation*, and directly from Latin *revocatio* (nominative *revocatio*), from *revocāre* REVOKE; for suffix see -ATION. —**revocable** adj. Before 1500, probably borrowed from Middle French *revocable*, from Old French *revouer* revoke + -able -able, but later assimilated with *revokable* (1584), a formation in English of *revoke*, v. + -able, which dropped out of use in the 1700's.

revoke v. About 1350 *revoken* make a retraction; borrowed from Old French *revouer*, from Latin *revocāre* rescind, call back (*re-* back + *vocāre* to call).

revolt v. 1548, borrowed from Middle French *revolter*, from Italian *rivoltare* to overthrow, overturn, from Vulgar Latin **re-*

volūtāre to overturn, overthrow, frequentative form of Latin *revolvere* turn, roll back; see REVOLVE. —**n.** 1560, borrowed from Middle French *révolte*, from Italian *rivolta* an overthrow, turn, from *rivoltare* to revolt. —**revolting** adj. 1593, that revolts or rebels, from the present participle of *revolt*; for suffix see -ING². The sense of repulsive, disgusting, is first recorded in 1806.

revolution n. About 1385 *revolucioun* the revolving of a celestial body in orbit; later, a turning of a wheel (before 1420); borrowed from Old French *revolution*, from Late Latin *revolutiōnem* (nominative *revolutiō*) a revolving, from Latin *revolūt-*, past participle stem of *revolvere* turn, roll back; for suffix see -TION.

The political meaning of *revolution* is first recorded in English in 1600 (derived from French), and was later reinforced in reference to expulsion of the Stuart dynasty in 1688, and the French Revolution (1789–95), which caused much greater concern among the British than the American Revolution (1775–81). —**revolutionary** adj. 1774, of or connected with a political revolution; formed from English *revolution* + -ary. —**n.** 1850, from the adjective. —**revolutionize** v. 1797, bring about a revolution in (a country); formed from English *revolution* + -ize. The meaning of change over completely is first recorded in 1799.

revolve v. About 1385 *revolven* to change; later turn around (about 1450); borrowed through Old French *revolver*, and directly from Latin *revolvere* turn, roll back (*re-* back, again + *volvere* to roll). The meaning of travel around a central point, is first recorded in 1667.

revolver n. 1835, from *revolve* + -er¹; so called by its inventor, Samuel Colt.

revue n. 1872, show presenting a review of current events, fashions, etc.; borrowing of French *revue* from Middle French, survey; see REVIEW.

revulsion n. 1541, a diverting of blood from one region of the body to another; borrowed from Latin *revulsio* (nominative *revulsio*) act of pulling away, from *revuls-*, past participle stem of *revellere* to pull away (*re-* away + *vellere* to tear, pull); for suffix see -SION. The sense of a reaction of disgust, is first recorded in 1816.

reward v. Probably before 1300, to grant, bestow; borrowed from Anglo-French and Old North French *rewarder*, variant of Old French *regarder*, *reguarder* regard, watch over (*re-* intensive + *garder*, *guarder* look, heed, watch; see GUARD). —**n.** Before 1338, regard, consideration; borrowed from Anglo-French and probably Old North French *reward*, from *rewarder* take notice of. The meaning of recompense, is first recorded in 1371.

rhapsody n. 1542, epic poem; borrowed from Latin *rhapsōdia*, from Greek *rhapsōidia* verse composition, derived from *rhapsōidos* reciter of epic poems (*rhāptein* to stitch + *ōidē* song, ODE); for suffix see Y³.

The meaning of musical composition of indefinite form and sprightly character is first recorded in English after 1851.

—**rhapsodic** adj. 1782, shortened form of *rhapsodical* (1659, formed from Greek *rhapsōidikós*, from *rhapsōidḗa* rhapsody + English *-ical*). —**rhapsodize** v. 1607, formed from English *rhapsody* + *-ize*.

rhea n. 1801, bird similar to the ostrich. New Latin, the genus name, from Latin *Rhea* mother of Zeus, from Greek *Rhéa*.

rhenum n. 1925, New Latin, formed from Latin *Rhēnus* the Rhine River + New Latin *-ium*.

rheo- a combining form meaning flow, stream, current, as in *rheology*, *rheostat*; borrowed from Greek *rhéōs* a flowing, stream, from *rhēin* to flow.

rheology n. 1929, borrowed from French *rhéologie* (*rheo-* flow + *-logie* study of).

rheostat n. 1843, formed from English *rheo-* + *-stat* (regulating device).

rhesus n. 1827, New Latin, the genus name of this monkey, said to be an arbitrary use of Latin *Rhēsus*, name of a legendary prince of Thrace, from Greek *Rhēsos*.

rhetoric n. About 1330 *Rettorike*, later *rethoryke* (before 1382); borrowed from Old French *rethorique*, from Latin *rhētoricē*, from Greek *rhētorikḗ téchnē* art of an orator, from *rhētōr* (genitive *rhētoros*) orator; for suffix see *-ic*.

The spelling with *rh-* is first recorded about 1475. The sense of mastery of literary eloquence, appeared in 1395. —**rhetorical** adj. 1447 *rethorycal*, earlier *rethorik*, adj. (about 1385), formed from *rethoryke*, n. + *-al*, on the model of Latin *rhētoricus*, from Greek *rhētorikós*, from *rhētōr* orator. —**rhetorician** n. Before 1420 *rethoricien*; borrowed from Middle French *rethoricien*, from Old French *rethorique* + *-ien* -ian.

rheum n. About 1373 *reame*; also *reume* (about 1378); borrowed from Old French *reume*, from Latin *rheuma*, from Greek *rhēuma* a flowing, from *rhēin* to flow.

rheumatism n. 1601 *rheumatisme* excessive flow of rheum; borrowed perhaps through Middle French *rhumatisme*, from Latin *rheumatismus* rheum, flux, from Greek *rheumatismós*, from *rheumatízein* suffer from a flux, from *rhēuma* RHEUM.

The form *reumatisme* is recorded as an adjective (about 1425); probably borrowed from a Medieval Latin form of Latin *rheumatismus*. The meaning of a disease of the joints is first recorded in 1688, because rheumatism was thought to be caused by an excessive flow of rheum into a joint thereby stretching ligaments. —**rheumatic** adj. 1392 *reumatik* consisting of rheum; borrowed through Old French *reumatique*, and directly from Latin *rheumaticus* troubled with rheum, from Greek *rheumatikós*, from *rhēuma* rheum; for suffix see *-ic*. —**rheumatoid** adj. 1859, in the phrase *rheumatoid arthritis*, resembling rheumatism; formed from Greek *rhēumat-*, stem of *rhēuma* + English *-oid*.

Rh factor 1942, from *rh(esus)*; so called because it was discovered in blood of the rhesus monkey.

rhin- a variant of the combining form *rhino-* before a vowel, as in *rhinal*, *rhinitis*.

rhinal adj. 1864, formed from English *rhin-* + *-al*.

rhinestone n. 1888, formed from *Rhine* + *stone*, as a loan translation of French *caillou du Rhin* Rhine pebble; so called because they were made in Strasbourg, a city near the Rhine River.

rhinitis n. 1884, New Latin; formed from *rhin-* of the nose + *-itis* inflammation.

rhino n. 1884, shortened form of *rhinoceros*.

rhino- a combining form meaning nose or of the nose, as in *rhinoceros*, *rhinovirus*. Borrowed from Greek *rhīno-*, combining form of *rhīs* (genitive *rhīnós*) nose.

rhinoceros n. Probably before 1300 *rinoceros*; borrowed from Latin *rhinocērōs*, from Greek *rhīnókerōs* (*rhīnós* nose + *kéras* horn).

rhinovirus n. 1961, formed from English *rhino-* of the nose + *virus*.

rhizome n. 1845, borrowed perhaps through French *rhizome* (1817), from New Latin *rhizoma*, from Greek *rhízōma* mass of tree roots, from *rhízōn* cause to strike root, from *rhíza* ROOT.

rhodium n. 1804, New Latin; formed from Greek *rhódōn* rose + New Latin *-ium*; so called from the rosy color of the element's salts.

rhododendron n. 1601, borrowed through French, or directly from Latin *rhododendron*, from Greek *rhodódendron* (*rhódon* rose + *déndron* tree).

rhombus n. 1567, borrowing of Late Latin *rhombus*, from Greek *rhómbos* rhombus, spinning top, from *rhémbesthai* to spin, whirl. —**rhomboid** n. 1570, borrowed from Middle French *romboïde*, from Late Latin *romboïdēs*, from Greek *rhomboidēs* shaped like a rhombus (*rhómbos* rhombus + *-oidēs* -oid).

rhubarb n. About 1390, borrowed from Old French *rubarbe*, *reubarbe*, from Medieval Latin *rheubarbarum*, alteration of *rhabarbarum*, from Greek *rhā bárbaron* foreign rhubarb (*rhā* rhubarb, associated with *Rhā*, ancient name of the Volga river; and *bárbaron* foreign, neuter of *bárbaros*). The Medieval Latin variant *rheubarbarum* was probably influenced in form by Greek *rhēon* rhubarb, from Persian *rēwend*.

rhyme or **rime** n. 1610 *rhyme* verse or poetry; a spelling alteration (influenced by *rhythm*) of Middle English *ryme*, *rime* measure, meter, rhythm (about 1200); later, rhymed verse (before 1250); borrowed from Old French *rime* (feminine), related to Old Provençal *rim* (masculine), both probably from a Germanic source (compare Old High German, Old Frisian and Old English *rīm* number, Old Icelandic *rīm* reckoning, computation, and Old English *riman* to count, recount, enumerate). —v. 1660 *rhyme* to make verse; spelling alteration (influenced by *rhythm*) of Middle English *rymen*, *rimen* (about 1300), from the noun.

rhythm n. About 1557, rhyming or rhymed verse; also, metrical movement (1560); borrowed from Latin *rhythmus* move-

ment in time, rhythm, from Greek *rhythmos* measured flow or movement, rhythm, related to *rheîn* to flow.

The meaning in music is first recorded in English in 1776 and that of any movement with a regular succession of elements (as in *the rhythm of the tides*) in 1855. —**rhythmic** adj. Before 1631 *rythmique* (shortened form of *rhythmical*, 1567), formed from English *rhythm* + *-ic*, on the model of French *rhythmique*.

rib *n.* Probably before 1200 *rib*, *ribbe*; developed from Old English (before 800) *ribb* rib; cognate with Old Frisian *ribb*, *rebbe* rib, Old Saxon *ribbi*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *ribbe*, Old High German *rippi*, *rippa* (modern German *Rippe*), and Old Icelandic *rif* (Norwegian *riu*), from Proto-Germanic **reþja-*. —**v.** Before 1547, from the noun. The meaning of tease, fool, is first recorded in 1930, perhaps as a figurative use of the sense of beat (one) on the ribs (1723).

ribald *n.* Before 1250 *ribaude* rascal, scoundrel; later, *ribald* (before 1393); borrowed from Old French *ribalt*, *ribaut*, *ribaud*, from *riber* be wanton, from a Germanic source (compare Old High German *riban* be wanton, literally, to rub, modern German *reiben* to rub, cognate with Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *wriwen* to rub, from Proto-Germanic **wribanan*). —**adj.** 1500–20, from the noun, and replacing *ribaude*. —**ribaldry** *n.* Before 1325, *ribaude* ribald language, debauchery; later *ribaldrie* (about 1450); borrowed from Old French *ribaude*, *ribaude*, from *ribaude* ribald; for suffix see *-RY*.

ribbon *n.* Probably about 1325 *riban*; borrowed from Old French *riban* a ribbon, variant of *ruban*, of uncertain origin (possibly from a Germanic compound whose first element is uncertain and whose second element is related to *band*, as in early modern Dutch *ringband* dog's collar).

riboflavin *n.* 1935, formed from English *ribo(se)* + *flavin*, from Latin *flāvus* yellow; so called because its color.

ribonucleic acid 1931, formed from English *ribo(se)* sugar component of this acid + *nucleic acid*.

ribose *n.* 1892, borrowing of German *Ribose*, shortened and altered form of English *arabinose* a sugar (about 1880); formed from *gum arabic*, used in preparing arabinose + *-in²* + *-ose²*.

ribosome *n.* 1958, formed from English *ribo-* (*nucleic acid*) + *-some³* body. —**ribosomal** adj. 1959, formed from English *ribosome* + *-al¹*.

rice *n.* 1234 *ris*, *rys*; later *ryce* (before 1475); borrowed from Old French *ris*, from Italian *riso*, from Latin *oriza*, *oryza*, from Greek *óryza* rice, from an Indo-Iranian form (compare Pashto *vrižē* and Sanskrit *vrihī-s*, both meaning rice). —**v.** 1923, from the noun.

rich adj. Before 1121 *riche*, probably a fusion of Old French *riche* wealthy, from a Germanic source; and Old English (before 900) *rice* wealthy, powerful, mighty. Old English *rice* (from Proto-Germanic **rikijaz*) is cognate with Old Frisian *rike* wealthy, mighty, Old Saxon *riki*, Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *rike* (modern Dutch *rijk* wealthy), Old High

German *rihi* (modern German *reich*), Old Icelandic *rikr* (Norwegian and Swedish *rik*, Danish *rig*), and Gothic *reiks* mighty, sovereign, *reiki* rule, realm, kingdom. The Germanic words were all borrowed from a Celtic group represented by Gaulish *Rigo-* and *-rix* (attested in proper names) and by Old Irish *ri* (genitive *rig*) king. —**riches** *n.* pl. Probably before 1200 *riches* wealth, variant of *richesse* (probably before 1200, a singular form misunderstood as a plural); borrowed from Old French *richesse* wealth, opulence, from *riche* RICH. The Old French suffix *-esse* derives from Latin *-itia*, added to adjectives to form nouns of quality, found in *duresse*, *largesse*.

rick *n.* Before 1325 *reke* stack of hay, straw, etc.; developed from Old English (900) *hrēac* rick; cognate with Middle Dutch *rooc* rick (modern Dutch *rook*), Old Icelandic *hraukr* rick (Norwegian *rauk*), from Proto-Germanic **Hraukaz*.

rickets *n.* 1634, of uncertain origin. *Rickets* was originally a localism applied to the disease in Dorset and Somerset, England, about 1620. In 1650 New Latin *rachitis* was adopted from Late Greek *rhachitis* inflammation of the spine (from Greek *rhachis* spine), probably because of the resemblance of *rachitis* to the English name *rickets*. —**rickety** adj. 1685, liable to fall or break down; formed from English *rickets* + *-y¹*. The rare literal meaning of having rickets is first recorded about 1720.

rickettsia *n.* 1919, New Latin *Rickettsia* the genus name of this organism, formed in allusion to H. T. Ricketts, who first identified the microorganism.

rickey *n.* 1895, reputedly from the name of a Colonel Rickey.

rickshaw or **ricksha** *n.* 1887, a shortened and altered form of JINRIKISHA.

ricochet *n.* 1769, rebound (of a projectile); borrowing of French *ricochet*, from Old French, especially in *fable du ricochet* entertainment in which the teller of a tale skillfully evades questions, and *chanson du ricochet* a kind of repetitious song, of uncertain origin. —**v.** 1828, from the noun.

rid *v.* Probably before 1200 *ruden*, *rudden* to clear (a way or space), set free, save; also *ridden* (before 1250); borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *rydhja* to clear of obstructions, past tense *ruddi*, past participle *ruddr*); cognate with Old Frisian *rothia* to clear, Middle Low German and modern German *roden*, and Old High German *riuten* to clear land (modern dialectal German *reuten*), from Proto-Germanic **reudijanan*. —**riddance** *n.* 1535, clearance, removal; formed from English *rid* + *-ance*.

riddle¹ *n.* puzzling statement. Probably about 1225 *redel*, *redels*; developed from Old English *rædels* opinion, riddle (about 1000 and showing metathesis of *s* and *l*) cognate with Old Frisian *riedsal* riddle, Old Saxon *rādslī*, Middle Dutch *naedse* (modern Dutch *raadsel*), and Middle High German *rātsel* (modern German *Rätsel*), from Proto-Germanic **ræ-disljan*. —**v.** 1571, from the noun.

riddle² *n.* coarse sieve. About 1350 *ridelle*; later *riddil* (about 1395); developed from Late Old English (before 1100) *hriddel*

sieve, alteration (by dissimilation of *l* to *r*) of Old English (before 800) *hrīder*, *hrīder* sieve, cognate with Old High German *rītera*, *rītra* (modern German *Reiter*) a sieve, from Proto-Germanic **Hrīðran*. —*v.* Probably before 1200 *ridlen* to sift; later *riddlen* (about 1395), from *ridelle*, *riddil*, *n.* The meaning of make many holes in is first recorded in 1817.

ride *v.* 1123 *riden* to ride, travel; developed from Old English *ridan* ride (as on horseback), move forward, rock (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *rida* to ride, Old Saxon *ridan*, Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *riden* (modern Dutch *rijden*), Old High German *ritan* (modern German *reiten*), and Old Icelandic *ridha* (Swedish *rida*, Norwegian and Danish *ride*), from Proto-Germanic **ridanan*. —*n.* About 1250, in *wenden ride* make one's way; from the verb. —**riders** *n.* Probably before 1200, found in Old English *riders*, *ridere*, formed from *ridan* + *-er*¹.

ridge *n.* Probably before 1200, *rugge* back, spine, ridge; also *rug*; earlier as a surname *Rigge* (1166); developed from Old English *hrycg* back of a man or beast (about 725, in *Beowulf*); and probably reinforced by Old Icelandic *hryggr* back, ridge; cognate with Old Frisian *hregg* the back, Old Saxon *hruggi*, Middle Low German *rugge*, Middle Dutch *ruc* (modern Dutch *rug*), and Old High German *hrucki* (modern German *Rücken*), from Proto-Germanic **Hruzjás*. The spelling with *-dg-*, as in *rydge*, is first recorded before 1470; for a note on spelling see DRUDGE. —*v.* 1440 *riggen* put a ridgepole in a roof; from *rigge*, *n.* —**ridgepole** *n.* (1788)

ridicule *n.* 1677, laughable or absurd thing; borrowed from French *ridicule*, and directly from Latin *ridiculum* laughing matter, joke, from neuter of *ridiculus* RIDICULOUS. The meaning of words or actions that make fun of something or someone is first recorded in 1690. —*v.* 1684, make ridiculous, from English *ridicule*, *n.*, reinforced by French *ridiculer* (now *ridiculiser*). The meaning of make fun of, is first recorded in English before 1700. —**ridiculous** *adj.* 1550, borrowed from Latin *ridiculōsus* laughable, from *ridiculus*, from *ridēre* to laugh; for suffix see -OUS.

rife *adj.* Probably before 1200 *rife* abundant, widespread; developed from Old English *rife* abundant; cognate with Middle Low German *rive* abundant, Middle Dutch *rive*, *rijf*, and Old Icelandic *riřr* agreeable, desired (modern Icelandic *riřur* abundant, ample).

riff *n.* 1935 (but according to jazzmen, current since about 1917), recurring melodic phrase in jazz, of uncertain origin; perhaps a shortened form of RIFFLE, *n.* —*v.* 1955, from the noun.

rifle *v.* 1754, to form a stretch of choppy water; perhaps variant of RUFFLE¹ make rough. The meaning of shuffle (cards) is first recorded in 1894 and that of skim, leaf through quickly, in 1922. —*n.* 1785, stretch of choppy water; from the verb.

riffraff *n.* About 1475, from earlier *rif* and *raf* one and all, every scrap (before 1338); borrowed from Old French *rif et raf*, from *riřler* to spoil, strip, RIFLE² and *rařler* carry off, related to *rařle* plundering, RAFFLE.

rifle¹ *n.* gun with spiral grooves in its barrel. Before 1751, noun use of *rifled*, *adj.* (1689, as in *rifled piece*); from the verb. —*v.* 1635, to cut spiral grooves in (a gun barrel); probably borrowed from French *riřler*, from Old French *riřler* to scratch or groove; see RIFLE².

rifle² *v.* search and rob. About 1333 *riřfen*; borrowed from Old French *riřler* to graze, scratch; also, strip, plunder, probably from a Germanic source; compare obsolete Dutch *riřfelen* to scratch, modern German *riřeln* to groove (from Low German), Old English *geriřlian* to wrinkle.

rift *n.* Before 1325 *riřt* a split, act of splitting or breaking; borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *riřt*, pronounced *riřt*, and meaning breach).

rig *v.* About 1489 *riggen*, probably borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Danish and Norwegian *rigge* to equip, rig, and Swedish *rigga* to rig). —*n.* 1822, either from the verb or a shortened form of *rigging*. The sense of clothes, costume, is first recorded in 1857. —**rigging** *n.* (1594)

right *adj.* Before 1121 *riht*, *rihte* straight, lawful, true, genuine; later *right* (about 1303); found in Old English (before 830) *riht* just, good, fair, proper, fitting, straight; cognate with Old Frisian *riucht* right, Old Saxon *reht*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *recht*, Old High German *reht* (modern German *recht*), Old Icelandic *rēttir* (Norwegian *rett*, Danish *ret*, Swedish *rätt*), and Gothic *rahts*, from Proto-Germanic **reHtaž*. The meaning right, as opposed to left, is first recorded in 1125. —*n.* About 1121 *riht*; later in the spelling *right* (about 1303), found in Old English *riht* fairness, justice, just claim (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *riucht*, *n.*, right, Old Saxon *reht*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *recht*, Old High German *reht* (modern German *Recht*), and Old Icelandic *rēttir* (Norwegian *rett*, Danish *ret*, Swedish *rätt*); related to Old English *riht*, *adj.* The meaning of right side or hand is first recorded probably about 1200. *Right*, in the sense of the conservative members of a legislative body (customarily assigned to the right side of the chamber in relation to the presiding officer) is first recorded in 1825, as a loan translation of French *Droite* (1791) the Right, Conservative Party in the French National Assembly of 1789. —*v.* Probably about 1150 *riřten* to correct, amend; later *rihten* to straighten, set in order, govern, (probably before 1200), and in the spelling *right* (about 1300); developed from Old English *rihtan* to straighten, rule, set up, set right (before 899); cognate with Old Frisian *rihtta* to right, Old Saxon *rihtian*, Middle Low German *rihten*, *rehten*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *rihten*, *rehten*, Old High German *rihten* (modern German *richten*), Old Icelandic *rētta* (Norwegian and Danish *rette*, Swedish *rätta*), and Gothic *garalhtjan* to guide. —**right angle** (about 1400) —**righteous** *adj.* 1526, alteration of earlier *rightuous* (before 1475), *rihtwise* (probably before 1200); developed from Old English (before 830) *rihtwīs* (*riht* right, *adj.* + *wīs* WISE). The suffix *-eous*, *-ous* was a substitution based on *courteous* and similar formations of the 1500's. —**rightful** *adj.* 1100 *rihtfullan* honorable; later, according to law (probably before 1300); developed from Old English *rihtfull* (found in *unrihtfull*). —**right of way** (1768) —**right wing** (1905) —**righty** *n.* right-handed person (1949)

rigid *adj.* Probably before 1425 *rigide* stiff; borrowed from Latin *rigidus*, from *rigēre* be stiff, probably altered from **regēre* by influence of *erigere* raise up. —**rigidity** *n.* 1624, borrowed from Latin *rigiditas*, from *rigidus* rigid; for suffix see -ITY.

rigmarole *n.* 1736, a long, rambling discourse; alteration of earlier *ragman roll* long list or catalogue (1523), in Middle English *Ragmane Rolle* a roll of verses descriptive of personal character, used in a medieval game of chance called *Rageman* (about 1450); perhaps from Anglo-French *Ragemon le bon* *Ragemon* the good, the heading of a set of the verses, referring to a character by that name. The transferred sense of lengthy and foolish activity or commotion, is first recorded about 1955 (but was known orally in the 1930's).

rigor *n.* 1392 *rigour* stiffness, numbness; also, harshness, severity (about 1395); borrowed from Old French *rigor*, *rigour*, and directly from Latin *rigor* numbness, stiffness, rigor, from *rigēre* be stiff; for suffix see -OR¹. —**rigorous** *adj.* Before 1425, harsh, severe, stern, strict (implied earlier in *rigorously*, 1408); borrowed from Old French *rigoros*, *rigoureux*, and directly from Medieval Latin *rigorosus*, from Latin *rigor* rigor; for suffix see -OUS. —**rigor mortis** 1839–47, a Latinate form from *rigor* stiffness, and *mortis* (genitive of *mors* death).

rile *v.* 1825, irritate, vex, spelling alteration perhaps from a dialectal pronunciation of *roil*, as *heist* from *hoist*.

rill *n.* 1538, borrowed from Dutch *ril* or Low German *rille* groove or furrow, forms cognate with Frisian *ril* narrow passage, and probably related to Middle Low German *rīde* brook, stream, Old Saxon *rīth*, and Old English *rīth*, *rīthe* brook, stream, which survives only in English dialect.

rim *n.* Probably before 1200 *rieme* edge, border, margin; and *rim* (1440); developed from Old English *rima* edge, border (as in *særima* rim of the sea, seashore, 897); cognate with Old Frisian *rim* edge, and Old Icelandic *rimi* ridge, *rim* fence. —**v.** 1794, from the noun.

rime¹ *n.* white frost. Probably before 1200 *rim* (as in *rim frost*); developed from Old English (about 725) *hrīm*; cognate with Old Icelandic *hrīm*, *hrīmi* frost (Norwegian, Swedish, and Danish *rim* frost, *rime*), Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *rijm*, Middle High German *rīm*, from Proto-Germanic **Hrīma-*.

rime² *n.* See RHYME.

rind *n.* Old English *rinde* bark, crust (before 899); later, peel of a fruit or vegetable (about 1150); cognate with Old Saxon *rinda* bark, Middle Low German *rinde*, Middle Dutch *rinde*, *rende*, *runde* (modern Dutch *ruin* tanning bark), Old High German *rinda*, *rinta* bark, *rind* (modern German *Rinde*), from Proto-Germanic **rendō*; related to Old English *rendan* to REND.

ring¹ *n.* circle. Probably before 1200 *ring*; earlier in the surname *Ringstan* (1167); developed from Old English *hring* circular band (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *hring* ring, Middle Dutch *rinc* (modern Dutch *ring*), Old High German *hring* (modern German *Ring*), and Old Icelandic *hringr* ring (modern Icelandic *hringur*, Norwegian,

Swedish, and Danish *ring*), from Proto-Germanic **Hrengaz*. —**v.** Probably before 1387 *ringen* provide or attach a ring, from the noun. —**ringleader** *n.* 1503, from the phrase *lead the ring* be foremost in a group, (originally) lead the dance, from Middle English *leden the ring* (probably about 1343).

ring² *v.* sound, as a bell does. About 1131 *ringen*; developed from Old English *hringan* (about 725, in *Beowulf*, from Proto-Germanic **Hrenzanan*); cognate with Old Icelandic and modern Icelandic *hringja* to ring (Norwegian *ringe*, *ringje*, Swedish *ringa*, Danish *ringe*), Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *ringen* to ring, and Old Icelandic *hrang* noise, din. —**n.** 1549, from the verb.

ringer¹ *n.* one who rings a bell. About 1425, earlier as a surname *Ringere* (1207); formed from Middle English *ringen*, *v.* + *-er*¹.

ringer² *n.* be a (dead) **ringer** for, resemble very closely. 1891, from *ringer*, a horse entered fraudulently in a race, possibly from British *ring in* to substitute or exchange (coins, hats, etc.) fraudulently (1812), associated with *ring the changes* to substitute counterfeit money in various ways, a pun on *ring the changes* go through all the variations in ringing a peal of bells (1614).

rink *n.* 1375 (Scottish dialect) *renk*, *rinc* area marked out for a contest, perhaps confused with *ring* an area for sport or contest (1303); borrowed from Old French *renc*, *reng* row, line, from Frankish; see RANK¹ row.

rinky-dink *n.* 1912, something cheap, tinny, or trite, (said to be imitative of the sound of banjo music formerly played at parades, but of uncertain connection to the meaning). —**adj.** 1913, probably from the noun.

rinse *v.* Probably about 1300 *rincent* to cleanse with water; borrowed from Old French *rinier*, variant of *raïnier* and perhaps a dissimilated form (with loss of *i*) of *recincier* cleanse, from Vulgar Latin **recentiāre* renew, refresh, from Latin *recens* (genitive *recentis*) fresh. —**n.** 1837, from the verb.

riot *n.* Probably before 1200 *riote* debauchery, extravagance, unrestrained revelry; borrowed from Old French *riote* (masculine *riot*) dispute, quarrel, corresponding to Provençal *riota*, both of uncertain origin. The meaning of public disturbance, is first recorded before 1393.

The phrase *run riot* to act without restraint, appeared in 1523 as a figurative use of the meaning of a hound's following the wrong scent (about 1410). —**v.** About 1390 *rioten* to revel, live wantonly; from the noun. The meaning of take part in a public disturbance is first recorded in 1755. —**riotous** *adj.* 1340, troublesome, wanton, extravagant; formed from Middle English *riote*, *n.* + *-ous*.

rip¹ *v.* tear apart. Before 1400 *ripen* to cut, pull out, or tear away vigorously; cognate with Flemish *ripen* to strip off roughly, *rip*, Frisian *rippe* to tear, *rip*, and probably with Middle Low German *reppen* to move, touch; see RAFFLE. The phrase *rip off* to steal or rob, is first recorded about 1967, from

prison slang *rip* to steal (1904). —**n.** 1711, from the verb. —**rip-off** **n.** theft, robbery, racket (1970).

rip² **n.** water made rough by cross currents. 1775, perhaps special use of *rip¹*, **n.**

riparian **adj.** 1849, of the bank of a river, lake, etc., formed from Latin *ripārius* of a riverbank + English *-an*.

ripe **adj.** Old English *ripe* ready for reaping (before 899); cognate with Old Saxon *ripi* ripe, Middle Dutch *ripe* (modern Dutch *rijp*), Old High German *rīfi* (modern German *reif*), from Proto-Germanic **rīpjaz*; compare Old English *repan*, *ripan* to REAP. —**ripen** **v.** 1561, grow ripe, come to maturity; formed from modern English *ripe* + *-en¹*, gradually replacing earlier *ripe*, *v.*, about 1250, Middle English *ripen*; developed from Old English *ripan*, from *ripe*, **adj.**, and cognate with Old Saxon *ripōn* become ripe, Middle Dutch *ripen* (modern Dutch *rijpen*), Old High German *rīfan*, *rīffen* (modern German *reifen*).

riposte **n.** 1707, (in fencing) a quick return thrust; borrowed from French *riposte*, dissimilated form (by omission of *-s-* in *ris-*) of *risposte*, from Italian *risposta* a reply, from *rispondere* to respond, from Vulgar Latin **respondere*, altered from Latin *respondere* RESPOND. The sense of a sharp reply, retort, is first recorded in English in 1865, from the verb. —**v.** 1707, (in fencing) to make a quick thrust; borrowed from French *riposter*, dissimilated form of *risposter*, probably from the noun in French. The sense of make a sharp reply, is first recorded in English in 1851.

ripple **v.** Before 1425 *rippen*, *ripen* to wrinkle, crease, of unknown origin; later, to form small waves (implied in *rippling*, **n.** formation of ripples, 1669); re-formed in English perhaps as a frequentative form of English *rip¹*; for suffix see *-LE³*. —**n.** 1755, stretch of shallow, rippling water; from the verb. The meaning of a very small wave is first found in 1798.

riproaring **adj.** 1834, alteration of earlier *riproarious* (1830); formed from *rip¹* tear apart + *-roarious*, as in *uproarious* (1819).

ripsnorter **n.** 1840, perhaps formed from *rip¹* tear apart + *snort*, **v.** + *-er¹*.

rise **v.** 1135 *risen* rebel, revolt; probably before 1200, get up, go up, ascend; developed from Old English *rīsan* (found usually in *ārisan*, before 830); cognate with Old Frisian *rīsa* to rise, Old Saxon *rīsan*, Middle Dutch *rīsen* (modern Dutch *rijzen*), Old High German *rīsan* to rise, flow, Old Icelandic *rīsa* to rise (Norwegian *rise*), and Gothic *urrisan* (from Proto-Germanic **us-risanan*). Related to RAISE. —**n.** About 1400, a rebellion; from the verb. The meaning of rising ground is first recorded about 1440, and that of upward movement, about 1573. —**riser** **n.** 1397, a rebel; later, one who rises from bed (before 1450); formed from Middle English *rīsen* + *-er¹*.

risible **adj.** 1557, inclined or able to laugh; borrowed from Middle French *risible*, and directly from Late Latin *risibilis* laughable, from Latin *rīsus*, past participle of *rīdere* to laugh; for suffix see *-IBLE*.

risk **n.** 1661 *risque* hazard, danger; borrowing of French *risque*,

from Italian *risco*, *risico*, *rischio*, of uncertain origin. The spelling *risk* (1741) was influenced by the spelling *risk* of the verb. Compare RISQUÉ. —**v.** Before 1687 *risque* to expose to hazard or danger; borrowed from French *risquer*, from Italian *risicare*, *rischiare*, from the noun in Italian. The spelling *risk* is first recorded in 1728. —**risky** **adj.** 1826–27, venturesome, bold, hazardous; formed from English *risk*, **n.** + *-y¹*.

risqué **adj.** 1867, borrowing of French *risqué*, past participle of *risquer* to RISK.

rite **n.** Before 1333, borrowed from Latin *rītus* (genitive *rītūs*) religious observance or ceremony, custom, usage.

ritual **adj.** 1570, borrowed perhaps through Middle French *ritual* or directly from Latin *rītualis* relating to rites, from *rītus* (genitive *rītūs*) RITE; for suffix see *-AL¹*. —**n.** 1649, from the adjective. —**ritualism** **n.** 1843, excessive practice of ritual; formed in English from *ritual* + *-ism*, as a noun to *ritualist* one versed in ritual (1657), influenced by French *ritualisme*, from Middle French *ritual* + *-isme*. —**ritualistic** **adj.** 1850, formed from English *ritualist* one versed in ritual (1657) + *-ic*.

ritzy **adj.** 1920, smart, stylish, formed from *Ritz*, name of a chain of palatial hotels founded by César Ritz + *-y¹*.

rival **n.** 1577, competitor; borrowing of Middle French *rival*, and directly from Latin *rivalis* a rival; originally, a person who uses the same stream as another, from *rīvus* stream, brook; for suffix see *-AL²*. —**adj.** 1590, from the noun. —**v.** 1605, from the noun. —**rivalry** **n.** 1598, formed from English *rival*, **n.** + *-ry*.

rive **v.** Probably before 1200 *riven*, borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *rīfa* to tear apart, Norwegian *rive*, *riva* to split, tear, cognate with Old Frisian *rīva* to tear). The Scandinavian forms derive from Proto-Germanic **rīfanan*. —**riven** **adj.** Probably before 1300, from the past participle of *rive*.

river **n.** Probably about 1225 *rivere*; borrowed through Anglo-French *rivere*, Old French *riviere*, from Vulgar Latin **rīpāria* riverbank or seashore, river, noun use of feminine of Latin *ripārius* of a riverbank, from *ripa* (steep) bank of a river, shore. —**riverside** **n.** (Probably before 1400)

rivet **n.** 1358–59, borrowed from Anglo-Latin *rivettis*, and from Old French *rivet*, from *river* to fix or fasten; also perhaps, in part, from Middle Dutch *wriwen* turn, grind. —**v.** Probably before 1430, from the noun. The sense of fix firmly (as the eye) is first recorded in 1602. —**riveting** **adj.** 1854, from the past participle of *rivet*, **v.**

rivulet **n.** 1587, borrowed in part possibly from Italian *rivoletto*, diminutive of *rivolo*, and directly from Latin *rīvulus*, diminutive of *rīvus* stream, brook; for suffix see *-ET*.

roach¹ **n.** 1837, shortened form of COCKROACH. The butt of a (marijuana) cigarette is first recorded in 1938.

roach² **n.** fish. Probably about 1200 *roche*; borrowed of Old French *roche*, of uncertain origin.

road *n.* Probably about 1200 *rade* a riding, journey; later *rode* (1250); developed from Old English *rād* (871, and from Proto-Germanic **raidō*) cognate with Old Frisian *rēd* ride, Old Saxon *rēda*, Middle Dutch *rede*, Old High German *reita*, *reiti* foray, raid, and Old Icelandic *reidh* a riding, vehicle; from the Proto-Germanic root **ridanan*, the source of Old English *ridan* to RIDE. Related to RAID. The spelling *road* was not the established form until the 1700's. The meaning of an open way for traveling between two places is first recorded late in English (1596–97). —**roadster** *n.* 1744, ship lying near the shore; later, a light carriage (1892); automobile, especially an open two-seater (1908); formed from English *road* + *-ster*.

roam *v.* About 1330 *romen* to wander about; earlier to walk or walk about (before 1300); probably an alteration of *ramen*, represented by *rameden* (before 1200), of uncertain origin; possibly developed from Old English **rāmian*, from **raiman*; cognate with Old Icelandic *reimudhr* act of wandering about, *reimast* to haunt, and probably related to Old English *ārēman* arise, lift up. —*n.* 1667, from the verb.

roan *adj.* 1530, borrowing of Middle French *roan* reddish brown, from Spanish *roano*, probably from a Germanic source (compare Gothic *raudan*, accusative of *rauths* red). —*n.* roan horse. 1580, from the adjective.

roar *v.* Probably about 1200 *varin*; later *roren* (before 1225); developed from Old English (before 900) *rārian*, probably of imitative origin. Similar formations are found in Middle Dutch *rerēn* to roar, Middle Low German *rāren*, Old High German *rēren* to bleat (modern German *röhren* to bellow). —*n.* Before 1393 *rore* the roar of a beast, from the verb.

roast *v.* About 1280 *rosten* to cook by dry heat; borrowed from Old French *rostir*, from Frankish **raustjan* (compare Old High German *rōstan* to roast, and Middle Dutch *roosten*). —*adj.* Before 1338 *rost*, from the past participle of *rosten* to roast. —*n.* Probably about 1300 *roste* piece of roasted meat; borrowing of Old French *rost*, from *rostir* to roast.

rob *v.* Probably before 1200 *robben* to steal from, plunder, pillage; borrowed from Old French *rober*, from a Germanic source (compare Old High German *roubōn* to rob, modern German *rauben*, Old Saxon *rōbōn*, Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *roven*, modern Dutch *rooven*, Gothic *biraubōn*, Old English *rēafian*, from Proto-Germanic **raubōjanan*). —**robber** *n.* Probably before 1200 *robber*, *robbere*; borrowed from Old French *robere*, from *rober* to rob; for suffix see -ER¹. —**robbery** *n.* Probably before 1200 *roberie*, borrowing of Old French *roberie*, from *rober* to rob; for suffix see -RY.

robe *n.* Probably about 1200, borrowing of Old French *robe* long, loose outer garment; originally, plunder or booty, from a Germanic source (compare Old High German *rouba* vestments, presumably taken from the enemy, spoils or booty; related to *roubōn* to ROB, from Proto-Germanic **raubō*). —*v.* About 1378 *roben*, from the noun.

robin *n.* 1549, shortened form of *Robin Redbreast* (about 1450); from *Robin* (before 1376); borrowing of Old French *Robin*, diminutive of *Robert*. An earlier Middle English name

robynet (before 1425), was borrowed from Old French *robinet*, diminutive of *Robin*; for suffix see -ET.

robot *n.* 1923, formed in Czech as the name for the mechanical men of the play *R.U.R.* (Rossum's Universal Robots, the firm manufacturing the robots). Czech *robot* from *robota* work or labor, related to Old Slavic *rabū* slave. —**robotic** *adj.* 1941, coined from *robot* + *-ic*. —**robotics** *n.* 1941, coined from *robot* + *-ics*.

robust *adj.* 1549, borrowed perhaps through Middle French *robuste*, or directly from Latin *rōbustus* strong and hardy; originally, oaken, from *rōbur*, *rōbus* (genitive *rōboris*) oak tree, hard timber, strength.

roc *n.* 1579, legendary bird of enormous size; borrowed from Arabic *rukhh*, from Persian *rukh*.

rock¹ *n.* stone. About 1250 *roc* cliff, outcropping of rock; later *rocke* (about 1384); found in, and probably in part developed from, Old English *rocc* (in *stānrocc* stone rock or obelisk); also, borrowed from Old North French *roque*, from Vulgar Latin **rocca*, of uncertain origin.

Middle English also had the form *roche* rock formation, cliff, at least by 1225, and in the meaning "rock, stone," probably before 1300; borrowed from Old French *roche*, from Vulgar Latin **rocca*. Except in the term *roche montonée* a glacially round bedrock, the word disappeared from the record of English in the early 1800's.

rock² *v.* to sway. Probably before 1200 *rocken*; developed from Late Old English (before 1100) *roccian*; cognate with Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *rucken* to sway (modern Dutch *rukken* to pull, tug), Old High German *nucken* cause to move (modern German *nücken*), and Old Icelandic *rykkja* to pull, tug (Danish *rykke*, Swedish *rycka*). —*n.* 1823, rocking movement, from the verb. *Rock* musical rhythm marked by a strong beat is first recorded in 1946 and became the first element in *rock and roll* (1954, shortened to *rock*, 1957). —**rockier** *n.* Before 1325, one who rocks a cradle, nurse; also, rocking chair (1852); formed from *rock*, *v.* + *-er*¹. —**rocking chair** (1766) —**rocking horse** (1724)

rocket¹ *n.* garden plant. Before 1500 *rokette*; borrowed from Middle French *roquette*, from Italian *rochetta*, *nuchetta*, diminutive of *ruca* a kind of cabbage, from Latin *ērūca*; for suffix see -ET.

rocket² *n.* self-propelling device. 1611, rocket fireworks; borrowed from Italian *rochetto* a rocket; literally, a bobbin (from the similarity in shape; also found in Old Italian and in Medieval Latin *rochetta*, *rocheta*), diminutive of Italian *rocca* distaff, possibly from a Germanic source (compare Old High German *rocko* distaff, spinning wheel, modern German *Rocken*; cognate with Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *rocken* distaff, modern Dutch *rokken*, and Old Icelandic *rokkr*, modern Icelandic *rokkur* and Norwegian *rokk* spinning wheel, from Proto-Germanic **rukka-*); for suffix see -ET.

The meaning of a device or craft carried or propelled by a rocket engine is first recorded in 1919. —*v.* 1803, bombard with rockets; from the noun. The meaning of fly like a rocket,

soar, is first recorded in 1924. —**rocketry** *n.* 1930, formed from *rocket*,² *n.* + *-ry*.

rococo *adj.* 1836, old-fashioned, antiquated, in reference to the rococo style; borrowed from French *rococo*, *n.* and *adj.* By the 1840's *rococo* took on the meaning of having to do with lavish ornamentation, in art, music, architecture, etc., at the end of the baroque period. —*n.* 1840, borrowing of French *rococo*, apparently alteration of *rocaille* shellwork, with a humorous substitution of *coco* peek-a-boo, *cocorico* cock-a-doodle-do, etc. French *rocaille* derives from Middle French *roche* rock, from Vulgar Latin **rocca* stone, rock¹; in reference to excessive use of shell designs in this style of ornamentation.

rod *n.* About 1250 *rodde*; found in Old English *rodd* a rod, pole; probably cognate with Old Icelandic *rudda* club.

rodent *n.* 1835, borrowed from Latin *rōdentem* (nominative *rōdēns*), present participle *rōdere* to gnaw. —*adj.* 1833, borrowed from Latin *rōdentem* (nominative *rōdēns*), present participle.

rodeo *n.* 1834, the driving together of cattle; borrowing of Spanish *rodeo* pen for cattle at a fair or market; also, a going round, from *rodear* go around, surround (from Vulgar Latin **rotidiāre*, as if from a Latin **rotizāre*), related to *rodar* revolve, roll, from Latin *rotāre* go around; see ROTATE.

roe¹ *n.* fish eggs. About 1450 *row*, *roof*; cognate with Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *roge* roe, Old High German *rogo*, *rogan* (modern German *Rogen*), and Old Icelandic *hrogn* (Norwegian and Danish *rogn*, Swedish *rom*), from Proto-Germanic **Hrūzná* or **Hrūznān*.

roe² *n.* small deer. Probably about 1200 *ro*; later *roe* (before 1398); developed from Old English (about 700) *rā*, from *rāha*; cognate with Old Saxon *rēho* roe, Middle Low German *rē*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *ree*, Old High German *rēh* (modern German *Reh*), and Old Icelandic *rā* (Danish, Norwegian *rå*, *rådyr*, Swedish *rådjur*), from Proto-Germanic **raiHōn*. —**roe****buck** *n.* Before 1387 *roobukke*; earlier *Robucke* (1209); formed from *ro*, *roo* *roe*² + *bucke*, *bukke* buck¹.

roentgen or **Roentgen** *rays* 1896 *Röntgen*, in allusion to Wilhelm K. *Röntgen*, the German physicist who discovered X rays.

roger *interj.* 1941, a radio communications word for the letter *r* (derived from the name *Roger*), used as an abbreviation for "received."

rogue *n.* 1561 *roge* vagabond, perhaps a shortened form of *roger* (pronounced with the *g* in *go*) a begging vagabond pretending to be a poor scholar from Oxford or Cambridge (about 1540); perhaps formed from Latin *rogāre* to ask + English *-er*¹.

roil *v.* 1590, probably borrowed from Middle French *rouiller* to rust, make muddy, from Old French *rouil*, *rouille* mud, rust, (compare Old Provençal *rovilh*, *rovilha*), from Vulgar Latin **rōbīcula*, alteration of Latin *rōbīgō* (genitive *rōbīgīnis*) rust.

The sense of disturb, irritate, vex, is first recorded before 1734.

roister *v.* 1582, from the obsolete noun *roister* (1551, *roisterer*); probably borrowed from Middle French *ruistre*, *rustre* a ruffian, variant (with added *r*) of Old French *ruste* a rough country person, from Latin *rūsticus* RUSTIC.

role or **rôle** *n.* 1606 *rowle*; borrowed from French *rôle* part played by a person in life; literally, roll (of paper) on which an actor's part was written, from Old French *rolle* ROLL.

roll *n.* Probably before 1200 *rolle* scroll, list, rolled-up mass; borrowed from Old French *rolle*, *roule*, from Latin *rotula* small wheel, diminutive of *rota* wheel. The meaning of dough which is rolled over before baking is first recorded before 1450. —*v.* About 1300 *rollen* turn over and over; borrowed from Old French *roller*, from Vulgar Latin **rotulāre*, from Latin *rotula* small wheel. The meaning of move about from side to side appeared before 1325, and that of make deep, loud sounds, as of thunder (1598). —**roller** *n.* 1295 *rollere* thing that rolls; before 1399, a rolling pin; formed from Middle English *rollen* to roll + *-ere* *-er*¹.

rollicking *adj.* 1826, adjective use of the present participle of *rollick* to frolic, sport; perhaps a blend of *roll*, *v.* + *frollic*, *v.*

roly-poly *adj.* 1820, probably a varied reduplication of *roll*, influenced by *roly-poly*, *n.*, name of various games in which a ball is rolled (1713). The formation is found as early as 1601 meaning a rascal.

romaine *n.* 1907, borrowing of French *romaine*, from feminine of Old French *romain* Roman, from Latin *Rōmānus* Roman; perhaps so called because this lettuce was introduced into France at the time of the Avignon papacy (1309–77).

Roman *adj.* Before 1325 *romain* of ancient Rome, its people, or their language; probably from the noun, reinforced by Old French *romain*, *romein*, *roman*, from Latin *Rōmānus*, from *Rōma* Rome; for suffix see *-AN*. This later form replaced *Romanisce* and *Romanishe* (about 1200), developed from Old English *rōmānisc* (before 899); borrowed from Latin *Rōmānus* + *-isc* *-ish*. —*n.* About 1300 *romein*, borrowed from Old French *romain*, *romein*, *adj.* and *n.*; earlier as a surname *Roman* (1205); developed from Old English *romane* inhabitant of ancient Rome or of the Roman Empire (before 899); borrowed from Latin *Rōmānus*, *adj.* and *n.* —**Roman Catholic** 1605, member of the Church of Rome; 1614, of or belonging to the Church of Rome. —**Roman numeral** (1735)

roman¹ *adj.* of or in the upright style of type, typical of Roman inscription, and most used in printing, as distinguished from *italic*. 1519 *Romayne*, borrowed from Middle French *Romain*, from Old French *romain*; see ROMAN. The spelling in lower-case form is first found in 1848. —*n.* 1598, from the adjective.

roman² *n.* a novel. 1889, borrowing of French *roman*, from Old French *romanz* verse narrative; see ROMANCE. The term *roman à clef*, a novel in which the characters represent real persons; literally, novel with a key, is first found in English in 1893.

romance *n.* Probably before 1300 *romaunce*; about 1300

romance story about the adventures of some hero in chivalry; later, the vernacular language of France, as opposed to Latin (before 1338); borrowed from Old French *romans*, *romanz* verse narrative; originally, an adverb with the meaning of in the vernacular language, from Vulgar Latin **rōmānicē* scribere to write in a Romance language (that is, one developed from Latin instead of Frankish), from Latin *Rōmānicus* of or in the Roman style, from *Rōmānus* Roman. In English *Romance* was later extended to include Spanish, Italian, etc., developed from Latin (1612).

The meaning of an adventurous or imaginative quality, is first recorded in 1801, and that of a love affair, idealistic quality in a love affair, is found in 1916. —*v.* About 1390, recite a narrative, give an account of; from the noun. The meaning of exaggerate, is first recorded in English in 1671, and that of court as a lover in 1942.

Romanesque *adj.* 1715, descended from Latin, Romance; later, of the architectural style developed in Europe between the Roman and Gothic periods of architecture (1819); formed from English *Roman* + *-esque*, influenced in form by French *romanesque*.

romantic *adj.* 1659, borrowed from French *romantique*, from Middle French *romant* a romance, formed as an oblique case of the Old French noun *romanz* verse narrative, see ROMANCE; for suffix see -IC. The form *romantic* displaced *romancical* (1656, formed from English *romance* + *-ical*). —*n.* 1679, from the adjective. The meaning of romantic person is first recorded in 1865. —**romanticism** *n.* 1803, formed from English *romantic*, *adj.* + *-ism*. The meaning of a tendency toward romantic ideas is first recorded in English in 1840, and applied to literature, music, or art, is probably borrowed from French *romanticisme*. —**romanticist** *n.* (1830) —**romanticize** *v.* (1818)

Romany *n.* 1812 *romani* Romany, feminine of *romano*, *adj.*, Gypsy, from *rom* man, husband, male Gypsy, plural *romá*, from Sanskrit (Prākrit) *ḍomba-s*, *ḍoma-s* a male member of a low caste of musicians.

romp *v.* 1709, perhaps variant of RAMP², *v.* —*n.* 1734, from the verb. —**rompers** *n.* pl. 1909, formed from English *romp*, *v.* + *-er* + *-s*, modeled after trousers, pants, etc.

rondeau *n.* 1525, short poem; borrowing of Middle French *rondeau*, from Old French *rondel* RONDEL. The meaning of a musical composition, now *rondo* is first recorded in English in 1773.

rondel *n.* About 1380 *roundel*, short poem, borrowed from Old French *rondel*, literally, small circle, diminutive of *roont* (feminine *roonde*) circular, ROUND; so called because the initial couplet is repeated in the middle and at the end.

rondo *n.* 1797, a musical composition of one principal theme; borrowing of Italian *rondo*, from French *rondeau*, *rondel*, from Old French *rondel* little round; see RONDEL, RONDEAU.

rood *n.* Before 1121 *rode* the cross on which Christ died, crucifix; later *rood* (before 1400); developed from Old English (before 830) *rōd* cross, pole, measure of land; cognate with Old Frisian *rōd*, *rōde* gallows, Old Saxon *rōda* pole, gallows, cross,

Middle Low German *rōde* rod, stick, Middle Dutch *roede* (modern Dutch *roede*, *roe*), Old High German *ruota* (modern German *Rute*), and Old Icelandic *rōdha* rod, cross (influenced in meaning by Old English *rōd*), from Proto-Germanic **rōdō*.

roof *n.* About 1175 *rof*; later *roof* (1431); developed from Old English *hrōf* roof, ceiling, top (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *hrōf* roof, Middle Low German *rōf*, *nīf* roof, covering, Middle Dutch *roef* (modern Dutch *roef* deckhouse), Old Icelandic *hrōf* boat shed (from Proto-Germanic **Hrōfaz*). —*v.* Before 1420 *rofen*, from the noun.

rook¹ *n.* European crow. Probably about 1200 *roc*; later, *rook* (before 1325), developed from Old English (about 725) *hrōc*; cognate with Middle Low German *rōk* rook, Middle Dutch *roec* (modern Dutch *roek*), Old High German *hruoh*, *ruoho*, Old Icelandic *hrōker* rook (modern Icelandic *hrōkur*, Swedish *röka*, Danish *råge*), from Proto-Germanic **Hrōkaz*.

The word was applied to persons as a disparaging term as early as 1508 and extended by 1577 to mean a cheat, especially at cards or dice. —*v.* About 1590, to cheat; from the noun. —**rookery** *n.* 1725, formed from English *rook* + *-ery*.

rook² *n.* chess piece. Probably before 1300 *roke*; later *rok* (before 1338), and *rook* (probably before 1430); borrowed from Old French *roc*, from Arabic *rukḥḥ*, from Persian *rukḥ*, of unknown meaning, but in Middle English confused with ROC.

rookie *n.* 1892, inexperienced recruit, perhaps an alteration of *recruit*, influenced by *rook*¹ in the sense of a person easily duped.

room *n.* Probably about 1200 *rum* space; later *roum* (about 1330); developed from Old English *rīm* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *rīm* space, room, Middle Dutch *ruum* (modern Dutch *ruim*), Old High German *rūm* (modern German *Raum*), Old Icelandic *rūm* (Swedish and Danish *rum*, Norwegian *rom*), and Gothic *rūm*, from Proto-Germanic **rūman*, with corresponding adjectives in Old English *rūm* roomy, spacious, Middle Dutch *ruum*, Old High German *rūmi*, Old Icelandic *rūmr*, and Gothic *rūms*, from Proto-Germanic **rūmaz*. The sense of a chamber or cabin appeared (1312–13) as a nautical term; and was first applied to dwellings or houses in the 1400's. —*v.* 1828, from the noun.

roost *n.* Before 1398 *rooste* a chicken's perch; developed from Late Old English (before 1100) *hrōst*; cognate with Old Saxon *hrōst* framework of a roof, attic, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *roest* roost, of unknown origin. —*v.* 1530, from the noun. —**rooster** *n.* 1772, formed from *roost*, *n.* + *-er*; compare *roost cock* (1606). The use of *rooster* came to be strongly favored in the United States over the use of *cock* probably for euphemistic reasons (*cock* being an English equivalent of penis, attested since 1618). Similar hypersensitive changes are found in *occupy* in the 1500's and 1600's, and in the pronunciation of *harass* and *Uranus* in contemporary English.

root¹ *n.* underground part of a plant. 1127 *rot*, also *rote* (probably before 1200); found in Late Old English *rōt*; borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *rōt* root, Norwegian and Swedish *rot*, with traditional loss of *w-* before *r*

in **wrōt*, **vrōt*). Late Old English *rōt*, perhaps also represented in **wrōt*, is a collateral form of Old English *wyrt* root, herb, plant, which is related to Latin *rādīx* root; see **WORT**. —**v.** Probably before 1200 *roten* (in past participle *roted*) fix or establish firmly; from the noun. The meaning of pull, dig, or take out (as in *to root out evil*) is recorded before 1500. —**rootless** adj. (about 1385)

root² *v.* dig with the snout. 1538, alteration (influenced by *root*¹) of Middle English *wroten* dig with the snout (about 1200); developed from Old English (about 725) *wrōtan*; cognate with Middle Low German *wrōten* dig with the snout, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *wroeten*, Old High German *ruozzen*, and Old Icelandic *rōta* (Norwegian *rote*, Swedish *rota*, Danish *rode*), from Proto-Germanic **wrōtanan*. The meaning of poke, pry, search is first recorded in 1831.

root³ *v.* cheer or support a contestant, etc. 1889, probably derived from earlier sense of *root*², *v.* to study or work hard (1856).

rope *n.* About 1200 *rope*, developed from Old English (about 725) *rāp*; cognate with Old Frisian *rāp* in *silrāp* shoe thong, Middle Low German *rēp* rope, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *reep*, Old High German *reif* hoop (modern German *Reifen*), Old Icelandic *reip* rope (Norwegian *reip*, Swedish *rep*, Danish *reb*), and Gothic *-raip* in *skaudaraip* shoe thong, from Proto-Germanic **raipaz*. —**v.** About 1515, from the noun. The irregular form *raipen* is recorded once in Middle English before 1325. —**ropy** adj. 1480, formed from Middle English *rope*, *n.* + *-y*¹.

rorqual *n.* 1827, borrowing of French *rorqual*, from Norwegian *reyrkeval*, from Old Icelandic *reyðharhvalr* (*reyðhr* rorqual, related to *raudhr* RED + *hvalr* WHALE); compare **NARWHAL**.

Rorschach test 1927, in allusion to Hermann Rorschach, who devised this test.

rosary *n.* About 1440 *rosarie* rose garden; borrowed from Latin *rosarium*, from neuter of *rosarius* of roses, from *rosa* rose; for suffix see **-ARY**. The sense of a series of prayers (1547) probably came from Middle French *rosaire* developed as a figurative sense of a rose garden, conveying the idea of a "garden" of prayers, corresponding Medieval *hortulus animae* little garden of the soul, meaning prayerbook.

rose *n.* Old English *rose*, *rōse* (before 899); borrowed from Latin *rosa*; later, in Middle English influenced by Old French *rose* which reinforced the spelling *rose*. The Latin word was borrowed by other Germanic languages: compare Middle Dutch *rōse* (modern Dutch *roos*), Old High German *rōsa* (modern German *Rose*), Old Icelandic *rōsa* (Danish and Norwegian *rose*, Swedish *ros*).

Latin *rosa* was probably adapted from Greek *rhōdon* rose (compare Aeolic *wrōdon*, from Persian **vrda-*, represented by Armenian *vard* rose). —**adj.** 1816, from the noun. —**rosy** adj. About 1381; formed from *rose* + *-y*¹, but probably modeled on Old French *rosé* pink, rosy. The sense of bright, cheerful, is first recorded in English in 1775.

rosemary *n.* 1373 *rosemarye*, borrowed from Latin *rōsmarīnus* the plant; literally, dew of the sea (*rōs* dew + *marīnus* MARINE). Middle English *rosmarine* was a literal translation of the Latin; the formation of *rosemary* was by association of the word in popular etymology with *rose* and the name *Mary*.

rosette *n.* 1790, borrowing of French *rosette*, from Old French *rosette*, diminutive of *rose* rose, from Latin *rosa* ROSE; for suffix see **-ETTE**.

rosin *n.* 1295 *rosyn*; before 1393 *rosine*; both forms borrowed as alterations of Old French *raisine*, *rousine*, variants of *résine* RESIN, and also borrowed through Anglo-Latin *rosina*, from Medieval Latin *rosina*, from Latin *rēsina*. —**v.** 1356 (implied in *rosinyne* rosin); from the noun.

roster *n.* 1727, military roster; borrowed from Dutch *rooster* table, list; originally, gridiron, from Middle Dutch *roosten* to ROAST; so called from the parallel lines drawn on the paper in making a list; for suffix see **-ER**¹.

rostrum *n.* 1542, borrowing of Latin *rōstrum* platform in the Forum decorated with the beaks of ships taken in the first naval victory of the Republic; also, beak, muzzle, snout; originally, means of gnawing, instrument-noun to *rōdere* gnaw. The sense of a platform for public speaking is first recorded in English in 1766.

rot *v.* Probably before 1200 *roten*, developed from Old English *rotian* (before 899); cognate with Old Frisian *rotia* to rot, Old Saxon *rotōn*, Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *roten* (modern Dutch *rotten*), Old High German *rozzēn*, and Old Icelandic *rotna* to rot (Norwegian *rotne*, *rātne*, Swedish *ruttna*, Danish *raadne*), a weak verb formed from Proto-Germanic **rut-*, the same stem as is found in Old Icelandic *rotinn*, whence English *rotten*. —**n.** Before 1325, either from the verb or possibly borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare modern Icelandic and Norwegian *rot* decay, corruption, related to Old Icelandic *rotna* to rot).

rotary adj. 1731, borrowed from Medieval Latin *rotarius* pertaining to wheels, from Latin *rota* wheel; for suffix see **-ARY**.

rotate *v.* 1808, probably a back formation from *rotation*; for suffix see **-ATE**¹. —**rotation** *n.* 1555, borrowed possibly through Middle French *rotation*, and directly from Latin *rotātiōnem* (nominative *rotātiō*), from *rotāre* revolve, roll; for suffix see **-ATION**. —**rotator** *n.* 1676, muscle by which a limb is rotated; borrowed from Latin *rotātor* one that causes to rotate, a spinner, from *rotāre* to rotate; for suffix see **-OR**². —**rotatory** adj. 1755, formed from English *rotator* + *-y*¹, or from Latin *rotator* + English *-y*¹.

rotavirus *n.* 1974, wheel-shaped virus causing inflammation of the lining of the stomach and intestines; formed from Latin *rota* wheel + English *virus*.

rote *n.* Probably about 1300, in the phrase *bi rote* by heart, according to form; of uncertain origin; occasionally said to be connected with Old French *rote*, *route* a way or route, or from Latin *rota* wheel.

roisserie *n.* 1868, restaurant where meat is roasted on a spit; borrowed from French *roisserie* shop selling cooked foods; also, restaurant, from *rôtiss-*, stem of *rôtir* to roast, from Old French *rostit* ROAST.

rotogravure *n.* 1913 *Rotogravure*; borrowed from German *Rotogravur*, said to be a blending of two company names: *Roto*(phot) and (*Deutsche Photo*)*gravur* (*roto-* ultimately from Latin *rota* wheel + *gravur*; see GRAVURE).

rotor *n.* 1873, shortened form of ROTATOR, paralleling *vector*; the sense coming from velocity of rotation about an axis (called a rotor); later rotating part of a machine (1903).

rotten *adj.* Probably before 1300 *rotten*, borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *rotinn* decayed, past participle of an old strong verb, related to *rotna* to decay, ROT).

The sense of corrupt (as in "Something is rotten in the state of Denmark") is recorded from about 1380. The weakened sense of bad, nasty, lousy (as in *rotten luck*) appeared in 1881, along with use as an adverbial intensifier (as in *spoiled rotten*).

rotund *adj.* 1705, borrowed from Latin *rotundus* round, circular, like a wheel, related to *rota* wheel. The form *rotund* replaced *rotound* (1619), which developed from *rotounde* (probably before 1425). The Middle English word was a borrowing of Italian *rotondo* round; see ROTUNDA. —**rotundity** *n.* 1597, roundness; borrowed from Latin *rotunditas*, from *rotundus* round; for suffix see -ITY.

rotunda *n.* 1611, alteration of Italian *rotonda* (originally feminine of *rotondo*, *adj.*), from Latin *rotunda*, feminine of *rotundus* ROUND.

roué *n.* 1800, borrowing of French *roué* dissipated man, rake; originally, past participle of Old French *rouer* to break on the wheel, from Latin *rotāre* roll; said to be first applied in French about 1720 to a group of profligate companions of the Regent of France (1715–23), to suggest that they deserved to be broken on the wheel.

rouge *n.* 1753, borrowing of French *rouge* red coloring matter; also, as an adjective, red, from Old French *rouge* red, from Latin *rubeus* red; related to *ruber* red. This was a reborrowing of a word that existed in Middle English as a noun meaning a red color (1437), and as an adjective (before 1425), both borrowed from Old French. It was also used in various titles, such as *Rouge Dragon*. The modern equivalent term for the cosmetic is *blush*. —**v.** 1777, from the noun.

rough *adj.* Probably before 1200 *ruhe* shaggy, hairy; also *ruchæ* rugged, uneven (probably about 1225); developed from Old English (about 1000) *nūh*; cognate with Middle Low German *nū*, *nūch*, *nūw* shaggy, hairy, rough, Middle Dutch *nuch* (modern Dutch *nug*), and Old High German *nūh* (modern German *rau* rough), from Proto-Germanic **nūHaz*.

The original sound represented by *gh* in *rough*, and also in *cough*, *laugh*, etc., was a guttural *ch*, as in Scottish *loch* or German *ach*. As the pronunciation shifted to the sound of *f* in *off*, the spelling of many words also changed to reflect this process, as in *draft* for *draught*, etc.; but a group of spellings remained fixed. —**n.** Probably before 1200 *ruhe* rough surface;

later *rough* quality of being rough, coarseness (about 1353); probably from the adjective. The sense of a stretch of rough ground is first recorded in 1600. The phrase *in the rough* in a rough state, appeared in 1823. —**adv.** About 1300 *rowe* angrily, fiercely; later, *roghe* in a violent manner, roughly (probably about 1390); from the adjective. —**v.** 1763, especially in *rough up* to make rough; from the adjective. The phrase *to rough it* to live without conveniences is first recorded in 1768. An earlier form *rouen* to cough is first recorded before 1300, developed from late Old English *hrohan* and disappeared in early modern English. —**roughage** *n.* 1883, rough grass or weeds; formed from English *rough*, *adj.* + *-age*. The meaning of coarse, bulky kinds of food, such as bran, is first recorded about 1927. —**roughen** *v.* 1582, formed from English *rough*, *adj.* + *-en*¹. —**roughly** *adv.* About 1300 *rohly*, *rulhi* violently; formed from *ruhe* rough + *-ly*¹. The meaning of approximately is first recorded in 1841. —**roughness** *n.* Before 1398, *rouznesse*, *rowenesse*; formed from *rowe*, *rouzh* rough + *-nes*.

roulette *n.* Before 1734, a small wheel; later, a gambling game played on a revolving wheel (1745); borrowing of French *roulette* the gambling game, a small wheel, from Old French *roetele* little wheel; formed on the model of Late Latin *rotella* (diminutive of Latin *rota* wheel); for suffix see -ETTE.

round *adj.* Probably before 1300 *round* circular or spherical; also *rowund*, *rount*, *roend*; borrowed through Anglo-French *röunde*, *röunt*, and directly from Old French *roont*, *roond* (feminine *roonde*), and *reont*, probably (with loss of the medial consonant) from **redond*, **rodond*, from Vulgar Latin **retundus*. Formation of Vulgar Latin **retundus* (evidenced by existent Provençal *redon*, *redun*, Spanish and Portuguese *redondo*, Old Italian *ritondo*) is assumed by dissimilation of the "rounded" vowel sound represented by *o* and by *u* around *t* in Latin *rotundus* like a wheel, circular, round, related to *rota* wheel. —**adv.** About 1300 *rounde* in a ring or circle; from the adjective. The meaning of throughout (as in *the year round*) is first recorded in 1753. —**v.** About 1387 *rounden* be curved, make circular; from the adjective. —**n.** Before 1325 *round* a halo; also, round mass (about 1330); borrowed from Old French *roond*, *roont* and noun use of Middle English *round*, *adj.* —**prep.** 1602, from the adjective, and as a shortened form of *around*. —**rounder** *n.* 1624, sentinel; later, chronic drunkard or criminal, loafer, especially one who, originally, went habitually from offense to jail (1854). —**roundly** *adv.* Probably before 1425, in an arc; also, completely, fully; formed from Middle English *round* + *-ly*¹. —**round number** 1648, from earlier sense of full or complete, also used in reference to numbers (1340).

roundelay *n.* Probably before 1430, in Lydgate's writings; borrowed from Middle French *rondellet*, diminutive of *rondel* short poem with a refrain; literally, small circle, from Old French *rondel*, diminutive of *rond* circle, sphere; originally, an adjective and late variant of *roont*, *roond*; see ROUND. The spelling *roundelay* developed from an association with *lay*³ (poem to be sung), probably confused with the French pronunciation of *-let* in *rondellet*.

rouse *v.* About 1460 *rowsen* (implied in *rowsyng* rising); later, (of a hawk) to shake the feathers or the body (before 1475); probably borrowed from Anglo-French or Old French, but of uncertain origin. The meaning of start from sleep is first recorded in 1590, and the variant form *arouse* in 1593, on the pattern of such pairs as *rise*, *arise*, *wake*, *awake*.

roust *v.* 1658, a probable alteration of ROUSE. —**roustabout** *n.* 1868, a deck hand or wharf laborer; formed from *roust* + *about*. The sense of a casual or unskilled laborer is first recorded in 1877 and that of a worker in a circus in 1931.

A parallel form *rouseabout* (1746, a rough, drifter), is almost certainly an independent formation from *rouse* + *about*, and is also known in Australian English with the meaning of a hired hand on a sheep station, from 1881.

roust *n.* flight of a defeated army in disorder. 1598, borrowed from Middle French *route* disorderly flight of troops; literally, a breaking off or rupture, from Latin *rupta*, feminine past participle of *rumpere* to break. —**v.** About 1600 (implied in *routing*, *n.*), to put (an army) to rout; from the noun.

Earlier use (sometimes analyzed as a separate form because of a difference in application) is found in the of a group of soldiers (probably before 1225); later, a gang of outlaws or disorderly people, a mob (about 1300), and in *run in rout* (*rennen in rowte*, before 1400).

roust *v.* poke about, rummage. 1547–64, (of swine) dig with the snout, root; irregular variant of **ROOT**². The sense of search out, bring to light, uncover is found in 1805, and a sense, used in carpentry, of hollow out, scoop out, gouge, in 1726. —**router** *n.* (1818)

route *n.* Probably before 1200 *rute* a way, road; later *route* a course, progression (before 1333); borrowed from Old French *rute*, from Latin *rupta* via a road opened up by force, from *rupta*, feminine past participle of *rumpere* to break. The meaning of a fixed or regular course for carrying things (as in *the overland mail route*) is first recorded in 1792, and is an extension of a customary path of animals, game trail (about 1410). —**v.** 1881, from the noun.

routine *n.* Before 1680, borrowing of French *routine* usual course of action, beaten path, from *route* way, path, course; see **ROUTE**. The computer sense of a sequence of coded instructions for a specific task is recorded from 1945. —**adj.** 1817, following routine, mechanical, unvaried; from the noun. —**v.** 1897, from the noun and adjective.

rove *v.* 1536, wander about, roam; of uncertain origin, possibly a dialectal variant of earlier northern British English and Scottish dialect *rave* to wander, stray, rove; developed from Middle English *raven* (probably about 1380), probably borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Icelandic *rāfa* to wander, rove); or perhaps found in obsolete *rove* to sail as pirates, roam the seas as rovers (implied in *roving*, 1513), which was probably a back formation from **ROVER**.

rover *n.* Before 1393 *rovere*, borrowed from Middle Dutch *rover*, *rovere* robber, predator, plunderer (especially in *zeerovere* sea robber, pirate), from *roven* to ROB; for suffix see **-ER**¹.

row¹ *n.* line of people or things. Probably before 1200 *rawe* order, succession; also, a row or line of people or things (probably about 1200); developed from Old English *rēaw* a row, line (940, also probably *rāw*, and in Late Old English *rēawe*, *rēwe*). The Old English *rēaw* (from Proto-Germanic **raiwiwiz*) is probably cognate with Middle Dutch *rie* line, row (modern Dutch *rij*), Middle High German *rihe* (modern German *Reihe* line, row, series), Old High German *riga* line (modern German *Riege* squad, section), and dialectal Norwegian *reig* row.

row² *v.* propel a boat by using oars. Probably before 1200 *rowen*, also, in the spelling *rowen* (probably about 1200); developed from Old English (about 950) *rōwan*; cognate with Middle Dutch *roeyen*, *royen* to row (modern Dutch *roeien*), Middle Low German *rōien*, *rōen*, Middle High German *rōn*, *ruejen*, and Old Icelandic *rōa* (Norwegian, Danish, and Swedish *ro*). —**n.** 1832, from the verb. —**rowboat** *n.* (1538)

row³ *n.* noisy commotion or disturbance. 1746, of uncertain origin; perhaps related to, or a shortened form of, *rouse* a carousal or bout of drinking (1602), also spelled *rouse* (1604), a shortened form of *carouse*. —**v.** 1790, to tease; later, to make a noisy disturbance (1797); from the noun.

rowdy *n.* 1808, probably formed on **ROW**³, *n.* —**adj.** 1819, from the noun.

rowel *n.* 1344 *ruel* small wheel; later *rowel* small wheel with sharp points on a spur (about 1400); borrowed from Old French *roelle*, *ruele* little wheel; see **ROULETTE**.

royal *adj.* About 1250 *royal* fit for a king, magnificent; later, pertaining to a monarch, majestic, regal (about 1375); borrowing of Old French *royal*, *roial*, from Latin *rēgālis*, from *rēx* (genitive *rēgis*) king; for suffix see **-AL**¹.

French origin is evident in the position of the adjective after the noun, as in *battle royal* (1672). —**n.** Before 1400 *royalle* a royal person; from the adjective. —**royalty** *n.* About 1390 *roialtee* magnificence, wealth; also *royalte* royal authority (probably before 1400); probably formed from Middle English *royal* + *-te* *-ty*², on the model of Old French *roiauté*, from *roial* royal. The sense of royal persons collectively is first recorded in 1480, and that of a share of the earnings made from the use of land and mineral rights (1839), or from the sale of a publication, such as a book, musical composition, etc. (1857), derived from the meaning of a royal prerogative or right granted to an individual or corporation (1483).

rub *v.* Before 1325 *robben* to rub, massage, *rubben* to scratch (before 1338); later to rub (about 1378); of uncertain origin (compare East Frisian *rubben* to scratch, rub, and Low German *rubbelig*, *rubberig* rough, uneven, and Danish and Norwegian *rubbe*, Swedish *rubba* to rub, scrub). —**n.** 1586, an obstacle in bowls; from the verb. The sense of any obstacle (as in *Hamlet's there's the rub*) is first recorded in 1590. The general meaning of an act or spell of rubbing is not recorded before 1615.

rubber *n.* 1) a hard brush, cloth, or the like, used for rubbing. 1536, formed from English *rub*, *v.* + *-er*¹. 2) India rubber (elastic substance obtained from the latex of tropical plants). 1788–89, called *rubber* from its use originally as an eraser.

rubbish *n.* About 1400 *robous*; later *robys* (1429–30), and *robish* (1477), found in Anglo-French *robouses* (1419), and *rubouses* (1392–93); of uncertain origin (connection with Old French is not possible to establish); development with the suffix *-ish* may have been through some erroneous association with the verb *rub*. —*v.* 1953, treat with contempt, originally Australian and New Zealand figurative use; from the noun.

rubble *n.* 1376–77 *robeyl*, 1425 *rubyll*, probably related to *rubous*, *robys* RUBBISH (rubble being considered the rubbish of demolished buildings); the suffix *-le* is unaccounted for.

rube *n.* 1899, respelling of *Reub* (1896), shortened form or nickname of *Reuben*, perhaps because it was considered a common name among countryfolk.

Rube Goldberg 1940's, (of an invention, device, or scheme) ridiculously complicated, in allusion to *Rube Goldberg* an American cartoonist noted for depicting fantastically complicated mechanical inventions for performing the simplest tasks.

rubella *n.* 1883, New Latin *rubella* rash, from Latin, neuter plural of *rubellus* reddish, a diminutive related to *ruber* RED.

rubicund *adj.* Probably before 1425 *rubicunde* red, reddish; borrowed from Latin *rubicundus* red, very red, related to *ruber* RED.

rubidium *n.* 1861, New Latin, from Latin *rubidus* red, from *rubere* be red, related to *ruber* RED; so called in reference to the two red lines in the element's spectrum.

rubric *n.* Probably about 1300 *robryk* directions in religious services, often in red writing or print; later *rubrice* any title or heading of a book (probably before 1425); borrowed from Old French *rubrique*, and directly from Latin *rubrica* red ochre, red coloring matter, from *ruber* RED.

ruby *n.* Probably about 1300 *ribe*, about 1325 *ruby*; borrowed from Old French *rubī*, probably from Medieval Latin *rubinus lapis* red stone, from Latin *rubeus* red, related to *ruber* RED. —*adj.* About 1477, from the noun.

rucksack *n.* 1866, borrowing of German *Rucksack*; dialectal (Alpine) German *Ruck* (standard German *Rücken* the back) + *Sack* bag.

ruckus *n.* 1890 *ruus* (originally dialectal); sometimes suggested as a blend of earlier *ruction* disturbance (1825) and *rumpus* (1764).

rudder *n.* 1377–78 *rother* device for steering a boat; also found as *roper* oar (about 1225); developed from Old English (about 725) *rōthor* paddle or oar; also in compounds, *scip-rōthor* ship rudder. Old English *rōthor* is cognate with Old Frisian *rōther* rudder, Middle Dutch *roder*, *roeder* (modern Dutch *roer*), Old High German *ruodar* (modern German *Ruder*), and Old Icelandic *rōdhr* act of rowing (modern Icelandic *rōdhur*, Norwegian *ror* rudder), from Proto-Germanic **rōthru-*.

The spelling with *d* (for *th*) is first recorded in 1440 and represents a change opposite to that which occurred in *father*, *mother*, *gather*. The spelling with *u* appears in the late 1200's becoming established in the 1600's. —*v.* 1856, from the noun.

ruddy *adj.* Late Old English (before 1100) *rudi*, probably from *rudu* redness, related (with different vowel grade) to *rēad* and *rēod* RED; for suffix see *-y¹*.

rude *adj.* Probably about 1280 *reud* (of a board) coarse, rough; later *rude* (of writing) artless, simple (before 1325), ill-mannered (probably before 1350); borrowed from Old French *rude*, and directly from Latin *rudis* rough, crude, unlearned; related to *rūdus* rubble.

rudiment *n.* 1548, borrowed from Middle French, or directly from Latin *rudimentum* early training, first experience, from *rudis* unlearned, untrained; for suffix see *-MENT*.

—**rudimentary** *adj.* 1839, pertaining to the rudiments of knowledge; formed from English *rudiment* + *-ary*, perhaps by influence of French *rudimentaire*, and replacing earlier *rudimental* (1597).

rue¹ *v.* feel regret. Probably about 1150 *rewen*; later *reuwen* (about 1300), and *ruen* (about 1330); developed from a blend of: 1) Old English *hrēowan* make sorry, grieve (before 899); cognate with Old Frisian *riowa* to affect with sorrow, *rue*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *rouwen* to mourn, lament, Old Saxon *hrewan* to regret, *rue*, Old High German *hriuwān* (modern German *reuen*), from Proto-Germanic **Hrewanan*, and Old Icelandic *hryggja* make sad, from Proto-Germanic **Hruvjanan*; and 2) *hrēowan* feel pain or sorrow; cognate with Old Saxon *hriwōn* and Old High German *hriuwōn*.

rue² *n.* plant. Before 1300, borrowing of Old French *rue*, from Latin *rūta* rue (the plant), probably from Greek *rhýtē*.

ruff *n.* 1523, ruffle on a sleeve; probably a shortened form of RUFFLE¹, *v.* (found in *ruffling*, *adj.* forming ruffles).

ruffian *n.* 1531, borrowed from Middle French *rufian*, from Italian *ruffiano* a pander, pimp, of uncertain origin. The English meaning of a rough, brutal person, rowdy, may have been influenced by the similarity in sound with the word *rough* because earliest citations refer to rough behavior and thieves, not to the business of pimping. —*adj.* 1533, from the noun.

ruffle¹ *v.* make rough or uneven, wrinkle. Before 1325 *ruffelen* stir up, poke about; cognate with Low German *ruffelen* to crumple, curl, Dutch *roffelen* work roughly, and perhaps Old Icelandic *hrufila* to scratch, of unknown origin.

The meaning of disarrange (hair or feathers) is first recorded about 1450, and that of make irregular, disorder, in 1528; the sense of annoy, disconcert is found in 1658. —*n.* 1533, disorder or confusion; from the verb.

ruffle² *n.* low, steady drumbeat. 1779, noun use of earlier *ruffle*, *v.*, to beat a drum with a low, steady beat (1721). The verb may be a frequentative form of *roffe* (1688), *ruff* low steady drumbeat (1706); perhaps of imitative origin; for suffix see *-LE³*.

rufous *adj.* 1782, borrowed from Latin *rūfus* RED; for suffix see *-OUS*; used to describe the color of birds and other animals, often becoming part of the name, as in *rufous* hummingbird, *rufous* lemur.

rug *n.* 1551–52, coarse fabric; borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Norwegian dialect *nugga* coarse coverlet, Swedish *nugg* ruffled or coarse hair, and Old Icelandic *rogg* shaggy tuft); related to RAG. The meaning of a coverlet or wrap is first recorded in English in 1591, and that of a mat for the floor, in 1808.

Rugby *n.* 1864, named after *Rugby*, school where the game was played, in *Rugby*, a city in central England.

rugged *adj.* Probably before 1300, rough with hair, shaggy; borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *rogg* shaggy tuft); see RUG; for suffix see -ED². The sense of rough, uneven, suggests some relation to *rug*. The sense of rough, uneven, is first recorded in 1548, and that of harsh, severe, in 1597, and of strong, hardy, in 1731.

ruin *n.* About 1375 *myne* a falling down or collapse of a building, etc.; also, a condition of ruin, degradation (about 1380); borrowed from Old French *ruine* and directly from Latin *ruina* a collapse, related to *ruere* to rush, fall, collapse. The sense of devastation, wreckage, ruins, is found before 1420. —*v.* 1581, to destroy, eradicate; borrowed through Middle French *ruiner*, or directly from Medieval Latin *ruinare*, from Latin *ruina* ruin, *n.* —**ruination** *n.* 1664, ruin, destruction; derived from English *ruinate* reduce to ruins (before 1548); borrowed from Medieval Latin *ruinatus*, past participle of *ruinare* to destroy, ruin; for suffix see -ATION. —**ruinous** *adj.* About 1384 *ruynouse* going to ruin, dilapidated; borrowed from Latin *ruinōsus* fallen to ruin, from *ruina* a collapse, ruin; for suffix see -OUS. The sense of causing ruin, destructive, disastrous, is found probably before 1439.

rule *n.* Probably before 1200 *riwle* principle or regulation governing conduct; also *reule* (before 1225), and *rule* (about 1378); borrowed from Old French *riule*, *reule*, from Vulgar Latin **regula* alteration (by influence of *regere* to rule) of Latin *regula* straight stick, bar, ruler, pattern; related to *regere* to rule, straighten, guide; see RIGHT. —*v.* Probably before 1200 *riwlen* to direct, guide, regulate; borrowed from Old French *riuler*, *reuler*, from Vulgar Latin **regulāre* to regulate, from *regula* rule. —**ruler** *n.* Before 1382 *rewlere* one who rules; also, straight edge; formed from *rewlen*, *riwlen* to rule + -er¹.

rum¹ *n.* liquor made from sugar cane or molasses. 1654, apparently shortened form of *rumbullion* (about 1651), of uncertain origin. The form *rombostion*, with the same meaning, is recorded in 1652. English *rum* was borrowed into Dutch, Portuguese, Danish, and Italian as *rum*, into German as *Rum*, into Swedish and Russian as *rom*, into French as *rum*, (later) *rhum*, and Spanish as *ron*.

rum² *adj.* Before 1700, good, fine, excellent; alteration of earlier *rome* fine (1567); said to be borrowed from Romany *rom* male, husband (see ROMANY), but the semantic connection is not at all clear.

rumba *n.* 1922, borrowing of Cuban Spanish *rumba*, originally spree, carousal, party, from Spanish *rumbo* spree, party; earlier, pomp, ostentation, leadership; originally, the course of

a ship, an alteration of *rombo* rhombus, in reference to the compass marked with a rhombus. —*v.* 1938, from the noun.

rumble *v.* About 1375 *romblen* make noise; also *romblen* move with a heavy continuous sound (about 1380); of uncertain origin (compare Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *rommelen* to rumble, Middle High German and modern German *rummeln*, Old Swedish *rumbla*, Danish and Norwegian *rumle*, and Old Icelandic *rymja* to shout, roar). —*n.* About 1385 *rumbel*, probably from the verb. The sense of commotion, uproar, is recorded about 1395 and that of a street fight in the 1940's. In this later use, *rumble* is perhaps an Anglicization of Spanish *rumbo*.

ruminant *n.* 1661, borrowed from Latin *ruminantem* (nominative *rumināns*), present participle of *rumināre* to chew the cud; see RUMINATE; for suffix see -ANT. —**adj.** 1679, from the noun.

ruminare *v.* 1533, turn over in the mind, muse or meditate on; also, chew the cud (1547); borrowed from Latin *ruminātus*, past participle of *rumināre* to chew the cud, chew or turn over again, turn over in the mind, meditate, from *rūmen* (genitive *rūminis*) gullet; for suffix see -ATE¹. —**rumination** *n.* 1600, contemplation, meditation; probably formed in English from *ruminare* + -ation, on the model of Latin *ruminātiōnem* (nominative *ruminātiō*), from *rumināre*.

rummage *n.* 1526 *romage* act of arranging cargo in a ship; shortened form of Middle French *arrumage* arrangement of cargo, from *arrumer* to stow cargo (*a-* to + *-rumer*, probably from Germanic; compare Old Icelandic *rūm* compartment in a ship, and Gothic and Old High German *rūm* space); for suffix see -AGE. —**rummage sale** (1858) —*v.* 1544, to arrange (cargo) in a ship; from the noun. The meaning of search thoroughly is first recorded before 1616.

rummy *n.* 1910 *rum*, *rhum*, *rhummy*; of uncertain origin. The spelling *rummy* appeared in 1915. The name *gin rummy* for a kind of rummy game is first recorded in 1941.

rumor *n.* About 1380 *rumour* unsubstantiated report, hearsay, gossip; borrowed from Old French *rumour* widespread noise or report, and directly from Latin *rūmor* noise, clamor, report, common talk, rumor, related to *ravus* hoarse. —*v.* 1594, to circulate by way of rumor, from the noun.

rump *n.* About 1410 *rumpe* rump of a quadruped animal, tail; as a surname (about 1170); borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Swedish *rumpa* rump, buttocks, Danish and Norwegian *rumpe*, and Icelandic *rumpr*, which are cognate with Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *romp* trunk, torso, Middle Low German *rump*, and Middle High German *rumpe*, modern German *Rumpf*).

The sense of a small, unimportant, or contemptible remnant (derived from the sense of a tail), is first recorded in English in 1649, in reference to English parliamentary history. —**adj.** small, unimportant, inferior, as of a splinter group. 1605, from the noun.

rumple *v.* 1603, possibly a variant of earlier (and now dialectal) *rimple* to wrinkle (probably before 1400, developed from

Old English *hrympel*), influenced in alteration to *rumpel* by Dutch *rompelen*, Middle Dutch *rumpelen*. —**n.** 1500–20, possibly a variant of earlier *rimple* a wrinkle (1440), influenced in alteration to *rumpel* by Middle Dutch *rumpel*, from the verb in Middle Dutch.

rumpus **n.** 1764, of uncertain origin (perhaps a fanciful alteration of *robustious* boisterous, noisy, before 1548).

run **v.** About 1325 *runnen*, representing originally distinct forms: a strong intransitive verb and a weak transitive verb, both commonly recorded in Middle and Old English with sounds of the initial syllable transposed. The strong intransitive verb, Middle English *rinnen* and *irnen* (both probably before 1200), developed from Old English *rinnan*, *irnan*, past tense *ran*, past participle *runnen*; cognates with Old Frisian *rinna*, Old Saxon *rinnan*, Middle Dutch *rinnen*, Old High German *rinnan* (modern German *rinnen* to run, flow), Old Icelandic *rinna* (Norwegian *renne*, Swedish *rinna*, Danish *rinde*), and Gothic *rinnan*, from Proto-Germanic **renwanan*. The weak transitive verb, Middle English *rennen* (before 1121) and *ernen* (probably about 1200), developed from Old English *ærnan*, *earnan*; cognates with Old Frisian *renna* to cause to run, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *rennen*, Old Saxon *rennian*, Old High German *rennen*, Old Icelandic *renna* to cause to run (Norwegian *renne*, Swedish *ränna*, Danish *rende*), and Gothic *urranjan* let go up, from original (**rannjanan*), a causative of a Proto-Germanic root **ren-*. —**n.** About 1390 *ren* a running, a run; from the verb. The spelling *run* for the noun is not found before 1450.

runcible spoon 1871, a nonsense phrase coined by Edward Lear, of unknown origin; perhaps formed on the botanical term *runcinate* (1776) irregularly saw-toothed (formed from Latin *runcina* a plane, but taken to mean a saw or something sharp-edged) + the suffix *-ible*; or an alteration of *runcival* (1573, variant of *rouneival*) large for its kind; however, Lear used the term with indistinct meaning, applying *runcible* to a cat (1877), to a hat (1888), and to a goose and a wall (1895). About 1926 *runcible spoon* was adopted as the name of a spoon-like three-pronged fork.

rune **n.** 1685 (but implied in *runic*, 1662); introduced into English by early Germanic philologists from a Scandinavian source, possibly Danish *rune* (compare modern and Old Icelandic *rún* rune). An obsolete parallel form was known in Middle English *rune*, *roune* utterance, whisper, murmur, message (probably about 1175); language, speech (probably before 1200); song, poem (probably about 1200); and in Old English *rūn*, *rūne* a secret or mystery (about 950); a runic letter (before 899); and counsel or consultation (about 725); cognate with Old Saxon *rūna* a secret, mystery, counsel, *rune*, Middle Dutch *rune*, Old High German *rūna*, and Gothic *rūna*, from Proto-Germanic **rūnō*. —**runic** **adj.** 1662, consisting of runes, perhaps formed in English from *rune* + *-ic* (paralleling earlier Middle English *runisch*, 1380); or borrowed from New Latin *runicus* (Icelandic *rūn* + Latin *-icus* -ic).

Runes are believed to be developed from an early contact with the Greek, and later Roman, alphabets (though pro-

longed contact with the Roman alphabet, especially in Christian texts, finally supplanted the runic forms before 1100).

rung **n.** About 1300 *roungue* step of a ladder; *runge* horizontal side rail of a cart (before 1300); developed from Old English (before 1000) *hrung* a rod or bar; cognate with Middle Dutch *ronghe* spoke of a wheel (modern Dutch *rong*), Middle Low German and Middle High German *runge*, Old High German *runga* (modern German *Runge*), Gothic *hrunga* staff, from Proto-Germanic **Hrungō*.

runnel **n.** 1577, small stream, alteration (probably by association with *run*) of Middle English (about 1350) *ryneil*; developed from Old English (about 825) *rinelle*, related to *rinnan* to RUN.

runt **n.** 1501, an old or decayed tree stump; of uncertain origin. The meaning of an ox or cow of a small breed or size, is first recorded in 1549, and that of an undersized person or animal (before 1700).

rupture **n.** 1392, the breaking of a vein; later, a violation of a treaty (1439); borrowing of Middle French *rupture* a breaking, breach, and directly from Latin *ruptura* the breaking (of a limb), fracture, from *rupt-*, past participle stem of *rumpere* to break; for suffix see -URE. The meaning of an abdominal hernia is first recorded probably before 1425. —**v.** 1739, from the noun.

rural **adj.** Before 1420 *rural* common, lowly, unlearned, unskilled; also, probably before 1425 *rural* of or having to do with farm work; borrowed from Middle French *rural*, from Latin *rūralis* of the countryside, from *rūs* (genitive *rūris*) open land, country; for suffix see -AL¹.

ruse **n.** 1625 trick, originally the dodging movements of a game animal (about 1410); borrowing of Old French *ruse*, *reūse*, noun of *ruser*, *reūser* to dodge, repel, retreat, from Latin *recūsare* deny, reject, oppose (*re-* intensive + *causari* plead as a reason, object, allege, from *causa* reason, cause).

rush¹ **v.** move with speed. 1375 *ruschen* to drive back, repel; also, move quickly, dash (about 1380); borrowed from Anglo-French *russher*, variant of Old French *ruser*, *reūser* to dodge, repel; see RUSE. —**n.** About 1380 *rusche* a charge, onslaught, from the verb. —**adj.** 1879, from the noun.

rush² **n.** grasslike plant with hollow stems. Before 1325 *ress*, about 1350 *ruch*; developed from Old English *resc* (before 1100); earlier *risc* (about 725); cognate with Middle Low German *risch*, *rusch* rush, Middle Dutch *rusch* (modern Dutch *rus*), Middle High German *rusch*.

rusk **n.** 1595, a hard, crisp bread; borrowed from Spanish or Portuguese *rosca* roll, twist of bread; literally, coil or spiral, of uncertain origin.

russet **n.** About 1248, a coarse homespun cloth of a reddish-brown color; later, the color (1422); borrowed from Old French *rousset*, from *rosset*, *russet*, *adj.*, reddish, diminutive of *ros*, *rous* red, from Latin *russus*, related to *nuber* RED; for suffix see -ET. —**adj.** 1390 *russet* (of cloth) reddish-brown; bor-

rowed from Old French *rosset*, *russet* reddish, or from the noun in English.

rust *n.* Old English *rūst* (about 725); cognate with Old Saxon *rost* rust, Old High German *rost* (modern German *Rost*), Swedish *rost*, Danish and Norwegian *rust*, and Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *roest*; from the root represented by Old Icelandic *rydh*, *rydhr* rust, and Old English *rudu* redness. —**v.** Probably before 1200 *rusten* become covered with rust; from the noun. —**rusty** *adj.* Before 1225, developed from Old English *rūstig* (before 899); formed from *rūst* rust + *-ig* *-y*¹. The sense of impaired by neglect, requiring exercise or practice, is first recorded in 1508.

rustic *adj.* Probably 1440, shortened form of *rustical* (probably before 1425); borrowed from Latin *rūsticus*, from *rūs* (genitive *rūris*) open land, country; for suffix see *-IC*, *-ICAL*. The sense of rough or awkward is first recorded in 1585, and that of simple or plain in 1594. —**n.** About 1550, countryman, peasant; from the adjective.

rusticate *v.* 1660, probably a back formation from *rustication*, formed after Latin *rūsticātus*, past participle of *rūsticārī* live or stay in the country, from *rūsticus* RUSTIC; for suffix see *-ATE*¹. —**rustication** *n.* 1623, borrowed from Latin *rūsticātiōnem* (nominative *rūsticātiō*) the act or fact of living or staying in the country, from *rūsticārī*; for suffix see *-ATION*.

rustle *v.* Before 1387 (implied in *rustelyng*) making a sound of things rubbing together; perhaps of imitative origin, also possibly influenced by Scandinavian words, such as Old Swedish *rūska* rustle, shake, and Icelandic *rýsla* rattle and *hrista* shake, tremble; for suffix see *-LE*³.

The meaning of move about vigorously, hustle, is first recorded in 1844, and that of steal (cattle, etc.) in 1882, implied in *rustler*. —**n.** 1759, from the verb.

rut¹ *n.* track made in the ground by the wheels of a vehicle.

1580, of uncertain origin; perhaps a variant of *route*, also found in Middle English *rule*, *route*. The meaning of a narrow and monotonous course of life or action, is first recorded in 1839. —**v.** 1607, from the noun.

rut² *n.* 1183 *ruyth* the rutting season, especially among deer; later *rutte* (about 1410); borrowed from Old French *rut*, *ruit*, from Vulgar Latin **rūgitus*, from Late Latin *rūgitus* a bellowing, from Latin, past participle of *rūgīre* to bellow. —**v.** Before 1425, from the noun.

rutabaga *n.* 1799, borrowing of dialectal Swedish *rotabagge* (*rot* root + *bagge* bag).

ruth *n.* Probably before 1200 *reuthe* pity, compassion, from *reowen*, *reuwen* to RUE¹; for suffix see *-TH*¹. —**ruthless** *adj.* About 1330 *reutheles*; formed from *reuthe* pity + *-les* *-less*.

ruthenium *n.* 1848, New Latin, from Medieval Latin *Ruthenia* Russia; so called because the element was discovered in platinum ore from the Urals. The term was coined in 1828 for the platinum ore, but the word was first applied to the element itself in 1845.

-ry a suffix, a shortened form of *-ery*, forming especially abstract nouns with the meaning of act of, quality or condition of, as in *mimicry*, *ribaldry*, *wizardry*, and collective nouns, as in *citizenry*, *jewelry*, *peasantry*. Middle English *-rie*, borrowed from Old French *-rie*, shortened form of *-erie* *-ERY*.

rye *n.* Before 1325 *rie* cereal grass that yields rye grain; later, the grain itself (about 1333–52); developed from Old English (about 725) *ryge*; cognate with Old Icelandic *rugr* rye (Swedish *råg*, Danish and Norwegian *rug*), Old Frisian *rogga*, Old Saxon *roggo*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *rogge*, and Old High German *rocko* (modern German *Roggen*). As a shortened form of *rye whiskey* (1785), the word *rye* appeared in 1835. The form *rye bread* is first recorded about 1440.

S

-s¹ a suffix forming the plural of most nouns, as in *books*, *fathers*, *pilgrims*. Also *-es*¹ after nouns ending in *s*, *z*, *sh*, *ch*, etc. Middle English *-es*, *-s*, developed from Old English *-as*, nominative and accusative plural ending of certain masculine nouns.

-s² a suffix forming the third person singular (present indicative) of verbs, as in *knows*, *looks*, *runs*. Also *-es*² after forms ending in *s*, *z*, *sh*, *ch*, etc. Middle English *-es*, *-s*, developed from Old English *-es*, *-as*.

-s³ a suffix forming some adverbs, as in *needs*, *unawares*. Middle English *-es*, *-s*, developed from Old English *-es*, from the genitive singular ending of masculine and neuter nouns and adjectives.

-s⁴ a suffix forming the possessive case of nouns, as in *boy's*, *cat's*, *England's*, *women's*. Also *-s'* for plural nouns, as in *customers' confidence*, and for proper names that normally end in *-s*¹, as *Jones' house*. Middle English *-es*, *-s*, developed from Old Eng-

lish -es, genitive singular ending of masculine and neuter nouns.

Sabbath *n.* Old English (about 950) *sabat* the seventh day of the week (Saturday) observed by Jews as a day of rest; borrowed from Latin *sabbatum*, from Greek *sábbaton*, from Hebrew *shabbāth*, from *shābath* he rested. *Sabbath* was applied to the first day of the week (Sunday) about 1410. The spelling with double *b* is first recorded about 1280, and that with *th* though recorded before 1382, did not become widespread before the 1500's.

sabbatical *adj.* 1645, of or suitable for the Sabbath, formed in English from Greek *sabbatikós* of the Sabbath (from *sábbaton* SABBATH) + English -*al*¹; also probably borrowed from French *sabbatique*, from Greek.

The use of *sabbatical* to designate a year's leave of absence is granted teachers (originally every seven years to university professors) appeared in 1886; also *sabbatical year*, in allusion to the *sabbatical year* (1635–56) the seventh year, in which according to Mosaic law the land was to remain untilled and debtors and slaves were to be released. —*n.* Before 1934, shortened from *sabbatical year*.

saber *n.* 1680, borrowed from French *sabre* heavy, curved sword, alteration of *sable*, from German *Sabel* (now *Säbel*), from a Slavic source (compare Russian *sábyla* and Polish *szabla* sword, *saber*; also Hungarian *szábyla* *saber*).

sable *n.* Probably before 1422; borrowed from Middle French *sable* the mammal or its fur, from Old French, from a Germanic source (compare Middle Dutch *sabel*, Middle Low German *sabel*, and Middle High German *zabel*, *zobel*), ultimately from Russian *sóbol*¹.

The word is recorded earlier in Middle English (probably before 1325) in the sense of black, as one of the heraldic colors, probably in reference to the color of the mammal's fur. However, this use of *sable* may not be the name of the mammal, since the fur is generally brown, not black, which has led to the conjecture that it may have been customary to dye sable fur black, and that the heraldic term is a different word. —*adj.* Before 1400 *sabyll* (in heraldry) black; from the noun (see note above).

sabot *n.* 1607, borrowing of French *sabot*, alteration (by association with Old French *bot*, *bote* BOOT¹) of Middle French *savate* old shoe, from the same indeterminate source as Catalan and Old Provençal *sabata* shoe, Portuguese *sapato*, Spanish *zapato*, Italian *ciabatta* old shoe, Basque *zapatu* shoe, and Arabic *sabbāt* sandal. Earlier *sabaton* a piece of armor to cover the foot (1338), and later, a kind of shoe (1423); *sabbatin* (1448) and *sabatin* (probably about 1475), are apparently different words, borrowed from Medieval Latin *sabbatum*.

sabotage *n.* 1910, borrowing of French *sabotage*, from *saboter* to sabotage, bungle, walk noisily, from *sabot* wooden shoe, SABOT; for suffix see -AGE. Traditionally associated with the action of striking workers who threw sabots into machinery to damage it, the verb in French (which carries the sense of bungle, execute poorly), suggests a different semantic development more closely associated with the noise the wooden shoes

make in walking. —*v.* 1918, from the noun. —**saboteur** *n.* 1921, borrowing of French *saboteur*, from *saboter* to sabotage.

sac *n.* 1741, borrowing of French *sac*, from Latin *saccus* bag, SACK¹. The meaning was known earlier in Middle English (1340), as one of the meanings of *sak*, later *sack*.

saccharin *n.* 1885 *saccharine*, said to be coined from Latin *saccharon* (erroneously *saccharum*) + English -*ine*², but more likely a transferred use of *saccharine*, *n.*, *saccharine matter*, sugar (1841), or noun use of *saccharine*, *adj.* (1674), formations in English commonly found in the vocabulary of science and technology in the 1700's and 1800's.

saccharine *adj.* 1674, of or like sugar; formed in English from Medieval Latin *saccharum* sugar, from Latin *saccharon* (from Greek *sákcharon*, from Pali *sakkharā*, from Sanskrit *śárkarā* gravel, grit, SUGAR) + English -*ine*¹. The sense of overly sweet, sugary, is first recorded in 1841–44.

sacerdotal *adj.* About 1400; borrowed from Old French *sacerdotal*, and directly from Latin *sacerdōtālis* of or pertaining to a priest, from *sacerdōs* (genitive *sacerdōtis*) priest; literally, one who offers sacrifices; for suffix see -AL¹.

sachem *n.* 1622, borrowed from Algonquian (Narragansett) *sáchimau* chief, ruler; cognate with Abnaki *sāngman* SAGAMORE. The sense of political leader, chief, ruler, is first recorded in 1684.

sachet *n.* 1838, borrowing of French *sachet*, diminutive of *sac* SACK. *Sachet* a small bag or wallet (1483), is related to *sacket* in the same sense (about 1450).

sack¹ *n.* large bag. Probably before 1200 *sac*; later *sack* (1275–76); reinforced by Old French *sac*, Old Icelandic *sekk*, and Latin *saccus*, but initially developed from Old English (about 1000, in West Saxon) *sacc* large cloth bag, but also found in Mercian *sec*, and Old Kentish *sæc*, and in *sæce* sackcloth. The Old English *sac* is an early borrowing of Latin *saccus*, from Greek *sákkos*, from Semitic (compare Hebrew *saq* sack), and is parallel to similar early borrowings from Latin *saccus*, found in Middle Dutch and Middle Low German *sak* sack, Old High German *sac*, Old Icelandic *sekk*, and Gothic *sakkus* sackcloth. —*v.* 1303 *sekker*; later *sakken* (about 1390); from the noun.

sack² *n.* act of plundering. 1549, borrowed from Middle French *sac* (found in the phrase *mettre à sac* put into a bag, also Old French *a sac* a command authorizing the sack of a city), from, or parallel to, Italian *sacco* (found in *a sacco* to the plunder), from Latin *saccus* bag, SACK¹; perhaps referring to the filling of sacks with plunder, as found in the verb of Vulgar Latin **saccāre* take by force. —*v.* Before 1547, probably from the noun, although recorded somewhat earlier.

sack³ *n.* sherry. 1531–32, alteration of French *vin sec* dry wine, from Latin *siccus* dry.

sacrament *n.* Probably before 1200 *sacrement*; later *sacrament* (probably about 1300); borrowed from Old French *sacrement*, *sacrament*, and directly from Latin *sacrāmentum* a consecrating,

from *sacrāre* to consecrate, from *sacer* (genitive *sacrī*) holy, SACRED; for suffix see -MENT.

sacred *adj.* About 1380 *sacrid*, from past participle of *sacren* to make holy, consecrate (probably before 1200); borrowed from Old French *sacer*, or directly from Latin *sacrāre* to make sacred, consecrate, from *sacer* (genitive *sacrī*) sacred, related to *sancire* make sacred, confirm, ratify, ordain.

sacrifice *n.* About 1275 *sacrefise*; later *sacrifice* (1340); borrowed from Old French *sacrifise*, *sacrefise*, and directly from Latin *sacrificium*, from *sacrificus* performing priestly functions or sacrifices (*sacra* sacred rites, from neuter plural of *sacer* SACRED + the root of *facere* to perform). The sense of the act of giving up one thing for another is first found in 1592. —**v.** About 1300 *sacrifisen*, formed from Middle English *sacrefise*, *sacrifise*, *n.* —**sacrificial** *adj.* 1607, formed from Latin *sacrificium* sacrifice + English -al¹.

sacrilege *n.* About 1303 *sacrylage*; later *sacrilege* (before 1325); borrowed from Old French *sacrilege*, from Latin *sacrilegium* temple robbery, from *sacrilegus* robber of temples or altars (*sacrum* sacred object, from neuter singular of *sacer* SACRED + *legere* take, pick up). —**sacrilegious** *adj.* About 1449 *sacri-legiose*; later *sacrilegious* (1582); formed from Middle English *sacrilege* + -iose -ious.

sacristan *n.* About 1375; earlier as a surname *Sacristain* (1199); borrowed from Medieval Latin *sacristanus*, from *sacrista* a sacristan, from Latin *sacer* (genitive *sacrī*) SACRED; for suffix see -AN. Middle English *segerstane* (1367); borrowed from Old French *segrestein*, *secrestein*, from Medieval Latin *sacristanus* did not survive.

sacristy *n.* About 1450 *sacristie*; borrowed from Anglo-French *sacrestie*, *sacristie*, from Medieval Latin *sacristia*; later *sacristy* (1656); probably reborrowed directly from Medieval Latin *sacristia*, from *sacrista* SACRISTAN; for suffix see -Y³.

sacrosanct *adj.* Before 1500 *sacroseint* (reinforced by Middle English *seint* holy, sacred); borrowed from Latin *sacrōsānctus*; later *sacrosanct* (1601); reborrowed from Latin *sacrōsānctus* protected by religious sanction (*sacrō*, ablative of *sacrum* religious sanction, from neuter singular of *sacer* SACRED + *sānctus*, past participle of *sancire* make sacred).

sacrum *n.* 1753, borrowing abstracted from Late Latin *os sacrum* sacred bone, from Latin *os* bone, and *sacrum*, neuter of *sacer* SACRED; probably so called because the bone was thought to be offered in sacrifices; a translation of Greek *hierōn ostēon*. In Middle English texts the bone was referred to as *os sacrum* (probably before 1425).

sad *adj.* Probably before 1200 *sad* sated, satisfied, weary or tired of; later, sorrowful, unhappy (before 1300); developed from Old English (before 1000) *sæd* sated; cognate with Old Saxon *sad* sated, Middle Dutch *sat* (modern Dutch *zat*), Old High German *sat* (modern German *satt*), Old Icelandic *sadhr*, *saddr*, and Gothic *sads*, from Proto-Germanic **sadās*. Development of the meaning sorrowful, unhappy is unclear as the seemingly intervening senses of sober, serious, appear in the record at least 75 to 100 years after the sense of unhappy and

that of pensive about 170 years later. —**sadden** *v.* 1628, formed from English *sad* + -en¹; note, however, the verb use of Middle English *saden* to become sated, grow weary of (about 1390), and to become resolute, be serious (about 1378), developed from Old English *sadian*, and also from the adjective in Middle English; it is difficult to determine how indebted modern English *sad* sorrowful is to the Middle English verb.

saddle *n.* Probably before 1200 *sadele*; later *sadle* (probably before 1300); developed from Old English *sadol* seat for a rider (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Middle Dutch *sadel* saddle, Old High German *satul*, and Old Icelandic *sodhull*, from Proto-Germanic **sadulaz*. —**v.** Probably before 1200 *sadelien*; later *sadelen* (probably about 1225), *sadlen* (probably about 1300); developed from Old English *sadolian* (about 1000), from *sadol*, *n.*

sadism *n.* 1888, borrowed from French *sadisme*, from the name of Count Donatien A.F. de Sade + -isme -ism. The "Marquis" de Sade was notorious for cruel sexual practices and for his novels describing them. —**sadist** *n.* 1897, formed from English *sadism* + -ist. —**sadistic** *adj.* 1892, probably formed from English *sadist* + -ic, after German *sadistisch*.

sado- a combining form meaning sadistic, involving sadism, as in *sadomasochism* (1935). Formed in English from *sadist* or *sadism* + connective -o-, on the pattern of *psycho-*, etc.

safari *n.* 1890 (also in earlier travel account, 1860); borrowed from Swahili *safari* journey, expedition, from Arabic *safar* journey.

safe *adj.* About 1280 *sauf* not damned, redeemed; later, uninjured, free from danger, secure (about 1300), and *safe* (about 1343); borrowed from Old French *sauf*, *saif*, from Latin *salvus* uninjured, healthy, safe, related to *salūs* good health, safety, *salūber* healthful, and *solidus* solid. —**n.** 1440, *save* a chest or cupboard for keeping meats, etc.; noun use of *save*, *v.*, also found in *in saaf* in a safe place (about 1430; borrowed from Middle French *en sauf* in safety). The spelling *safe* is first recorded in 1688, influenced by the adjective. —**safe-conduct** *n.* (about 1300) —**safeguard** *n.* About 1385 *save-garde* promise of safety. —**v.** About 1445 (implied in *saaf gadyng*); from the noun. —**safekeeping** *n.* (about 1410) —**safety** *n.* Before 1325 *sauvete* salvation, state of being spiritually safe; later *saftē* (about 1378); borrowed from Old French *sauveté*, *salveté*, from Medieval Latin *salvitatē*, from Latin *salvus* safe; for suffix see -TY².

safflower *n.* 1407 *saflour*; borrowed from Middle French *saffleur*, from early Italian *saffiore*, *zaffrole*, from Arabic *asfar* a yellow plant, yellow. The spelling was influenced (in the 1600's) by *saffron* and *flower*.

saffron *n.* Probably before 1200 *saffran*; borrowed from Old French *safran*, from Medieval Latin *safranum*, ultimately from Arabic *za'farān*. —**adj.** Before 1398, from the noun.

sag *v.* 1392 *saggen*; possibly borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Norwegian *sakke* slow down, lag behind, and Swedish *sacka* settle, sink down; probably related to Old

Icelandic *sökkva* to SINK) or from Middle Low German *sacken* to sink (as dregs do). —**n.** 1580, from the verb.

saga *n.* 1709, Medieval Icelandic story of heroic deeds; borrowed from Old Icelandic *saga* saga, story.

sagacious *adj.* 1607, acute in sensory perception; probably formed in English as an adjective to the earlier noun, on the model of Latin *sagāx* (genitive *sagācis*) of quick perception, acute, related to *sāgus* prophetic and *sāgīre* perceive keenly; for suffix see -OUS. The sense of wise, shrewd, is first recorded in 1650. —**sagacity** *n.* Before 1500 *sagacite*; borrowed from Middle French *sagacité*, from Latin *sagacitatem* (nominative *sagacitās*) the quality of being acute or having quick perception, from *sagāx*, see SAGACIOUS; for suffix see -ITY.

sagamore *n.* 1613 *sagamo* a chief or great man; borrowed from Algonquian (Abnaki) *sāngman* chief, ruler; cognate with Naragansett *sāchiman* SACHEM.

sage¹ *adj.* wise. About 1300; as a surname (1179); borrowed from Old French *sage*, from Gallo-Romance **sabiū*, alteration of Vulgar Latin **sapius*, from Latin *sapere* have a taste, have good taste or discernment, be wise. —**n.** Probably before 1350; from the adjective, perhaps influenced by Old French *sage* one who knows.

sage² *n.* plant. Before 1325 *sage*; borrowed from Old French *sauge*, from Latin *salvia*, from *salvus* healthy, SAFE; so called from the plant's supposed healing properties. —**sagebrush** *n.* (1852)

sago *n.* 1555, East Indian palm tree; borrowed from Malay *sagu*. The meaning of starchy food obtained from the pith of the sago tree is first recorded about 1580.

sahib *n.* 1673, borrowed from Hindi *ṣāḥib* master, lord, from Arabic, (originally) friend.

sail *n.* Probably before 1200 *seil*; later *sayle* (1265), *sail* (probably before 1300); developed from Old English *segl* (before 899); cognate with Old Frisian *seil* sail, Old Saxon *segel*, Middle Dutch *seil* (modern Dutch *zeil*), Old High German *segal* (modern German *Segel*), and Old Icelandic *segl* sail, probably originally a piece of cloth cut, from Proto-Germanic **sezlan*. —**v.** Probably before 1200 *seilen* travel on a ship with sails; later *saylen* (about 1250); developed from Old English *seglian*, *seglan* (before 899); cognate with Middle High German *segelen*, *sigelen* (modern German *segeln*), and Old Icelandic *sigla*, all derived from the Germanic source of Old English *segl*, *n.* —**sailboat** *n.* (1798) —**sailcloth** *n.* (probably before 1200) —**sailor** *n.* Probably before 1400 *sailer*, formed from *sailen* sail, *v.* + *-er*¹. The suffix was later changed to *-or*² (before 1642) on the model of *tailor*, *jailor*, *bailor*, and distantly *advisor*, etc.

saint *n.* About 1125 *seinte*; later *sainte* (before 1225), borrowed from Old French *saint*, *seinte*, from Latin; also Middle English *sont* (before 1200) and *sannt* (about 1200), developed from Old English *sanct*, borrowed from Latin, and borrowed into Middle English directly from Latin *sānctus* holy, consecrated (in Late Latin found as a noun), past participle of *sancire* make sacred, ordain; see SACRED. In Middle English first use of *saint* as a

title is found in *Seinte Marian Magdalene*, but earlier use is known by appearance of the abbreviated *S or St.*, at least by 1100, and in Old English by 963. —**v.** Probably before 1200 *sonten* to be or become a saint; later *saynten* (before 1450); from the noun, probably influenced by Old French *saintir* through Anglo-French *santir*. The meaning of make a saint of is first recorded in 1375. —**sainthood** *n.* 1550, formed from English *saint*, *n.* + *-hood*. —**saintly** *adj.* 1629, formed from English *saint*, *n.* + *-ly*², but found earlier as an adverb about 1460.

sake¹ *n.* purpose, cause, account. Probably about 1175 *sake* blame, guilt; later, strife, dispute, account, sake (probably before 1200); developed from Old English *sacu* a cause at law, crime, dispute (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *seke*, *sake* affair, thing, dispute, Old Saxon *saka* lawsuit, enmity, guilt, thing, Middle Dutch *sake* (modern Dutch *zaak*) lawsuit, cause, thing, Old High German *sahha* (modern German *Sache*) thing, matter, cause, Old Icelandic *sök* lawsuit, guilt, crime, cause, sake, (from Proto-Germanic **sakō*). The phrases *for the sake of* (probably before 1200), and *for (someone's or something's) sake* (about 1325) were perhaps adopted from Old Icelandic.

sake² *n.* Japanese alcoholic beverage. 1687 *saque*, borrowed from Japanese *sake*.

sal *n.* About 1395; earlier in combinations such as *salkemini* common salt, and in the place name *Salford* (about 1100); borrowed from Old French *sal* (variant of *sel*), and directly from Latin *sāl* salt.

salaam *n.* 1613, borrowed from Arabic *salām* a greeting, literally, peace. —**v.** 1693, from the noun.

salacious *adj.* 1661, borrowed from Latin *salāx* (genitive *salācis*) lustful, probably originally fond of leaping, as in animals' sexual advances, from *salire* to leap; for suffix see -OUS.

salad *n.* Before 1399 *salat* raw vegetable dish, salad; later *salade* (1472); borrowed from Old French *salade*, and from Medieval Latin **salata*; both from Vulgar Latin **salāta* salted, feminine past participle of **salāre* to salt, from Latin *sāl* (genitive *salis*) salt. The phrase *salad days* days of youthful inexperience, in allusion to the figurative sense of *green*, is first recorded in 1606.

salamander *n.* 1340 *salamandre* legendary lizardlike animal supposed to be able to endure fire; borrowed from Old French *salamandre*, and directly from Latin *salamandra*, from Greek *salamandra*. The sense of a lizardlike amphibian is first recorded in 1611.

salami *n.* 1852, borrowed from Italian *salami*, plural of *salame* spiced pork sausage, from Vulgar Latin **salāmen*, from **salāre* to salt, from Latin *sāl* (genitive *salis*) salt.

salary *n.* Probably about 1280 *salerie* periodic payment for regular service; later *salarye* (about 1378); borrowed through Anglo-French *salarie*, Old French *salaire*, *salare*, *sallere*, and directly from Latin *salārium* soldier's allowance for the purchase of salt, and from this, a salary or stipend, from neuter of

salarius pertaining to salt, from *sāl* (genitive *salis*) salt. —**v.** About 1477 *salarien* to pay, reward; from the noun.

sale *n.* Probably before 1300 *sale*; developed from Late Old English (about 1050) *sala* a sale; borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *sala*, *sal* sale); cognate with Old High German *sala* sale, delivery of goods, (from Proto-Germanic **salō*), related to Old English *sellan* to **SELL**.

salient *adj.* 1646, leaping, jumping, replacing earlier *salience*, *adj.* (before 1393); borrowed from Latin *salientem* (nominative *salīens*), present participle of *salire* to leap. The sense of pointing outward is first recorded in 1687 and that of prominent, striking in 1840.

The phrase *salient point*, originally referring to the heart of an embryo, which seems to leap as if alive, is a translation of New Latin *punctum saliens*, going back to Aristotle's writings. The sense of a starting point, is first recorded in 1672. —**n.** 1828, a salient angle or part; from the adjective. —**salience** *n.* 1836, formed as a noun to *salient* + *-ence*.

saline *adj.* Before 1500 *saline* made of salt; probably borrowed from Latin **salinus* (found only in the neuter form *salinum* salt cellar, and in the feminine plural form *salinae* salt pits), from *sāl* (genitive *salis*) salt; for suffix see *-INE*¹. —**salinity** *n.* 1658, formed from English *saline* + *-ity*.

saliva *n.* Probably before 1425 *salive*, borrowing of Middle French *salive*, from Latin *saliva*; later *saliva* (1676); reborrowed from Latin *saliva* spittle. —**salivary** *adj.* 1709, formed in English from *saliva* + *-ary* on the model of Latin *salivarius* resembling saliva, slimy, from *saliva*. —**salivate** *v.* 1657, back formation from *salivation*, and possibly formed after Latin *salivātus*, past participle of *salivāre*, from *saliva* saliva; for suffix see *-ATE*¹. —**salivation** *n.* 1598, borrowing of Middle French *salivation*, and directly from Late Latin *salivatiōnem* (nominative *salivatiō*), from Latin *salivāre* to produce saliva; for suffix see *-ATION*.

sallow *adj.* Probably before 1400 *salowe*; developed from Old English *salo*, *salu* dusky, dark, *sallow* (before 1000), related to *sōl* dark, dirty. The Old English forms are cognate with Middle Dutch *salu* dirty, discolored, Old High German *salo* dirty gray, murky, and Old Icelandic *splr* dirty, from Proto Germanic **salwa-*.

sally *n.* 1542, place from which a sudden attack is launched; later, an attack (1560); borrowed from Middle French *saillie* a rushing forth, outburst, noun use of feminine past participle of *saillir* to leap, from Latin *salire* to leap. —**v.** 1560, from the noun.

salmagundi *n.* 1674, borrowed from French *salmigondis* originally, seasoned salt meats (as in French *salmis* salted meats), from Middle French *salmigondin*, of uncertain origin (but probably related to *salomene* a hodge-podge of meats or fish cooked in wine, before 1325; borrowed from Old French *salementine*).

salmon *n.* 1228 *salmon*; as a surname *Salmun* (1205); borrowed from Old French *salmon*, *saumon*, *salmon*, from Latin *salmōnem* (nominative *salmō*) a salmon, of uncertain origin, but possibly

in the literal sense of leaper, from *salire* to leap. —**adj.** 1786, from the noun.

salmonella *n.* 1913, New Latin *Salmonella* the genus name, formed from Daniel Elmer *Salmon*, who isolated one type of these bacteria in 1885.

salon *n.* 1699, borrowing of French *salon*, from Italian *salone* large hall, from *sala* hall, from a Germanic source; compare Old High German *sal* hall, house (from Proto-Germanic **salaz*), modern German *Saal* hall, Old Saxon *seli*, Middle Dutch *sāle*, modern Dutch *zaal*, Old English *sele* hall, (from Proto-Germanic **saliz*), Old Icelandic *salr* hall, house, and Gothic *salithwōs* inn, *saljan* stay at an inn. The gathering of fashionable people in a salon is first recorded in English in 1888 (in the form *saloon*, in 1838).

saloon *n.* 1728, Anglicized form of **SALON**; for ending see *-OON*. By extension *saloon* developed the sense of any large hall in a hotel or other public place, and by 1841 the meaning of a place where alcoholic drinks are sold and drunk, a public bar.

salsa *n.* 1975, borrowed from Spanish *salsa*, literally, sauce, from Vulgar Latin **salsa* condiment, *SAUCE*.

salsify *n.* 1706, borrowed from French *salsifis*, from earlier Italian *erba salsifica*, of uncertain origin.

salt *n.* Old English *sealt*, *salt* (probably before 830, implied in *saltnisse* saltiness); cognate with Old Frisian, Old Saxon, Old Icelandic, and Gothic *salt* salt, Middle Dutch *sout* (modern Dutch *zout*), and Old High German *salz* (modern German *Salz*), from Proto-Germanic **saltan*.

The meaning of a chemical compound derived from an acid and a base is first recorded in English in 1790. —**adj.** Old English (before 900) *sealt*, *salt*; from the noun. —**v.** Old English *sealtan*, *saltan*, also probably influenced by Old English **sieltan* (found in Northumbrian *selta*) and *seltan*, *syltan*; cognate with Middle Low German *solten* to salt, Middle Dutch *souten* (modern Dutch *zouten*), Old High German *salzan* (modern German *salzen*), Old Icelandic *salta*, and Gothic *saltan*; from the Germanic source of Old English *sealt*, *salt*, *n.* —**saltpeter** *n.* Before 1400, alteration (by influence of *salt*) of *salpetre* (about 1330); borrowing of Old French *salpetre*, and directly from Medieval Latin *sal petrae* salt of rock (Latin *sāl* salt + *petrae*, genitive of Latin *petra* rock); so called because it appears as a saltlike encrustation on rocks. —**saltwater** *n.* (before 1225); *adj.* (before 1420 *water salt*; later *saltwater* 1528) —**salty** *adj.* 1440 *salti*; in the surname *Saltiland* (1286); formed from *salt*, *n.* + *-y*¹.

SALT *n.* 1968, acronym formed from *S*(trategic) *A*(rms) *L*(imitation) *T*(alks).

salubrious *adj.* 1547, borrowed, perhaps by influence of Middle French *salubre*, from Latin *salūber* healthful; for suffix see *-OUS*.

salutary *adj.* 1490, earlier as a noun meaning remedy (1426); borrowed from Middle French *salutaire* beneficial, or directly

from Latin *salūtāris* healthful, from *salūs* (genitive *salūtis*) good health; for suffix see -ARY.

salutatory *adj.* 1670, designating the welcoming address given at a college commencement; borrowed from Latin *salūtātōrius* pertaining to visiting or greeting, from *salūtāt-*, past participle stem of *salūtāre* to greet, SALUTE; for suffix see -ORY. —**n.** 1779, welcoming address at a college commencement; from the adjective. A noun sense of a place for salutations is first recorded in 1641. —**salutatorian** *n.* 1847, formed from *salutatory*, *adj.* + -an.

salute *v.* Before 1382 *saluten* to greet; borrowed from Latin *salūtāre* to greet (wish health to), from *salūs* (genitive *salūtis*) greeting, good health. The meaning of greet with a gesture of respect is first recorded about 1440. —**n.** Before 1400 *salut* act of saluting; borrowed from Old French *salut*, from Latin *salūtem* (nominative *salūs*) greeting. —**salutation** *n.* About 1384 *salutacioun*; borrowed from Old French *salutacion*, or directly from Latin *salūtatiōnem* (nominative *salūtatiō*), from *salūtāre* to greet; for suffix see -ATION.

salvage *n.* 1645, payment for saving a ship from wreck or capture; borrowing of French *salvage*, from Old French *salver*, *sauver* to SAVE¹; for suffix see -AGE. —**v.** 1889, from the noun.

salvation *n.* Probably before 1200 *salvatiun* deliverance from sin and damnation; borrowed from Old French *salvaciun*, *salvation*, and directly from Late Latin *salvatiōnem* (nominative *salvatiō*), from *salvāre* to SAVE; for suffix see -ATION.

salve¹ (*sav*) *n.* Probably before 1200 *salve* spiritual remedy; also, healing ointment (probably about 1200); developed from Old English (about 700) *sealf* salve; cognate with Old Saxon *salba* salve, Middle Low German *salve*, Middle Dutch *salve* (modern Dutch *zalf*), and Old High German *salba* (modern German *Salbe*), from Proto-Germanic **salbō*. —**v.** Probably before 1200 *salven* to heal or treat spiritually; also, to apply ointment (probably about 1200); developed from Old English (about 700) *sealfian* anoint (a wound) with salve; cognate with Old Saxon *salbōn* to salve, anoint, Middle Low German *salven*, Middle Dutch *salven* (modern Dutch *zalven*), Old High German *salbōn* (modern German *salben*), and Gothic *salbōn*, from Proto-Germanic **salbōjanan*; from **salbō*, *n.* The figurative sense of soothe (one's conscience, wounded pride, etc.) is first recorded in 1825.

salve² (*salv*) *v.* to salvage. 1706, back formation from SALVAGE or from SALVABLE. —**salvable** *adj.* 1654, implied in *salvability*, but probably formed as if from Latin **salvābilis* of or pertaining to saving or salvation, or directly from Latin *salvāre* to save + English -able.

salver *n.* 1661, formed (on the model of *platter* or similar words) from French *salve* tray used for presenting certain objects to the king + English -er¹. The French word was borrowed from Spanish *salva* a testing of food or drink; hence, a tray on which it was placed to show the contents were safe to eat, from *salvar* to save, render safe, from Late Latin *salvāre* to SAVE¹.

salvo *n.* discharge of guns as a salute. 1719, alteration of *salva*

simultaneous discharge of firearms (1591); borrowed from Italian *salva*, from French *salve*, from Latin *salvē* (a Roman greeting) hail!, be in good health!, imperative of *salvēre* to be in good health, from *salvus* healthy, SAFE.

samara *n.* 1577, dry fruit that has a winglike extension, New Latin *samara*, from Latin, variant of *samera* elm seed.

samarium *n.* 1879; formed in English from *samarskite* a mineral (1849) + New Latin -ium; so called because this element was first found in the mineral samarskite; borrowed from German *Samarskit*, formed in allusion to Colonel *Samarski*, a Russian official in the 1800's + German -it -ite¹.

samba *n.* 1885 *Zemba*; later *Samba* (1911); borrowed from Portuguese *samba*, *zamba*, shortened from *zambacueca* a type of dance, probably an alteration (influenced by *zamacueco* stupid), of *zambapalo* a grotesque dance, alteration of *zampapalo* stupid man, from *zamparse* to bump, crash.

same *adj.* Probably about 1200; probably abstracted from the adverbial use in Old English *swā same* the same as, likewise, in part by influence of Scandinavian use (compare Old Icelandic *samr*, *same*, *sama* same); cognate with Old Saxon *so sama* the same, Old High German and Gothic *sama* same, from Proto-Germanic **samōn*. —**pron.** About 1303, from the adjective.

samite *n.* Probably before 1300 *samyt*; borrowed from Old French *samit*, from Medieval Greek **hexámiton*, from neuter of Greek *hexámitos* six-threaded (*hék* SIX + *mitos* warp thread).

samizdat *n.* 1967, borrowing of Russian *samizdat*, literally, self-publishing; formed from *sam* self + *izdat*(el'stvo) publishing, probably as a word play on *Gosizdat* the former State publishing house.

samovar *n.* 1830, borrowing of Russian *samovar*, literally, self-boiler; formed from *sam* self + *varít'* to boil, from Old Slavic *variti* to cook.

sampan *n.* 1620, borrowed from Chinese *san pan*, literally, three boards or planks (*san* three + *pan* board).

sample *n.* Probably about 1300 *saumpele* parable; also, about 1303 *sample* illustration, example; borrowed through Anglo-French *saumpele*, *sample*, variants of Old French *essample*, *exsample* from Latin *exemplum* a sample; see EXAMPLE; and developed as a shortened form of Middle English *ensample* a model, example (about 1275); also found in Anglo-French *ensample*. —**adj.** 1820, from the noun. —**v.** 1592, to parallel, put in comparison with; from the noun; later, take a sample of (1767). —**sampler** *n.* Before 1325 *sampler* pattern, model, example; earlier as a surname *Sampler* (1250); borrowed from Anglo-French *essampleire*, *essampler*, Old French *essampleire*, from Latin *exemplarium* copy, from *exemplum* example.

samurai *n.* 1727, borrowing of Japanese *samurai* warrior, knight.

sanatorium *n.* 1839, New Latin *sanatorium*, from neuter of Late Latin *sānātorius* health-giving, from Latin *sānāt-*, past participle stem of *sānāre* to heal, from *sānus* healthy, sane. Compare SANITARIUM.

sanctify *v.* Before 1400 *sanctifier*, alteration (influenced by the Latin form) of *seintefien* consecrate, hallow (before 1393); borrowed from Old French *saintifier*, *seintefier*, and later directly from Late Latin *sanctificāre*, from *sanctificus* holy (*sanctus* holy; see SAINT + the root of *facere* make); for suffix see -FY.

sanctimony *n.* 1540–41, borrowed from Middle French *sanctimonie*, and directly from Latin *sanctimōnia* holiness, virtuousness, from *sanctus* holy; see SAINT; for suffix see -Y³. —**sanctimonious** *adj.* 1603, formed from Latin *sanctimōnia* holiness + English -ous.

sanction *n.* Probably before 1425 *sanccion* confirmation or enactment of a law; later *sanction* (probably before 1475); borrowed through Middle French *sanction*, or directly from Latin *sanctiōnem* (nominative *sanctiō*), the act of decreeing or ordaining; also, a decree or ordinance, from *sanctare* to decree, confirm, ratify, make sacred; for suffix see -TION.

The meaning of economic or military pressure used to achieve a change in policy or action is first found in 1845, and that of encouragement given by an authoritative person or by custom, in 1738. —**v.** 1778, make valid or binding; later, authorize, allow (1797); from the noun.

sanctity *n.* About 1390 *saunctite*, *sauntite*; borrowed from Old French *sainctité*, *saintité*, from Latin *sanctitatem* (nominative *sanctitās*) holiness, sacredness, from *sanctus* holy; see SAINT; for suffix see -ITY.

sanctuary *n.* Before 1325 *santuare*; later *sanctuary* (about 1340); also *seintuarie*, *seyntewarie*, etc. (1380's–1470's); borrowed through Anglo-French *sentuarie*, from Old French *sainctuarie*, *seintuarie*, and directly from Late Latin *sanctuārium* a sacred place, shrine; also, a private room, from Latin *sanctus* holy; see SAINT; for suffix see -ARY. The extended meaning of a place of refuge or protection, is first recorded in English about 1380.

sanctum *n.* 1577, borrowing of Latin *sanctum*, as in Late Latin *sanctum sanctorum* holy of holies, from neuter of *sanctus* holy; see SAINT.

sand *n.* Old English (before 830) *sand*; cognate with Old Frisian *sond* sand, Old Saxon *sand*, Middle Dutch *sand*, *sant* (modern Dutch *zand*), Old High German *sant* (modern German *Sand*), and Old Icelandic *sandr* (Swedish and Danish *sand*), from Proto-Germanic **sanda-*, earlier **sámaða-*. —**v.** About 1385 *sonden*; later *sanden*; from the noun. The sense of polish with sand is recorded in 1858. —**sandy** *adj.* 1384 *sandy*; developed from Old English (about 1000) *sandig*, formed from *sand* + -ig -y¹.

sandal *n.* 1382 *sandalie* open shoe, later *sandal* (about 1425); borrowed from Old French *sandale*, and directly from Latin *sandalium*, from Greek *sandálion*, diminutive of *sádon* sandal.

sandalwood *n.* About 1511, earlier *sandal* dish colored with sandalwood (1381); borrowed from Old French *sandale*, and directly from Medieval Latin *sandalum*, found also in Late Greek *sántalon* (= *sádon*), from Sanskrit *chādana-m* the sandalwood tree.

sandwich *n.* 1762, said to be in allusion to the fourth Earl of Sandwich, who on occasion is traditionally supposed to have spent long hours at the gaming tables without other refreshment than some slices of cold meat between slices of toast. —**v.** 1861, from the noun.

sane *adj.* 1721, possibly formed in English as an adjective to earlier *sanity*, *n.* by back formation from *sanity* on the model of Latin *sānus* healthy, sane; also probably borrowed from Latin *sānus*.

Earlier use with the sense of sound, healthy, in the legal phrase *of sane memory*, is recorded as early as 1628.

Sanforized *adj.* 1930, formed from the name of its inventor *Sanford* L. Cluett + -ized, as in *sterilized*, *oxidized*, etc.

sangfroid *n.* 1750, borrowing of French *sang froid*, literally, cool blood (*sang* blood + *froid* cold).

sangria *n.* 1736 *sangre*; later *sangaree* (1785), *sangria* (1954); of uncertain origin.

sanguinary *adj.* 1625, possibly formed from English *sanguine* + -ary, perhaps by influence of French *sanguinaire*, and on the model of Latin *sanguinārius* pertaining to blood, from *sanguis* (genitive *sanguinis*) blood; for suffix see -ARY.

sanguine *adj.* 1378 *sanguen* blood-red; as a surname *Sanguin* (1194); also *sanguine* (before 1398); borrowed from Old French *sanguin* (feminine *sanguine*), and directly from Latin *sanguineus* of blood, bloody, bloodthirsty, from *sanguis* (genitive *sanguinis*) blood.

The meaning of cheerful, hopeful, confident, is first found in 1509, and was associated with a *sanguine* complexion, thought to be an indication of the predominance of blood over the other humors (before 1392).

sanitarium *n.* 1851, New Latin *sanitarium*; formed from Latin *sānitās* health (from *sānus* healthy, sane) + -ārium -ary.

sanitary *adj.* 1842, borrowed from French *sanitaire*; formed from Latin *sānitās* health, from *sānus* healthy, sane + French -aire -ary.

sanitation *n.* 1848, formed from English *sanit(ary)* + -ation. *Sanitation* to replace *garbage*, as in *sanitation worker* and *sanitation department*, was coined as a euphemism in 1939.

sanitize *v.* 1836, formed from English *sanit(ary)* + -ize. The sense of make acceptable by removing offensive aspects is recorded in 1934.

sanity *n.* Probably before 1425 *sanite* health, healthy condition; borrowed from Middle French *sanité* health, from Latin *sānitās* health, sanity, from *sānus* healthy, sane; for suffix see -ITY. The meaning of soundness of mind, mental health, is first recorded in 1602.

sans-serif or **sans-serif** *n.* 1830, possibly formed from French *sans* without + English *serif* from earlier *ceref*, *syrif* (1827, perhaps borrowed from Dutch *schreef* line).

Santa Claus 1773, borrowed from dialectal Dutch *Sante Klaas* (modern Dutch *Sinter-klaas*), from Middle Dutch *Sinter*

(Ni)kelaas Saint Nicholas, a bishop of Asia Minor who became a patron saint associated with children.

sap¹ *n.* liquid in a plant. 1340 *zep*; later *sap* (1377); developed from Old English (about 750) *sæp*; cognate with Middle Low German, Middle Dutch, and modern Dutch *sap* sap, juice, and Old High German *saf* (modern German *Saft*), from Proto-Germanic **sapan*. The meaning of a simpleton, fool, is first recorded in 1815 and was possibly in part a back formation from *sappy*, and a shortened form of *sapskull* (1735). —**sappy** *adj.* 1435; developed from Old English (before 1100) *sæpig*; formed from *sæp* *sap*¹ + *-ig* *-y*¹. The meaning of wet, sodden, is first recorded about 1470; perhaps the figurative sense of foolish, especially in a silly, sentimental way (1670), developed from this meaning.

sap² *v.* wear away. 1598, dig a trench to approach the enemy's position; borrowed from Middle French *saper*, from *sappe* spade, (also found in Italian *zappare*, from *zappa* spade); both from Late Latin *sappa* spade. The sense of weaken, use up (1755), was probably influenced by the sense of undermine (1711) and by *sap*¹, as if to drain the vital sap from. —**sapper** *n.* 1626, formed from English *sap*² + *-er*¹; patterned on Middle French *sappeur*.

sapient *adj.* 1468; as a surname (1413); probably formed in Middle English as the adjective to earlier *sapience* (before 1376), influenced by Old French *sapient*; and, in part, borrowed directly from Old French *sapient*, and from Latin *sapientem* (nominative *sapiēns*), present participle of *sapere* be wise; for suffix see -ENT.

sapling *n.* About 1330; as a surname (about 1277); formed from English *sap*¹ liquid + *-ling*.

sapodilla *n.* 1697, borrowed from Spanish *zapotilla*, diminutive of *zapote* fruit of the sapodilla, from Nahuatl *tzapotl*.

saponify *v.* 1821, borrowed from French *saponifier* make fat into soap, from New Latin *saponificare*, formed as if from an adjective **saponificus* (Late Latin *sāpō*, genitive *sāpōnis* SOAP + the root of Latin *facere* to make).

sapphire *n.* About 1250 *saphir*; earlier as a surname *Safir* (1221); borrowed from Old French *saphir*, *safir*, and directly from Latin *sapphīrus*, from Greek *sāppheiros*, from a Semitic language, probably Hebrew *sappīr* sapphire. —**adj.** 1432 *saffir*, from the noun.

saprophyte *n.* 1875, bacteria or fungi that live on decaying organic matter, formed from Greek *saprós* rotten + English *-phyte* plant.

sarcasm *n.* 1579 *sarcasmus* sharp, cutting remark; borrowed from Late Latin *sarcasmos*; later replaced by *sarcasm* (1619, borrowed from French *sarcasme*, also from Late Latin); from late Greek *sarkasmós* a sneer, from *sarkazein* to speak bitterly, sneer; literally, to strip off flesh, from *sárx* (genitive *sarkós*) flesh. —**sarcastic** *adj.* 1695, derived from English *sarcasm*, on the pattern of *enthusiasm*, *enthusiastic*; for suffix see -IC.

sarcoma *n.* 1657, fleshy excrescence, New Latin *sarcoma*,

from Greek *sárkōma*, from *sarkōin* to produce flesh, grow fleshy, from *sárx* (genitive *sarkós*) flesh. The meaning of a harmful tumor of the connective tissue is first recorded in 1804.

sarcophagus *n.* 1601, borrowing of Latin *sarcophagus*, from Greek *sarkophágos* limestone used for coffins; literally, flesh-eating in reference to the supposed action of limestone on the body (*sárx*, genitive *sarkós* flesh + *phagēin* to eat). The sense of a stone coffin is first recorded in English in 1705.

sardine *n.* 1393 *sardyn*; borrowed from Middle French *sardine*, from Italian *sardina*, and directly from Latin *sardīna*, from Greek *sardīnē*, possibly from *Sardō* Sardinia, an island in the Mediterranean Sea, near which the fish was probably caught in great numbers and then exported.

sardonic *adj.* 1638, probably borrowed from French *sardonique*; also found in Spanish *sardónico* and Italian *sardonico*; formed as if from Latin *sardon(ius)* + *-icus*, from Greek *sardónios* of bitter or scornful laughter; for suffix see -IC.

Greek *sardónios* was an alteration (influenced by *Sardónios* Sardinian) of *sardánios*, found in Homer; the reason for the alteration was a belief among the ancient Greeks that the word had a primary reference to a "Sardinian plant" called *sardónion* that when eaten produced facial convulsions resembling those accompanying bitter or scornful laughter.

sargasso *n.* 1598, borrowing of Portuguese *sargasso*, *sargaço* seaweed, perhaps from *sarga* a type of grape (because of the berrylike air sacs on the seaweed), or perhaps from Latin *sargus* a kind of fish.

sari *n.* 1785, borrowed from Hindi *sārī*, from Prakrit *sāḍī*, from Sanskrit *śāṭī* garment, petticoat.

sarong *n.* 1834, borrowed from Malay *sāring* sheath, covering.

sarsaparilla *n.* 1577, borrowed from Spanish *zarzaparrilla* (*zarza* bramble, from Arabic *šaras* thorny plant + *parrilla*, diminutive of *parra* vine).

sartorial *adj.* 1823, formed as if from Late Latin **sartōrius*, from *sartor* patcher, mender + English *-al*¹. Late Latin *sartor* is formed from Latin *sart-*, past participle stem of *sarcire* to patch, mend + *-or* *-or*².

Earlier forms derived from the Latin stem *sartor-* include *sartor*, *n.* (1656), *sartorian*, *adj.* (1668), *sartry* (*sartre* 1448–49, *sarterie* 1275), and *sartin* (1199).

sash¹ *n.* strip of cloth. 1599 *shash* strip of cloth twisted into a turban; borrowed from Arabic *shāsh* muslin cloth (worn as turbans). The spelling *sash* represents a differentiation of sound in the beginning and end of the word (1687) and is preceded by an earlier dissimilated form *shass* (1617). The meaning of a strip of cloth worn around the waist or over the shoulder is first recorded in 1681.

sash² *n.* window frame. 1681 *sashes*, *pl.*, alteration of French *châssis* frame, as of a window or door; see CHASSIS. The French word was apparently taken as a plural because of the *-s* ending

and the singular *sash* was formed from it before 1704 by back formation.

sashay *v.* 1836, alteration of *chassé* gliding step (1867); borrowing of French *chassé* a gliding step; literally, chased, past participle of *chasser* to chase, from Old French *chacier* to hunt. The sense of glide or move about usually with an affected casualness is first recorded in 1865. —**n.** 1900, (figurative) a short trip or excursion, from the verb.

sassafras *n.* 1577, borrowed from Spanish *sasafrás*, from Late Latin *saxifragia* a kind of herb, variant of *saxifraga* SAXIFRAGE.

sassy *adj.* 1833, alteration of SAUCY.

Satan *n.* Old English (about 750) *Satan*; borrowed from Late Latin *Satān*, from Greek *Satanās*, adapted from *Sātān*, from Hebrew *śātān* adversary, one who plots against another, from *śātān* to oppose, plot against. —**satanic** *adj.* 1667, of Satan, shortened form of *Satanical* (before 1548) and formed from *Satan* + *-ic* on the model of French *satanique*, from Greek *Satanikós*.

satchel *n.* About 1340 *sachel*, borrowing of Old French *sachel*, from Late Latin *sacellum* money bag, purse, diminutive of Latin *sacculus*, a diminutive of *saccus* bag.

sate *v.* 1602, probably alteration (influenced by Latin *satiāre* SATIATE) of *sade*, in Middle English *saden* become satiated, satiate (about 1390); developed from Old English *sadian* to satiate (before 899); cognate with Middle Low German *saden* sate, Middle Dutch *saden* (modern Dutch *verzaden*), and Old High German *satōn* (Middle High German *saten*), from Proto-Germanic **sadiōjanan*, from the West Germanic source of Old English *sæd* sated; see SAD.

sateen *n.* 1878, variant of *satin*, perhaps influenced by *velveteen*.

satellite *n.* Before 1548, one who attends a person of importance; borrowing of Middle French *satellite*, and directly from Latin *satellitem* (nominative *satelles*) attendant.

The sense of a small planet that revolves around a larger one was first applied in 1611 to the secondary planets revolving around Jupiter. The man-made object launched into orbit is found in 1880.

satiare *v.* About 1450 *saciaten*; borrowed from Latin *satiātus*, past participle of *satiāre* fill full, fill enough, from *satis* enough; for suffix see -ATE¹. The spelling *satiare* is first found in 1611. —**satiation** *n.* 1638, probably formed from English *satiare* + *-ion*, on the model of Latin **satiātiōnem* (nominative **satiātiō*), from *satiāre* satiate. —**satiety** *n.* 1590; earlier *saciety* (1533); borrowed from Middle French *satiété*, from Latin *satiētatem* (nominative *satiētās*) sufficiency, abundance, from *satis* enough; for suffix see -TY².

satin *n.* 1369 *satyn*, borrowed from Old French *satin*, *zatanin*, probably from Arabic (*atlas*) *zaitūnī* (satin) from *Zaitūn*, the name of a Chinese city identified with *Tsinkiang* (Quanzhou), in southern China used as a port in the Middle Ages. —**adj.** 1449 *satyn*; from the noun.

satire *n.* 1509, work intended to ridicule vice or folly; borrowing of Middle French *satire*, and borrowed directly from Latin *satira* satire, poetic medley, from *lanx satira* mixed dish; literally, full dish, from feminine of *satur* sated. The alteration of Latin *satira* to *satyra* and *satira* developed from the mistaken notion that this Roman genre derived from Greek *satyr* drama. —**satiric** or **satirical** *adj.* 1509 *satiric*, borrowed from Middle French *satirique*, and directly from Late Latin *satiricus*, from Latin *satira* satire; before 1529 *satirical*, formed in English from Late Latin *satiricus* + English *-al*¹. The form *satiric* appears in Middle English as a noun, a writer of satires (before 1387), but was replaced by *satirist*. —**satirist** *n.* 1589, formed from English *satire* + *-ist*. —**satirize** *v.* 1601, probably formed from English *satire* + *-ize*, on the model of Middle French *satiriser*, from *satire* satire.

satisfaction *n.* Before 1325 *satisfacciun* performance of an act set forth by a priest or other Church authority to atone for some wrong, sin, etc.; borrowed from Old French *satisfaction*, and directly from Latin *satisfactiōnem* (nominative *satisfactiō*) a satisfying of a creditor, reparation, apology, from *satisfacere* SATISFY; for suffix see -TION.

The sense of contentment, appeasement, is found before 1382. —**satisfactory** *adj.* About 1443 *satisfactorie* capable of atoning for sin; borrowed from Late Latin *satisfactorius* affording satisfaction, from Latin *satisfact-*, past participle stem of *satisfacere* satisfy; for suffix see -ORY. The sense of adequate, good enough, is first recorded in 1640.

satisfy *v.* About 1412 *satisfien* make amends, recompense; also, fulfill, assuage (1419); borrowed from Middle French *satisfier*, variant of *satisfaire*, from Old French, from Latin *satisfacere* discharge fully, comply with, make amends; literally, do enough (*satis* enough + *facere* perform); for suffix see -FY.

satrap *n.* Probably about 1380 *sathrapas* (pl.) governor of a province of ancient Persia; also, governor or leader; before 1382 *sathrape*; borrowed from Latin *satrapa*, *satrapēs* a provincial governor of ancient Persia, from Greek *satrápēs*, from Old Persian *xshathrapāvan-*, literally, guardian of the realm (*xshathra-* realm, related to *xshāyathiya-* king + *pāvan-* guardian).

saturate *v.* 1538, to satisfy, satiate, probably developed as verb use of *saturate*, *adj.*, satisfied, satiated (before 1450); borrowed from Latin *saturātus*, past participle of *saturāre* to fill full, sate, drench, saturate, from *satur* sated, full; for suffix see -ATE¹. The meaning of soak thoroughly, drench, imbue, is first recorded in English in 1756. —**saturation** *n.* Probably 1554, a being saturated; probably formed from English *saturate*, *v.* + *-ion*, on the model of Late Latin *saturātiōnem* (nominative *saturātiō*), from Latin *saturāre* to saturate.

Saturday *n.* Probably before 1200 *Sæterdæi*; later *Saturday* (about 1300); developed from Old English *Sæterdæg* (before 899), also *Sæternesdæg*, literally, day of the planet Saturn (*Sæternes*, genitive of *Sæter*, *Sætern* Saturn, borrowed from Latin *Sāturnus* + Old English *dæg* DAY). The Germanic compounds found in Old Frisian *Sāterdei* Saturday, Middle Low German *Sāterdach*, Middle Dutch *Saterdag*, and Dutch

Zaterdag, are a partial loan translation of Latin *Sāturni diēs* Saturn's day.

Saturnalia *n. pl.* 1591, borrowing of Latin *Sāturnālia* ancient Roman festival of Saturn from neuter plural of *Sāturnālis* pertaining to Saturn, from *Sāturnus* Saturn. The sense of any period of unrestrained revelry is first found in 1782.

saturnine *adj.* About 1380 *saturnyn* having characteristics determined by influence of the planet Saturn; later, gloomy, grave, taciturn (about 1433); formed from Middle English *Saturne*, the planet (supposed to cause gloomy behavior in those born under its sign) + *-ine*¹.

satyr *n.* Before 1398 *satire* a type of ape; earlier *satirus* (implied in the Latinate plural *satiry*) deity of the woods (about 1385); borrowed from Old French *satire*, and directly from Latin *sātyrus*, from Greek *sātyros*.

sauce *n.* 1340 *saue* a liquid seasoning or condiment; later *sauce* (in the compound *saucemaker*, 1353); borrowed from Old French *saue*, *sauce*, (earlier) *saule*, from Vulgar Latin **salsa*, noun use of Latin *salsa*, feminine singular or neuter plural form of *salsus* salted, from past participle of *sallere* (earlier stem **sald-*) to salt, from *sāl* (genitive *salis*) salt. —*v.* Before 1438 *sausen*; later *saucen* (1450); from the noun.

saucer *n.* 1343 *saucer*; borrowed from Old French *saucer*, *saucier* sauce dish (from *sauce* SAUCE), and from Anglo-Latin *saucerium*, from Late Latin *salsarium*, neuter of *salsarius* of or for salted things, from Latin *salsus* salted; see SAUCE; for suffix see -ER².

saucy *adj.* 1508, resembling sauce, savory; later, impertinent, forward, cheeky (1530); formed from English *sauce* + *-y*¹.

sauerkraut *n.* 1617 *sower crawt*; later *sour-croit* (1775); borrowed from German *Sauerkraut* (*sauer* SOUR + *Kraut* vegetable, cabbage, from Old High German *krūt*, from Proto-Germanic **kriudān*).

sauna *n.* 1881, bathhouse with sauna; borrowing of Finnish *sauna*. Reference to the steam bath itself is first recorded in 1936. —*v.* 1966, from the noun.

saunter *v.* Before 1667, probably developed from Middle English *sauntren* to muse, brood (before 1500), and perhaps, if not the same word as *saunteren* (found in *sauntering* idle chattering, babbling, before 1450); of uncertain origin. —*n.* 1712, from the verb.

sausage *n.* About 1450 *sawsyge*; borrowed from Old North French *saussiche*, from Vulgar Latin **salsicia* (also found in Medieval Latin *salsicia*, pl., sausages, salted meats), from Latin *salsus* salted; see SAUCE. The spelling *sausage* (probably mistakenly influenced by the suffix *-age* in the sense of something that is the result of the verb; in this case “to salt”) is first recorded in 1553.

sauté *n.* 1813, borrowing of French *sauté*, literally, jumped or bounced (in reference to tossing while cooking, so the meat, or whatever is cooked does not lie on the surface of the pan continuously), from past participle of *sauter* to jump, from

Latin *salire* to hop, dance, frequentative form of *salire* to leap. —*v.* 1859, from the noun. —*adj.* 1869, from the noun.

sauterne *n.* 1833, from *Sauternes* (1711); named after *Sauternes*, a town in France, in the region where the grapes are grown.

savage *adj.* About 1250 *savage* fierce, ferocious; later, wild or untamed, bold, cruel (probably before 1300); borrowed from Old French *sauvage*, from Late Latin *salvaticus*, alteration by vowel assimilation of *i* to *a* of Latin *silvaticus* wild, of the woods, from *silva* forest, grove; for suffix see -AGE. —*n.* Probably before 1400 *savagys*, pl.; from the adjective. —*v.* 1563, from the adjective. —**savagery** *n.* 1595, formed from English *savage*, *adj.* + *-ry*.

savanna or **savannah** *n.* 1555 *zavana*; later *savana* (1604); borrowed from Spanish *sabana*, from Spanish *zavana*, from Arawakan (Haiti).

savant *n.* 1719, borrowing of French *savant* a learned man, from *savant* learned, knowing, former present participle of *savoir* to know, from Old French, from Vulgar Latin **sapere*, from Latin *sapere* be wise.

save¹ *v.* make or keep safe. Probably before 1200 *sauven* rescue, bring to safety; later *saven* (about 1250); borrowed from Old French *sauver*, *salver* save, from Late Latin *salvare* make safe, secure, from Latin *salvus* safe. The meaning of store up, accumulate, is first recorded (about 1303), and that of keep possession of, before 1376. —*n.* 1890, (in sports) an act of preventing the opposite side from scoring.

save² *prep.* except, but. Probably about 1300 *save*; from the adjective *safe*, *saf*, *sauf* SAFE keeping safe or intact, reserving, excepting (about 1300), on the pattern of a similar development in the use of the equivalent Old French *sauf* safe.

In Old French the adjective *sauf*, feminine *saue*, had already assumed a prepositional role in phrases such as *sauf votre respect* saving your reverence with the sense “being excepted,” so that it eventually became (like the analogous *except*, past participle, in Middle English) functionally equivalent to a preposition. —*conj.* Probably before 1325 *saf*; about 1325 *save*; from the adjective *safe*, *saf*, *sauf* SAFE, on the pattern of the similarly used Old French *sauf* safe.

saving *prep.* About 1375 *savynge*, from the present participle of *save*¹, *v.* The meaning of without prejudice or offense to _____ (as in *saving your reverence*, *saving your honor*, *grace*, etc.) is found in Middle English before 1387.

savior or **saviour** *n.* Probably before 1300 *saveour* one who saves mankind from sin, a title of Jesus Christ; borrowed from Old French *saveour*, from Late Latin *salvātorē* (nominative *salvātor*) a savior, preserver, from *salvare* to save¹; for suffix see -OR². The word in Late Latin and especially in English was chiefly used in reference to Christ, as a translation of Greek *sōtēr* savior.

savor *n.* Probably before 1200 *savur* agreeable flavor, taste, sweetness; probably about 1200 *savour*; borrowed from Old French *savor*, *savour*, *savur*, from Latin *sapōrē* (nominative *sapor*) taste, flavor, related to *sapere* to have a flavor. —*v.*

Probably before 1250 *savouren* give pleasure to; later, give a taste or flavor to, season (about 1350), to relish, enjoy (probably 1382); borrowed from Old French *savourer*, *savorer*, from Late Latin *sapōrāre* give taste or flavor, from Latin *sapōrem* taste, savor, n.

savory¹ *adj.* pleasing in taste or smell. Probably about 1200 *savure* spiritually delightful; later *savery* flavorful (about 1300); borrowed from Old French *savouré*, past participle of *savourer* to taste, SAVOR; for suffix see *v*⁴.

savory² *n.* herb. 1373 *savory*; *saueray*, *saveray* (1400's); ultimately borrowed from Latin *saturēia*. The history of this word in English is also uncertain. The Middle English word may be an alteration of Old English *satherie* (about 1000), from Latin, or it may be borrowed from an Old French form *sarree* with alteration to *v* (compare modern French form *savorée*), perhaps influenced by *savour* SAVOR.

savvy *v.* 1785, borrowed from French *savez* (-vous)? do you know? and probably in part from Spanish *sabe* (usted) you know; both from Vulgar Latin **sapere*, from Latin *sapere* be wise, be knowing. —**n.** 1785, from the same source as the verb. —**adj.** 1905, from the noun.

saw¹ *n.* cutting tool. About 1350 *sawe*; earlier *sagen*, pl. (about 1125), and in dialect of northern England *sagh* (before 1335); developed from Old English *sagu* (about 1000); cognate with Middle Dutch *saghe* saw (modern Dutch *zaag*), Old High German *saga*, and Old Icelandic *sög* (Swedish *såg*, Danish *sav*), from Proto-Germanic **sazō*. —**v.** About 1300 *sawien*; later *sawen* (about 1350); earlier *isahet*, past participle (probably about 1200); from the noun. —**sawdust** *n.* (1530) —**sawyer** *n.* 1257 *sawer*; as a surname *Saer* (1202); also *sawier* (1350); formed from Middle English *sawe* saw¹ + *-er*, *-ier*.

saw² *n.* proverb. Probably about 1150 *sawe*; developed from Old English (before 1000) *sagu* saying, discourse, speech; related to *seggan* SAY. Old English *sagu* is cognate with Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *sage* story, account (modern Dutch *sage* legend, myth), Old High German *saga* story, account, (modern German *Sage* myth, rumor), Old Icelandic and Icelandic *saga* story, tale, *saga*, and Swedish *saga* fairy tale, from Proto-Germanic **sazwō*.

saxifrage *n.* 1373 *saxifrage*; later *saxifrage* (probably before 1425); borrowed from Old French *saxifrage*, *sassifrage*, from Late Latin *saxifraga* kind of herb, from Latin *saxifragus* stone-breaking (*saxum* stone, rock + *frag-*, root of *frangere* to BREAK). The plant was probably so called because it was used medicinally to dissolve gallstones.

Saxon *adj.*, *n.* Probably before 1200 *Sexun*; later *Saxon* (before 1338); borrowed from Late Latin *Saxonem* (nominative *Saxō*, usually found in the plural *Saxonēs*), from an old Germanic form represented by Old English *seaxe*, *seaxa*; cognate with Old High German *sahso* (modern German *Sachse*), Old Icelandic *saxi* (Swedish *Sachsare*, Danish *Sachser*), all with the possible literal sense of swordsmen, found in Old English *seax* a short sword or knife, cognate with Old High German *sahs*, from Proto-Germanic **saHsan*. Middle English *Saxon* re-

placed the Old English *seaxe* and in the 1300's and 1400's, was a parallel term to *sessoun*, *sesson*, *sesiogn*, Anglicized borrowings of Old French *saisoigne*, *sesne* and Anglo-French *sessoun*, ultimately borrowed from Germanic.

saxophone *n.* 1851, borrowing of French *saxophone* (after Antoine Joseph Sax, Belgian instrument maker + connecting *-o-* + French *-phone* sound).

say *v.* Before 1121 *seien*, *seggen*, developed from Old English *seggan* to utter, say (about 725, in *Beowulf*); also *sægen* (1070); cognate with Old Frisian *sedza* to say, Old Saxon *seggian*, Middle Dutch *segghen*, Dutch *zeggen*, Old High German *sagēn*, modern German *sagen*, and Old Icelandic *segja* to say, from Proto-Germanic **sazjanan* (earlier **sazwjanan*). The spelling of the past tense *said* developed through Middle English *seid*, *sēde*, *seaide*, from Old English *segde*, *sēde*, *sægde*. —**n.** 1571, from the verb. The meaning of the right or authority to influence a decision (as in *have a say*) is first recorded in 1614. —**say-so** *n.* 1637, mere word; later, authority (1902).

scab *n.* About 1275 *scab* skin disease forming pustules or scales; probably developed in part from Old English *sceabb* scab, itch, related to *scafan* to scratch; and borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *skabb* scab, itch, Danish *skab*, Norwegian and Swedish *skabb*). Related to SHABBY.

The meaning of a crust that forms over a wound (1392), probably reinforced by Latin *scabiēs* scab, itch, mange, from *scabere* to scratch. The person who refuses to join a trade union is first recorded in 1777, and that of a strikebreaker, in 1806. —**v.** 1632, form a scab; later, become covered with scabs (1683); from the noun. —**scabby** *adj.* (probably before 1425)

scabbard *n.* 1391 *scabard*; spelling alteration (perhaps influenced by *tabard* or a similar word) of earlier *scauberk* (probably before 1300); borrowed from Anglo-French **escauberc* sheath (implied in *escaubers*, pl.), *escauberge* (also Anglo-French *escalbert*, *eschaubert* and Anglo-Latin *scabergia*, *scaubergum*). These forms suggest a Germanic derivation, probably a compound (represented by known elements found in Old High German) whose literal meaning was blade protector, made up of Frankish **skār* blade (compare Old High German *skār*; see SHEARS) + **berg-* protect (compare Old High German *bergan* to protect; see BURY, and HAUBERK).

scabies *n.* Before 1400, borrowed from Latin *scabiēs* mange, itch, related to *scabere* to scratch. —**scabious** *adj.* 1603, borrowed through French *scabieux*, and directly from Latin *scabiōsus* mangy, rough, from *scabiēs* scabies; for suffix see *-OUS*.

scabrous *adj.* Before 1585, harsh, unmusical; borrowed from Late Latin *scabrōsus* rough, from Latin *scaber* rough, scaly, related to *scabere* to scratch, scrape; for suffix see *-OUS*. The sense of full of difficulties, thorny, is first recorded in 1646, and that of risqué, vulgar, indelicate (1881) was extended to begrimed, squalid, in 1939, and nasty, repulsive, obnoxious, about 1951.

scads *n.* *pl.* 1869, of uncertain origin. Earlier meanings of dollar, money (1809), and gold left after panning (1863) are probably not of the same word. Though sometimes referred to a British dialect *scald* a great many, it may be that *scads* origi-

nated from a Scandinavian word related to Old Icelandic *skattir* tax, tribute, money, Danish *skat* and Swedish *skatt* treasure, tax, or is distantly related to Latin *scatere* gush, abound.

scaffold *n.* About 1385 *scaffold* raised platform; *skaffald* (1354), and as a surname *Scaffol* (1299); borrowed from a dialect variant (compare Middle French *eschafault*) of Old French *eschafaut* scaffold, expanded (probably by influence of *eschace* a prop, support) from earlier *chaffaut*, from Vulgar Latin **catafalicum*; see CATAFALQUE. —**v.** Before 1548, from the noun.

scalar *adj.* 1656, resembling a ladder; borrowed from Latin *scalāris* of or pertaining to a ladder or flight of steps, from *scālae*, pl., ladder, steps; for suffix see -AR. The sense of indicating magnitude, appeared in 1846.

scalawag *n.* 1848, of uncertain origin; possibly an alteration (influenced by *wag* habitual joker) of Scottish *scallag* farm servant, rustic; or in the sense of an undersized or worthless animal, perhaps an alteration of *Scalloway*, one of the Shetland Islands, in allusion to the small size of the Shetland ponies.

scald *v.* Probably before 1200 *scalden* (implied in *scaldinge*); borrowed from Old North French *escalder*, *escauder*, from Late Latin *excaldāre* bathe in hot water (Latin *ex-* off + *caldus*, *calidus* hot). —**n.** 1601, from the verb.

scale¹ *n.* plate on fishes, snakes, etc. Probably about 1300, borrowed from Old French *escala* scale, husk, from Frankish (compare Old High German *scala* SHELL). —**v.** Probably before 1425 *scalen* to scrape, remove; from the noun. —**scaly** *adj.* Before 1398 *scaly* covered with scales; formed from Middle English *scale*¹, *n.* + *-y*¹.

scale² *n.* pan of a balance. Probably before 1200, drinking cup, bowl; borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *skāl* weighing scale, bowl, Swedish and Danish *skål* bowl, related to Old Icelandic *skel* SHELL); cognate with Old Saxon *skāla* cup, bowl, Middle Dutch *scāle*, Dutch *schaal*, Old High German *skāla*, and modern German *Schale*, from Proto-Germanic **skālē*.

The meaning of a pan of a balance (about 1390); was followed by that of a weighing instrument (usually *scales*) in 1421–22. —**v.** 1603 to compare, estimate; from the noun.

scale³ *n.* series of steps. 1391 *skale* series of marks along a line to use in measuring; borrowed from Latin *scālae*, pl., ladder, steps, (earlier **scandslai*), related to *scandere* to climb.

The meaning of a series of musical tones is found in 1597; the sense of a standard for estimation (as in *on a large or small scale*), is found in 1626. —**v.** Probably about 1380 *scathen* (error for *scalen*) climb up by means of a ladder; from the noun.

scalene *adj.* 1684, having the axis inclined to the base; borrowed from Late Latin *scalēnus*, from Greek *skalēnós* uneven, unequal, rough, from *skállein* chop, hoe, related to *skélos* leg, and *skoliós* crooked. The meaning of having three unequal sides (of a triangle) is found in English in 1734.

scallion *n.* Before 1375 *scaloun* something of little or no value; later *scalone* kind of onion (probably before 1387), and *scalyon* (1483); borrowed from Anglo-French *scalun*, *escalone*, Old

French *eschaloigne*, from Vulgar Latin **escalōnia*, from Latin (*caepa*) *Ascalōnia* (onion) from Ascalon a seaport in southwestern Palestine (now Ashkelon). Compare SHALLOT.

scallop *n.* Probably before 1400 *skalop* *scallop* shell; later *scalop* *scallop*, the shellfish (1440); borrowed from Old French *escalope* shell variant of *eschalope*, probably from a Germanic source (compare Old Icelandic *skalpr* sheath, and Middle Dutch *schelpe* shell). —**v.** 1737, bake with sauce (implied in *scollopt*); from the noun. The meaning of cut out in the form of a scallop shell is first recorded in 1749.

scalp *n.* About 1340 *scalp* top of the head; as a surname (1201); borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *skalpr* sheath; cognate with Middle Dutch *schelpe* shell, Dutch *schelp*, Middle Low German *schulpe*, and probably with Old High German *scala* husk, SHELL). —**v.** 1676, from the noun. —**scalper** *n.* 1760, formed from English *scalp*, *v.* + *-er*¹. The person who sells tickets, etc., and sells them at unauthorized prices, is found in 1869.

scalpel *n.* 1742, borrowed from Latin *scalpellum*, diminutive of *scalprum*, *scalper* (genitive *scalprī*) tool for scraping or cutting, knife, related to *scalpere* to carve, cut.

scam *n.* 1963, swindle, a carnival term of unknown origin. —**v.** 1963, presumably from the same source as the noun.

scamp¹ *n.* rascal. 1782, highway robber; probably from the dialectal verb *scamp* to roam (1753), shortened from SCAMPER. The meaning of rascal, rogue, is first recorded in 1808.

scamp² *v.* do in a hasty, careless manner. 1837, perhaps borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *skemma* to shorten, from *skammr* short; see SCANT).

scamper *v.* 1687, run away, flee; probably borrowed from Flemish *schampeeren*, a frequentative verb form of *schampen* run away, from Old French *escamper*, from Italian *scampare*, from Vulgar Latin **excampāre* decamp, leave the field, from Latin *ex campō* (ex out of; *campō*, ablative of *campus* field). —**n.** 1697, from the verb.

scan *v.* Before 1398 *scanden* to mark off (verse) into metric feet; later *scannen* (1440); borrowed from Latin *scandere* to scan verse; originally, to climb. The sense of look at closely, examine minutely, is first recorded in English in 1550. The opposite sense of look over quickly, skim, is found in 1926. —**n.** 1706, from the verb.

scandal *n.* 1581, discredit caused by irreligious conduct; borrowed from Middle French *scandale*, from Late Latin *scandalum* cause for offense, stumbling block, temptation, from Greek *skándalon* stumbling block; originally, trap with a springing device. Damage to reputation is first recorded in 1590, and a shameful action or event in 1591.

The forms *scandle* and *schaundle* are recorded in a single manuscript (probably about 1200), borrowed from Old French *escandele*, *escandle* scandal, from Late Latin *scandalum*. The current form is a reborrowing from Middle French. —**scandalize** *v.* About 1489, make a public scandal of; borrowed from Middle French *scandaliser*, from Late Latin *scan-*

dalizāre tempt, cause to stumble, from Greek *skandalízein*, from *skándalon* stumbling block. The meaning of shock by doing something improper is first recorded in 1647. —**scandalous** adj. About 1475 *standalouse* (error for *scandalouse*) disgraceful, shameful; borrowed from Middle French *scandaleux*, from Late Latin *scandalum* temptation.

scandium *n.* 1879, New Latin, formed from Latin *Scandia* Scandinavia + New Latin *-ium*; so called because scandium is found in various minerals in Scandinavia.

scansion *n.* 1671, the marking off of verse into metric feet. (1654, act of climbing); borrowed from Late Latin *scānsiōnem* (nominative *scānsiō*), from Latin, act of climbing, from *scandere* to climb; for suffix see *-sion*.

scant *adj.* Probably before 1350, borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *skamt*, neuter of *skammr* short, brief, Icelandic *skammur*; cognate with Old English and Old High German *scamm* short). —**v.** About 1415 *scanten* become scant; from the adjective. The meaning of limit the supply of, withhold, is found in 1573–80. —**scanty** *adj.* 1660, formed from English *scant*, *adj.* + *-y*¹.

scantling *n.* 1526, measured or prescribed size, as of timber or stone; alteration (by influence of words ending in *-ling*) of Middle English *scantiloun*, *scantlon* tool for measuring thickness, gauge (about 1250); borrowed from Old French *escantillon*, *eschantillon*, alteration of **eschandillon* (compare Old Provençal *escandalh*) gauge or measure, standard of measure, from Vulgar Latin **scandāculum* kind of measure, from Latin *scandere* to climb, scale, measure off (verse). The meaning of small measure or amount, is first recorded in 1585, and that of a small timber, in 1663.

—**scape** a combining form meaning scene, picture, view, as in *seascape*, *moonscape*; abstracted from LANDSCAPE. The first attested use of the combining form is in the compound *prison-scape*, which appeared in 1796.

scapegoat *n.* 1530, a goat sent into the wilderness on the Day of Atonement, symbolic bearer of the sins of the people; formed from English *scape*, *n.*, a shortened variant of ESCAPE + *goat*.

Scapegoat was coined to express Hebrew *'azāzēl* (Leviticus 16:8, 10, 26), interpreted as *'ēz ōzēl* goat that departs; actually a proper name, in Jewish tradition thought to be a demon or devil, sometimes correlated with the name that of the Canaanite deity *Aziz*. The sense of one who is blamed or punished for the mistakes or sins of others is first recorded in 1824. —**v.** 1943 (technical term in psychology); from the noun.

scapegrace *n.* 1809, formed from English *scape*, *v.*, shortened variant of ESCAPE + *grace*, literally one who escapes the grace of God. Possibly influenced by *scapegoat*.

scapula *n.* 1578, New Latin, from Late Latin *scapula* shoulder, from Latin *scapulae*, *pl.*, shoulders, shoulder blades; perhaps originally, spades, shovels; probably so called from the similarity in shape to a spade.

scar *n.* About 1395 *scar* mark left by a healed wound, burn,

etc.; borrowed from Old French *escare* scab, and Medieval Latin *escara*; both from Late Latin *eschara*, from Greek *eschārā* scab formed after a burn, hearth, fireplace. —**v.** 1555, from the noun.

scarab *n.* 1579, borrowed from Middle French *scarabée*, from Latin *scarabaeus* a beetle, from Greek *kárabos* beetle, crayfish.

scaramouch or **scaramouche** *n.* 1662 *Scaramuzza*; later, *Scaramouch* (1677); name of a cowardly braggart in traditional Italian comedy; borrowed from French *Scaramouche*, from Italian *Scaramuccia*, from *scaramuccia* skirmish, from *schermire* to fence, from a Germanic source (compare Old High German *skirmen* defend; see SKIRMISH).

scarce *adj.* About 1300 *scars* not abundant, scant, meager; later *scarce* (probably before 1400); borrowed from Old North French *scars*, *escars*, Old French *eschars*; developed from Vulgar Latin **excarpus* made scant; literally, plucked out, from past participle of **excarpere* pluck out, alteration of Latin *excerpere* pluck out, EXCERPT. —**adv.** Before 1325 *scarce*; from the adjective. —**scarcity** *n.* Probably before 1300 *scarsete*; borrowed from Old North French *escarseté*, from *escars* scarce, *adj.*; for suffix see *-ity*.

scare *v.* 1591, alteration of Middle English *skerren* to frighten (probably about 1200); borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *skirra* to frighten, from *skjarr* timid, shy). —**n.** Before 1548; alteration of Middle English *sker* fear, dread (probably before 1400); from the verb. —**scarecrow** *n.* 1553, person employed in scaring birds; later, figure used to scare birds (1592). —**scary** *adj.* 1582, terrifying, frightful; formed from English *scare*, *n.* + *-y*¹.

scarf¹ *n.* strip of cloth. 1555, variant of *scarp* a heraldic stripe; borrowed from Old North French *escarpe* sash, sling, a dialect variant of Old French *escherpe* pilgrim's purse suspended from the neck, from Frankish **skirpja* little bag woven of rushes, from Latin *scirpus* rush, bulrush.

scarf² *n.* connecting joint. 1276, in *scarfneil* nail for fastening a scarf joint; probably borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Swedish *skarv* scarf, seam, and Old Icelandic *skarfi*); cognates with Old High German *scarbōn* cut into pieces, Middle Low German *scharven*, Old English *scarfian* scrape off, and *sceorfan* to gnaw, bite, from Proto-Germanic **skerf-/skarf-*. —**v.** 1627, from the noun.

scarify *v.* 1392 *scarifien*; borrowed from Middle French *scarifier*, from Late Latin *scarificāre*, alteration (through influence of the suffix *-ficāre* *-fy*) of Latin *scarifāre*, *scariphāre* scratch open, from Greek *skariphásthai* to scratch an outline, sketch; for suffix see *-fy*. —**scarification** *n.* 1392 *scarificacioun*; borrowed from Late Latin *scarificātiōnem* (nominative *scarificātiō*) a scratching open, from *scarificāre* scarify; for suffix see *-ation*.

scarlet *n.* About 1250 *scarlet* bright red cloth; later *scarlat* bright red color (about 1300); borrowed through Old French *escarlata*, or directly from Medieval Latin *scarlatum*, *scarlata* scarlet, a cloth of scarlet, from Persian *saqlāt*, variant of *siqlillāt* scarlet cloth, rich cloth, from Arabic *siqlillāt* fine cloth. —**adj.** About 1300 *scarlat* of scarlet color; from the noun.

scarp *n.* 1589, inner slope of a ditch surrounding a fortification; borrowed from Italian *scarpa* slope, probably from a Germanic source (compare German *schroff* steep, Middle High German *schroffe* sharp rock, crag, and Old High German *screvōn* to cut into; cognates with Old Icelandic *skref* step, pace, Middle Low German *schreve* line, stroke, Middle Dutch *scrēve*, and Old English *scræf* cave, grave, related to *scarfian* scrape off; see SCARF joint). —**v.** 1803, from the noun.

scat¹ *interj.*, *v.* go away! 1838 'scat, *scat*, also *s'cat* in the expression *quicker than s'cat* in a great hurry (1833), possibly representing a hiss followed by the word *cat*.

scat² *n.* nonsense chatter and sounds sung to jazz music. 1929, probably of imitative origin. —**v.** 1935, from the noun.

scathe *v.* Probably about 1200 *scathen* to hurt, damage; borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *skadha* to hurt, injure, Swedish *skada*, and Danish *skade*; cognate with Old English *sceathian* to hurt, injure, Old Frisian *skethia*, Old Saxon *skathon*, Middle Dutch *scāden*, modern Dutch *schaden*, Old High German *scadōn*, modern German *schaden*, and Gothic *skathjan*, from Proto-Germanic **skath-*).

The meaning of *sear* with invective or satire, usually in the participial adjective *scathing* (1852), developed from the sense of *scar*, *scorch* 1667.

scatology *n.* 1876, formed from Greek *skat-*, stem of *skōr* (genitive *skatós*) excrement + connective *-o-* + English *-logy* treatise, study. —**scatological** *adj.* 1924, formed from English *scatology* + *-ical*.

scatter *v.* Probably before 1160 *scateren* distribute, squander; later, disperse, separate (about 1300); possibly a northern English variant of Middle English *schateren* to SHATTER. —**n.** 1642, from the verb.

scavenger *n.* 1530, person hired to remove refuse from streets, alteration of Middle English *scawageour* (1373), *scavager* (1477–79) an inspector in charge of collecting a toll or duty on goods for sale; borrowed from Anglo-French *scawager*, from *scawage* toll or duty on goods, from Old North French *escauwaige* inspection, from *escauwer* to inspect, from a Germanic source (compare Flemish *scawwen* to inspect, cognate with Old English *scēawian* to look at, inspect; see SHOW). In the 1500's a sound represented by *n* developed before the final syllable of *scavager* as is found in some other words, including *harbinger* and *passenger* (compare MESSENGER).

The sense of a person who searches through refuse to collect things (1562) was later applied to anyone who removed refuse or putrid matter, especially to any animal feeding on decaying matter (1596). —**scavenge** *v.* Before 1644, to remove refuse; back formation from *scavenger*.

scenario *n.* 1878, borrowing of Italian *scenario*, from *scena* scene, from Latin *scæna*, *scēna* SCENE. The outline of an imagined situation or chain of events is first recorded in 1962. —**scenarist** *n.* 1920, formed from English *scenario* + *-ist*.

scene *n.* 1540, part of an act of a play; also, stage scenery; borrowed from Middle French *scène*, and directly from Latin *scæna*, *scēna* scene, stage, from Greek *skēnē* scene, stage; origi-

nally, tent or booth; see SHINE. —**scenery** *n.* 1748, dramatic action or display of feeling; alteration (influenced by words in *-ery*) of earlier *scenary* scenario (1695); borrowed from Italian *scenario* SCENARIO. The meaning of painted objects used on a stage to represent places is found in 1770 and that of natural features of a landscape, in 1784. —**scenic** *adj.* 1623, dramatic, theatrical; borrowed from French *scénique*, and probably directly from Latin *scēnicus*, *scaenicus*, from Greek *skēnikós*, from *skēnē* scene; for suffix see *-ic*.

scent *v.* Before 1398 *senten* to feel; later, perceive by smell (about 1410); borrowed from Old French *sentir* to feel, perceive, smell, from Latin *sentire* to feel, perceive, sense. —**n.** 1375, odor or smell as a means of pursuit by a hound; probably from the verb, although attested somewhat earlier. The spelling *scent* did not appear until the 1600's, perhaps by mistaken analogy with *ascent*, *descent*, but compare the more closely related forms *assent*, *consent*, *dissent*.

scepter *n.* Probably before 1300 *ceptre*; later *sceptre* (before 1393); borrowed from Old French *sceptre*, from Latin *scep̄trum*, from Greek *skēptron* staff. —**v.** 1526, from the noun.

sceptic *n.* See SKEPTIC.

schedule *n.* 1397 *sedule* written document; later, appendix to a document (about 1420), and *cedule* (1403–04); borrowed from Old French *cedule*, from Late Latin *schedula* strip of paper, diminutive of Latin *schida*, *scida* one of the strips forming a papyrus sheet, from Greek *schida*.

The spelling *schedule* was introduced in English in the 1400's after the Latin form, and the original pronunciation (*sed'yül*) remained in use until the French pronunciation of certain words spelled *sch-* caused (*shed'yül*) to become the standard in Great Britain. In the United States, the practice of Webster promoted the pronunciation (*skej'ül*), patterned on that of *school*, *scheme*, etc.

The specific sense of a printed timetable is first recorded in 1863. —**v.** 1855, file a schedule; later, enter in a schedule (1862); from the noun.

scheme *n.* 1553, figure of speech; borrowed from Latin *schēma* shape, figure, form, from Greek *schēma* (genitive *schēmatis*) figure or appearance, related to *schein* to get, *échein* to have, hold. The meaning of a program of action, plan, appeared in 1647. —**v.** 1716, reduce to a scheme; later, devise a scheme (1767); from the noun. —**schematic** *adj.* 1701, borrowed from New Latin *schematicus*, from Latin *schēma* (genitive *schēmatis*) shape, form.

scherzo *n.* 1852, borrowed from Italian *scherzo*, literally, sport or joke, from *scherzare* to jest or joke, from a Germanic source (compare Middle High German *scherzen* to jump merrily, enjoy oneself, modern German *scherzen* to jest).

Schick test 1916, test to determine susceptibility to diphtheria, from the name of Béla Schick, who developed the test.

schism *n.* About 1384 *scisme* dissension within the church; borrowed from Old French *scisme* a cleft, split, from Late Latin *schisma*, from Greek *schisma* (genitive *schismatos*) division, cleft, from *schízein* to split. —**schismatic** *adj.* 1456 *scismattike* guilty

of participating in a religious schism; borrowed from Middle French *scismatique*, from Late Latin *schismaticus*, from Latin *schisma* schism; for suffix see -IC. —**n.** About 1378 *scismatic* person who participates in a religious schism; borrowed from Old French *scismatique*, from Late Latin *schismaticus*, noun use of *schismaticus*, adj.

schist *n.* 1795, borrowed from French *schiste*, from Latin *schistos lapis* stone that splits easily, from Greek *schistós* divided, separated, from *schízein* to split; so called because schist splits easily into layers.

schistosome *n.* 1905, borrowed from New Latin *Schistosoma* the genus name, from Greek *schistós* divided; see SCHIST + *sóma* body, -some³. —**schistosomiasis** *n.* 1906, New Latin, from *Schistosoma* + -iasis diseased condition.

schizo- a combining form meaning split, division, cleavage, as in *schizogenesis* (reproduction by cleavage), *schizophrenia*. Also, *schiz-* before vowels. New Latin, from Greek *schizo-*, *schiz-* split, from *schízein* to split.

schizoid *adj.* 1925, borrowed from German *schizoid*; formed from *Schizo(phrenie)* schizophrenia + -oid resembling, like. —**n.** 1925, borrowed from German *Schizoid*, from the noun.

schizophrenia *n.* 1912, New Latin, from Greek *schizo-* split + *phrén* (genitive *phrénós*) mind + the New Latin -ia disordered condition, disease; originally coined in German as *Schizophrenie*. —**schizophrenic** *adj.* 1912, from English *schizophrenia* + -ic. —**n.** 1926, from the adjective.

schlemiel *n.* 1892, borrowed from Yiddish *shlemiel* bungler, probably from the Biblical name of *Shelumiel* chief of the tribe of Simeon, identified with the Simeonite prince Zimri ben Salu, who was killed while committing adultery.

schlepp or **schlep** *v.* 1922; borrowed from Yiddish *shlepn* to drag, from Middle High German *schleppen* (modern German *schleppen*), related to Old High German *slifan* to drag, and *slifan* to slide, SLIP¹. —**n.** 1939, borrowed from Yiddish *shlep* a bore, a drag, from the verb.

schlock or **shlock** *n.* 1915, borrowed from American Yiddish *shlak*, borrowing of German *Schlacke* dregs, scum, dross, SLAG. —**adj.** 1916, from the noun.

schmaltz *n.* 1935, cloying sentimentality, as in music, art, etc., borrowed from Yiddish *shmaltz*, literally, melted fat, from Middle High German *smaltz*, from Old High German, related to *smelzan* to melt. Modern German *Schmalz* fat, grease, has the same figurative meaning. —**v.** 1936, from the noun. —**schmaltzy** *adj.* 1935, formed from *schmaltz* + -y¹.

schmear *n.* 1961, in the whole *schmear*, the entire affair (originally show business jargon); borrowed from Yiddish *shmir* spread, from *shmirn* to smear, grease, from Middle High German *smiren*, from Old High German *smirwen* to SMEAR.

schmooze or **schmoose** *v.* 1897, borrowed from Yiddish *shmuesn* to chat, from *shmues* idle talk, chat, from Hebrew *shemu'oth* news, rumors. —**n.** 1939, borrowed from Yiddish *shmues* chat.

schnapps or **schnaps** *n.* 1818, borrowing of German *Schnaps*, originally, a mouthful, gulp, from Low German *snaps*, from *snappen* to snap.

schnauzer *n.* 1923, borrowing of German *Schnauzer*, from *Schnauze* SNOUT.

schnitzel *n.* 1854, borrowing of German *Schnitzel* cutlet, slice, formed from *Schnitz* a cut, slice + -el, diminutive suffix. German *Schnitz* is from *schnitzen* to carve, a frequentative form of *schneiden* to cut, from Old High German *snidan*, which is cognate with Old Icelandic *snidha*, Old Frisian *snitha*, and Old English *snithan* to cut, from Proto-Germanic **snithanan*.

schnook *n.* 1948, simple or stupid person, probably borrowed from Yiddish *shnuk* elephant's trunk.

scholar *n.* About 1300 *scholer*, *scoler* learned person; developed from Old English (about 1000) *scolere*, *scoliere* student; borrowed from Medieval Latin *scholaris*, from Late Latin *scholāris* of a school, from Latin *schola* SCHOOL¹; for suffix see -AR. —**scholarship** *n.* 1535–36, status of a scholar, formed from English *scholar* + -ship. The meaning of learning, erudition, is first recorded in 1589.

scholastic *adj.* 1596, of or relating to scholasticism; probably replacing earlier *scolasticale* (probably before 1425); borrowed from Middle French *scholastique*, and directly from Medieval Latin *scholasticus*, from Latin *scholasticus* of a school, learned, from Greek *scholastikós* studious, learned, from *scholázein* be a scholar, devote one's leisure to learning, from *scholē* SCHOOL¹; for suffix see -IC. The meaning of having to do with schools, scholars, or education is first recorded in English in 1647. —**n.** 1644, borrowed from Medieval Latin *scholasticus* scholar, learned man, noun use of *scholasticus*, *adj.* —**scholasticism** *n.* 1756–82, theological and philosophical teaching in the Middle Ages; formed from English *scholastic* + -ism.

school¹ *n.* place of instruction. Probably before 1200 *scole*; developed from Old English *scōl* (before 899); borrowed from Latin *schola*, from Greek *scholē* school, lecture, discussion, leisure; originally, a holding back, a keeping clear, formed from *schēin* to get (*échein* to have, hold) by the addition of -olē through analogy with *bolē* a throw, *stolē* outfit, etc. —**v.** About 1425 *skolen* to study at a university; later *scolen* to instruct, teach (about 1445); from the noun and replacing *scoleyen* to study at school (about 1387–95) probably borrowed from Anglo-French **escoleier*, from Old French *escole* school, from Latin *schola*. —**schoolhouse** *n.* (1429) —**schooling** *n.* (about 1449)

school² *n.* group of fish. About 1400 *scole*; earlier *scoie* (1386); borrowed from Middle Dutch *schole* group of fish or other animals, multitude; cognate with Old English *scolu* band, troop, school of fish.

schooner *n.* 1716 *skooneer*, of uncertain origin. The respelling *schooner*, 1721, was probably influenced by Dutch words beginning with *sch*.

schottische *n.* 1849, borrowing of German *Schottische*, from *schottisch* Scottish, from *Schotte* a native of Scotland, from Old

High German *Scotto*, from Late Latin *Scottus* member of an Irish tribe (one which invaded Scotland after the Romans left Britain in 423).

schtik *n.* See SHTICK.

schwa *n.* 1818 *sheva*; earlier *Scheua* (1582); the modern form *schwa* is a borrowing of German *Schwa*, and both the German and earlier English forms are borrowed from Hebrew *shēwā* emptiness, a neutral vowel quality.

sciatic *adj.* 1547, borrowed from Middle French *sciastique* of or affecting the hip, from Medieval Latin *sciaticus*, alteration of Latin *ischiadicus* of pain in the hip, from Greek *ischiadikós*, from *ischíās* (genitive *ischíados*) pain in the hips, from *ischíon* hip joint; for suffix see -IC. —**sciatica** *n.* Before 1400, borrowed from Medieval Latin *sciatica*, found in *sciatica passio* sciatic disease, feminine of *sciaticus* sciatic.

science *n.* About 1340 *science* knowledge, branch of learning, skill; borrowed from Old French *science*, from Latin *scientia* knowledge, from *sciēns* (genitive *scientis*), present participle of *scīre* to know; for suffix see -ENCE. A branch of learning based on observation and tested truths, arranged in an orderly system, is first recorded in English in 1725, developed from the sense of a particular branch of knowledge (logic, grammar, rhetoric, music, arithmetic, geometry, astronomy) as distinguished from art (1678), and related to the sense of a recognized branch of learning (before 1376).

scientific *adj.* 1589, concerned with science or the sciences; borrowed from Middle French *scientifique*, and directly from Medieval Latin *scientificus*, from Latin *scientia* knowledge; see SCIENCE + -*ficus* making, from *facere* to make. —**scientist** *n.* 1834, formed from Latin *scientia* knowledge + English -*ist*.

scimitar *n.* Before 1548 *cimiterie* short, curved sword; borrowed from Middle French *cimeterre*, and from Italian *scimitarra*, of uncertain origin (perhaps from Persian *shimshūr*). The spelling *scimitar*, first found in 1562, was influenced by the Italian form of the word.

scintilla *n.* 1692, borrowing of Latin *scintilla* particle of fire, spark, glittering speck.

scintillate *v.* 1623, formed as if from Latin **scintillātum*, from past participle of *scintillāre* to sparkle, from *scintilla* spark; for suffix see -ATE¹. —**scintillation** *n.* 1623, borrowed from French, and directly from Latin *scintillationem* (nominative *scintillātiō*), from *scintillāre*; for suffix see -TION.

sciolist *n.* 1615, pretender to knowledge; formed from Late Latin *sciolus* one who knows a little, diminutive of *sciūs* knowing, from *scīre* to know + English -*ist*.

scion *n.* Before 1300 *sioun*; later *scyoun* (before 1398); borrowed from Old French *sion*, *cion*, of uncertain origin. The meaning of an heir or descendant appeared in 1814.

scissors *n. pl.* About 1380 *sisoures* cutting tool; borrowed from Old French *cisoires*, *pl.*, from Vulgar Latin **cisōria*, *pl.*, from **cisus*, abstracted from such compounds as Latin *excisus*, past participle of *excādere* to cut out; for suffix see -OR². The

spelling with *sc-* is first recorded in the 1500's, influenced by Medieval Latin *scissor* tailor, from Latin, carver, cutter, from *sciss-*, past participle stem of *scindere* to split.

sclerosis *n.* 1392 *sclirosus*; before 1400 *sclirosis*; borrowed from Medieval Latin *sclirosis* a hardness, hard tumor, from Greek *sklērosis* hardening, from *sklēros* hard; for suffix see -OSIS. —**sclerotic** *adj.* Probably before 1425 *schlyrotyk* hard; borrowed from Medieval Latin *scleroticus* hard, from Greek *sklēroûn* to harden, from *sklēros* hard; for suffix see -IC.

scoff *v.* Probably before 1300 *scoffen* to jest, make light of something; from *scof* something trivial or ridiculous (before 1300); perhaps borrowed from Scandinavian **skof* (compare Old Icelandic *skaup*, *skop* mockery, and early modern Danish *skuf*, *skof* jest, mockery, *skuffe* to deceive, frustrate, ridicule).

scofflaw *n.* 1924, formed from *scoff*, *v.* + *law*. *Scofflaw* was the winning entry in a national contest held during Prohibition to coin a word characterizing a person who drinks illegally.

scold *n.* Probably about 1150 *scold* ribald or abusive person; probably borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *skáld* poet, one who lampoons, indicated in *skáldskapr* poetry, libel in verse). —**v.** About 1378 *scolden* quarrel noisily, use abusive language; from the noun.

sconce *n.* About 1392, lantern or candlestick with a screen; borrowed from Old French *esconse* lantern, hiding place, from Medieval Latin *sconsa*, from Latin *abscondēsa*, feminine past participle of *abscondere* to hide. The wall bracket used to hold a light is first recorded about 1450.

scone *n.* 1513, in Scottish; probably borrowed from Dutch *schoon* bread, in *schoon* brood fine bread, from Middle Dutch *schoonbroot* (*schoon*, *scōne* bright, beautiful + *broot* bread).

scoop *n.* 1324–25 *scope* ladle; later, kind of shovel (1487); borrowed from Middle Dutch *schōpe*, *schoepe* bucket; cognate with Middle Low German *schōpe* ladle, *schuppe* shovel, Middle High German *schuofē* ladle, bucket (from Proto-Germanic **skōp-*), and probably also with Old Saxon *sceppian* to draw water, Low German and Dutch *scheppen*, Old High German *scephan* (modern German *schöpfen*), from Proto-Germanic **skap-*.

The sense of news published before a rival newspaper does is found in 1874, derived from the verb. —**v.** Before 1338 *scopen* to ladle or bail out water; from the noun. The informal sense of appropriate so as to exclude competitors is found about 1850.

scoot *v.* 1758 *scout*, perhaps borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *skjōta* to shoot). The spelling *scoot* originated in American English. —**n.** 1864, from the verb. —**scooter** *n.* 1820, simple kind of plow used for marking furrows, etc.; formed from English *scoot*, *v.* + -*er*¹. The child's vehicle propelled by pushing against the ground with one foot is first recorded in 1919.

scope¹ *n.* extent. 1534, range, space, extent; borrowed from Italian *scopo* aim, purpose, object, from Latin *scopus*, from Greek *skopós* aim, target, watcher, related to *skopeîn* behold,

look, consider. The distance the mind can reach, extent of view, is first recorded about 1600.

scope² *n.* instrument for viewing. 1872, abstracted from *telescope*, *microscope*, etc.

—**scope** *a* combining form meaning an instrument for viewing, examining, or observing, as in *stethoscope*, *radarscope*. Borrowed from New Latin *-scopium* instrument for examination, from Greek *-skōpion*, from *skopeîn* look at.

—**scopy** *a* combining form meaning viewing, examining, observation, as in *microscopy*, *rhinoscopy*. Borrowed from Greek *-skopîa* observation, from *skopeîn* look at.

scorbutic *adj.* 1655, borrowed from New Latin *scorbuticus* pertaining to scurvy, from *scorbutus* scurvy (1558); for suffix see -IC.

scorch *v.* Before 1325 *scorchen* to burn on the surface, char, possibly an alteration of *scorcnenn* to make dry, parch (implied in *scorcnedd*, past participle, probably about 1200); perhaps borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *skorþna* to be shriveled, cognate with Old English *scrimman* to shrink, dry up). —*n.* 1611, from the verb; also *skorke* superficial burn, scorch (probably about 1450), from *scorchen*, *skorcken* to scorch.

score *n.* About 1230 *score* financial record; later, twenty (about 1250), limit, boundary (about 1303), reckoning, total amount (about 1330); developed from late Old English *scoru* twenty (before 1100); borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *skor* mark, tally, twenty).

The meaning of a printed piece of music (1701), developed from the practice of connecting related staves by scores or lines. —*v.* About 1390 *scoren* to notch, mark, record by notches; from the noun, perhaps reinforced by a Scandinavian word (compare Old Icelandic *skora* to notch, record, from *skor*, *n.*).

scorn *n.* Probably before 1200 *scorne*, *scarn*; possibly from the verb, and borrowed from Old French *escarn*, *escharn* mockery, derision, contempt, from a Germanic source (compare Old High German *skern* mockery, jest, sport). —*v.* Probably about 1150 *scarnen* to slander; later, to mock, ridicule, deride (probably before 1200), and *scornen* (about 1250); borrowed from Old French *escarnir*, *escharnir* mock, despise, from a Germanic source (compare Old High German *skernon* mock, deride). Probably influenced later by Old French *escorner* insult, humiliate; originally, to dishonour, from Vulgar Latin **excornāre*, from Latin *ex-* without + *cornū* horn (compare Italian *scornare* treat with contempt). —**scornful** *adj.* Before 1400 *scornfull*; earlier *skornefulle* (about 1350); formed from Middle English *scorne* + *-full* *-ful*.

scorpion *n.* Probably before 1200 *scorpiun*; later *scorpion* (probably before 1300); borrowed from Old French *scorpion*, and directly from Latin *scorpiōnem* (nominative *scorpiō*), from Greek *skorpîos* a scorpion.

Scot *n.* Probably before 1200 *Scotte*; developed from Old English *Scottas*, *Sceottas* inhabitants of Ireland, Irishmen; a

borrowing of Late Latin *Scotti*, of uncertain (perhaps Celtic) origin. Originally Old English *Scottas* meant the Irish of Ireland. After King Alfred, the name applied to the Irish who had settled in the northwest of Great Britain, and to the kingdom of the Scots in Britain. —**Scotch** *adj.* 1591, earlier, in *Scotchman* (1570); contraction of *Scottish*. —**Scotland** *n.* (before 1126 *Scotlande*) —**Scots** *adj.* About 1333 *Skottis*, also *Scottis* (probably before 1350), northern variant of *Scottish*. —**Scotsman** *n.* (1375 *Scottis man*) —**Scottish** *adj.* Probably before 1200 *Scottis*; formed from Middle English *Scotte* Scot + *-ish*¹, probably by influence, or as an alteration, of Old English *Scyttisc* Scottish (before 899), from *Scottas*, *Sceottas* + *-isc* *-ish*¹.

scotch *v.* About 1412 *scocchen* to cut, score, gash; perhaps borrowed through Anglo-French *escocher*, Old French *cocher*, *cochier* to notch, nick, from *coche* a notch, groove, probably from Latin *cocum* berry of scarlet oak (notched or notchlike in appearance), from Greek *kókkos*. The meaning of make harmless for a time (1798) was extended to stamp out, crush (1825).

scot-free *adj.* Before 1066 *scotfre* exempt from royal tax; formed from *scot* royal tax, borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *skot* contribution, shot), and a transferred use of *scot*, *sceot* SHOT + *fre* free.

scoundrel *n.* 1589 *skowndrell*, of unknown origin. The spelling *scoundrel* is first recorded in 1601.

scour¹ *v.* clean or polish. Probably before 1200 *scuren*; later *scouren* (about 1390); probably borrowed from Middle Dutch *scūren*, and from Old French *escurer*, from Late Latin *excūrāre* clean off (Latin *ex-* out + *cūrāre* care for). The borrowing from Middle Dutch suggests the word was originally a technical term among the Flemish workmen in England. —*n.* 1619, from the verb.

scour² *v.* move quickly about in search of something. Before 1425 *scouren*, *scuren* traverse in search or pursuit of enemies; perhaps borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Norwegian *skure* move quickly, related to Old Icelandic *skúr* rain).

scourge *n.* Probably before 1200 *scurge* whip, lash; later *scourge* (about 1250), and in the sense of affliction, calamity (before 1382); borrowed through Anglo-French *escorge*, back formation from Old French *escorgier* to whip, from Vulgar Latin **excorrigiāre* (Latin *ex-* out, off + *corrigia* thong, shoelace, probably from a Gaulish word related to Old Irish *cúimrech* fetter). —*v.* About 1300 *scourgen*, from the noun.

scout¹ *v.* to spy or hunt around. Probably about 1380 *scouten* to search, scout; borrowed from Old French *escouter* to listen, heed, variant of *asouter*, from Vulgar Latin **ascultāre*, alteration (by dissimilation of vowel sounds represented by *au* and *u*) of Latin *auscultāre* to listen, give heed to. —*n.* 1553, act of scouting; 1555, person who scouts; borrowed from Middle French *escoute* act of listening or scouting, scout, sentinel, from the verb in Old French *escouter* to listen, heed. In the sense of a person who scouts, modern English *scout* may also be a shortened form of Middle English *scoute-wach* sentinel, guard (probably about 1380, from Old French *escoute* + Middle English *wacche* watch, sentinel).

scout² *v.* dismiss scornfully. 1710; earlier, to mock (1605); borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *skúta* to taunt).

scow *n.* 1780, borrowed from Dutch *schouw* a ferry boat, punt, from Middle Dutch *scouwe*, *scoude*; cognate with Middle High German *schalte* barge, Old High German *scalta* pole to push or punt a boat, *scaltan* to push off, and Old Saxon *scaldan* push (a boat) from the shore.

scowl *v.* 1340 *skoulen* look angry or sullen by lowering the eyebrows; later *scowlen* (about 1400); probably borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Norwegian *skule* look furtively, squint, look embarrassed). —**n.** 1500–20, from the verb.

scrabble *v.* 1537, to scrawl, scribble; borrowed from Dutch *schrabbelen*, frequentative form of *schrabben* to scratch. The meaning of scratch or scrape about, is first recorded in 1600, and that of struggle, scramble, in 1638. —**n.** 1794, a confused struggle, scramble; from the verb. —**Scrabble** (trademark for a word game) 1950, probably abstracted from *scribble-scrabble* hasty writing (1760), a reduplicated formation on SCRIBBLE, *n.*

scrag *n.* 1542, probably borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare dialectal Swedish *skragge* old and torn thing, Danish and Norwegian *skrog* hull, carcass, and Icelandic *skröggur* decrepit person). —**scraggly** *adj.* 1879, formed *scrag* + *-ly*², but *-gg-* implies **scraggle* (recorded only in *scragged*, *scraggling*). —**scraggy** *adj.* 1611, formed from English *scrag*, *n.* + *-y*¹.

scram *v.* 1928, perhaps a shortened form of SCRAMBLE.

scramble *v.* Before 1586, make one's way by climbing, crawling, etc.; perhaps variant of SCRABBLE. —**n.** 1674, a confused struggle; from the verb.

scrap¹ *n.* small piece. Before 1387 *scrappe* fragment of food; borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *skrap* scraps, trifles). —**v.** 1891, from the noun. —**scrapbook** *n.* (1825) —**scrappy** *adj.* 1837, formed from English *scrap*¹, *n.* + *-y*¹.

scrap² *n.* fight. n1846, possibly a variant of SCRAPE, *n.* an abrasive encounter. —**v.** 1874, from the noun. —**scrappy** *adj.* 1895, formed from English *scrap*², *n.* + *-y*¹.

scrape *v.* Probably about 1225 *skrapen* erase with a knife; probably borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *skrapa* to scrape, erase, Swedish *skrapa* and Danish *skerabe* to scrape; cognate with Old English *scrapian* to scrape, Middle High German *schreffen* to scratch, and Middle Low German, Middle Dutch, and modern Dutch *schrapen* to scrape), from Proto-Germanic **skrap-*. —**n.** About 1440, from the verb. The sense of a difficulty, predicament, is first recorded in 1709.

scrapple *n.* 1855, probably a diminutive formation from *scrap*¹ piece.

scratch *v.* About 1400 *scrachen* to wound slightly with something sharp; probably a fusion of *scratten* to scratch (before 1250; compare *scratlen* to scratch, probably before 1200); and of

crachen to scratch (about 1330); both of uncertain origin; Middle English *crachen* was possibly borrowed from Middle Dutch *cratsen* to scratch (modern Dutch *krassen*), cognate with Old High German *krazzōn* to scratch (modern German *kratzen*), Old Swedish *kratta*. The sense of rub or scrape to relieve itching is recorded in 1530. —**n.** 1586, a mark made by scratching; from the verb. The starting point of a contestant with no odds (1867) was the source of the meaning the beginning, nothing (usually in the phrase *from scratch*) (1922). —**adj.** 1853, collected or prepared hastily; from the noun. —**scratchy** *adj.* 1710, affected with the scratches (a disease); formed from English *scratch*, *n.* + *-y*¹. The meaning of tending to scratch or scrape is found in 1866.

scrawl *v.* 1612 (implied in *scrawling*); perhaps developed from Middle English *scrawlen* spread out the limbs, sprawl, gesticulate (before 1425); possibly an altered form of *sprawlen* to SPRAWL by association with *crawlen* to CRAWL. —**n.** 1693, something scrawled; from the verb.

scrawny *adj.* 1833, apparently variant of dialectal *scranny* lean, thin (1820); of uncertain origin.

scream *v.* About 1225 *screamen* to utter a shrill, piercing cry; earlier *scræmen* (about 1175), *shreamen* (probably about 1200); of uncertain origin (compare Old Icelandic *skrams* to scream, Middle Dutch *schremen*, *scremen*, and *scrēuwen*, Flemish *schreemen* and Frisian *skrieme*, Old Frisian *skria* to shout, scream, which may have been borrowed into Old English **scræman*). —**n.** Before 1460 *skreme*; from the verb.

scree *n.* 1781, back formation from *screes*, *pl.*, pebbles and small stones; borrowed from Old Icelandic *skridha* landslide (Swedish and Danish *skred*), from *skridha* to slide, glide; cognate with Old English *scrīthan* to go, glide, from Proto-Germanic **skrīthanan*.

screech *v.* 1577 *skrech* utter a loud, piercing cry; later *screech* (1602), alteration of *skrichen* (before 1325), *schrichen* (about 1250); possibly of imitative origin in English and resembling similar formations in Old Saxon *skrikōn* and Old Icelandic *skrækja* to screech. —**n.** 1560 *skreeche*; alteration of earlier *scrich* (1513), from verb *skrichen* to screech.

screed *n.* Before 1333 *screade* fragment; later *screde* strip of cloth (before 1425); developed in northern dialect of England from Old English *scrēade* SHRED. A long list, lengthy speech, is first recorded before 1789.

screen *n.* 1348 *skrene* covered frame for protection from the heat of a fire or from drafts; borrowed probably from Old North French *escren*, Old French *escran* a screen against heat, from Middle Dutch *scherm*, *schirm* screen, cover; cognate with Middle Low German *scerm* and Old High German *skirm* screen, shield, (modern German *Schirm* umbrella, shade, shield). An open mesh for sifting is first recorded in 1573, and a mesh in a window or door to protect against insects, in 1840. —**v.** About 1485 *screanen* to shield or protect from danger, from the noun.

screw *n.* 1404 *scrwe* cylinder with a spiral groove or ridge; later *skrewe* (1497); borrowed from Middle French *escroue* nut, cy-

lindrical socket, hole in which a screw turns, probably from Gallo-Romance **scrōba*, altered from Latin *scrobis* hole, pit by influence of *scrōfa* breeding sow, of uncertain origin. Note that in Medieval Latin *scrōfa* could mean female screw, and in South Italian *scrōfula* means screw. Apparently the Germanic forms (Middle Dutch *schruve*, Middle High German *schrübe*, etc.) were all derived through Low German *schruve* from Old French. The spelling with *-ew* was influenced by *dew*, *flew*, etc. —**v.** 1599, from the noun. —**screwdriver** *n.* (1779) —**screwy** *adj.* 1820, tipsy or slightly drunk; later, crazy, ridiculous (1887).

screwball *n.* 1866, (in cricket) ball bowled with a screw or twist; later, (in baseball) pitch that curves in an unexpected erratic way (1928); formed from English *screw*, *n.* + *ball*. An eccentric person is first recorded in 1933.

scribble *v.* About 1456 *scribblen* write carelessly or hastily; possibly borrowed from Medieval Latin *scribillare*, a diminutive form of Latin *scribere* to write + substitution of English *-le¹* or *-le³*. —**n.** 1577, from the verb.

scribe *n.* Probably about 1200, a teacher of Jewish law, Pharisee; probably originally borrowed from Late Latin *scriba*, used in the Vulgate to render Greek *grammateús*, corresponding to Hebrew *sōphēr* writer, scholar. In Latin *scriba* a keeper of accounts, or secretary was from the verb *scribere* to write.

Scribe a secretary or clerk is first recorded in Middle English before 1382. The person whose occupation is writing, especially copying manuscripts, is first recorded in 1535. —**v.** 1467–68 *scriben* to write (something), either developed from the noun in English or borrowed from Latin *scribere* to write; later, to mark or score (wood, stone, metal) with a pointed tool (1678), perhaps shortened from *describe*.

scrim *n.* 1792, kind of thin fabric, of unknown origin.

scrimmage *n.* About 1470, skirmish, minor battle; alteration of SKIRMISH; for suffix see *-AGE*. The meaning in Rugby and American football is first recorded in 1857; a scrimmage originally involved a confused struggle between the players. —**v.** Before 1825, to skirmish or quarrel; later, put a football in a scrimmage (1881); from the noun.

scrimp *v.* Before 1774, treat stingily; developed from earlier *scrimp*, *adj.*, scant, meager (1718); possibly borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Swedish *skrumpta* to shrink, shrivel up). —**scrimpy** *adj.* 1855, formed from English *scrimp*, *v.* + *-y¹*.

scrimshaw *n.* 1864, back formation of earlier *scrimshander* (1851), apparently derived from the verbal noun *scrimshonging* (1850), *scrimshonting* (1825–26) the making of scrimshaw work, of unknown origin.

scrip *n.* 1762, receipt for a portion of a loan subscribed, probably shortened from (*sub*)*scrip(tion receipt)*. The meaning of a certificate issued as currency in place of money is first recorded in 1790.

script *n.* About 1385, piece of writing, text, alteration (influenced by the Latin form) of earlier *scrite* (probably before

1300); borrowed from Old French *escrit* a writing, a written paper, from Latin *scriptum* a writing, book, law, line or mark, noun use of neuter past participle of *scribere* to write. The meaning of handwriting is first recorded in 1860, and that of the manuscript of a play in 1897. —**v.** 1935, from the noun.

Scripture *n.* Before 1325 *scriptur* the sacred writings of the Bible; borrowed from Late Latin *scriptūra* the writings contained in the Bible; also, a passage in the Bible, from Latin *scriptūra* a writing, character, inscription, from *script-*, past participle stem of *scribere* write; for suffix see *-URE*.

scrivener *n.* Before 1399 *scrivener* scribe; as a surname *Scriviner* (about 1375); also, notary (1477–79); from earlier *scribein* scribe (about 1303); borrowed from Old French *escrivain* a writer, notary, clerk, from Vulgar Latin **scribānem*, accusative of *scriba* a scribe, from Latin (modeled on accusatives such as *fullōnem*, nominative *fullō*); for suffix see *-ER¹*.

scrod *n.* 1841, possibly borrowed from earlier Dutch *schrood* piece cut off, from Middle Dutch *scrōde* SHRED; if so borrowed, the name is probably associated with the fish because it is sliced into pieces for drying or cooking.

scrofula *n.* 1791 (but implied earlier in *scrofulous*), singular of Middle English *scrophulas* (before 1400); borrowed from Late Latin *scrofulae*, pl., swelling of the glands of the neck, from Latin *scrōfa* breeding sow, of uncertain origin (perhaps so called because the glands associated with this disease resemble the back of a hog). —**scrofulous** *adj.* 1612, formed from Medieval Latin *scrofula* + English *-ous*; also found in Middle English (probably before 1425), borrowed from Medieval Latin *scrofulosus*, *scrophulosus*.

scroll *n.* 1405 *scrowell* roll of parchment or paper, written document; later *scrolle* (probably 1438); alteration (by association with *rolle* roll) of earlier *scroue*, probably before 1200; borrowed from Anglo-French *escroue*, Old French *escroe*, *escroue* scrap, roll of parchment, from Frankish **skrōda* (compare Old High German *scrōt* piece cut off, SHRED). —**v.** 1606, to write down in a scroll; from the noun. The meaning of show on a computer or TV screen a few lines at a time appeared in 1981.

scrotum *n.* 1597, borrowing of Latin *scrotum*, cognate with Old English *scrūd* garment (modern English *shroud*).

scrounge *v.* 1915, alteration of earlier dialectal English *scrunge* to search about stealthily, rummage, pilfer (1909), of uncertain origin.

scrub¹ *v.* rub hard. Before 1425 *scrobber* curry a horse; earlier *shrubben* (probably before 1300); also, scratch or rub oneself (about 1303); borrowed either from Middle Dutch or Middle Low German *schrubben* to scrub, or from a Scandinavian source (compare Norwegian and Danish *skrubbe* to scrub, Swedish *skrubba*). —**n.** 1621, from the verb.

scrub² *n.* brush, shrubs. Before 1398 *scrub* a low, stunted tree or shrub; variant of *shrobbe*, *shrub* SHRUB. The collective meaning of land overgrown with scrub, is first recorded in

1809. —**adj.** 1710–11, from the noun. —**scrubby** **adj.** 1591, from *scrub*², *n.* + *-y*¹.

scruff *n.* 1790, alteration (influenced by *scruff* crust, scum) of *scuft* (1787), probably cognate with North Frisian *skuft* back of the neck of a horse, and Dutch *schoft* withers of a horse.

scruffy **adj.** 1660, scaly, covered with scurf, from earlier *scruff* dandruff, scurf (1526), variant of SCURF; for suffix see *-y*¹. The figurative sense of shabby or dirty, is first recorded in 1871.

scrumptious **adj.** 1830, stylish, splendid, first-rate; probably alteration of SUMPTUOUS. The sense of delicious is first recorded in 1881.

scruple *n.* Before 1382 *scripil*; later *scrupul* (probably about 1425); borrowed from Old French *scrupule*, and from Latin *scripulus* uneasiness, anxiety, pricking of conscience, literally a small sharp stone or pebble, diminutive of *scripus* sharp stone or pebble, used figuratively by Cicero for a cause of uneasiness or anxiety, probably alluding to a pebble in one's shoe or sandal. The plural *scruples* is recorded before 1500. —**v.** 1627, from the noun. —**scrupulous** **adj.** About 1443, very careful to do what is right, borrowed from Middle French *scrupuleux*, and directly from Latin *scripulosus*, from *scripulus* scruple; for suffix see *-ous*.

scrutiny *n.* 1415 *scrutinie* the taking of a vote to choose someone or decide some question; borrowed from Latin *scrūtiniū* a search, inquiry, from *scrūtārī* to examine, search (as through trash), from *scrūta*, *pl.*, trash, rags. The meaning of close examination, is first recorded in English in 1604. —**scrutinize** **v.** 1671, formed from English *scrutin(y)* + *-ize*.

scuba *n.* 1952, acronym formed from *S(elf)-C(ontained) U(nderwater) B(reathing) A(pparatus)*. —**v.** 1964 *scuba-dive*; 1969 *scuba*; from the noun.

scud *v.* 1532, perhaps verb use of Middle English *scut* rabbit, rabbit's tail (1440, referring to the movement of a rabbit); earlier *scot* (probably before 1300); of uncertain origin; or perhaps borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Danish *skyde* to shoot, glide, and Old Icelandic *skjōta* to throw, SHOOT). —**n.** 1609, from the verb.

scuff *v.* 1595, to evade; Scottish, perhaps borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Swedish *skuffa* and Old Icelandic *skūfa*, *skýfa* to SHOVE). The meaning of walk with a shuffle, is first recorded in 1847, and that of injure the surface of, in 1897. —**n.** 1824, a glancing blow, Scottish; from the verb. The meaning of noise made by scuffing is first recorded in 1899. —**scuffle** **v.** 1579, probably a frequentative form of *scuff*, perhaps from the same source as SCUFF; for suffix see *-LE*³. —**n.** 1606, from the verb.

scull *n.* 1345–46 *skulle*; later *sculle* (1486); of unknown origin. —**v.** 1624 (implied in *sculling*); from the noun.

scullery *n.* 1445 *squillery* household department concerned with the care of kitchen utensils; earlier as a surname *Squillerye* (1330); also *sculerie* (1454), *scullery* (1474); borrowed from Middle French *escuelerie* office of the servant in charge of plates,

etc., from *escuelle* dish, from Vulgar Latin **scūtella*, alteration (influenced by *scūtum* shield, and its resemblance to a platter), of Latin *scutella* serving platter, salver; see SCUTTLE¹ bucket; for suffix see *-ERY*.

scullion *n.* Probably about 1475 *scavlioun*; later *scullian* (1515), *scullyon* (1531); borrowed from Middle French *escouillon*, *escouvillon* a swab, cloth, from *escouve* broom, twig, from Latin *scōpae*, *pl.*, broom.

sculpt *v.* 1864, borrowed from French *sculpter*, from Latin *sculpt-*, past participle stem of *sculpere* to carve; and reinforced by back formation in English from *sculptor* or *sculpture*, *n.*

sculpture *n.* Before 1393, art of carving or engraving; borrowed from Latin *sculptūra* sculpture, from *sculpt-*, past participle stem of *sculpere* to carve, engrave, back formation from compounds (such as *exsculpere*) of *scalpere* to carve, cut; for suffix see *-URE*. —**v.** 1645, from the noun. —**sculptor** *n.* 1634, borrowing of Latin *sculptor*, from *sculpere* carve; for suffix see *-OR*².

scum *n.* 1340 *some* foam, froth; later, thin layer on top of a liquid (1392); and *scum* (1440); borrowed from Middle Dutch *scūme* (modern Dutch *schuim*) foam, froth; cognate with Middle Low German *schūm* foam, and Old High German *scūm* (modern German *Schaum*), from Proto-Germanic **skūma-*. The sense of the dross of society, is first recorded in 1586. —**v.** 1373 *scomen* remove scum from; later *scumen* (before 1400); from the noun. —**scummy** **adj.** 1577, formed from English *scum*, *n.* + *-y*¹.

scupper *n.* 1422–27 *scoper*, later *scupper* (about 1590); of uncertain origin (perhaps from Old French *escopir*, *escupir* to spit out; or possibly related to Middle English *scope* scoop).

scurf *n.* Old English (before 1000) *scurf*; alteration (probably by Scandinavian influence) of *scof*, *scoef*; cognate with Middle Dutch *scoft* scurf (modern Dutch *schurft*), Old High German *scof* (modern German *Schoff*), Danish *skurv*, and Icelandic *skurfa* scurf, from Proto-Germanic **skurf-*. —**scurfy** **adj.** 1483, covered with scurf, of the nature of scurf; formed from Middle English *scurf* + *-y*¹.

scurrilous **adj.** 1576, formed from English *scurrile* coarsely joking + *-ous*. English *scurrile* was borrowed from Middle French, and directly from Latin *scurrilis* buffoonlike, from *scurra* fashionable city idler; later, buffoon.

scurry *v.* 1810, to run quickly, scamper; perhaps abstracted from *hurry-scurry* (*adj.* 1732, *v.* 1771), a reduplication of HURRY. An earlier sense of ride out as a scout is first recorded in 1580. —**n.** 1823, from the verb.

scurvy *n.* About 1565, noun use of Middle English *scurvy* covered with or suffering from scurf (probably about 1425), formed from SCURF + *-y*¹. At first only a variant of *scurfy*, by the 1500's *scurvy* took on the meaning of Dutch *scheurbiuk* and French *scorbut* scurvy (disease causing swollen and bleeding gums, prostration, a hemorrhaging), from Old Icelandic *skyr-bjúgr* a swelling (*bjúgr*) from consumption of sour milk (*skyr*) on long sea voyages.

scuttle¹ *n.* bucket. 1366–67 *scutel* basket; later *scutle* (1541); found in Old English (about 1050) *scutel* dish, platter; borrowed from Latin *scutella* serving platter, salver, diminutive of *scutra* flat tray, dish; perhaps related to *scūtum* shield; see SCULLERY. Latin *scutella* was borrowed into other Germanic languages as well; compare Old Icelandic *skutill*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *schotel*, Middle Low German *schötel*, and Old High German *scuzzila* (modern German *Schüssel*). The meaning of a bucket for holding coal is first recorded in 1849.

scuttle² *v.* scamper, scurry. Before 1450 *scottlen* (implied in *scottlynge*); later *scutlen* (1657); probably related to SCUD; for suffix see -LE³. —**n.** 1623, from the verb.

scuttle³ *n.* opening in a ship's deck. 1497 *skottell*; later *scuttle* (about 1595); borrowed from Middle French *escoutille*, or directly from Spanish *escotilla* hatchway, of uncertain origin. —**v.** 1642, cut a hole in the bottom of (a ship) to sink it, from the noun. The sense of undermine is first recorded in 1888.

scuttlebutt *n.* 1805 *scuttle-butt* water cask kept on a ship's deck, formed from English *scuttle*³ opening, hole + *butt*⁴ barrel, replacing earlier *scuttled cask* (1777). The meaning of rumor, gossip, is first recorded in 1901 (originally nautical slang), traditionally said to be from the fact that sailors gathered around the scuttlebutt to gossip.

scuzzy *adj.* 1969, perhaps blend of *scummy* and *fuzzy*.

scythe *n.* Probably before 1300 *sithe*; developed from Old English (about 700) *sithe*, *sigthi*; cognate with Middle Low German *segede*, *sigde* scythe, Middle Dutch *sichte* (modern Dutch *zicht*), and Old Icelandic *sigðr*, from Proto-Germanic **seǵithō*. The spelling with *sc-* is first recorded in 1422–41, influenced by association with Latin *scissor* carver, cutter; see SCISSORS. —**v.** 1573–80, from the noun.

sea *n.* Probably about 1150 *see*; later *sea* (probably before 1200); developed from Old English *sæ* sea, lake (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *sē* sea, Old Saxon *sēo*, Middle Low German *sē*, Middle Dutch *see* (modern Dutch *zee*), Old High German *sē*, *sēo* sea, lake, pond (modern German *See* lake, sea), Old Icelandic *sær*, *sjör*, *sjár* sea (Norwegian *sjø*, Swedish *sjö*, Danish *sej*), and Gothic *sáius* sea, marsh, from Proto-Germanic **saiwiz*.

The sense of a copious quantity of something (as in a *sea of troubles*) is first recorded, probably before 1200. —**sea change** transformation (1610) —**seacoast** *n.* (before 1400) —**seafaring** *adj.* (probably before 1200) —**seaman** *n.* (about 725, in *Beowulf*) —**seashell** *n.* (before 900) —**sea wall** (about 725, cliff by the sea, in *Beowulf*; about 1450, wall to prevent encroachment of the sea) —**seawater** *n.* (about 1000)

Seabee *n.* 1942, formed from pronunciation of C.B., abbreviation of *Construction Battalion*.

seal¹ *n.* design stamped on wax. Probably about 1200 *seil* (figurative) something that joins two things; later *seel* official seal, authenticating mark (1258); and *seal* (probably before 1300); borrowed from Old French *seel*, from Vulgar Latin **sigillum*, from Latin *sigillum* small picture, engraved figure, seal, diminutive of *signum* mark, token, SIGN.

Latin *sigillum* was adopted into several Germanic languages: Gothic *sigljō*, Middle High German *sigel* (modern German *Siegel*), Old Frisian *sigel*, Middle Low German *segel*, Middle Dutch *segel* (modern Dutch *zegel*), Swedish *sigill*, Danish and Norwegian *segl*. A compound, or perhaps derivative form, occurs in Old English *insegel*, Old High German *insigili*, Old Frisian *insigel*, and Old Icelandic *innsigli*. Significance of the prefix *in-* is unknown, but it has been suggested that the form may have some relation to Latin *insigne* sign, mark. —**v.** Probably before 1200 *sealen* fasten with a seal; borrowed from Old French *seeler*, from *seel* seal, *n.*

seal² *n.* mammal with flippers. 1293, implied in *selesmer*, probably meaning pieces of blubber; developed from Old English *sēol-* (before 899), stem in the declension of *seolh* seal; cognate with Middle Low German *sel*, *sēl* seal, Middle Dutch *seel*, *sael*, Old High German *selah*, and Old Icelandic *selr*, (Norwegian *sel*, Swedish *säl*, Danish *sæl*), from Proto-Germanic **selhaz*.

seam *n.* About 1303 *seme* seam in a garment, hem; developed from Old English *sām* (about 1000); cognate with Old Frisian *sām* hem, seam, Middle Low German *sōm*, Middle Dutch *soom* (modern Dutch *zoom*), Old High German *soum* (modern German *Saum*), and Old Icelandic *saumur* (Swedish *söm*, Danish *søm*), from Proto-Germanic **saumaz*; ultimately derived from the same Germanic source as Old English *sīwian* to SEW. —**v.** 1582, join with a seam; from the noun. —**seamstress** *n.* 1644, before 1613 *sempstresse*; formed from Middle English *semster* person whose work is sewing (1379) + *-ess*; developed from Old English (about 995) *sēamestre* seamstress, tailor (*sēam* seam + *-estre* *-ster*); originally the designation of a woman, but in Old English also applied to a man, and lack of a feminine form led to formation of *seamstress*. —**seamy** *adj.* 1604, (figurative) least pleasant, worst; formed from English *seam*, *n.* + *-y*¹.

séance *n.* 1789, a sitting or session, as of a learned society or other body of persons; borrowed from French *séance* a sitting, from *seoir* (replaced by *asseoir*) to sit, from Latin *sedēre* SIT. The meaning of a spiritualistic session, is first recorded in 1845.

sear *v.* Before 1400 *seren* cauterize, burn; later, cause to wither (before 1420); developed from Old English (probably about 890) *sēarian* dry up, wither, from *sēar* dried up, withered, SERE.

search *v.* Probably before 1300 *serchen* dig for; later, go about trying to find something, explore (about 1330); borrowed from Old French *cerchier* to search, from Latin *circāre* go about, wander, traverse, from *circus* CIRCLE. —**n.** Probably before 1400 *serche*, borrowed through Anglo-French *serche*, Old French *cerche*, from *cerchier* to search.

season *n.* Probably before 1300 *seysoun*, *seysyne* proper time, suitable occasion, time of the year; also *season* (about 1350); borrowed from Old French *saison*, *seison* a sowing, planting, from Latin *satiōnem* (nominative *satiō*) a sowing (in Vulgar Latin, time of sowing), from *sat-*, past participle stem of *serere* to sow. —**v.** Probably about 1390 *sesoumen* improve the flavor of by adding spices or condiments; borrowed from Old French *assaisonner* to ripen, season (*a-* to + *saison*, *seison* season), from the sense in Old French of ripen, make (fruit) more palatable

by extending its growing season. This sense of ripen, and to dry or harden (of timber), is not recorded in English before 1540. —**seasonable** adj. About 1380 *sesounable*; formed from Middle English *sesoun* season, n. + *-able*. —**seasonal** adj. 1838, formed in English from *season*, n. + *-al*. —**seasoning** n. 1511, act of adding something to food to improve its flavor; later, something added to improve flavor (1580); formed from English *season*, v. + *-ing*¹.

seat¹ n. thing to sit on. Probably before 1200 *sete*; borrowed from Old Icelandic *sæti* seat, position, from Proto-Germanic **sæt-*; related to *SIT*; also probably a blend with Old English *sæt* a place where one sits as in ambush; cognate with Old Icelandic *sāt* a sitting in ambush, ambush, both words related to Old Icelandic *sæti* seat, and its cognates Old High German *gisāzi* (modern German *Gesäss*) a seat, and Middle Dutch *gesaete*. —v. 1589, from the noun.

seat² n. established place, residence, location. About 1200 *sate*; later *sete* (about 1250); extended use of *sete* SEAT¹, influenced by Old French *siege* seat, established place, residence, and Latin *sēdes* seat, resting place, residence, center of a particular activity.

The meaning of a location or site (as *the seat of a disease*) is found in Middle English before 1393, and that of the city or place in which a throne or government is established, about 1400. —v. 1577, located; later, to locate in a particular place (1603); from the noun.

sebaceous adj. 1728, secreting a fatty or oily substance; later, fatty, oily (1783); formed from Latin *sēbum* tallow, grease + English *-aceous*.

secant n. 1593, borrowed from Latin *secantem* (nominative *secāns*) cutting, present participle of *secāre* to cut; for suffix see *-ANT*.

secede v. 1702, withdraw, retire; formed as a verb to *secession*, n., by borrowing from Latin *sēcēdere* (*sē-* apart + *cēdere* to go, CEDE). —**secession** n. 1533, withdrawal, retirement; borrowed from Latin *sēcēssionem* (nominative *sēcēssio*), from *sēcēss-*, past participle stem of *sēcēdere* secede; for suffix see *-ION*. —**secessionist** n. 1860, formed from *secession* + *-ist*.

seclude v. 1451 *secluden* shut off, keep out; borrowed from Latin *sēcludere* shut off, confine (*sē-* apart + *cludere* to shut, CLOSE). —**seclusion** n. 1616, borrowed from Medieval Latin *seclusionem* (nominative *seclusio*), from Latin *sēclūs-*, stem of the past participle of *sēcludere* seclude; for suffix see *-SION*.

second¹ adj. next after the first. About 1300 *seconde*; borrowed from Old French *second*, and directly from Latin *secundus* following, next in order, from the root of *sequi* follow; see SEQUEL. —adv. Before 1382, from the adjective. —n. Probably before 1325, from the adjective. *Seconds*, in the sense of articles below first quality, is first recorded about 1600. —v. Before 1586, borrowed from Middle French *seconder*, from Latin *secundāre* to assist, make conditions favorable, from *secundus* assisting, favorable, following, second. —**secondary** adj. Before 1382 *seoundarie*, borrowed from Latin *secundarius*

of or belonging to the second class, second-class, inferior, from *secundus* second; for suffix see *-ARY*.

second² n. $\frac{1}{60}$ of a minute. 1391 *seconde*, *seconde* $\frac{1}{60}$ of a minute of time or of angular measurement; borrowed from Old French *seconde*, from Medieval Latin *secunda*, as in *secunda pars minuta* second diminished part (the result of the second division of the hour by sixty), from Latin *secunda*, feminine of *secundus* SECOND¹.

secrecy n. 1573, alteration of *secretee* (about 1415); formed from *secre*, adj., secret (about 1375, borrowed from Old French *secré*, variant of *secret* SECRET) + *-tee* *-ty*². Changing of Middle English *secretee* (representing the suffix *-ty*²) to *secrecy* (with suffix *-cy*) was common in early modern English.

secret adj. About 1378, hidden, concealed, private; borrowed from Old French *secret* concealed, private, and directly from Latin *sēcrētus* set apart, withdrawn, hidden, originally past participle of *sēcernere* to set apart (*sē-* apart + *cernere* separate). —n. About 1380, something kept secret, mystery; borrowed from Old French *secret* a secret place, and borrowed directly from Latin *sēcrētum* a secret, originally neuter of *sēcrētus*, past participle of *sēcernere* to set apart.

An earlier form *secre* (about 1300), was borrowed from Old French *secré*, variant of *secret* secret, n. —**secretive** adj. 1464 *secretife* secret, hidden, formed from Middle English *secret*, adj. + *-ife*, *-ive*. The sense of not frank and open, is first recorded in 1853 as a back formation from earlier *secretiveness* (in phrenology) quality or state of being secretive (1815); formed from *secret* + *-ive* + *-ness*, after French *secretivité*.

secretary n. Before 1387 *secretarie* person entrusted with secrets; borrowed from Medieval Latin *secretarius* clerk, notary, confidential officer, confidant, from Latin *sēcrētum* a SECRET; for suffix see *-ARY*. The meaning of a person who writes letters, keeps records, etc., originally applied to a king's secretary appeared in English probably before 1430. —**secretarial** adj. 1801, of or pertaining to a secretary; probably formed from Medieval Latin *secretarius* secretary + English *-al*¹. —**secretariat** n. 1811, office or position of secretary; borrowing of French *secrétariat*, from Medieval Latin *secretarium* office of secretary, from *secretarius* secretary.

secrete¹ v. to produce and discharge. 1707, probably a back formation from *secretion*. —**secretion** n. 1646, borrowed from French *secrétion*, from Latin *sēcētionem* (nominative *sēcētiō*) separation, from *sēcēt-*, stem of the past participle of *sēcernere* to separate, set apart; for suffix see *-TION*. —**secretory** adj. 1692, formed from Latin *sēcrētus*, past participle + English *-ory*.

secrete² v. to conceal, hide, keep secret. 1741, probably alteration of *secret* to conceal (1595, from the noun), by influence of Latin *sēcrētus* set apart, hidden; see SECRET.

sect n. Probably about 1350 *secte* a religious order or body; borrowed through Old French *secte*, and directly from Late Latin *secta* religious group or sect, from Latin *secta* following, school of thought; originally, a way, road, from the feminine of *sectus*, variant past participle of *sequi* to follow. —**sectarian** adj. 1649, formed from *sectary* member of a sect (1556) + *-an*;

borrowed from Middle French *sectaire*, or directly from Medieval Latin *sectarius*, from Latin *secta* sect. —**n.** 1654, from the adjective.

section *n.* About 1319 *section* a division, an intersection; borrowed from Middle French *section*, or directly from Latin *sectionem* (nominative *sectiō*) a cutting, or cutting off, division, part cut or separated, from *sect-*, stem of the past participle of *secāre* to cut; for suffix see -TION. —**v.** 1819, from the noun. —**sectional** *adj.* 1806, formed from English *section*, *n.* + -al.

sector *n.* 1570, section of a circle between two radii; borrowed from Late Latin *sector* section of a circle, from Latin *sector* a cutter, from *sect-*, stem of the past participle of *secāre* to cut; for suffix see -OR².

The meaning of an area, section, division, segment (as in the public sector), appeared in the 1920's.

secular *adj.* About 1300 *secular* living in the world, and not belonging to a religious order, belonging to the State; later *secular* (1402); borrowed from Old French *seculer*, and directly from Late Latin *saeculāris* worldly, secular, from Latin *saeculāris* of an age, occurring once in an age, from *saeculum* age, span of time, generation; for suffix see -AR. —**secularism** *n.* 1851, formed from English *secular* + -ism. —**secularize** *v.* 1611, borrowed from French *seculariser*, from Late Latin *saeculāris* secular; for suffix see -IZE.

secure *adj.* Probably 1533, without care or apprehension, overconfident; borrowed from Latin *secūrus* without care, safe, from a lost prepositional phrase **sē cūrā*; (*sē* free from, and *cūrā*, ablative of *cūra* care). The meaning of safe, free from danger, is first recorded in English in 1582. —**v.** 1593, make secure; from the adjective. —**security** *n.* Before 1425, freedom from anxiety, condition of being secure; borrowed from Latin *secūritās*, from *secūrus* secure; for suffix see -ITY.

sedan *n.* 1635, covered chair carried on poles, of uncertain origin; possibly borrowed from a dialectal (southern) Italian derivative of *sede* chair, from Latin *sedēs*, related to *sedēre* to SIT. The meaning of a closed automobile seating four or more persons is first recorded in 1915.

sedate¹ *adj.* quiet, calm, serious. 1663, borrowed from Latin *sedātus*, past participle of *sedāre* to settle, calm, causative of *sedēre* to SIT; for suffix see -ATE¹. —**sedation** *n.* Probably before 1425 *sedacioun*, *sedacion* alleviation of pain; borrowed through Middle French *sedation*, and directly from Latin *sedātionem* (nominative *sedātiō*), from *sedāre*; see SEDATE, *adj.*; for suffix see -ATION. —**sedative** *adj.* Probably before 1425 *sedatif*, *sedatyve* tending to alleviate pain, soothing; borrowed through Middle French *sedatif* (feminine *sedative*), and directly from Medieval Latin *sedativus*, from Latin *sedāt-*, stem of the past participle of *sedāre*; see SEDATE, *adj.*; for suffix see -IVE. —**n.** 1785, sedative medicine; from the adjective; a revival of the noun use (first recorded in 1392).

sedate² *v.* treat with sedatives. 1945, back formation from SEDATION.

sedentary *adj.* 1598, remaining in one place, not migratory; borrowed from Middle French *sedentaire*, and probably directly

from Latin *sedentārius* sitting, remaining in one place, from *sedēns* (genitive *sedentis*), present participle of *sedēre* to SIT; for suffix see -ARY.

sedge *n.* About 1250 *segge*, developed from Old English (about 700) *segg*, from Proto-Germanic **saxjás*; cognate with Middle Low German *segge* sedge.

The form *sedge* (1590's) did not generally displace *seg*, *segge* until the early 1900's; for a note on the later spelling see DRUDGE.

sediment *n.* 1547, borrowed from Middle French *sédiment*, and probably directly from Latin *sedimentum* a settling, sinking down, from *sedēre* to settle, SIT. —**sedimentary** *adj.* 1830, formed from English *sediment* + -ary. —**sedimentation** *n.* 1874, formed from English *sediment* + -ation.

sedition *n.* Probably about 1350 *sediciun* violent strife between factions; later *sedicioun* (about 1384); borrowed from Old French *sedicion*, *sedition*, and directly from Latin *seditionem* (nominative *seditiō*) civil disorder, dissension; literally, a going apart, separation (*sēd-*, variant of *sē-* apart + *itiō* a going, from *it-*, past participle of *ire* to go); for suffix see -TION. —**seditious** *adj.* Probably 1435 *sedicious*; borrowed from Middle French *sediteux* (feminine *sediteuse*), from Latin *seditiōsus* factious, from *seditionem* (nominative *seditiō*) sedition; for suffix see -OUS.

seduce *v.* 1526, to lead astray, tempt, entice; borrowed from Latin *sedūcere* lead away, lead astray (*sē-* aside, away + *dūcere* to lead). *Seduce* replaced Middle English *seduisen* (1477), borrowed from Middle French *séduis-*, stem of *séduire* seduce, an alteration influenced in form by Medieval Latin *seducere* to seduce, of Old French *sūduire* to corrupt, seduce, from Latin *subdūcere* draw away, withdraw, remove (*sub-* from under, further + *dūcere* to lead). —**seduction** *n.* 1526, borrowed from Middle French *séduction*, from Latin *sedūctionem* (nominative *sedūctiō*) a leading astray, from *seduct-*, stem of the past participle of *sedūcere* lead away, lead astray; for suffix see -TION. —**seductive** *adj.* Before 1770, probably formed as an adjective to *seduction*, on the model of Medieval Latin *seductivus* deceiving, from Latin *seduct-*, stem of the past participle + English suffix -ive.

sedulous *adj.* 1540, constant, persistent; later, diligent, industrious (1593); borrowed from Latin *sedulus* attentive or painstaking, probably evolved from the adverb *sedulō* sincerely, painstakingly, diligently, representing Latin *sedolō* without deception or guile (*sē* without + *dolō*, ablative of *dolus* deception or guile); for suffix see -OUS.

see¹ *v.* look at. Before 1126 *seen*; earlier *sen* (1106); developed from Old English *seon* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *siā* to see, Old Saxon *sehan*, Middle Dutch *sien* (modern Dutch *zien*), Old High German *sehan* (modern German *sehen*), Old Icelandic *sjā* (Norwegian and Swedish *se*), and Gothic *saihwān*, from Proto-Germanic **seHwanan* see.

The forms in modern English did not become established until well into the 1600's, though *see* appeared before 1300; *saw* (represented in Old English *seah*, plural *sāwon*) gradually replaced *see* and *seen* also being used for the past tense; *seen* (Old

English *sewen*) replaced Middle English *seyen*, *seyn* in the past participle. —**seer** *n.* Before 1338, one to whom divine revelations are made in visions; formed from Middle English *seen* to see + *-er*.

see² *n.* position of a bishop. About 1300 *se* throne of a bishop or monarch; 1307 *see*; borrowed from Old French *sié*, from Gallo-Romance **sedem*, alteration (influenced by Latin *sedēre*) of Latin *sēdem* (nominative *sēdēs*) seat, abode, related to *sedēre* SIT.

seed *n.* Before 1124 *sed* grain of a plant; later *sede* (probably about 1150), *seed* (before 1376); developed from Old English *sēd* (before 830), earlier *sēd* (before 1050); cognate with Old Frisian *sēd* seed, Old Saxon *sād*, Middle Dutch *saet* (modern Dutch *zaad*), Old High German *sāt* (modern German *Saat*), Old Icelandic *sādh*, and Gothic *manasēths* mankind, the world, from Proto-Germanic **sædīs*, **sædā-*, from the root **sæ-* to sow. —**v.** About 1375 *seden*, *seeden* flower, flourish; later, to produce seed (before 1398); from the noun. The meaning of sow seed is first recorded about 1440. —**seedling** *n.* 1660, formed from English *seed*, *n.* + *-ling*¹. —**seedy** *adj.* 1440 *sed* fruitful, abundant; formed from Middle English *sed* seed, *n.* + *-y*¹. The meaning of shabby (1749) is probably an allusion to the appearance of a flowering plant that has run to seed.

seek *v.* 1155 *sechan* require, demand; later *sechen* try to find, look for (probably about 1175), and *sekenn* (about 1200, probably by influence of Old Icelandic *sækja*); developed from Old English *sēcan* visit, pursue (about 725, in *Beowulf*), and in the sense of try to find (before 899); cognate with Old Frisian *sēka* to seek, Old Saxon *sōkian*, Middle Dutch *soeken* (modern Dutch *zoeken*), Old High German *suohhan* (modern German *suchen*), Old Icelandic *sækja*, and Gothic *sōkjan*, from Proto-Germanic **sōkjanan*.

seem *v.* Probably before 1200 *semen* befit, be suitable to; probably about 1200, appear to be; later *seemen* (probably about 1350); borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *sēma* to befit, conform to, and *sēm* fitting, seemly); cognate with Old Saxon *sōmi* fitting, Old English *sōm* agreement, reconciliation, from Proto-Germanic **sōm-*. —**seemly** *adj.* Probably before 1200 *semlich*; later *seemly* (about 1380); borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *sēmiligr*, from *sēm* fitting); for suffix see *-ly*².

seep *v.* 1790, variant of earlier *sipe* to leak (1503); evidence for the word's occurrence in Middle English is uncertain. English *sipe* is probably related to Old English *sipian* to seep and cognate with Middle Low German *sipen* to seep, Middle High German *sipfen*, dialectal Norwegian and Swedish *sipa*, Danish *sive*, from Proto-Germanic **sip-*. —**seepage** *n.* 1825, leakage, oozing; formed from English *seep* + *-age*.

seersucker *n.* 1722 *sea sucker*; later, *seersucker* (1736); borrowed from Hindi *śīrśakar*, from Persian *shīr* o *shakkar* striped cloth; literally, milk and sugar. (Compare Sanskrit *śīrā-m* milk; *śarkara-m* sugar.)

The name evolved in allusion to the surface of the cotton cloth which originally had alternate smooth and puckered

stripes, thereby producing the effect of the smooth surface of milk and the bumpy surface of sugar.

seesaw *n.* 1640, probably imitative of the motion of sawyers and the sound of the action of a two-man saw drawn over wood or stone. This notion is reinforced by the fact that *seesaw* was originally part of a rhythmical jingle imitating the back-and-forth motion of sawyers, as in *see saw sacke a downe* (1640). —**v.** 1712, from the noun.

seethe *v.* About 1300 *sethen* boil; earlier *suden* (probably before 1200); developed from Old English *sēothan* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *siātha* to boil, Middle Low German *sēden*, Middle Dutch *sieden* (modern Dutch *zieden*), Old High German *siodan* (modern German *sieden*), Old Icelandic *sjōdha* to boil (Norwegian and Danish *syde*, Swedish *sjuda*), from Proto-Germanic **seuthanan*.

segment *n.* 1570, (in geometry) part of a circle cut off by a line; borrowed from Latin *segmentum* a strip or piece cut off (in Medieval Latin a geometric segment), from earlier **segmentum*, from *secāre* to cut; for suffix see *-MENT*. —**v.** 1859, from the noun. —**segmental** *adj.* (1816) —**segmentation** *n.* 1656, a cutting into small pieces; later, division into segments specifically cell growth and division (1851).

segregate *v.* 1542, borrowed from Latin *sēgregātus*, past participle of *sēgregāre* separate from the flock, isolate, divide, from a lost prepositional phrase **sē grege* (*sē* apart from; and *grege*, ablative of *grex* herd, flock); for suffix see *-ATE*¹. —**segregation** *n.* 1555, borrowed from Late Latin *sēgregatiōnem* (nominative *sēgregatiō*) a separating, dividing, from *sēgregāre*; for suffix see *-ATION*. —**segregationist** *n.* (1920's)

seigneur *n.* feudal lord or landowner. 1592, borrowed from Middle French *seigneur*, from Old French *seignior* SEIGNIOR.

seignior *n.* lord, lord of a manor. Probably before 1300 *seygnour* ruler; later *seygnior* (about 1400); borrowed from Old French *seignior*, *seignior*, from Latin *seniōrem*, accusative of *senior* older, SENIOR.

seine *n.* About 1300 *seyne*; developed from Old English (about 950) *segne*; borrowed from Latin *sagēna*, from Greek *sagēnē* a fishing net; also, a hunting net. Other Germanic words borrowed from the Latin include Old Saxon *segina* and Old High German *segina* seine, but the spelling in English, though from Latin, was later influenced by Old French *seine*, from Latin. —**v.** 1836 (implied in *seining*); from the noun.

seismic *adj.* 1858, formed from Greek *seismós* earthquake + English *-ic*. —**seismograph** *n.* 1858, formed from Greek *seismós* earthquake + English *-graph*. —**seismology** *n.* 1858, formed from Greek *seismós* earthquake + English *-logy*. The words were extracted from a report of the British Association for the Advancement of Science describing the work of the physicist Luigi Palmieri, who invented a seismograph while director of the meteorological observatory on Vesuvius.

seismo- a combining form meaning earthquake, as in *seismograph*, *seismology*. Borrowed from Greek *seismo-*, combining form of *seismós* earthquake, a shaking, from *seiein* to shake.

seize *v.* 1265 *saisen* take possession of; later *sesen*, *seisen* (probably before 1300), and *seizen* (before 1500); borrowed from Old French *seisir*, from Late Latin *saīre*, perhaps from Frankish **sakjan* lay claim to, related to Old Saxon *saka* a case in court, and Gothic *sōkjan* to SEEK. —**seizure** *n.* 1482 *seisure* act of seizing; formed from *seisen* to seize + *-ure*, and replacing earlier *sesir* (1449), *seiser* (1451); borrowed from Old French *seisir* to seize; see -ER³.

seldom *adv.* Probably about 1150 *selden*; later *seldom* (probably before 1300); developed from Old English *seldum* (before 900), alteration of *seldan*, on the analogy of adverbial dative plurals ending in *-um*, like *whilom* at one time. Old English *seldan* is cognate with Old Frisian, Middle Low German, and Middle Dutch *selden* seldom, Old High German *seltan* (modern German *selten*), and *seltsāni* (modern German *seltsam* strange, odd), Old Icelandic *sjaldan* (Swedish *sällan*, Danish and Norwegian *sjelden*), and Gothic *sildaleiks* wonderful, astonishing, from Proto-Germanic **selda-*.

select *v.* 1567, borrowed from Latin *selectus*, past participle of *seligere* choose out, select (*sē-* apart + *legere* gather, select). —**adj.** 1565, borrowed from Latin *selectus*, past participle. —**selection** *n.* 1623, act of selecting; borrowed from Latin *selectiōnem* (nominative *selectiō*) a choosing, selection, from *select-*, stem of the past participle of *seligere*; for suffix see -TION. —**selective** *adj.* 1625, formed from English *select*, *v.* + *-ive*.

selenium *n.* 1818, New Latin; formed from Greek *selēnē* moon (Doric *selānā*), from *selas* light, brightness + New Latin *-ium*, chemical suffix. *Selenium* was named in reference to the moon, in contradistinction to tellurium, an element with similar properties, named after the earth.

self *pron.* Old English *self*, *seolf*, *syf* one's own person, not another, same (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *self* self, same, Middle Dutch *selve*, *self* (modern Dutch *zelf*), Old High German *selb* (modern German *selbst*), Old Icelandic *sjálf* self (Norwegian *sjøl*, Swedish *själv*, Danish *selv*), and Gothic *silba*, from Proto-Germanic **selba-*, **selban-*.

The pronoun *self* was originally used with a noun or pronoun, as in *the man self* and *the self deed*; this construction has been superseded by the use of intensive and reflexive pronouns such as *himself*, *myself*, as in *he can do it himself*, *I couldn't help myself*. —**n.** Before 1325 *self*, from the pronoun. —**selfish** *adj.* 1640, formed from English *self*, *n.* + *-ish*. —**selfsame** *adj.* (1408)

self- a combining form meaning: 1 of or over oneself: *self-control* = control over oneself. 2 by or in oneself or itself, without outside aid: *self-evident* = evident in itself. 3 to or for oneself: *self-respect* = respect for oneself. 4 oneself (as object): *self-defeating* = defeating oneself. 5 automatic or automatically: *self-winding* = winding automatically. Developed from Old English *self-*, *syf-*, combining form of *self*, *seolf*, *syf* SELF, corresponding to Old Saxon and Middle Dutch *self-*, Old High German *selb-* (modern German *selb-*, also genitive *selbst-*), Old Icelandic *sjálf-*, and Gothic *silba-*, with reflexive meaning "oneself," "itself."

sell *v.* Probably before 1200 *sellen*; developed from Old English *sellan* to give, sell (about 725, in *Beowulf*).

Old English *sellan* (past tense *sealde*, past participle *seald*) is cognate with Old Frisian *sella* to give, sell, Old Saxon *sellian* to give, Middle Low German *sellen* to sell by retail, Old High German *sellen* to deliver, Old Icelandic *selja* to hand over, sell (Norwegian *salge*, Swedish *sälja* to sell, Danish *sælge*), and Gothic *saljan* to offer (a sacrifice), from Proto-Germanic **sal-janan*. It has been suggested that these words may be causative verb forms related to Old English *sala* sale, Old High German *sala* delivery of goods, and Old Icelandic *sala* sale. —**n.** 1838, act of betraying; from the verb. —**seller** *n.* (probably before 1200)

Seltzer *n.* 1775, alteration of earlier *Selters* (1741); borrowed from German *Selterser* a kind of mineral water; literally, of *Selters*, Germany, where the mineral water is found.

selvage or **selvedge** *n.* Probably before 1425 *selfegge*, probably formed in English from *self* + *egge* edge, on the model of Middle Flemish *selfegge* edge of a fabric; literally, self-edge; so called because the edge of such fabric so finished does not unravel and can therefore be its own edging.

semantic *adj.* 1894, borrowed from French *sémantique*, from Greek *sēmantikós* significant, from *sēmalnein* to show, signify, indicate by a sign, from *sēma* sign (Doric *sāma*); for suffix see -IC. The word was recorded earlier in English in the adjective sense of related to signs of the weather, a now obsolete meaning. —**semantics** *n.* 1893, borrowed from French *sémantique*, noun use of *sémantique*, *adj.*; for suffix see -ICS. The study of semantics as a branch of 19th century philology was known earlier in English as *semasiology* (1847), borrowed from German *Semasiologie*, from Greek *sēmasiā* signification, meaning, from *sēmalnein* signify + German *-logie* -logy).

semaphore *n.* 1816, probably borrowed from French *sémaphore*; ultimately formed from Greek *sēma* sign, signal + *-phoros* bearer, from *pherein* to carry. —**v.** 1893, from the noun.

semblance *n.* Before 1325 *semblance* appearance; borrowed from Old French *semblance* likeness, appearance, from *sembler* to seem, appear, from Latin *simulāre*, *similāre* to resemble, imitate, from *similis* like; for suffix see -ANCE. An earlier form *semblant* (probably before 1200, borrowed from Old French *semblant*, *n.*, appearance, likeness, from *semblant*, *adj.*, from *sembler*) was replaced by *semblance* and is not recorded in English after the mid-1600's, except as an adjective (1843). The meaning of likeness, is first recorded in Middle English about 1380.

semen *n.* Before 1398, borrowed from Latin *sēmen* SEED.

semester *n.* 1827, borrowed from German *Semester*, from Latin *sēmestris* in *cursus sēmestris* course of six months, from *sēmestris* of six months (*sex* SIX + *mēnsis* month).

semi- a prefix meaning: 1 exactly half: *semicircle* = a half circle. 2 about half, partly, incompletely: *semi-skilled* = incompletely skilled. 3 half a (period of time), twice: *semiannually* = every half year, twice a year. Borrowed from Latin *sēmi-* half, and corresponding to Old High German *sāmi-* and Old English *sām-*

half, found in such formations as *sāmhāl* in poor health; literally, half-whole; *sāmsoden* half-cooked; figuratively, half-baked or stupid; and *sāmcucu* half-dead; literally, half-alive. The last survivor of this group is *sand-blind* dim-sighted, the assimilated resultant of Old English **sāmbblind*.

The prefix is used freely in English, as found in Middle English *semigod*, after Latin *semideus*; *semidouble*, after Medieval Latin *semiduplex*; or words borrowed from Latin or Old French: *semicircular*; or purely Middle English formations, such as *semibousi* half-drunk; or as in some of the newer formations: *semifinal*, n., adj. (1884), *semitrailer*, n. (1919), *semidetached*, adj., n. (1859). These latter examples have also produced a new clipped formation *semi*, n. meanings: 1) semifinal, n., 2) semi-detached house, 3) semitrailer truck.

seminal adj. Before 1398, borrowed from Old French *seminal*, and directly from Latin *seminālis*, from *semen* (genitive *seminis*) SEED; for suffix see -AL¹. The sense of having the possibility of future development is first recorded in English in 1634, in the adverbial use *seminally*.

seminar n. 1887, borrowing of German *Seminar*, from Latin *seminārium* breeding ground, plant nursery. The sense of any meeting for discussion of a subject is first recorded in 1944.

seminary n. About 1440, plot where plants are raised from seed; borrowed from Latin *seminārium* plant nursery, (figurative) breeding ground, from *seminārius* of seed, from *semen* (genitive *seminis*) SEED; for suffix see -ARY. The school for training students to be priests is first recorded in 1581; the sense of any school (as in a *ladies' seminary*) was current from 1585 to the early 1930's. —**seminarian** n. 1584, formed from English *seminary* + -an.

semiotics n. 1880, borrowed from Greek *semeiōtikós* observant of signs, adjective to *semeiōsis* indication (earlier **semeiōtis*), from *semeiōn* to signal, from *semeion* sign, from *sema* sign; for suffix see -ICS. A form of the word closer to Greek is found in English *semeiotics* that branch of medicine dealing with the interpretation of symptoms (1670), and is referred to even earlier in the adjective *semeiotal* (1588). In the general sense of signs or symbols and the study of their use in conveying meaning, the word is recorded as early as 1641.

Semite n. 1847, probably a back formation from *Semitic*, formed by influence of French *Sémite* (1845), from New Latin *Semita*, formed on Late Latin *Sēm* Shem, one of the three sons of Noah, regarded as the ancestor of the Semites, from Greek *Sēm*, from Hebrew *Shēm*; for suffix see -ITE¹. —**Semitic** adj. 1813, borrowed probably through German *semitisch*, from New Latin *Semiticus*, from *Semita* Semite; for suffix see -IC. —n. 1875, from the adjective.

semolina n. 1797, alteration of Italian *semolino*, diminutive of *semola* bran, from Latin *simila* the finest flour, probably from the same Semitic source as Greek *semdālīs* the finest flour (compare Assyrian *samīdu* and Syrian *semdā* fine meal).

senate n. Probably before 1200 *senat* Roman senate; later *senat* governing body of a city (about 1380); *senate* (about 1384); borrowed from Old French *senat*, and directly from

Latin *senātus* the highest council of state in ancient Rome; literally, council of elders, from *senex* (genitive *senis*) old man, old; for suffix see -ATE³. The meaning of the upper and smaller branch of a legislature is first recorded in English in 1775.

—**senator** n. Probably before 1200 *senatur* Roman noble; borrowed from Old French *senateur*, and directly from Latin *senātor*, from *senex* old man, old; for suffix see -OR². The meaning of a member of the governing body of any state (before 1387), is found in a figurative sense before 1382. —**senatorial** adj. 1740, formed from English *senator* + -ial, or borrowed from French *sénatorial*, from Latin *senātorius* pertaining to a senator; for suffix see -IAL.

send v. Before 1121 *senden* cause or order to go; developed from Old English *sendan* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *senda* to send, Old Saxon *sendian*, Middle Dutch *senden* (modern Dutch *zenden*), Old High German *senten* (modern German *senden*); Old Icelandic *senda* (Swedish *sända*, Danish and Norwegian *sende*), and Gothic *sandjan* from Proto-Germanic **sandijanan*. —**send-off** n. (1872)

senile adj. 1661, of or belonging to old age; borrowed from French *senile*, and directly from Latin *senilis* of old age, from *senex* (genitive *senis*) old, old man. —**senility** n. 1791, formed from English *senile* + -ity.

senior adj. 1287–88 *seniore* the elder (as added to a personal name identical with a son's name); borrowed from Latin *senior* older, comparative of *senex* (genitive *senis*) old; for suffix see -OR². The meaning of higher in rank or longer in service (as in a *senior officer*) is first recorded in 1513. —n. 1363 *seniour* person of authority; borrowed from Latin *senior*, noun use of *senior*, adj., older. The sense of an advanced student is first recorded in 1612; and that of a student in the 4th year (1741). —**senior citizen** (1938, American English) —**seniority** n. Probably about 1450 *seniorite* priority or precedence in office or service; borrowed from Medieval Latin *senioritas*, from Latin *senior* senior; for suffix see -ITY.

senna n. 1543, plant of the same genus as cassia, New Latin, from Arabic *sanā*.

sensation n. 1615, the action of the senses, physical feeling; borrowed from French *sensation*, and directly from Medieval Latin *sensationem* (nominative *sentatio*), from Late Latin *sensātus* endowed with sense, sensible, from Latin *sensus* feeling, SENSE; for suffix see -ATION. The state of strong or excited feeling produced by some (shocking, surprising, etc.) event is first recorded in English in 1779. —**sensational** adj. 1840, of or pertaining to the senses; formed from English *sensation* + -al¹. The meaning of arousing strong or excited feeling, occurs in 1854. —**sensationalism** n. 1865, (in literature, journalism, etc.) given or tending toward what is sensational; earlier, the theory that sensation is the only source of knowledge (1846); formed from English *sensational* + -ism.

sense n. Before 1382 *sense* meaning; borrowed from Old French *sens*, and directly from Latin *sensus* (genitive *sensūs*) perception, feeling, understanding, meaning, formed from *sentire* perceive, know, feel. The faculty of perception or sensation (as in a *sense of touch*) is first recorded in English in 1526,

and that of understanding, appreciation (as in a *sense of humor*), before 1540. —**v.** 1598, from the noun. —**senseless** adj. (1557)

sensible adj. About 1380, perceptible by the senses, capable of being felt; borrowed from Old French *sensible*, and directly from Latin *sēnsibilis* having feeling, perceptible by the senses, from *sēnsus*, past participle of *sēntire* perceive, feel; for suffix see -IBLE. The meaning of having good sense or judgment, reasonable, is first recorded in Middle English probably about 1400. —**sensibility** n. About 1380 *sensibilitie* perceived image; later, ability to sense or perceive (1392); borrowed from Old French *sensibilité*, from Late Latin *sēnsibilitatem* (nominative *sēnsibilitās*) the sense of words, from Latin *sēnsibilis* SENSIBLE; for suffix see -ITY.

sensitive adj. 1392 *sensitif* having feeling or sensation; borrowed from Middle French *sensitif* (feminine *sensitive*), and directly from Medieval Latin *sensitivus* capable of sensation, from Latin *sēnsus*, past participle of *sēntire* feel, perceive; for suffix see -IVE. The meaning of easily affected (as in *to have a sensitive nature*), is first recorded in 1816. —**sensitivity** n. 1803, quality of being sensitive; formed from English *sensitive* + -ity. —**sensitize** v. 1856, make sensitive; formed from English *sensitive* + -ize.

sensor n. 1958, from an earlier adjective *sensor* sensory (1865), shortened from SENSORY, probably on the pattern of *motor*.

sensory adj. 1749, formed from Latin *sēnsus* (past participle of *sēntire* to perceive, feel) + English -ory.

sensual adj. Probably before 1425, carnal, unspiritual; later, pertaining to the physical senses (about 1443); borrowed from Middle French *sensuel*, and directly from Latin *sēnsuālis* endowed with feeling, sensitive, from *sēnsus* (genitive *sēnsūs*) feeling, SENSE; for suffix see -AL¹. —**sensuality** n. Before 1340 *sensualite*; borrowed from Old French *sensualité*, from Late Latin *sēnsuālitatem* (nominative *sēnsuālitās*) capacity for sensation, from *sēnsuālis* endowed with feeling; for suffix see -ITY. —**sensuous** adj. 1641, formed from Latin *sēnsus* sense + English -ous. *Sensuous* was probably coined to avoid the sense of lustful often connoted by *sensual*.

sentence n. Probably before 1200, doctrine, authoritative teaching; later, punishment imposed by a court (about 1300); borrowed from Old French *sentence*, and directly from Latin *sententia* thought, meaning, judgment, opinion, alteration (by dissimilation in the second syllable from -*tiēn-* to -*ten-*) of **sententia*, from *sentientem* (nominative *sentientiēs*), present participle of *sēntire* be of opinion, feel, perceive; for suffix see -ENCE. The sense in grammar of a statement with a subject and predicate, is first recorded in English before 1398. —**v.** 1413 *sentensen* (implied in *sentensed*, error for *sentensed*) to pass judgment; borrowed from Old French *sentencier*, from *sentence* sentence, n.

sententious adj. 1440, full of meaning; borrowed from Middle French *sententieux*, and directly from Latin *sententiōsus* full of meaning, from *sententia* opinion, maxim; see SENTENCE; for suffix see -OUS. The meaning of given to uttering pointed

sayings or maxims, addicted to pompous moralizing, is first recorded in 1598–99.

sentient adj. 1632, borrowed from Latin *sentientem* (nominative *sentientiēs*) feeling, present participle of *sēntire* to feel; for suffix see -ENT.

sentiment n. 1639, what one feels about something, feeling, opinion; spelling alteration (influenced by modern French *sentiment*) of Middle English *sentement* (about 1385); borrowed from Old French *sentement*, and directly from Medieval Latin *sentimentum* feeling, affection, opinion, from Latin *sēntire* to feel; for suffix see -MENT. —**sentimental** adj. 1749, formed from English *sentiment* + -al¹. The sense of having too much sentiment appeared in 1827, perhaps implied earlier in *sentimentalist*, in 1783. —**sentimentality** n. (1770) —**sentimentalize** v. (1788)

sentinel n. 1579, armed soldier keeping watch, sentry; borrowed from Middle French *sentinelle*, from Italian *sentinella*, of unknown origin.

sentry n. 1611, watchtower; 1632, sentinel; perhaps a shortening or back formation (taken as containing the suffix -ry) of earlier *centrinel* (1598), variant of SENTINEL.

sepal n. 1829, borrowed from New Latin *sepalum*, coined from Latin *petalum* PETAL apparently by substitution of the first syllable of Latin *sēparāre* SEPARATE for the first syllable of *petalum*.

separate v. Probably before 1425 *separaten* keep or put apart; borrowed from Latin *sēparātus*, past participle of *sēparāre* (separate + *parāre* make ready, prepare); for suffix see -ATE¹. —**adj.** 1600, borrowed from Latin *sēparātus*, past participle. —**n.** 1612, person who favors separation from a church, separatist; from the adjective. The meaning of an article or document issued separately is first recorded in 1884. —**separation** n. Before 1400 *separacion*; borrowed from Old French *separation*, from Latin *sēparātiōnem* (nominative *sēparātiō*), from *sēparāre* separate, v.; for suffix see -ATION. —**separatism** n. (1628) —**separatist** n. (1608)

sepia n. 1821, brown paint or ink prepared from the inky fluid of cuttlefish; borrowing of Italian *seppia* in Middle English, cuttlefish (before 1398); borrowed from Latin *sēpia* cuttlefish, from Greek *sēplā*; so called from the inky fluid which the cuttlefish secretes. —**adj.** 1827, from the noun.

sepo n. 1717–18, borrowed from Portuguese *sipae*, from Urdu *sipāhī*, from Persian *sipāhī* soldier, horseman, from *sipāh* army.

sepsis n. 1876, New Latin *sepsis*, from Greek *sēpsis* putrefaction, from *sēpein* to rot.

September n. Old English (about 1050) *september*, borrowed from Latin *September*, from *septem* SEVEN, this being originally the seventh month of the ancient Roman Calendar; for the ending -ber see DECEMBER.

septet or **septette** n. 1828, borrowed from German *Septett*, from Latin *septem* SEVEN; for suffix see -ET and -ETTE.

septi- a combining form meaning seven, as in *septsyllable*, *septivalent*. Borrowed from Latin *septi-*, combining form of *septem* SEVEN. Also spelled **sept-** before a vowel, as in *septennial*.

septic *adj.* 1605, borrowed from Latin *sēpticus* of or pertaining to putrefaction, from Greek *sēptikós* characterized by putrefaction, from *sēpein* cause to rot; for suffix see -IC.

septicemia or **septicaemia** *n.* 1866, New Latin *septicaemia*, formed from Greek *sēptikós* SEPTIC + *haima* blood.

septuagenarian *adj.* 1793, formed from Latin *septuagēnārius* containing seventy + English -*an*. Latin *septuagēnārius* derives from *septuagēni* seventy each, from *septem* SEVEN. An earlier sense of English *septuagenarian*, pertaining to the number seventy (1715) is preceded by *septuagenary* between 70 and 80 years old (1605), borrowed from French *septuagenaire*, and directly from Latin *septuagēnārius*. —**n.** 1805, from the adjective.

Septuagint *n.* 1633, borrowed from Late Latin *septuāgintā interpretēs* seventy interpreters, from Latin *septuāgintā* seventy (*septem* SEVEN + *-gintā* tens).

The Septuagint was so called because according to tradition the translation was made by seventy Jewish scholars. An earlier English use of *Septuagint* (1577) refers to the translators of the Septuagint.

septum *n.* 1720, New Latin, from Latin *saepum* a fence, from the neuter of the past participle of *saepire* to hedge in, from *saepēs* hedge, fence.

sepulcher *n.* Probably before 1200 *sepulcre*; later *sepulchre* (before 1300); borrowed from Old French *sepulcre*, and directly from Latin *sepulcrum*, *sepulchrum*, from the root of *sepelire* to bury. —**sepulchral** *adj.* 1615, borrowed from Latin *sepulchrālis*, *sepulchrālis* of or belonging to a sepulcher, from *sepulcrum*, *sepulchrum* sepulcher; for suffix see -AL.

sequel *n.* 1439 *sequele* consequence, corollary; later, offspring, heirs (about 1450); borrowed from Middle French *sequelle*, and directly from Late Latin *sequēla* that which follows, result, consequence, from *sequi* to follow. The sense of a story that continues an earlier story is first recorded in English before 1513.

sequence *n.* Before 1398, hymn sung after the Hallelujah and before the Gospel; borrowed through Old French *sequence* answering verses, a sequence at cards, and directly from Medieval Latin *sequentia* a following or succession, from Late Latin, from Latin *sequenter* (nominative *sequēns*), present participle of *sequi* to follow; for suffix see -ENCE.

Medieval Latin *sequentia* was in part also a loan translation of Greek *akolouthiā*, denoting a prolonged succession of notes sung on the last syllable of the Hallelujah, from *akólouthos* following. The general sense of a succession, order of succession, connected series, is first recorded in English in 1575. —**sequential** *adj.* 1822–29, occurring as an aftereffect of disease or injury, formed from Medieval or Late Latin *sequentia* sequence + English -*al*. The meaning of characterized by a regular sequence of occurrences is first recorded in 1844.

sequester *v.* About 1384 *sequestren* to remove, set aside; borrowed from Old French *sequester*, and directly from Latin *sequestrāre* to place in safekeeping, from *sequester* trustee, mediator; originally, a follower; related to *sequi* to follow. The meaning of seize by authority, confiscate, is first recorded in English before 1513. —**sequesterate** *v.* Probably before 1425 *sequestraten* to isolate, segregate; borrowed from Latin *sequestrātus*, past participle of *sequestrāre* sequester; for suffix see -ATE. —**sequestration** *n.* Probably about 1400, act of sequestering; borrowed from Late Latin *sequestrātiōnem* (nominative *sequestrātiō*) separation, a laying aside, from Latin *sequestrāre* sequester; for suffix see -ATION.

sequin *n.* 1617, a former Italian and Turkish gold coin; borrowed from French *sequin*, from Italian *zucchini*, from *zecca* a mint, from Arabic *sikkah* a minting die. The meaning of a spangle appeared in English in 1882, from the resemblance to gold coins.

sequoia *n.* 1869, borrowing of New Latin *Sequoia* the genus name of the tree, from *Sequoya*, in Muskogean (Cherokee) *Sikwayi*, the name of a Cherokee Indian who invented the Cherokee system of writing.

seraglio *n.* 1581, borrowing of Italian *serraglio*, alteration of Turkish *saray* palace, court, from Persian *sarāi* palace, inn. The Italian word was probably influenced in form by *serraglio* enclosure, cage, from Medieval Latin *serraculum* bung, stopper, from Vulgar Latin **serrāre* to lock up, bolt; see SERRIED.

serape or **sarape** *n.* 1834 *zarape*; later *serape* (1853); borrowing of Mexican Spanish *serape*, *sarape*, probably from Nahuatl. The precise origin of this word is difficult to determine because there is no *r-* sound in Nahuatl.

seraph *n.* 1667, new singular formed by back formation from Old English *seraphim*, *seraphin*, pl. (about 750); borrowed from Late Latin *seraphim*, *seraphin*, from Greek *seraphim*, *seraphēim*, from Hebrew *šērāphīm*, plural of *šārāph*, probably from *šārāph* it burned. Traditionally seraphs have been regarded as burning or flaming angels.

The English singular *seraph* was probably formed on analogy with *cherub*, *cherubim*. There is further confusion with “flying,” perhaps related to the root of Arabic *sharafa* be lofty.

sere *adj.* Probably before 1300 *sere*, developed from Old English *sēar* dried up, withered (824); cognate with Middle Low German *sōr* dry, Middle Dutch *soor* (modern Dutch *zoor*) from Proto-Germanic **sauzās*, and Old High German *sōrēn* to wither. Related to SEAR.

serenade *n.* 1649, borrowed from French *sérénade*, from Italian *serenata* an evening song, probably from *sereno* the open air, noun use of *sereno* clear, calm, from Latin *serēnus* peaceful, calm, serene; for suffix see -ADE. Italian *serenata* was influenced in meaning by *sera* evening, from Late Latin *sēra* evening, from the feminine of Latin *serus* late. —**v.** 1668, from the noun.

serendipity *n.* 1754, coined from the title of the fairy tale “The Three Princes of Serendip” whose heroes “were always making discoveries, by accidents and sagacity, of things they were not in quest of”; for suffix see -ITY. *Serendip* was an old

name of Ceylon (Sri Lanka), from Arabic *Sarandīb*. —**serendipitous** *adj.* Before 1950, formed from English *serendipity* + *-ous*.

serene *adj.* Probably 1440, (of the weather) clear, calm; borrowed from Latin *serēnus* peaceful, calm, clear.

English *serene* was applied to people, with the sense of calm, untroubled, before 1635, though it occurs earlier as an honorific epithet ("most serene") given to princes (1503). —**serenity** *n.* About 1450 *serenite* title of honor given to princes and other dignitaries; before 1460, fair weather, clearness; borrowed from Middle French *sérénité*, from Latin *serēnitatem* (nominative *serēnitās*) clearness, calmness, from *serēnus* serene; for suffix see *-ITY*.

serf *n.* 1483, a slave; borrowing of Middle French *serf*, from Latin *servus* slave; see *SERVE*.

The meaning of a member of the lower class of soil cultivators (as in Germany, Russia, etc.) is first recorded in English in 1611. —**serfdom** *n.* 1850, formed from English *serf* + *-dom*.

serge *n.* Before 1382 *sarge*; borrowed from Old French *serge*, *sarge*. Old French *sarge* developed from Vulgar Latin **sārica* (in Medieval Latin, a silken tunic), variant of Latin *sērica vestis* silken garment. Old French *serge* developed from Medieval Latin *serga*, *sarga* cloth of wool mixed with silk or linen, from Latin *sērica*, from Greek *serikē*, feminine of *serikós* silken; see *SILK*.

sergeant *n.* Probably before 1200 *sergente* servant; later, officer of a city or royal household (about 1250); also, common soldier (about 1300); borrowed from Old French *sergent*, *serjent*, from Medieval Latin *servientem* (nominative *serviens*) servant, vassal, soldier, (in Late Latin, public official), from Latin *servientem* (nominative *serviens*) serving, present participle of *servire* to *SERVE*; for suffix see *-ANT*. The meaning of a non-commissioned military officer is first found in English in 1548.

serial *adj.* 1840, arranged in a series; 1841, (of a story) published one part at a time; formed from English *series* + *-al*. —**n.** 1846, from the adjective. —**serialize** *v.* 1892, formed from English *serial*, *adj.* + *-ize*.

seriatim *adv.* Probably before 1500 *seratim*; borrowing of Medieval Latin *seriatim*, from Latin *seriēs* *SERIES*.

series *n.* 1611, number of similar things in a row; borrowed from Latin *seriēs* row, chain, series, from *serere* to join, link, bind together, put. An isolated instance occurs in Middle English as *serie* (about 1385).

serif *n.* 1841 *ceriph*; earlier *ceref*, *syrif* (1827); perhaps borrowed from Dutch *schreef* line, stroke, from Middle Dutch *scrēve*; see *SCARP*.

serious *adj.* 1440 *seryous* earnest, solemn; borrowed through Middle French *sérieux* grave, earnest, and directly from Late Latin *sēriōsus*, from Latin *sērius* weighty, important, grave; for suffix see *-OUS*.

sermon *n.* Probably before 1200 *sarmun* public talk on religion; later, *sermon* (before 1325); borrowed through Anglo-

French *sermun*, variant of Old French *sermon*, and directly from Latin *sermōnem* (nominative *sermō*) discourse, speech, talk; originally, a stringing together of words, related to *serere* to join.

serous *adj.* Probably before 1425 *serous*, *cerous* (of fluids in an infection) watery, wheylike; later reinforced by Middle French *sereux*, but borrowed from Latin *serum* watery fluid, whey; for suffix see *-OUS*.

serpent *n.* Before 1300 *serpent*, borrowing of Old French *serpent*, *sarpent*, and directly from Latin *serpentem* (nominative *serpens*) snake, from present participle of *serpere* to creep.

serpentine *adj.* Probably about 1408 *serpentyne*; borrowed from Old French *serpentin* (feminine *serpentine*), and directly from Late Latin *serpentinus* of a serpent, from Latin *serpentem* (nominative *serpens*) snake; see *SERPENT*; for suffix see *-INE*¹. The meaning of twisting or winding is first recorded in English in 1615. —**n.** 1408, *serpentyne* greenish mineral; borrowed from Medieval Latin *serpentinum* and *serpentina*, noun uses of the neuter and feminine singular respectively of Late Latin *serpentinus* serpentine, *adj.*

serrate *adj.* 1668, borrowed from Latin *serrātus* notched like a saw, sawlike, from *serra* a saw; for suffix see *-ATE*¹. An earlier form *serratic* is recorded in Middle English as *serratyke* (1392), formed from Latin *serrātus* + Middle English *-ic*. —**serrated** *adj.* serrate. 1703, formed from Latin *serrātus* notched like a saw + English *-ed*².

serried *adj.* 1667, from past participle of an earlier verb *serry* to press close together (1581); borrowed from Middle French *serre* close, compact, past participle of *serre* press close, fasten, from Vulgar Latin **serrāre* to bolt, lock up, variant of Latin *serāre*, from *sera* bolt, lock; for suffix see *-ED*².

serum *n.* 1672, borrowed from Latin *serum* watery fluid, whey. The meaning of blood serum is first recorded in English in 1893.

servant *n.* Probably before 1200, one owing duty or service to a master or lord; borrowed from Old French, an attendant, servant, noun use of *servant* serving, waiting, present participle of *servir* to attend, wait upon, *SERVE*; for suffix see *-ANT*. The sense of one who serves another for wages, as a butler, domestic, etc., is probably first recorded about 1325. The specific sense of a government official, as in *public servant*, is first recorded in 1570.

serve *v.* About 1175 *serven* give service to, be useful to; borrowed from Old French *servir* to serve, from Latin *servire* to serve; originally, be a slave, related to *servus* slave, perhaps from an Etruscan word (compare the Etruscan proper names *Servi*, *Serve*). The sense of take the place or meet the needs of (as in *One turf shall serve as pillow for us both*) is first recorded in 1387. —**n.** 1688, act or way of serving a ball in tennis, badminton, etc., from the verb.

service *n.* Probably before 1100 *serfise* religious ritual or ceremony; later *service* the serving of God (about 1175), and performance of work or duties (probably before 1200); and *service*

(probably before 1300); borrowed from Old French *servise*, *service*, from Latin *servitium* slavery, servitude, from *servus* slave. The sense of the duty or performance of a soldier or sailor is first recorded in 1590. —**v.** 1893, to supply with a service; from the noun. The sense of perform maintenance or repair work on is first recorded in 1926. There was also a Middle English verb *servisen* serve as a retainer (about 1300); from the Middle English noun. —**serviceable** *adj.* Before 1375 *servisabil* willing to serve, ready to do service; later *servicable* suitable, useful (before 1393); borrowed from Old French *servicable*, *servisable*, from *service*, *servise* service, *n.*

serviette *n.* 1818, borrowing of French *serviette* napkin, towel, perhaps from an earlier **serviette*, from *servit*, past participle of *servir* to SERVE, or perhaps directly from *servir*; for suffix see -ETTE. Earlier forms in English such as *serviot* (1489) and *serviat* (1560) were of Scottish use; the word was reintroduced into standard English in the 1800's.

servile *adj.* Before 1382, borrowed from Latin *servilis* of a slave, servile, from *servus* slave. Earliest use in English was in the phrase *servile work* work forbidden to be done on the Sabbath and festivals. The sense of behaving like a slave, slavish, meanly submissive, cringing, fawning, is first recorded in 1605.

servitude *n.* Before 1420, borrowed from Middle French *servitude*, and directly from Late Latin *servitūdō* slavery, from Latin *servus* a slave; for suffix see -TUDE.

servo *n.* 1910, a servomechanism or device; abstracted from *servo-motor* (1889, borrowing of French *servo-moteur*, formed from Latin *serv(us)* slave + French connective -o- + *moteur* motor, from Latin *mōtor* mover).

servomechanism *n.* 1926, formed from English *servo-*, abstracted from *servo-motor* + *mechanism*.

sesame *n.* Probably about 1425 *sisamie*, probably borrowed from Middle French *sisame*, and directly from Latin *sēsama*, *sēsamum*, from Greek *sēsamon* (Doric *sāsamon*), from Late Babylonian **šawaš-šammu* (compare Assyrian *šamaš-šammu* sesame; literally, oil-seed, Aramaic *šūmshēmā*, and Arabic *simsim*). The word occurs in the late 1700's, in the tale of "Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves," where it is used as a magic password to open and shut the door of the thieves' den. The phrase *open sesame* has been used since about 1826 in the sense of means of gaining admission or a desired goal.

sesquicentennial *n.* 1880, formed from Latin *sēsqui-* one and a half + English *centennial*. Latin *sēsqui-* (compounding form of **sēsque*) literally means "and a half," compound of *sēmis* a half (formed from *sēmi-* half, by analogy with *bis* twice) + *-que* and. —**adj.** 1888, from the noun.

sessile *adj.* 1725, adhering close to the surface; borrowed from Latin *sessilis* sitting, from *sessum*, past participle of *sedēre* to SIT. The meaning of sedentary, occurs in 1860.

session *n.* About 1387–95, the sitting together of a court, council, etc.; borrowed from Latin *sessiōnem* (nominative *sessiō*) act of sitting, from *sess-*, past participle stem of *sedēre* to

SIT; for suffix see -SION. The sense of a sitting together of a legislative body, is found in Middle English before 1425. The sense of a period of time set aside for some activity occurs originally in the term *bull session* (1920).

set *v.* Before 1121 *setten*, developed from Old English *settan* cause to sit, put in some place, fix firmly (about 725, in *Beowulf*), causative verb form of *sittan* to SIT. Old English *settan* is cognate with Old Frisian *setta* to set, Old Saxon *settian*, Middle Dutch *setten* (modern Dutch *zetten*), Old High German *sezzen* (modern German *setzen*), Old Icelandic *setja* (Norwegian *sette*, Swedish *sätta*, Danish *sette*), and Gothic *satjan*, from Proto-Germanic **satjanan*.

Many uses have become confused with *sit* since the early 1300's partly because of close similarity of past tense and past participial forms and partly because of a closeness of meaning in some uses (as in *to be set* meaning seated, and *to sit*; also *set down*, *sit down*, etc.). The phonetic similarity and close grammatical use when *set* is used reflexively or without an object has also contributed to this confusion. —**adj.** Probably about 1200 *sett*; from past participle of *setten* to set. —**n.** Before 1338 *set* act of setting, condition of being set; from the verb or adjective. Middle English *sette*, meaning a number or collection of things, is first recorded in 1443, developed from an earlier sense of a number or group of persons, religious body (before 1387). This use of the word was borrowed from Old French *sette* sequence, a learned borrowing from Medieval Latin *secta* retinue, suite, from Latin *secta* a following, SECT.

settee *n.* 1716, perhaps variant of *settle*² bench; for suffix see -EE.

setter *n.* 1576, formed from English *set*, *v.* + *-er*¹; so called because the setter was originally "set" on game.

settle¹ *v.* come to rest, fix. Probably about 1200 *setten* to seat, place on a seat; developed from Old English *settan* (about 1000), from *setl* a seat; see SETTLE². The sense of come to rest, is first recorded before 1300. The sense of establish a permanent residence, occurs in 1627, and that of decide (a question, dispute, etc.) in 1621. —**settled** *adj.* 1556, from the verb. The sense of quiet, orderly, steady, is first recorded probably as early as 1557. —**settlement** *n.* 1626, the act of settling or becoming set; formed from English *settle*¹ + *-ment*. The sense of a group of people settled in a new country, a colony, is first recorded in 1697, and that of a settling arrangements (as in *divorce settlement*) in 1677.

settle² *n.* long bench. Before 1121 *setle* abode; later, seat or bench (probably before 1200); developed from Old English *setl* a seat, position, abode (about 725, in *Beowulf*), related to *sittan* SIT. Old English *setl* is cognate with Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *setel* seat (modern Dutch *zetel*), Old High German *sezal* (modern German *Sessel*), and Gothic *sitls* seat, from Proto-Germanic **setla-*.

seven *adj.* Probably about 1175 *sevene*; developed from Old English *seofon* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *soven*, *sigun* seven, Old Saxon *sibun*, Middle Dutch *seven* (modern Dutch *zeven*), Old High German *sibun* (modern German *sieben*), Old Icelandic *sjau* (Swedish and Nor-

wegian *sju*, Danish *syv*), and Gothic *sibun*, from Proto-Germanic **sebūn*. —**seventeen** adj. Probably before 1200 *seoventene*; later *seventene* (probably before 1300); developed from Old English (about 900) *seofontýne* (*seofon* seven + *-tēne* -teen, from *tēn* TEN) —**seventh** adj. About 1290 *seventhe*, a new formation from Middle English *sevene* + *-th*², replacing earlier *sefende* (probably about 1200); developed from Old English (Anglian) *seofunda*; cognate with Old Saxon *sivondo* seventh, Old High German *sibunto*, Old Icelandic *sjaunde*, etc., from Proto-Germanic **sebundōn*. —**seventy** adj. Before 1250 *seoventi*; about 1250 *seventi*; developed from Old English *seofontig* (*seofon* seven + *-tig* group of ten, -TY¹).

sever *v*. Probably about 1300 *severen*; borrowed through Anglo-French *severer*, variant of Old French *sevrer*, from Vulgar Latin **sēperāre*, from Latin *sēparāre* SEPARATE. —**severance** *n*. 1422, borrowed through Anglo-French *severance*, variant of Old French *sevrance*, from *sevrer* to *sever*; for suffix see -ANCE.

several *adj*. Probably about 1421 *saverale* a number of, some; 1422 *severall* separate, individual; borrowing of Anglo-French *several*, from Medieval Latin *seperalis*, *separalis* separate, from Latin *sēpare*, *sēpari* (ablative of **sēpar*) distinct, back formation from *sēparāre* to SEPARATE; for suffix see -AL¹.

severe *adj*. 1548, borrowed through Middle French *severe*, or directly from Latin *sevērus* stern, strict, serious, possibly formed from the phrase **sē vēō* without kindness (*sē* without + **vēō* kindness, neuter ablative of *vēnus* true); also possibly formed in English by back formation as an adjective to the noun *severity*. —**severity** *n*. 1481, borrowed through Middle French *severité*, or directly from Latin *sevērītātem* (nominative *sevērītās*) strictness, earnestness, from *sevērus* severe; for suffix see -ITY.

sew *v*. About 1290 *seuwen*; later *seuen* (before 1325); developed from Old English *siwian* to stitch (before 1050); earlier *siowian* (before 800); cognate with Old Frisian *sia* to sew, Old High German *siuwen*, Old Icelandic *sjja* (Swedish, Norwegian, and Danish *sy*), and Gothic *siujan*, from Proto-Germanic **siw-janan*. The spelling *sew* began to appear in the late 1300's.

sewage *n*. 1834, formed in English from *sew* a sewer, drain (1475) + *-age*.

sewer *n*. 1402–03 *seuer* ditch for drainage; borrowed through Anglo-French *sewere*, corresponding to Old North French *sewiere* sluice from a pond; literally, something that makes water flow, from Gallo-Romance **exaquāria* (Latin *ex* out + *aquāria*, feminine of *aquārius* pertaining to water, from *aqua* water). Sometime between about 1440 and 1600 the term developed the sense of a conduit for drainage of waste water and refuse.

sex *n*. About 1380, either males or females collectively (as in both sexes); borrowed from Latin *sexus* (genitive *sexūs*) state of being either male or female, gender, (also *secus*, probably only in the nominative and accusative), perhaps related to *secare* to divide or cut. The meaning of the quality of being male or female (as in the distinction of sexes) is first recorded in 1526, and that of the distinction between male and female (as in the organs

of sex), in 1631. The meaning of sexual intercourse, is attested in 1929. —**sexual** *adj*. 1651, borrowed from Late Latin *sexualis* of or pertaining to sex or the sexes, from Latin *sexus* sex; for suffix see -AL¹. —**sexuality** *n*. Before 1800, formed from English *sexual* + *-ity*. —**sexy** *adj*. 1928, engrossed in or concerned with sex; 1932, sexually attractive; formed from English *sex*, *n*. + *-y*¹.

sex- a combining form meaning six, as in *sexennial*, *sextuplet*. Borrowed from Latin *sex* SIX. Also spelled *sexi-* in some compounds, as in *sexivalent*.

sexagenarian *n*. 1738, formed from Latin *sexāgenārius* containing sixty + English *-an*. Latin *sexāgenārius* derives from *sexāgeni* sixty each, from *sex* SIX. —**adj**. 1862, from the noun. An earlier adjective with the same meaning, *sexagenary*, is found in 1638, borrowed from French *sexagenaire*, or directly from Latin.

sextant *n*. 1628, borrowed from New Latin *sextans* (genitive *sextantis*), from Latin *sextāns* a sixth, from *sex* SIX; so called because the sextant has a graduated arc equal to a sixth part of a circle; for suffix see -ANT. An earlier meaning of *sextant*, one sixth of a circle, is found in English in 1596.

sextet or **sextette** *n*. 1841, alteration of *sestet*, by influence of German *Sextett* and of Latin *sex* SIX; for suffixes see -ET and -ETTE. The earlier form *sestet*, 1801, was borrowed from Italian *sestetto*, diminutive of *sesto* sixth, from Latin *sextus*, from *sex* SIX.

sexton *n*. About 1303 *sekesteyn* person in charge of the sacred objects of a church, sacristan; later *sexten* (before 1450); borrowed from Old French *segrestein*, *secrestein*, from Medieval Latin *sacristanus* SACRISTAN. The sense of any custodian of a church, temple, etc., is found in 1582.

sextuple *adj*. 1626, formed in English from Latin *sextus* sixth (from *sex* SIX), with the ending patterned on English *quadruple*, *quintuple*, etc. —**n**. 1657, from the adjective. —**sextuplet** *n*. 1852, formed from English *sextuple*, *adj*., on the pattern of *triolet*, *quadruplet*, etc.

sh The sound of *sh* was represented in Old English by the digraph *sc*, as in Old English *fisc* fish, and *scearp* sharp. After the 1100's the use of *sc* became rare, and scribes began using *ss* and sometimes *s* in its place. Since the sound of *sh* did not exist in early Old French, the early Middle English texts, written by French-educated scribes, show great diversity in representing the sound. In medial and final positions *ssh* was common; the prevailing form in initial position was *sch*, and most probably the digraph *sh* developed as a simplification of *sch*. From the time of Caxton onwards *sh* has been the standard spelling in all words except those which (as *machine*, *ratio*, the derivatives in *-tion*, etc.) are spelled on etymological grounds. See also CH, TH, WH.

shabby *adj*. 1669, poorly dressed, derived from earlier *shab* scab (about 1300 *schabbe*); developed from Old English *sceabb* (before 899); see SCAB; for suffix see -Y¹. The meaning of dingy, much worn, is first recorded in 1685.

shack *n.* 1878, also *shackle* (1890); perhaps borrowed from Mexican Spanish *jacal*, from Nahuatl *xacalli* wooden hut; or perhaps a back formation from either dialectal English *shackly* shaky, rickety (1848), or from RAMSHACKLE. —**v.** 1891, dwell; from the noun. The sense of cohabit (*shack up*) is first recorded in 1935.

shackle *n.* Probably before 1200 *schakel* metal fetter for ankle or wrist; developed from Old English *sceacel* (before 1000); cognate with Middle Dutch *scākel* link of a chain (modern Dutch *schakel*), and Old Icelandic *skokull* rope, carriage shaft (Swedish *skakel* shaft, Norwegian *skåke*, *skokle* shaft, Danish *skagle* trace of a horse), from Proto-Germanic **skakula-*. —**v.** 1440 *schaklen*, from the noun.

shad *n.* 1538, developed from Old English *sceadd* (1002), of uncertain origin; possibly cognate with dialectal Norwegian *skadd* small whitefish.

shade *n.* About 1300 *ssade* partial darkness, shadow; later *schade* (before 1325), *shade* (about 1375); developed from Old English (before 900) *sceadu* shade (from Proto-Germanic **skadwō*); cognate with Old Saxon *skado* shade, Middle Dutch *scāduwe*, *scāde* (modern Dutch *schadu*), Old High German *scato*, genitive *scatawes*, (modern German *Schatten*), and Gothic *skadus*, from Proto-Germanic **skadwis*.

The meaning of degree of lightness or darkness of color is first recorded in 1690. —**v.** Probably about 1380 *schaden* protect from the sun; from the noun. —**shady** *adj.* 1579, affording shade; formed from English *shade*, *n.* + *-y*¹. The sense “of doubtful honesty or character” is first recorded in 1862.

shadow *n.* Probably before 1200 *schadewe*; later *schadowe* (probably before 1300), *shadow* (about 1340); developed from Old English *sceadwe*, *sceaduwe*, oblique case forms of Old English *sceadu* SHADE. —**v.** About 1350 *shadowen*; earlier *sseduyen* (1340); developed from Old English (about 1000) *sceadwian*, from *sceadu* SHADE, *n.* —**shadowy** *adj.* About 1380 *schadowy* resembling a shadow, unsubstantial, fleeting; later *schadowy* (before 1398); formed from Middle English *schadowe* shadow, *n.* + *-y*¹.

shaft *n.* Probably before 1200 *scaft*, later *shafte* (probably before 1300); developed from Old English *sceaft* long slender rod of a staff or spear (about 1000); cognate with Old Frisian *skeft* shaft, spear, Old Saxon *skaft*, Middle Dutch *schacht*, *scaft* (modern Dutch *schacht*, *schaft*), Old High German *scaft* (modern German *Schaft*), and Old Icelandic *skapt* shaft, handle (Swedish, Norwegian, and Danish *skaft*), from Proto-Germanic **skaftaz*.

shag *n.* 1592 *shage* a napped fabric, probably from Middle English **shagge*; developed from Old English (about 1050) *sceaega* hair; cognate with Old Icelandic *kegg* beard, from Proto-Germanic **skazjān*. —**shaggy** *adj.* About 1590, formed from English *shag*, *n.* + *-y*¹.

shake *v.* Probably before 1200 *schaken*; developed from Old English *sceacan* to vibrate, make vibrate, move away (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Saxon *shakan* go away, Low German *schacken* to shake, Old Icelandic *skaka* to shake (Swedish *skaka*), from Proto-Germanic **skakanan*. —**n.**

Probably before 1300 *shak* sudden movement; from the verb. —**shaker** *n.* 1440 *schakare* person or thing that shakes; formed from Middle English *schaken* + *-are*, *-ere* *-er*¹. —**shaky** *adj.* 1703, (of timber) split, cracked; formed from English *shake*, *v.* + *-y*¹. The meaning of liable to break down, not firm or solid, appeared in 1850.

shako *n.* 1815, borrowed through French *schako*, or directly from Hungarian *csákó* peaked cap; originally, projecting point of a cow's horn.

shale *n.* 1747, possibly a specialized use of earlier *shale* shell, husk, pod (about 1380); developed from Old English (before 800) *scealu*; see SHELL; also perhaps reinforced in geology by German *Schalstein* laminated limestone, and in *Schalgebirge* layer of stone in stratified rock.

shall *v.* Probably before 1200 *shal*; developed from Old English (about 725, in *Beowulf*) *sceal* I owe, he owes, will have to, ought to, must (infinitive *sculan*, past tense *sceolde*); cognate with Old Frisian *skel*, *skil* (infinitive *skilun*, past tense *scolde*), Old Saxon *skal* (infinitive *skulun*, past *skolda*), Middle Dutch *sal* (infinitive *sullen*, past *solde*), modern Dutch *zal* (infinitive *zullen*, past *zou*), Old High German *scal* (infinitive *scolan*, past *scolta*), modern German *soll* (infinitive *sollen*, past *sollte*), Old Icelandic *skal* (infinitive *skulu*, past *skylda*), Swedish *skall* (past *skulle*), Norwegian and Danish *skal* (past *skulle*), and Gothic *skal* (past *skulda*), Proto-Germanic **skal-/skul-*.

Old English *sceal*, while retaining its primary sense of obligation or necessity, functioned as a sign of tense announcing a future event that was certain to happen, and in Middle English, *shall* began to express simple futurity. A past tense began to appear as *should* (*sholde*, *shuld*) only in the 1200's, and was not established before the late 1500's.

shallot *n.* 1664, borrowed from French *échalote*, from Middle French *eschalotte*, alteration of Old French *eschaloigne*, from Vulgar Latin **escalōnia* SCALLION.

shallow *adj.* Before 1387 *shalowe* not deep; earlier *shelowe* thin (1373); probably related to the synonymous *schald*, *schold* not deep (1375); developed from Old English (839) *sceald*; see SHOAL¹ shallow place. —**n.** Usually **shallows** *pl.* 1571, from the adjective.

sham *n.* 1677, fraud, trick, perhaps dialectal variant of SHAME. The meaning of a counterfeit, an imitation, is first recorded in 1728. —**adj.** 1681, from the noun.

shaman *n.* 1698, borrowed probably from Russian *shamán*, from Tungus *šaman* Buddhist monk, from Prakrit *samaña*, from Sanskrit *śramanā-s* Buddhist ascetic.

shamble *v.* 1592 (implied in *shambling*); from *shamble*, *adj.*, ungainly, awkward, from *shamble*, *n.*, table, bench, from Middle English *schamil*; see SHAMBLES; perhaps so called from the straddling legs of a bench. —**n.** 1828, from the verb.

shambles *n. pl. or sing.* 1477–78 *sheambles* meat or fish market, plural of earlier *schamil* table or stall for vending (probably before 1325); developed from Old English (before 830) *scomul*, *sceamel* stool, footstool, table for vending; an early borrowing

of Latin *scamillus*, *scamillum* low stool, alteration (influenced by *scamnum*) of *scabillum*, diminutive of *scamnum* stool, bench. Other Germanic borrowing from the Latin include Old Saxon *skamel* stool, Middle Dutch *scēmel* (modern Dutch *schemel*), Old High German *scamil* (modern German *Schemel*).

From the Middle English meaning of meat market, developed the sense of a slaughterhouse (1548); of a place of butchery (1593) and of a confusion, mess (about 1901).

shame *n.* Probably before 1200 *shame*, *scheome*; developed from Old English (before 800) *sceamu*, *sceomu* feeling of guilt or disgrace; cognate with Old Frisian *skame* shame, Old Saxon *skama*, Middle Dutch *scāme* (modern Dutch *schaamte*), Old High German *scama* (modern German *Scham*), and Old Icelandic *skōmm* (Norwegian, Swedish, and Danish *skam*), from Proto-Germanic **skamō*. —**v.** Probably before 1200 *shamen*, *scheomien* feel shame; developed from Old English *sceamian*, *sceomian* (about 725, in *Beowulf*), from *sceamu* shame, and cognate with Old Frisian *skamia* to shame, Old Saxon *skamon*, Middle Dutch *scāmen* (modern Dutch *schamen*), Old High German *scamōn* (modern German *schāmen*), Old Icelandic *skemma* to shame, and Gothic *skaman* be ashamed. —**shame-faced** *adj.* 1555 (implied in *shamefacedness*); alteration by popular etymology of earlier *shamefast* (about 1200); developed from Old English *scamfæst* bashful (before 899); formed from *sceamu*, *scamu* shame + *-fæst*, adjective suffix. —**shameful** *adj.* Probably before 1200 *scheomeful* modest; later, causing shame, disgraceful (before 1250), and *shameful* (about 1390); developed from Old English (before 950) *sceomful* modest; formed from *sceamu*, *sceomu* shame + *-ful*.

shampoo *v.* 1762, to massage; Anglo-Indian *shampoo*, borrowed from Hindi *chāmpō*, imperative of *chāmpnā* to press, knead the muscles, perhaps from Sanskrit *capāyati* pounds, kneads. The meaning of wash the hair is first recorded in 1860. —**n.** 1838, act of shampooing; from the verb. The meaning of soap for shampooing is first recorded in 1866.

shamrock *n.* 1577, earlier *shamrote* (1571); borrowed from Irish *seamróg*, diminutive of *seamar* clover.

shanghai *v.* 1871; so called from the former practice of kidnapping sailors to serve on extended voyages, as to the Chinese seaport of Shanghai.

shank *n.* Probably before 1200 *shonke*; later *shanke* (about 1300); as a surname *Schanke* (1176); developed from Old English *sceanca* leg, shank (about 1000); earlier *scanca* (probably about 750); cognate with Middle Low German *schenke* leg, shank, Middle Dutch *scenkel* (modern Dutch *schenkel*), Middle High German *schenkel* thigh (modern German *Schenkel*), and probably with Old Icelandic *skakkr* askew, aslant, crooked (Norwegian *skonk* shank, Danish and Swedish *skank*); from Proto-Germanic **skanka-*.

shantung *n.* 1882, from the name of *Shantung*, a province of northeastern China, where this fabric was manufactured.

shanty¹ *n.* roughly built cabin. 1820, borrowed from Canadian French *chantier* lumberjack's headquarters, from French,

timber yard, dock, from Old French *chantier* gantry, from Latin *canthērius* rafter, frame; see GANTRY.

shanty² *n.* song sung by sailors. 1869, spelling alteration of CHANTEY.

shape *v.* Probably before 1200 *shapen*, a new present-stem form developed in Middle English from Old English (before 1000) *scapen*, past participle of *sceppan*, *scieppan* to create, form, destine; cognate with Old Frisian *skeppa* to create, form, Old Saxon *skeppian*, Middle Dutch *sceppen* (modern Dutch *schep-pen*), Old High German *scepfen*, *scaffan* (modern German *schaf-fen*), Old Icelandic *skepja*, *skapa*, and Gothic *gaskapjan*, from Proto-Germanic *skapjanan* create, ordain.

Old English *sceppan*, *scieppan* survived as a strong verb into Middle English as *sheppen*, *shippen*, but from the 1500's *shape* has been a regular verb (past tense and past participle *shaped*), though the old past participle form *shapen* still survives in the word *misshapen*. —**n.** Probably before 1200 *shap*; developed from Old English (before 1000) *gesceap* creation, form, destiny, from *ge-* perfective prefix expressing completion (see ENOUGH) + *-sceap*, from the root of *sceppan*, *scieppan* to create, *shape*. —**shapely** *adj.* (before 1382)

shard *n.* About 1300 *scherde*; later *sherd* (before 1382); as a surname *Sharde* (1275); developed from Old English *sceard* fragment, gap (about 1000); cognate with Old Frisian *skerdt* cut, notch, Middle Low German *skart* crack, chink, Middle Dutch *scaert*, *scart* fragment, notch (modern Dutch *schaard*), Middle High German *scharte* notch, gap (modern German *Scharte*), and Old Icelandic *skardh*, all noun uses of adjective forms Old English *sceard* cut, notched, Old Frisian *skerde*, Old Saxon *skard*, Old High German *scart*, Middle High German *schart*, and Old Icelandic *skardhr*, from Proto-Germanic **skardās*, a past participle on the variant **skar-* of the root of Old English *sceran* to cut, SHEAR. The Middle English form is still seen in the word *potsherd*.

share¹ *n.* portion. 1372, duty levied on fishing boats; about 1375, a portion or share of something; developed from Old English (about 1000) *scearu* a cutting, shearing, division, also in compounds such as *land-scearu* division of land, boundary; related to *sceran*, *scieran* to cut, SHEAR; and cognate with Old Frisian *-skere* portion, share (in *hermskere* share of penalty), Old Saxon *scara* share in a common field, division, troop, Middle Low German *schäre* troop, share, Middle Dutch *scäre* troop, crowd (modern Dutch *schaar*, *schare*), Old High German *scara* troop, share of forced labor (modern German *Schar* troop, band, crowd), and Old Icelandic *skgr* rim, edge, boundary, from Proto-Germanic **skarō*. —**v.** About 1586, to apportion, divide; from the noun. The meaning of have in common, is first recorded in 1590.

share² *n.* plowshare. About 1300 *ssare*; later *share* (before 1382); developed from Old English (before 800) *scear*, *scær*, related to *sceran*, *scieran* to cut, SHEAR. Old English *scear* (from Proto-Germanic **skara-*) is cognate with Old Frisian *sker* plowshare, Middle Low German *schar* (feminine *schare*), Old High German *scaro* (feminine *scara*), and modern German *Schar* (feminine).

shark¹ *n.* large predatory fish. 1569, of uncertain origin.

shark² *n.* dishonest person who preys on others. 1599, a worthless sponger and petty swindler; of uncertain origin, but possibly a borrowing of German *Schorck*, variant of *Schurke* scoundrel, villain. In later uses (as in *loan shark*, 1905); influenced in meaning by *shark*¹ predatory fish.

sharp *adj.* Probably before 1200 *scharp*; developed from Old English (before 830) *scearp* cutting, keen, sharp; cognate with Old Frisian *skerp*, *skarp* sharp, Old Saxon *skarp*, Middle Dutch *scarp*, *scerp* (modern Dutch *scherp*), Old High German *scaff* (modern German *scharf*), and Old Icelandic *skarpr* withered, sharp (Norwegian, Swedish, and Danish *skarp* sharp), from Proto-Germanic **skarpaz*. —**adv.** About 1250 *scharpe* loudly, shrilly; later *sharpe* sharply, keenly (before 1420); developed from Old English (about 1000) *scearpe*, from *scearp* sharp, *adj.* The meaning of promptly, exactly, is first recorded in 1840. —**n.** Before 1200 *scearpe* sharp weapon, sharp edge; later *sharp* (about 1350); from the adjective. The meaning of a musical tone one half step above a given tone, is first recorded in 1576. —**sharpen** *v.* Probably about 1395 *scharpenen*; formed from Middle English *scharp*, *adj.*, sharp + *-enen* *-en*¹.

shatter *v.* Probably before 1300 *schatren* to break apart; later *schateren* disperse, scatter (before 1350); of uncertain origin (possibly a variant of Middle English *scateren* to SCATTER). Both *schateren* and *scateren* probably represent an unrecorded Old English form cognate with Middle Dutch *schateren*, *schatern* and Middle Low German *schateren* to resound, laugh uproariously, be shattered by an explosion.

shave *v.* Probably before 1200 *schaven* cut off (hair) with a razor, scrape off; developed from Old English (before 800) *sceafan*; cognate with Middle Dutch *schāven* to shave, scrape (modern Dutch *schaven*), Old High German *skaban* (modern German *schaben*), Old Icelandic *skafa*, and Gothic *skaban*, from Proto-Germanic **skabanan*. —**n.** 1352, instrument for cutting or scraping; developed from Old English *sceafa* (before 800). The meaning of an act of shaving the beard is first found in 1838, and that of a narrow escape (as in *a close shave*) in 1856. —**shaving** *n.* About 1386, a thin slice, especially of wood (probably recorded chiefly in the plural by about 1440).

shawl *n.* 1662, kind of scarf or wrap worn in parts of Asia; borrowed through Urdu and other Indian languages from Persian *shāl*.

she *pron.* About 1250; earlier *scæ* (probably before 1160); also *sho* (about 1300); probably developed by alteration (influenced by Old Icelandic *sjá* this) of Old English *sēo*, *sīo* (accusative *sīe*), feminine of *sē*, demonstrative pronoun and adjective; see THE¹.

The Old English word for *she* was *hēo*, *hīo*, feminine of *hē* HE. However, phonetic development made *hēo* and *hīo* almost indistinguishable; hence, the feminine demonstrative pronoun was probably used to replace the original feminine personal pronoun (*hēo*, *hīo*). —**n.** Before 1325 *sco*; later *she* (about 1380); from the pronoun.

sheaf *n.* Probably about 1200 *shæf* bundle of reaped grain;

later *sheve* (about 1250), *sheef* (about 1386); developed from Old English *sceaf* (about 1000); cognate with Middle Dutch *scoof* bundle, sheaf (modern Dutch *schoof*), Old High German *scoub* (modern German *Schaub*), and Old Icelandic *skauf* fox's tail, from Proto-Germanic **skaubaz*.

shear *v.* About 1250 *sheren* to cut with shears or scissors; developed from Old English *sceran*, *scieran* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *skera* to shear, Middle Dutch *scēren* (modern Dutch *scheren*), Low German *scheren*, Old High German *sceran* (modern German *scheren*), and Old Icelandic *skera* (Norwegian *skjære*, Swedish *skära*, Danish *skære*), from Proto-Germanic **sker-* to cut, shear. Related to SHARD. —**n.** **shears** *pl.* About 1300 *shres* (error for *sheres*) large scissors; developed from Old English *sceāra* pair of shears or scissors (before 899); related to *sceran* to cut, SHEAR. Old English *sceāra*, *pl.*, is cognate with Old Frisian *skēre* shears, Old High German *skār* blade, plural *skāri* (Middle High German *schære*, modern German *Schere*), and Old Icelandic *skæri* shears, from Proto-Germanic **skær-*.

sheath *n.* About 1250 *sheeth* case for the blade of a sword, knife, etc.; earlier *shæthe* (probably about 1200); developed from Old English (about 950) *sceath*, *scæth*, from Proto-Germanic **skaithiz*; cognate with Old Frisian *skēthe* sheath, Old Saxon *sceitha*, Middle Dutch *scēde* (modern Dutch *scheede*), Old High German *sceida* (modern German *Scheide*), from Proto-Germanic **skaithijō*, and Old Icelandic *skaidh* (Norwegian *skjede*, Swedish *skida*, Danish *skede*). —**sheathe** *v.* Probably before 1400 *schethen* furnish with or put into a sheath; from the noun in Middle English.

shebang *n.* 1862, a hut, shed, shelter; of uncertain origin (perhaps alteration of SHEBEEN). The meaning of affair, thing, business (usually in the phrase *the whole shebang*) is first recorded in 1869, but its relation to that of hut is obscure.

shebeen *n.* 1787, (chiefly in Ireland and Scotland) place where alcoholic liquor is sold without a license; borrowed from Irish *seibín* small mug, bad ale, diminutive of *seibe* mug, bottle, liquid measure.

shed¹ *n.* building for storage, etc. 1481 *shadde*; possibly a variant of SHADE.

shed² *v.* cast off. Probably before 1200 *sheden* to separate, divide; also *scheden* to pour out, spill; developed from Old English (about 1000) *sceadan*, *scādan* to divide, separate; cognate with Old Frisian *skētha* to divide, separate, Old Saxon *skēthan*, Middle Dutch *sceiden* (modern Dutch *scheiden*), Old High German *sceidan* (modern German *scheiden* to part, depart, separate), and Gothic *skaidan*, from Proto-Germanic **skaithanan/skaīdanan*. Related to SHIFT.

sheen *n.* 1602 (acting as a verbal noun to *shine*) developed as noun use of earlier adjective *sheene* beautiful, bright, found in Middle English *schene* (probably before 1200); developed from Old English *scēne*, *sciēne* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *skēne* beautiful, bright, Old Saxon *skōni*, Middle Dutch *scōne* (modern Dutch *schoon*), Old High German *skōni*

(modern German *schön*), and Gothic *skáuns* beautiful, from Proto-Germanic **skauniz*, root **skau-* behold, SHOW.

sheep *n.* Probably before 1200 *scheap*; later *sheep* (about 1280); developed from Old English (before 830) *scēap*, *scēp*; cognate with Old Frisian *skēp* sheep, Old Saxon *scāp*, Middle Low German *schāp*, Middle Dutch *scaep* (modern Dutch *schaap*), and Old High German *scāf* (modern German *Schaf*), from Proto-West-Germanic **skāpan*. —**sheepish** *adj.* (probably before 1200, sheeplike; 1693, bashful).

sheer¹ *adj.* very thin. 1565 *sheer*, probably developed from Middle English *schiere* thin, sparse (about 1400). Middle English *schiere* was probably in part a borrowing from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *skær* bright, clean, pure, from Proto-Germanic **skairjaz*, Swedish *skär* clear, and Norwegian *skjær* pure, sheer), and in part developed from dialectal Middle English *shire*, *schir* clear, pure, thin; found in Old-English *sār* bright, clear, pure (about 725, in *Beowulf*). The two Middle English words are ultimately related to each other: Old Icelandic *skær* is related to *skírr* bright, clear, pure, which is cognate with Old English *sār*, of the same meaning, and also with Old Frisian *skire*, Old Saxon *skīri*, Middle Low German *schīre*, Middle High German *schīr* (modern German *schier*), and Gothic *skeirs* clear, from Proto-Germanic **skiraz*.

Use of *sheer* absolute, utter (as in *sheer nonsense*) is first recorded in 1583. The meaning of very steep (as in *a sheer drop*) is first found in 1800. —**adv.** completely, quite. Before 1600, from the adjective.

sheer² *v.* turn aside, swerve. 1626, probably borrowed from Low German or modern Dutch *scheren* to withdraw, depart, originally, divide, SHEAR. —**n.** 1670, from the verb.

sheet¹ *n.* broad, thin piece of cloth, etc. About 1250 *shet*; later *shete* (about 1280), *sheet* (before 1382); developed from Old English *sciēte* cloth, covering (about 900, West Saxon), *scēte* (before 800, Mercian), from Proto-Germanic **skautijōn*; related to *scēat* corner, region, lap, cloth. Old English *scēat* is cognate with Old Frisian *skāt* lap, lappet, Middle Low German *schōt*, Middle Dutch *scoot* (modern Dutch *schoot*), Old High German *scōz* (modern German *Schoss*), Old Icelandic *skaut* corner, lap, lappet (Norwegian *skaut* sheet, headdress, Danish *skød* lap, skirt), and Gothic *skaut* hem of a garment, from Proto-Germanic **skauta-*. The sense of a piece of paper is first recorded in English in 1510; and that of a broad, flat surface, in 1593.

sheet² *n.* rope that controls a sail. 1294–95 *sheete*; developed from Old English *scēat* (in the compound *scēatline* sheet-line), from *scēata* lower part of sail, piece of cloth, related to *scēat* corner, region, lap, cloth; see SHEET¹.

sheik or **sheikh** *n.* 1577, borrowed from Arabic *shaykh* chief; literally, old man.

shekel *n.* Before 1382, borrowed from Hebrew *sheqel*, from *shāqal* he weighed.

sheldrake *n.* Before 1325 *shelderake*, *sheldrake* (*sheld-* variegated + *drake*).

shelf *n.* About 1390 *shelves*, pl.; later *shelves* (in 1422); probably borrowed from Middle Low German *schelf* shelf, set of shelves; cognate with Middle Dutch *scelf* haystack (modern Dutch *schelf*), Old English *scylfe*, *saife* shelf, ledge, floor, *scylf* peak, pinnacle, and possibly with Old Icelandic *-skjalf* bench, peak, from Proto-Germanic **skelf-/skalf-*.

shell *n.* Probably before 1300 *shelle*; developed from Old English *sciell*, *scill* (before 1100); earlier *scel* (before 800); related to Old English *scealu* shell, husk; cognate with Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *schelle* shell, pod, rind, Old High German *scala* shell, husk (modern German *Schale*), Old Icelandic *skel* shell, and Gothic *skalja* tile, from Proto-Germanic **skaljo*. —**v.** 1562, from the noun. —**shellfish** *n.* (before 899)

shellac *n.* 1713, formed from English *shell* + *lac*; translation of French *laque en écailles* lac in thin plates. —**v.** 1882, from the noun.

shelter *n.* 1585, something that covers or protects from weather; of uncertain origin, but possibly an altered form of Middle English *sheltron*, *sheltrun* roof or wall formed by locked shields (probably before 1400), earlier *sceldtrume* (probably before 1200); developed from Old English (about 1000) *scyltrumma*, *scieldtruma* (*scield* shield + *truma* troop), compact body of troops; originally body of men protected by their shields locked to form a roof and wall. —**v.** 1590, from the noun.

shelve¹ *v.* put on a shelf. 1591, to overhang, project; back formation from *shelves*, plural of SHELF (also first recorded as a plural). The meaning of put on a shelf is first recorded in 1655 and that of lay aside, dismiss, in 1812.

shelve² *v.* to slope gradually. 1587 (implied in *shelving*), to tilt or tip up; later, to slope gradually (1614); developed from Middle English *shelven* to slope, from *shelfe* grassy slope (before 1400); see SHELF.

shenanigan *n.* 1855, of uncertain origin. Spanish *chanada* (a shortened form of *charranada*) trick or deceit, is a possible source, or less likely, German peddler's argot *Schenigelei* work, craft, or the German slang verb *schinäglen* to toil.

shepherd *n.* Probably about 1200 *shephirde* tender of sheep; later *shepherde* (about 1387–95); developed from Old English (before 1023) *scēaphierde* (*scēap* sheep + *hierde* herder, from *heord* a herd). —**v.** 1790 (implied in *shepherding*) to tend sheep; from the noun. The sense of watch over, guide, direct, is found in 1820.

sherbet *n.* 1615 *sherbet* cooling drink made of fruit juice and sweetened water, popular in the Orient; earlier *zerbet* (1603); borrowed from Turkish *serbet*, from Persian *sharbat*, from Arabic *sharbah* a drink, from *shariba* he drank. Compare SYRUP. The sense of flavored ice is first recorded in 1891.

sheriff *n.* 1100 *scireve* law-enforcing officer of a shire or county; later *sherref* (about 1350), *sheryff* (before 1425); developed from Old English (about 1034) *scīrgerefa* representative of the royal authority in a shire (*scīr* SHIRE + *gerefa* chief official, reeve).

sherry *n.* 1608, singular formed from *sherris* (1597), which was taken as a plural; borrowed from Spanish *vino de Xeres* wine from Xeres, a town (now called *Jerez*), near the port of Cadiz, where this wine was made.

shibboleth *n.* Before 1382 *Seboleth*; later *Schiboleth* (1535); borrowed from Hebrew *shibboleth* flood, stream; said to have been used as a password by the Gileadites to distinguish their own men from the fleeing Ephraimites, because the Ephraimites could not pronounce the *sh* sound. The figurative sense of a test word, watchword, or slogan, is first recorded in 1638.

shield *n.* Probably before 1200 *scheld* piece of armor, protection; later *shilde* (about 1450); developed from Old English *scield*, *sceld*, *scild* (about 725, in *Beowulf*), related to *sciell* *SHELL*, and cognate with Old Saxon *skild* shield, Middle Dutch *schild*, *schild* (modern Dutch *schild*), Old High German *silt* (modern German *Schild*), Old Icelandic *skjöldr* (Swedish *sköld*, Norwegian and Danish *skjold*), and Gothic *skildus*, from Proto-Germanic **skeldūs*. —*v.* Probably before 1200 *schilden*; developed from Old English *scildan* (about 725, in *Beowulf*), from *sild* shield, *n.*

shift *v.* About 1250 *shiften* change, exchange, replace; earlier *sciften* divide, distribute (about 1200); developed from Old English (about 1000) *sciften* arrange, divide; related to *scēadan* divide, separate; see *SHED*² cast off, and cognate with Old Frisian *skifta* determine, Middle Low German *schiften*, *schichten* arrange, divide, Middle Dutch *schichten* (modern Dutch *schiften* separate, sift), German *schichten* arrange in layers, and Old Icelandic *skipta* to share, divide, change (Swedish *skifta*, Norwegian and Danish *skifte*), from Proto-Germanic **skiftanan*.

The sense of change appeared about 1250, that of move, transfer probably before 1300, and that of manage to get along (as in *shift for oneself*) in 1461. —*n.* Before 1325, *sift* effort, attempt; about 1300 *shift*; from the verb, and probably influenced by Old Icelandic *skipta*. The sense of a change, substitution, succession, is first recorded in 1580. —**shiftless** *adj.* 1562, helpless; later, not resourceful, lazy (1584); formed from earlier *shift* resourcefulness + *-less*. —**shifty** *adj.* 1570, able to manage for oneself, full of expedients; formed from English *shift*, *n.* + *-y*¹. The sense of using dishonest methods, not straightforward, is first recorded in 1837.

shill *n.* 1916, one who acts as a decoy for a gambler, auctioneer, etc. (probably originally circus or carnival use); perhaps shortened from *shillabera* a shill (1913), of unknown origin. —*v.* 1914, related to the noun.

shillelagh or **shillalah** *n.* 1772, cudgel; earlier, the oak wood used to make cudgels (1677); from *Shillelagh*, a town and barony of Ireland.

shilling *n.* Probably before 1225 *shillinges*; developed from Old English (about 900) *scilling*; cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *skilling* coin used as unit of money, Middle Dutch *scellinc* (modern Dutch *schelling*), Old High German *skilling* (modern German *Schilling*), Old Icelandic *skillingr* (Norwegian, Swedish, and Danish *skilling*), and Gothic *skillinggs*. The Old English word and its cognates have been referred to

Proto-Germanic **skell-* to resound, ring and to Proto-Germanic **skeld-* shield. The ending may represent the suffix *-ling*.

shilly-shally *adv.* 1703, from earlier *shill I, shall I* (1700), varied reduplication of *shall I?*, reflected in and probably influenced by such formations as *dilly-dally*, and *wishy-washy*. —*v.* 1782, from the adverb.

shimmer *v.* Before 1250 *schimeren*, gleam faintly; developed from Late Old English (before 1100) *scimerian*; related to *scīman* to shine, grow dark, and *scīnan* to SHINE, and cognate with Middle Low German *schēmeren* be shadowy, grow dark, shimmer, Middle Dutch *scēmeren* (modern Dutch *schemereren*), and modern German *schimmern* to shimmer. —*n.* 1821, from the verb.

shimmy *n.* 1918, a jazz dance with much shaking of the body (originally in the phrase *shaking the shimmy* and *shimmy shake*, names of the dance); of uncertain origin (suggested as an extended sense of *shimmy* a chemise, 1837, alteration of *CHEMISE*, but more likely built on *shimmer* and its sense of glistening light). The general sense of a shaking or vibration is first recorded in 1925. —*v.* 1919, to dance the shimmy; from the noun. The general sense of shake, shiver, vibrate, is found in 1925.

shin *n.* About 1250 *shine*; developed from Old English (before 1000) *scīnu*; cognate with Middle Low German *schēne* shin, Middle Dutch *scēne* (modern Dutch *scheen*), Old High German *scīna* shin, needle, modern German *Schienbein* shinbone, *Schiene* rail, band, Swedish *skena*, and dialectal Norwegian *skina* thin disc, from Proto-Germanic **skīnō*. —*v.* 1829, from the noun. —**shiny** *v.* 1888, extended form of *shin*, *v.* + *-y*³.

shindig *n.* 1871, probably from earlier *shindy* a spree, merry-making (1821), of unknown origin.

shine *v.* Probably before 1200 *schinen*; probably about 1200 *shinen*; developed from Old English (before 800) *scīnan* shed light, be radiant; cognate with Old Frisian *skīna* to shine, Old Saxon *skīnan*, Middle Dutch *scīnen* (modern Dutch *schijnen*), Old High German *skīnan* (modern German *scheinen*), Old Icelandic *skīna* (Norwegian and Danish *skinne*, Swedish *skina*), and Gothic *skeinan*, from Proto-Germanic **skīnanan*. —*n.* Before 1529, from the verb. —**shiny** *adj.* 1590, formed from English *shine* *n.* + *-y*¹.

shingle¹ *n.* thin piece of wood. About 1200 *scindle*; later *schingle* (before 1300), *shyngle* (1439); probably borrowed from Late Latin *scindula*, alteration (by influence of Greek *schidax* lath, or *schindalmós* splinter) of Latin *scandula* shingle. The small signboard is found in 1842, and the woman's short haircut in 1924. —*v.* 1562, from the verb.

shingle² *n.* loose stones on the seashore. 1513, beach covered with pebbles; later, the pebbles themselves (1598); of uncertain origin (sometimes referred to Norwegian *singl* small stones, coarse sand).

shingles *n. sing. or pl.* Before 1398 *schingles*; borrowed from Medieval Latin *cingulus*, variant of Latin *cingulum* girdle, from

cingere to gird; so called because shingles often causes inflammation that extends around the middle of the body. The Medieval Latin word is a loan translation of Greek *zōstēr* girdle, shingles.

ship *n.* Probably before 1200 *schip*, *shiþe*; developed from Old English (before 800) *scip* ship, boat; cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *skip* ship, Middle Dutch *scip* (modern Dutch *schip*), Middle Low German *schip*, *schēp* (modern Low German *schipp*), Old High German *scif*, *skef* (modern German *Schiff*), Old Icelandic *skip* (Swedish *skepp*, Norwegian *skip*, Danish *skib*), and Gothic *skip*, from Proto-Germanic **skipan*. —**v.** Probably before 1300 *shippen* put or take on board a ship; developed from Old English (about 900) *gescipian* provide with ships; from *scip* ship, *n.* —**shipboard** *n.* (about 1200) —**shipper** *n.* (1075, a seaman; 1755 one who ships goods) —**shipwreck** *n.* (probably before 1100); *v.* (1589)

—**ship** a suffix forming nouns meaning: 1 quality or condition, as in *partnership* = the condition of being a partner. 2 act, power, or skill, as in *workmanship* = skill of a workman. 3 relation between, as in *fellowship* = relation between fellows. 4 office, position, or occupation, as in *governorship* = office of a governor. 5 number, as in *readership* = the number of readers. Middle English *-schipe*, *-shiþe*, *-ship*; developed from Old English *-scipe* state or condition of being, related to *sceppan*, *sieppan* to create, form, cognate with Old Frisian *-skip*, *-skipi* state or condition, *-ship*, Old Saxon *-skap*, *-skepi*, *-skipi*, Middle Dutch *-scap* (modern Dutch *-schap*), Old High German *-scaf*, *-scaft* (modern German *-schaft*), and Old Icelandic *-skapr* (Norwegian and Swedish *-skap*, Danish *-skab*), from Proto-Germanic **-skapaz*.

shire *n.* Probably before 1200 *schire*; developed from Old English (before 800) *scīr* administrative office or district. The only known Germanic cognate is Old High German *scīra* care, official charge (from Proto-Germanic **skīzō*).

shirk *v.* 1633 *sherk*, 1634 *shirk* (implied in *shirking*) to practice fraud or trickery, prey on others, sponge; of unknown origin. The meaning of evade one's work or duty, is found in 1785.

shirr *v.* 1847 (implied in *shirred*); of unknown origin. —**shirred** *adj.* 1847, having elastic threads woven into the texture.

shirt *n.* Probably before 1200 *shurte*; later *schirt* (about 1300); developed from Old English (before 1000) *scyrte*; cognate with Middle Low German *schörte* apron, skirt, Middle Dutch *scorte* (modern Dutch *schort*), Middle High German *schurz* (modern German *Schurz* apron, *Schürze* apron, skirt), and Old Icelandic *skyrta* shirt, from Proto-Germanic **skurtijōn*, a short garment, and derived from the same source as Old English *scort*, *seort* SHORT. —**shirtsleeve** *n.* Usually *shirtsleeves* pl. (about 1566)

shish kebab 1914, borrowing of Armenian *shish kabab*, from Turkish *siskebab* (*sis* skewer + *kebab* roast mutton).

shivaree *n.* 1843, alteration of earlier *charivari*, *charivary* (1735); borrowed from French *charivari*, from Old French *chaliwali* discordant noise made by pans, pots, etc., from Late Latin

caribaria, *carēbaria* severe headache, from Greek *karēbariā* headache (*kārē* head + *barýs* heavy).

shiver¹ *v.* shake. Probably before 1405 *shyveren*; alteration of earlier *chiveren* (about 1200), of uncertain origin. —**n.** 1727, from the verb. The alteration in spelling from *ch-* to *sh-* has been attributed to influence of *sh-* in *shake*.

shiver² *n.* small piece. Probably before 1200 *scifre*; later *schiver* (about 1300); probably cognate with Middle Low German *schēver*, *schiver* splinter, Old High German *scivaro*, modern German *Schiefer* slate, *Scheibe* slice, pane, and Old Icelandic *skífa* a slice; see *SKEWER*. —**v.** Probably before 1200 *shivren* break into shivers, later *shiveren* (before 1338); from the noun.

shoal¹ *n.* place where water is shallow. About 1375 *schald*; later *sholde* (1414); noun use of adjective *shald* not deep, shallow (1375); earlier *schealde* (before 1333); developed from Old English (839) *sceald* shallow. The final *-d* gradually disappeared in the 1500's. Old English *sceald* is cognate with Middle Low German *schal* stale (modern Low German, dry), Middle High German and modern German *schal* stale, insipid; dialectal Swedish *skäll* thin, stale (from Proto-Germanic **skala-*). Related to *SHALLOW*. —**v.** 1574 (implied in *shoaling*); from earlier *shoal*, *adj.*, shallow (before 1554), alteration of Middle English *shald* (1375); developed from Old English *sceald* shallow.

shoal² *n.* large number, crowd. 1579 *shole*, probably developed (through Middle English **shole*) from Old English *scolu* band, troop, school of fish; cognate with Old Saxon *scola* troop, multitude, Middle Dutch *shole* multitude, flock, school of fish, West Frisian *skoal*; perhaps all with an original meaning of division. —**v.** 1610, from the noun.

shoat *n.* 1408 *schote*; perhaps borrowed from a Low German word (compare Flemish *schote* shoat).

shock¹ *n.* sudden and violent shake, blow, or crash. 1565, encounter in a battle, joust, or charge; borrowed from Middle French *choc* violent attack, from Old French *choquer* strike against, probably borrowed from a Germanic source (compare Middle Dutch *schokken* to push, jolt, Middle Low German *schocken* to shake, tremble, and Middle High German *schocken* to swing, dance, all possibly cognate with Old High German *scioban* to push, *SHOVE*). The sense of a sudden and violent shake, blow, or crash, is first recorded in English in 1614. —**v.** 1568, to shake or weaken by a shock; borrowed from Middle French *choquer* to strike against. The sense of offend, displease, astonish, is first recorded in 1694. —**shocking** *adj.* (1691, with the French spelling *choquant*; 1697 *shocking*; 1703, offensive)

shock² *n.* bundles of grain. Before 1325 *scholke* (probably an error for *schokke*); later *schocke* (about 1350); perhaps borrowed from Middle Low German *schok* shock of corn, group of sixty; cognate with Dutch *schok* group of sixty, Middle High German *schoc* pile, group of sixty (modern German *Schock*), and Old Saxon *scol* group of sixty, from Proto-Germanic **skeuka-*. —**v.** Before 1338 *schokken*; from the noun.

shoddy *adj.* 1862, adjective use of earlier *shoddy* inferior kind

of wool made of woolen waste, old rags, etc. (1832), of uncertain origin.

shoe *n.* Probably before 1200 *scheo*, *sho* covering for the foot; later *shoe* (about 1378); developed from Old English (about 950) *scōh*; cognate with Old Frisian *skōch* shoe, Old Saxon *skōh*, Middle Dutch *scoe*, *scoen* (modern Dutch *schoen*), Old High German *scuoh* (modern German *Schuh*), Old Icelandic *skōr* (Swedish, Danish, and Norwegian *sko*), and Gothic *skōhs*, from Proto-Germanic **skōHaz*. —**v.** Probably before 1200 *scheoien*; later *shoen* (probably before 1300); developed from Old English *scōgan*, *scōgian* (before 899), from the noun. —**shoemaker** *n.* (1381)

shoot *v.* Probably about 1200 *scheoten* move swiftly, rush, fly; later *shoten*, *schoten* (probably before 1300), *shooten* (before 1463); developed from Old English *scēotan* (before 899); cognate with Old Frisian *skiāta* to shoot, Old Saxon *skiotan*, Middle Dutch *scieten* (modern Dutch *schieten*), Old High German *skiozzan* (modern German *schiessen*), Old Icelandic *skjōta* (Norwegian *skytte*, Swedish *skjuta*, Danish *skyde*), and Crimean Gothic *schieten* to shoot, from Proto-Germanic **skeutanan*. Such common meanings of *shoot* as that of send forth swiftly and suddenly and send forth or wound with missiles are recorded in Old English —**n.** About 1450 *schoyte* young branch, new growth, from the verb. The meaning of an act of shooting (with firearms, etc.) is first recorded in 1534. —**shooting star** (1593)

shop *n.* About 1300 *ssope* place where goods are made for sale; later *schoppe* (before 1387), and as surname *Shoppe* (1301); developed from Old English (before 1050) *scoppa* booth or shed for trade or work; related to Old English *scypen*, *scipen* cowshed, and cognate with Middle Low German *schoppe* shed, and Old High German *scopf* porch, shed, from Proto-Germanic **skupp-*. —**v.** 1583, to shut up in prison; from the noun. The meaning of visit shops is first recorded in 1764.

shore¹ *n.* land at the edge of a sea, lake, etc. Probably about 1380 *shore*, of uncertain origin; possibly developed by shift in vowel grade from Old English *sceran* shear (as in *scoren* cliff precipice); or perhaps borrowed from Middle Low German *schōr*, *schōre* shore, coast, headland, or from Middle Dutch *score* land washed by the sea (modern Dutch *schor*, cognate with Frisian *schoarre*, and Old High German *scorna* steep cliff). It is probable that all of these words had an original sense of division as (between land and water), and derive from the same source as Old English *sceran*, *scieran* to cut, *SHEAR*.

shore² *v.* prop up, support. 1340 *ssoren*; later *schorien* (before 1425); probably from the noun, perhaps reinforced by Middle Dutch *scōren* (modern Dutch *schoren*) to prop up, support, which is cognate with Frisian *schoarje*, and Old Icelandic *skordha* (Norwegian *skorde*). —**n.** 1318 *shor*; probably borrowed from Middle Low German *schōre* a prop, stay, support; cognate with Middle Dutch *scōre* a prop, support (modern Dutch *schoor*), Frisian *schoarre*, and Old Icelandic *skordha* (Norwegian *skorde*).

short *adj.* Probably about 1200 *shorrt*; developed from Old English *scort*, *scort* (before 899); cognate with Old High Ger-

man *scurz* short, and Old Icelandic *skort*, *skortr* lack, *skorta* to lack; probably from Proto-Germanic **skurtā-*. —**adv.** Before 1325 *schort* in a short manner; from the adjective. —**n.** Before 1586, summary, upshot, especially in the *short of it*, though earlier found in the sense of briefly, concisely in *in short* (about 1386); later, something short (1591); from the adjective. *Shorts*, pl., short trousers, is first recorded in 1826. The meaning of an electrical short circuit is first recorded in 1854. —**v.** 1867, to cause or experience an electrical short circuit. —**shortage** *n.* (1868) —**shorten** *v.* 1470, formed from English *short*, *adj.* + *-en*¹. —**shortening** *n.* butter or other fat used in baking. 1823, formed from *shorten* make crumbly (from *short* in the sense of easily crumbled) + *-ing*¹. —**shortly** *adv.* Probably before 1200 *shorrtlike* briefly; developed from Old English *scortlice* (before 899); formed from *scort* short + *-lice* *-ly*¹. The sense of "in a short time" is first recorded before 1050.

shot¹ *n.* discharge of a weapon. Probably about 1300 *schot* act of shooting; developed from Old English *scot*, *sceot*, *gesceot* that which is discharged in shooting (before 899, from Proto-Germanic **skutan*); related to *scēotan* to SHOOT, and cognate with Old Frisian *skot* missile, shot, Old Saxon *-scot*, Middle Low German *schot*, Middle Dutch *scot* (modern Dutch *schot*), Old High German *scoz*, *giscosz* missile (modern German *Geschoss*), *scuz* shot (modern German *Schuss*), and Old Icelandic *skot* (Norwegian *skot*, Swedish *skott*, Danish *skudd*).

The meaning of the discharge of a bow (later applied to a firearm) is first recorded in Old English (about 1000). The collective sense of balls, bullets, or other projectiles is first recorded in Middle English before 1387.

shot² *adj.* woven so as to show a play of colors. 1763, adjective use of *shot*, past participle of SHOOT in the earlier sense of variegated by mixing in different colored threads in the woof (1532–33).

should *v.* Probably about 1200 *sholde*; developed from Old English *sceolde*, *scolde* (about 725, in *Beowulf*), past tense of *sceal* SHALL.

shoulder *n.* Probably about 1200 *shuldre*; later *sholdre* (about 1300); developed from Old English (before 800) *sculdor*; cognate with Old Frisian *skuldere* shoulder, Middle Low German *schulder*, Middle Dutch *scouder* (modern Dutch *schouder*), and Old High German *scultra*, *sculterra* (modern German *Schulter*), from Proto-Germanic **skuldrō*. —**v.** About 1300 *shuldren* to push against with the shoulder; from the noun. The sense of bear a burden, assume a responsibility or expense, is first recorded in 1582. —**shoulder blade** (about 1300)

shout *v.* 1375 *schouten* to call or cry out loudly; of uncertain origin; probably a derivation from the root of SHOOT, *v.*, —**n.** 1375 *shout*, from the same source as the verb, and corresponding to Old Icelandic *skūta* a taunt.

shove *v.* Probably before 1200 *scuven*, *shufen* to thrust away, push; later *shoven* (probably before 1300); developed from Old English *scūfan* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *skūva* to push, shove, Middle Low German *schūven*, Middle Dutch *scūven* (modern Dutch *schuiven*), Old High German *scioban* (modern German *schieben*), Old Icelandic

skūfa, *skýfa* (Norwegian *skyve*), and Gothic *afskiuban* push away from Proto-Germanic **skeub-/skūb-*. —**n.** Before 1325 *scov* act of shoving, push; from the verb.

shovel *n.* About 1300 *schovelle* spadelike digging tool; implied in *soveltrouwe* (1277); developed from Old English *scofl* (before 800), related to *scūfan* SHOVE. Old English *scofl* (from Proto-Germanic **skublō*) is cognate with Old Saxon *skūfla* shovel, Middle Low German *schūfle*, *schuffele*, Middle Dutch *schuffel* (modern Dutch *schoffel*), Old High German *skūfla*, *scūvala* (modern German *Schaufel*), and Old Swedish *skofl* (Swedish *skovel*). —**v.** 1440 *schovelen*, from the noun.

show *v.* Probably before 1200 *shewen* let be seen, put in sight; later *showen* (before 1300); developed from Old English *scēawian* look at, see (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *skāwia*, *skōwia* look at, see, Old Saxon *skauwon*, Middle Dutch *scouwen* (modern Dutch *schouwen*), Old High German *scouwōn* (modern German *schauen*), from Proto-Germanic **skauwōjanan*, root **skau-* behold, look at, and Old Icelandic *skygn* sharp-sighted, *skygna* to spy (Norwegian *skygne*). —**n.** Probably before 1300 *schewe* act of showing; from the verb. The meaning of an elaborate spectacle, large display, is first recorded in 1561.

shower *n.* Probably about 1200 *shure*; later *shoure* (about 1325), *showre* (probably before 1425); developed from Old English *scūr* short fall of rain, fall of missiles or blows (about 950); cognate with Old Saxon *scūr* shower, Old Frisian *skūr* fit of illness, Middle Dutch *schuur* shower, Old High German *scūr* (modern German *Schauer*), from Proto-Germanic **skūrāz*; Old Icelandic *skūr* shower, and Gothic *skūra* storm, from Proto-Germanic **skūrō*.

The sense of a shower bath is first recorded in 1851, that of a party for giving presents (1904), and an abundant supply, as in a *shower of gifts* (about 1325). —**v.** 1573, from the noun.

shrapnel *n.* 1806, from the name of Henry Shrapnel, British army officer who invented this shell. The sense of shell fragments is first recorded in 1940.

shred *n.* Probably before 1200 *shrade* fragment, scrap; later *schreade* (before 1250), *shrede* (about 1300); developed from Old English *scrēade* (about 1000); cognate with Old Frisian *skerēd* a cutting, clipping, Middle Low German *schrōt*, *schrāt* shred, piece cut off, Middle Dutch *scrōde*, Old High German *scrōt* (modern German *Schrot*), Old Icelandic *skerjōðhr* old book, from Proto-Germanic **skraudās*. —**v.** Probably about 1200 *shredenn* chop, cut up; later *shreden* (1373); developed from Old English *scrēadian* prune, cut (about 1000), related to *scrēade*, *n.* The Old English verb is cognate with Middle Low German *schrōden*, *schrāden* to shred, cut up, Middle Dutch *scrōden* (modern Dutch *schroeien*), and Old High German *scrōtan* (modern German *schroten*).

shrew¹ *n.* small mammal. 1538, developed from Old English (before 800) *scrēawa*. The word is not found elsewhere in Germanic and its origin is uncertain.

shrew² *n.* scolding woman. Probably about 1225 *schrewe* ras-cal, rogue; later, scolding woman (about 1303). Traditionally

the word is considered a figurative use of SHREW¹ in reference to various superstitions about the malignant influence of the animal, popularly held to be venomous and otherwise injurious. —**shrewish** *adj.* 1565, scolding, bad-tempered, formed from English *shrew*² + *-ish*. An earlier meaning of wicked or evil is found about 1375.

shrewd *adj.* About 1280 *schrewede* wicked, evil, malicious; later *shrewde* (before 1382); formed from *shrewe*, *schrewe* SHREW² + *-ed*². The sense of astute, clever, cunning, is first recorded in 1520.

shriek *v.* 1567 *shrick*; later *shreke* (1577); apparently a variant of earlier *skericke* (perhaps before 1500), *screak* (1565); borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *skrækja* to SCREECH). —**n.** 1590, act of shrieking; from the verb.

shrift *n.* Probably before 1200, confession to a priest followed by penance and absolution; developed from Old English *scrift* (about 1030), verbal noun from *scrifan* to SHRIVE and is an early borrowing of Latin *scriptum* (see SCRIPT), corresponding to Old Frisian *skrift* letters, writing, Middle Low German *scrift*, Middle Dutch *scrift* (modern Dutch *schrift*), Old High German *scrift* (modern German *Schrift*), and Old Icelandic *skript* (Norwegian, Swedish, and Danish *skrift*).

The meaning of penance and confession is confined to Old English and Scandinavian, arising probably from an original meaning of prescribed penalty. The other languages cited have only the senses of writing, scripture, written characters. The expression *short shrift* originally, a brief time for a criminal to confess before execution (1594), is extended in the figurative sense of little or no consideration, mercy, or delay in dealing with a person or problem (as in *give short shrift to*) first recorded in 1814.

shrike *n.* 1544, perhaps developed from Old English *scric* a thrush, any bird with a shrill call; cognate with Middle Low German *schrike* moor hen, modern Icelandic *skrikja* crow, Swedish *skrika* jay, and possibly with Old Icelandic *skrækja* to SCREECH.

shrill *adj.* Probably about 1380 *schrylle* high and sharp in sound, piercing; later *shrille* (about 1390); probably related to Old English *scralletan* to sound loudly, and cognate with Low German *schrell* shrill (modern German *schrill*), Norwegian *skrelle* a rattle, Swedish *skrälla* to crack, clap, and Old Icelandic *skerlta* to rattle, clatter.

shrimp *n.* 1327 *shrimpe* kind of slender shellfish; cognate (and having a shared sense of thin) with dialectal Danish *skrimpe* thin cattle, dialectal Norwegian *skrumpe* thin cow, and probably with standard Norwegian *skrumpe* to shrink up, shrivel, Swedish *skrumpna*, Middle High German *schrimpfen* (modern German *skrumpfen*), and Old Icelandic *skreppa* (n.) thin person, (v.) draw together, from Proto-Germanic **skrempanan*. Compare SCRIMP. The meaning of a diminutive or puny person (about 1390), probably came directly from the etymological sense of a shrunken creature.

shrine *n.* About 1280 *schryne* case or box holding a relic; developed from Old English (about 1000) *scrīn* ark of the

covenant, case for relics, borrowed from Latin *scrinium* case or box for keeping papers. The Latin word was borrowed by other Germanic languages: Old Frisian *skrin* shrine, Middle Low German *schrin*, Middle Dutch *scrine* (modern Dutch *schrijn*), and Old High German *scrini* (modern German *Schrein*). The place of worship is first recorded in 1627. —**v.** enclose in a shrine. About 1300 *schrienen*; from the noun.

shrink *v.* Before 1300 *schrinken* wither, shrivel; developed from Old English *scrinan* (before 899), from Proto-Germanic **skrenkanan*; cognate with Middle Dutch *schrinken* draw back, Old Swedish *skrunken* shrunken, Swedish *skrynkla* to wrinkle, crease, Norwegian *skrukke* wrinkle, and Old Icelandic *skrukka* wrinkled old woman. The meaning of draw back, recoil, is first recorded in English about 1325; the sense of make smaller, about 1380. —**n.** 1590, from the verb. The slang sense of psychiatrist is first recorded in 1966; compare earlier *head-shrinker* (1950).

shrive *v.* Probably before 1200 *scriven*, *scrifen* hear the confession of, impose penance on, and grant absolution to; later *scriven* (about 1230); developed from Old English (before 776) *scrifan* assign, decree, impose penance; borrowed from Latin *scribere* to write (see SCRIBE), borrowed into other Germanic languages: Old Frisian *skriwa* to shrive, write, Old Saxon *skriban* to write, Middle Low German *schriuen*, Middle Dutch *scriven* (modern Dutch *schrijven*), Old High German *scriban* (modern German *schreiben*), and Old Icelandic *skrifja* to draw, paint, write, depict. Related to SHRIFT.

shrivel *v.* 1568 (implied in *shriveled*, adj.); of unknown origin. Swedish *skryvla* to shrivel, is a possible cognate.

shroud *n.* Probably before 1200 *shrud* garment; later *shroude* (about 1325); developed from Old English (about 1000) *scrūd* a garment, clothing (Proto-Germanic **skrudān*), related to *scēade* SHRED and cognate with Old Icelandic *skriðh* shrouds of a ship, ornament, fabric, Middle Swedish *skruther* formal clothing, ornament, Norwegian and Swedish *skrud* attire. The meaning of a cloth or sheet for burial is first recorded in 1570. The meaning of *shroud*, *shrouds*, any of the ropes supporting the mast of a ship, is an extension of clothe as supported by the nautical phrase *clothe the mast with shrouds* and the application of *naked* to a mast or spar without its rigging. The same sense of development appears in Old Icelandic. —**v.** Probably before 1350 *schruden* to dress, clothe; later, to cover, veil (before 1420); from the noun.

Shrovetide *n.* Before 1400 *Schroftyde*; formed in Middle English from *Schrof*, *Shrof* (related to *scrifen* SHRIVE) + *tide* time; so called because Shrovetide is a time for confession and absolution.

shrub *n.* Probably before 1387, developed from Old English (972) *scrybb* brushwood, shrubbery; possibly cognate with Middle Danish *skrubbe* thicket, shrub. Compare SCRUB², *n.* —**shrubbery** *n.* 1748, a plot of shrubs; formed from English *shrub* + *-ery*.

shrug *v.* 1440 *schruggen* to shiver, shudder (possibly earlier in *schurgyng*, about 1400); also, about 1450, raise the shoulders as

an expression of dislike, indifference, etc.; of uncertain origin. —**n.** 1594, from the verb.

shtick or **schtik** *n.* 1959 *schtik*, borrowed from Yiddish *shtik* an act, gimmick; literally, a piece, slice, from Middle High German *stücke*, from Old High German *stucki*; see STOCK.

shuck *n.* 1674, husk, pod, or shell, of unknown origin. The meaning of something valueless (as in *it isn't worth shucks*) is first recorded in 1847. The interjection *shucks*, a euphemistic exclamation of impatience or irritation, derives from this sense (1847). —**v.** 1819, from the noun.

shudder *v.* Probably about 1200 *schuderen*; of uncertain origin (possibly borrowed from Middle Dutch *schūderen* to shudder, or Middle Low German *schōderen*, both derived from the source of Old High German *skutten* to shake), from Proto-Germanic **skud-*. —**n.** 1607, from the verb.

shuffle *v.* 1532 *shoffle* to put together hastily; later *shuffle* to push or thrust in underhandedly, smuggle in (1565); probably from Middle English *shovelen* to move with dragging feet (before 1450); probably a frequentative form of *shoven* SHOVE; for suffix see -LE³. —**n.** 1628, evasive trick, subterfuge; from the verb. The sense of a dragging movement of the feet is found in 1659.

shun *v.* Probably before 1200 *schunen* keep away from, avoid; developed from Old English *scunian* to shun, detest (before 950), of uncertain origin.

shunt *v.* Before 1250 *schunten* to shy or start; later, turn away, withdraw (about 1390); perhaps derived from *shunen* to SHUN. The sense of move out of the way, push aside, is first recorded in 1706. —**n.** 1842, railroad switch; from the verb. The technical sense of an electric conductor, is found in 1863.

shut *v.* Probably before 1200 *schutten*; developed from Old English *scyttan* to put (a lock, bar, or bolt) in place so as to fasten a door or gate (about 1000); cognate with Old Frisian *sketta* to shut up, obstruct, Middle Dutch *scutten* (modern Dutch *schutten*), and Middle Low German *schutten*, from Proto-Germanic **skutjanan*. —**shutter** *n.* 1542, person or thing that shuts; formed from English *shut*, *v.* + *-er*¹. The sense of a movable cover for a window is first recorded in 1720.

shuttle *n.* 1338 *shuttle*; later *shetel* (before 1425), *shootyll* (probably 1450), *shutylle* (probably about 1475); developed from Old English (before 850) *scytel* a dart, arrow, related to *scēotan* to SHOOT, and cognate with Old Icelandic *skutill* harpoon, Norwegian *skutel*, and Swedish *skyttel* shuttle, from Proto-Germanic **skutilaz*. The sense of a train that runs back and forth over a short distance is first recorded in 1895, and as applied to aircraft is found in 1942. —**v.** 1550, from the noun.

shy¹ *adj.* bashful. Before 1250 *sheouh* easily frightened or startled; later *schey* (1440); developed from Old English (about 1000) *scēoh*; cognate with Middle Low German *schūw* shy, Middle Dutch *scā*, *scou* (modern Dutch *schuw*), Middle High German *schiech* shy (from Proto-Germanic **skeuH(w)az*), modern German *scheu* shy, Old High German *sciuhen* make fearful, frighten (modern German *scheuchen*), Norwegian and

Swedish *skygg* shy (from Proto-Germanic **skuwās*). The spelling *shy* is not recorded before the 1600's. The sense of cautious, suspicious, is first recorded in 1600, and that of bashful, retiring, in 1672. —**v.** 1650, recoil, shrink; from the adjective. The meaning of start back or aside suddenly (said of horses) appeared in 1796.

shy² *v.* to throw, fling. 1787, of uncertain origin; earlier uses refer to throwing sticks at cocks, suggesting *shy cock* timid person (1768), perhaps meaning a cock that refuses to fight; see SHY¹.

shyster *n.* 1843, unscrupulous lawyer; alteration (by *-ster*, as in *trickster*) of German *Scheisser* incompetent, worthless person, from *Scheisse* (vulgar) excrement.

si *n.* 1728, seventh note of the musical scale; ti; borrowed from Italian, from the initial letters of Latin *Sancte Iohannes* Saint John, the words sung to this note in the Hymn for St. John the Baptist's day; see GAMUT.

sib *adj.* Old English *sibb* (about 725, in *Beowulf*), related to *sibb*, *n.*, kinship, relationship; cognate with Old Frisian *sibbe* kinship, *sib* akin, Old Saxon *sibbia* kinship, *sibbio* kinsman, Middle Dutch *sibbe* kinship, Old High German *sippea*, *sippa* (modern German *Sippe*), Old Icelandic *sifjar*, *pl.*, and Gothic *sibja* kinship, from Proto-Germanic **sehjō*. —**n.** Old English (before 1000) *sibb* kinsfolk, relatives; later, a kinsman, relative (before 1023); from the adjective. —**sibling** *n.* 1903, modern revival (in anthropology) of Old English *sibling* relative, kinsman (about 1000); formed from *sib*, *sibb* *sib*, *adj.* + *-ling*.

sibilant *adj.* 1669, borrowed from Latin *sibilantem* (nominative *sibilans*), present participle of *sibilare* to hiss, whistle, possibly of imitative origin; for suffix see *-ANT*. —**n.** 1822, from the adjective.

sibyl *n.* Probably before 1200 *sibeli* any of several prophetesses that the ancient Greeks and Romans consulted; later *sibil* (before 1325); borrowed from Old French *sibile*, *sebile*, and from Medieval Latin *Sibilla*, from Latin *Sibylla*, from Greek *Sibylla*. —**sibylline** *adj.* 1579–80, said or written by a sibyl; later, prophetic, mysterious (1817); formed in English from *sibyl* + *-ine* on the model of Latin *Sibyllinus* of a sibyl, from *Sibylla* a sibyl.

sic¹ *adv.* so, thus (used to show that something has been copied as in the original). 1887, borrowed, perhaps by influence of its use in French (1872), from Latin *sic* so or thus, related to *sī* if.

sic² or **sick**¹ *v.* set upon or attack, as in "Sick him!" 1845 *sick*; 1890 *sic* dialectal variant of *SEEK*.

sick² *adj.* ill, ailing. Probably about 1175 *sek*; later *sik* (probably about 1225), *sick* (about 1300); developed from Old English *sēoc* (before 899); cognate with Old Frisian *siak* sick, Old Saxon *siok*, Middle Dutch *siek* (modern Dutch *ziek*), Old High German *sioh*, *siuh* (modern German *siech*), Old Icelandic *sjúk* (Norwegian and Swedish *sjuk*, Danish *syg*), and Gothic *siuks*, from Proto-Germanic **seukaz*. For spelling see *WICK*. —**sicken** *v.* Probably about 1200 *secnen* become sick (*sek* sick + *-enen* *-en*¹). The sense of make sick is first recorded in 1613.

—**sickly** *adj.* Before 1375 *sekly* ailing, often sick; formed from Middle English *sek* sick + *-ly*²; compare Middle Dutch *siekelic* (modern Dutch *ziekelijs*), Old Icelandic *sjúkligr* (Norwegian and Swedish *sjuklig*, Danish *sygelig*). —**sickness** *n.* Probably before 1200 *secnesse*; developed from Old English (about 967) *sēcnesse* (*sēoc* sick + *-nesse* *-ness*).

sickle *n.* Probably before 1200 *sikel*; developed from Old English (about 1000) *sicol*, *sicel*; borrowed from Vulgar Latin **sicula*, from Latin *sēcula* sickle. Other Germanic languages also borrowed the Latin word: Middle Dutch *sickele* (modern Dutch *sikkel*), and Old High German *sichila* (modern German *Sichel*).

side *n.* Old English (before 800) *sīde*; cognate with Old Frisian *sīde* side, Old Saxon *sīda*, Middle Dutch *sīde* (modern Dutch *zijde*), Old High German *sīta* (modern German *Seite*), and Old Icelandic *sīdha* (Swedish *sida*, Danish and Norwegian *side*), from Proto-Germanic **sīdōn*, originally denoting the long part or aspect of a thing, and connected with Old English *sīd* long, wide, Old Frisian *sīde* low, wide, Middle Dutch *sīde* low, Old High German *sīto*, *adv.*, loose, and Old Icelandic *sīdhr* long (Norwegian and Danish *sid*), from Proto-Germanic **sīdās*.

The figurative sense of a position or attitude of a person in relation to another, interest, point of view, is first recorded in Middle English about 1250. —**adj.** Before 1375, at or toward one side; from the noun. —**v.** Before 1450 *syden* (implied in *syded*, past participle) to carve (an animal) into sides; from the noun. The sense of take the side of, favor, is found in 1591. —**sideways** *adv.* (1577) —**siding** *n.* 1825, short track parallel to a main railway; 1829, boards, shingles, etc., forming the outside walls of a wooden building (*side*, *n.* or *v.* + *-ing*¹).

sideburns *n. pl.* 1887, alteration of *burnsides* (1881), from the name of Ambrose E. *Burnside*, Union general in the Civil War, who popularized side whiskers.

sidereal *adj.* 1634, starlike; borrowed from French *sidereal* (Latin *siderēus* starry, astral + French *-al* *-al*¹). Latin *siderēus* derives from *sīdus* (genitive *sīderis*) star, constellation.

sidle *v.* 1697, probably a back formation from Middle English (before 1338) *sidlyng*, *adv.*, obliquely, sideways (*side*, *n.* + *-ling*); formed on the analogy of verbs ending in *-le*. —**n.** 1853, from the verb.

siege *n.* Probably before 1200 *sege* seat used by a person of distinction; later, act of establishing forces to cut off a castle, town, etc. (probably before 1300); borrowed from Old French *sege*, *siege* seat, throne, from Vulgar Latin **sedicum* seat, from a lost verb **sedicare*, from Latin *sedere* to SIT. —**v.** Probably before 1300 *segen*; from the noun.

sienna *n.* 1760 *terra sienna*; 1787 *sienna*, borrowing of Italian, short for *terra di Sienna* earth of Siena, city in central Italy, where the coloring matter was probably first produced.

sierra *n.* 1613, borrowing of Spanish *sierra* mountain range; literally, a saw, from Latin *serra* a saw.

siesta *n.* 1655, borrowing of Spanish *siesta*, from Latin *sexta*

hōra sixth hour of the Roman day, midday, from *sexta*, feminine of *sextus* sixth, from *sex* SIX.

sieve *n.* Probably before 1300 *sive*; developed from Old English (before 800) *sife*; cognate with Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *sēve* sieve (modern Dutch *zeef*), Old High German *sib* (modern German *Sieb*), Old Icelandic *sef* rush (a plant used for making sieves), Norwegian *sev*, Swedish *säv*, Danish *siv*, from Proto-Germanic **sibī*. —**v.** Probably before 1475 *syffen*; later *syve* (1530); from the noun.

sift *v.* Before 1325 *siften* to pass (something) through a sieve; developed from Old English (before 800) *siftan*, related to *sife* SIEVE, and cognate with Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *siften* (modern Dutch *ziften*). The sense of look carefully through is first recorded in 1535.

sigh *v.* About 1250 *sigen*; later *syghen* (about 1303); probably a back formation from *sighte*, past tense of Old English *sican* to sigh (before 899); of unknown origin. —**n.** Before 1325, from the verb.

sight *n.* Probably about 1175 *sihte* thing seen, power or act of seeing; later *syght* (about 1303); developed from Old English *gesiht*, *gesihth* (about 950); cognate with Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *sicht* sight (modern Dutch *zicht*), and Old High German *siht* (modern German *Sicht*); from Proto-Germanic **seH(w)*-, the stem of Old English *sēon* to SEE. —**v.** 1556, to look at, inspect; later, to see (1602); from the noun.

sign *n.* Probably before 1200 *sine*; later *signe* (about 1280); borrowed from Old French *signe* sign, mark, signature, and directly from Latin *signum* mark, token, indication, signal. —**v.** About 1300 *signen* to make the sign of the cross; later, to mark or stamp (about 1350); borrowed from Old French *signer*, from Latin *signāre*, from *signum*, *n.*, sign. The sense of write one's name to show authority is first recorded in English in 1440.

signal *n.* About 1380, visible sign, indication; borrowed from Old French *signal*, *seignal* signal, sign, from Medieval Latin *signale*, from Late Latin *signālis*, *adj.*, used as a signal, from Latin *signum* signal, SIGN; for suffix see -AL². The sense of an agreed-upon sign (as in *a signal to begin firing*) is first recorded in 1593. —**v.** 1805, from the noun. —**adj.** 1641, striking, remarkable, notable (as in *a signal achievement*); borrowed from French *signalé*, past participle of *signaler* to distinguish, from Old French *signaler*, from *signal*, *n.*

signatory *adj.* 1647, used in sealing; borrowed from Latin *signatōrius* of sealing, from *signāt-*, past participle stem of *signāre* to SIGN; for suffix see -ORY. The meaning of signing, is first recorded in 1870. —**n.** 1866, from the adjective.

signature *n.* 1534, a writing presented to be signed, as for a royal grant; borrowed through Middle French *signature*, or directly from Medieval Latin *signatura* sign, from Latin *signātūra* the matrix of a seal, from *signāre* to mark, SIGN; for suffix see -URE. The meaning of a person's name written by himself is first recorded in 1580.

signet *n.* Probably about 1380 *syngnette* small seal; about 1384

signet; borrowing of Old French *signet*, diminutive form of *signe* SIGN; for suffix see -ET.

significant *adj.* 1579, full of meaning; formed in English as an adjective to *significance* on the model of Latin *significātem* (nominative *significāns*), present participle of *significāre* to indicate, mean, SIGNIFY; for suffix see -ANT. The meaning of important or notable is first recorded before 1761. —**significance** *n.* Before 1400, the meaning of something; borrowed from Latin *significāntia* meaning, force, energy, from *significāns*, present participle of *significāre* SIGNIFY; for suffix see -ANCE. The meaning of importance or consequence, is first recorded in 1725.

signify *v.* About 1275 *signefien* be a sign of, indicate, mean; probably before 1300 *signifier*; borrowed from Old French *signifier*, and directly from Latin *significāre* to show by signs, mean, signify, from *significus*, *adj.* (not attested until Late Latin), from *signum* SIGN + the root of *facere* to make; for suffix see -FY. —**signification** *n.* Before 1325 *significacioun* symbolization, representation; borrowed from Old French *signification*, and directly from Latin *significātiōnem* (nominative *significātiō*) a signifying, indication, expression, sign, meaning, from *significāre* to signify, mean; for suffix see -ATION.

silage *n.* 1884, alteration (probably influenced by *silo*) of earlier *ensilage* (1881); borrowing of French *ensilage*, from *ensiler* put in a silo, from Spanish *ensilar* (*en-* *en-*¹ + *silo* SILO); for suffix see -AGE.

silence *n.* Probably before 1200; borrowed from Old French *silence* absence of sound, state of being silent, from Latin *silentium* a being silent, from *silēns*, present participle of *silēre* be quiet or still, be silent; for suffix see -ENCE. —**v.** 1560, become silent or still; from the noun. The sense of make silent, is first recorded in 1597. —**silencer** *n.* 1600, person or thing that silences; later, mechanism that quiets the sound of a motor or firearm (1898). —**silent** *adj.* Before 1500, borrowed from Latin *silentem* (nominative *silēns*), present participle; for suffix see -ENT.

silhouette *n.* 1798, borrowing of French *silhouette*, in allusion to Étienne de Silhouette, French minister of finance in 1759. The name (because it was an inexpensive way of making a likeness of someone) was probably intended to ridicule the petty economies of Silhouette to finance the Seven Years' War. Another explanation involves the amateurish outline portraits made by him to decorate the walls of his château. —**v.** 1876, from the noun.

silica *n.* 1801, New Latin, from Latin *silex* (genitive *silicis*, from earlier stem **scelic-*) flint, pebble; see SHELL. —**silicate** *n.* 1811, formed from New Latin *silica* + English suffix -ate².

silicon *n.* 1817, from New Latin *silica*, patterned on *boron*, *carbon*, etc.

silk *n.* Probably before 1200 *seolke*; later *selk* (about 1250), *silk* (about 1300); developed from Old English (before 899) *sioloc*, *seoloc*, *seolk* silk; cognate with Old Icelandic *silki* silk (modern Icelandic *silki*, Norwegian, Danish, and Swedish *silke*), and Old High German *silecho*. The ultimate source is a Far Eastern

word, which was also borrowed into Greek as *sērikós* *silken*, *sērikón* *silk* (which probably gave rise to the back formation *Sēres* an Asian people who originated the making of silk, thought to be the Chinese). The use of *l* in Old English *sioloc*, and in the corresponding word in other languages along this northern route, may reflect borrowing from a Chinese dialect form with the sound of *l* instead of *r*. Compare SERGE. —**adj.** Before 1375, from the noun. —**silken** *adj.* Probably before 1200 *sulkene*; later *selkene* (probably before 1300), *silken* (about 1353); developed from Old English *seolcen* made of silk (before 899); formed from *seolc* *silk* + *-en*². —**silkworm** *n.* Old English *seolcwyrn* (about 1000). —**silky** *adj.* 1611, made of silk, formed from English *silk*, *n.* + *-y*¹.

sill *n.* Probably about 1390 *sille*; developed from Old English *syll* (about 725, in *Beowulf*), from Proto-Germanic **suljō*; cognate with Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *sulle*, *sille* *beam, threshold*, Old High German *swelli* (modern German *Schwelle*), from Proto-Germanic **swalja-*, Old Icelandic *svill* (from Proto-Germanic **swelja-*), also *syll* (Norwegian *svill*, Swedish *syll*, and Danish *syld*).

silly *adj.* Probably before 1200 *selie* spiritually favored, blessed; developed from Old English *gesælig* happy (before 899); cognate with Old Frisian *selich* happy, Old Saxon *sālig*, Middle Dutch *sālich* (modern Dutch *zalig*), and Old High German *sālīg* (modern German *selig*), from Proto-Germanic **sælizās*; for suffix see *-y*¹. Old English *gesælig* is derived from *sæl* happiness, noun use of an adjective represented by Old Icelandic *sæll* happy, Gothic *sels* good, fit (from Proto-Germanic **sælaz*). *Silly* has undergone considerable sense development from the original meaning of happy. From the sense of innocent (1200), weak (about 1300), and unfortunate, pitiable (about 1280) developed the meaning of simple, rustic, ignorant (before 1547), and lacking in reason or sense, foolish (1576). —**n.** 1858, from the adjective.

silo *n.* 1835, borrowing of Spanish *silo*, probably of pre-Roman origin from the source of Basque *zilo*, *zulo* *dugout, a cave or shelter for keeping grain*.

Traditionally said to have developed through Latin *sīrus* from Greek *sīrós*, *seirós* a pit for storing grain, the change from *r* to *l* in Spanish is abnormal and Greek *sīrós* was a rare foreign term peculiar to regions of Asia Minor and not likely to emerge in Castilian Spain. —**v.** 1883 from the noun.

silt *n.* 1440 *cylte*; later *silt* (before 1500); probably borrowed from Middle Low German or Middle Dutch *silte*, *sulte* *salt marsh, brine* (modern Dutch *zult*); cognate with Danish *sylt-lage* *pickle, brine*, Old High German *sulza* *salt marsh, brine* (modern German *Sülze* *brine*), and more distantly with Old English *sealt* *SALT*. —**v.** 1799, from the noun.

silver *n.* Before 1121 *silver*, *seolfre*; developed from Old English (before 830) *seolfor*, *siolfor*; cognate with Old Frisian *selover*, *silver* *silver*, Old Saxon *silubar*, Middle Dutch *silver* (modern Dutch *zilver*), Old High German *silabar*, *silbar* (modern German *Silber*), Old Icelandic *silfr* (Swedish *silver*, Icelandic *silfur* Danish and Norwegian *sølv*), and Gothic *silubr*, from Proto-Germanic **silubra-*. —**adj.** About 1303, made of silver; devel-

oped from Old English *seolfor* (1032); from the noun. —**v.** About 1350 *selveren*; later *sylveren* (1440); from the noun. —**silversmith** *n.* Old English *seolforsmith* (before 1000). —**silvery** *adj.* Before 1398, formed from Middle English *silver*, *n.* + *-y*¹.

simian *adj.* 1607, formed from Latin *sīmia*, *sīmius* *ape* + English *-an*. Latin *sīmia*, *sīmius* derive from *sīmus* *snub-nosed*, from Greek *sīmós* *snub-nosed, bent upwards*; for suffix see *-AN*. —**n.** 1880, from the adjective.

similar *adj.* 1611, borrowed from French *similaire*, and perhaps directly from Medieval Latin **similaris* like, an extended form of Latin *similis* like (originally **semalis*); for suffix see *-AR*. An earlier form *similarie* (1564), later spelled *similary*, was common in the 1600's. —**similarity** *n.* 1664, likeness, resemblance; formed from English *similar* + *-ity*.

simile *n.* Probably before 1387, borrowed from Latin *simile* a like thing, neuter of *similis* like.

similitude *n.* About 1380, a sign or symbol; later, similarity, likeness (about 1385); borrowed from Old French *similitude*, and directly from Latin *similitūdō* likeness, from *similis* like; for suffix see *-TUDE*.

simmer *v.* 1653 *simber*; later *simmer* (1684); alteration of *simperen* to *simmer* (1477), possibly of imitative origin. —**n.** 1809, condition of simmering; from the verb. The opposite sense of cool off or calm down (as in *simmer down*) is first recorded in 1871.

simonize *v.* 1934, from *Simoniz* a trademark for a type of car polish.

simon-pure *adj.* 1840, from *the true Simon Pure* the genuine person or thing (1795), from *Simon Pure*, the name of a Quaker who is impersonated by another character in the comedy *A Bold Stroke for a Wife* (1717) by Susannah Centlivre, English dramatist and actress.

simony *n.* Probably before 1200 *symonie* the sin of buying or selling an ecclesiastical office; borrowed from Old French *simonie*, from Late Latin *simōnia*, from *Simon Magus*, a Samaritan who tried to buy the power of conferring the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:9–24); for suffix see *-Y*³.

simp *n.* 1903, circus dialect, shortened from SIMPLETON.

simpatico *adj.* 1888, borrowed from Spanish *simpático*, from *simpatía* sympathy, or borrowed from Italian *simpatico*, from *simpatia* sympathy; both ultimately from Latin *sympathia* SYMPATHY. The feminine form *simpatica* is recorded earlier in English, in 1864; borrowed from Spanish *simpática*, feminine of *simpático*, or borrowed from Italian *simpatica*, feminine of *simpatico*.

simper *v.* About 1563, perhaps borrowed from a Scandinavian source; (compare Norwegian *semper* fine, smart, and dialectal Danish *semper*, *simper* affected, coy, prudish, both cognate with Middle Dutch *zimperljk* affected, coy, prim). —**n.** 1599, from the verb.

simple *adj.* Probably before 1200, humble, ignorant; borrowed from Old French *simple*, from Latin *simplus* (in Classical Latin only in neuter *simpulum*) or *simplex* (genitive *simplicis*). From the sense of lowly, common (about 1280), and mere, pure (about 1303). The sense of single, not composite, developed before 1398, and that of not complicated, not difficult, about 1555. —**n.** Before 1375, person of humble birth, from the adjective. —**simply** *adv.* About 1300 *simpleliche* sincerely, without duplicity; formed from *simple* + *-liche* *-ly*².

simpleton *n.* 1650, from *simple* + *-ton*, as in the surnames *Appleton*, *Chesterton*, and *Wellington*.

simplex *adj.* 1594, borrowed from Latin *simplex* single, simple. —**n.** 1892, a simple, uncompounded word; from the adjective. The mathematical sense is recorded since 1914.

simplicity *n.* About 1380 *simplicite* singleness of nature, unity; borrowed from Old French *simplicité*, from Latin *simplicitatem* (nominative *simplicitās*) the state of being simple, from *simplex* (genitive *simplicis*) simple; for suffix see *-ity*. The sense of ignorance, is first recorded in 1514, and that of plainness, lack of artificiality, in 1526.

simplify *v.* 1653, borrowed from French *simplifier* to make simpler, from Medieval Latin *simplificare* to simplify, from a lost Latin adjective **simplificus*, formed from Latin *simplex* simple + the root of *facere* to make; for suffix see *-fy*. —**simplification** *n.* 1688, borrowed from French *simplification* act or process of simplifying, from *simplifier*; for suffix see *-FICATION*.

simplistic *adj.* Before 1881, trying to explain too much by a single principle; earlier, of or pertaining to simples (herbs used in medicine) or to a simplist (one who studies such herbs), 1860; formed from *simplist* (1597) + *-ic*.

simulate *v.* 1652, developed from the past participle *simulate* (1435), and probably as a back formation from *simulation*, on the model of Latin *simulātus*, past participle of *simulāre* imitate, formed from the stem **semal-* of *similis* like; for suffix see *-ATE*¹. —**simulation** *n.* 1340 *simulacioun*; borrowed from Old French *simulation*, and directly from Latin *simulātiōnem* (nominative *simulātiō*) an imitating, feigning, from *simulāre* imitate; for suffix see *-ATION*.

simulcast *v.* 1948, formed from *simul(taneous)* + (broad)*cast*. —**n.** 1952, from the verb.

simultaneous *adj.* Before 1660, probably formed in English from Latin *simul* at the same time + English *-taneous* as abstracted from *instantaneous*, *spontaneous*.

sin *n.* About 1125 *synne* sinfulness, wickedness; later *sinne* a wrongful act, sin (probably before 1160); developed from Old English (before 830) *synn* wrongdoing, offense, misdeed; cognate with several Germanic words having an extended form in *-d* or *-t*, including Old Frisian *sende* sin, Old Saxon *sundia*, Middle Dutch *sonde* (modern Dutch *zonde*), Old High German *sunta*, *suntea* (modern German *Sünde*), and Old Icelandic *synd*, from Proto-Germanic **sundjō*. —**v.** Probably about 1175 *sungen*; probably before 1200 *sinen*; developed from Old Eng-

lish (before 830) *syngian* to commit sin; cognate with Old Frisian *sendigia* to sin, Old Saxon *sundion*, Middle Dutch *sondigen* (modern Dutch *zondigen*), Old High German *sunteōn* (modern German *sündigen*), all derived from the same Germanic source as Old English *synn*, *n.* —**sinful** *adj.* Probably about 1200 *sinfull*; developed from Old English (before 830) *synnfull*; formed from *synn* sin + *-full* *-ful*. —**sinner** *n.* About 1350, formed from Middle English *sinne* sin + *-er*¹.

since *adv.* Before 1425 *synnes* afterwards, from then till now, before now; later *syns* (about 1450); reduced form of *sithenes* since (*sithen* since + the adverbial ending *-es*) which developed from Old English *siththan* then, later, after that (about 725, in *Beowulf*), originally *sith* than after that (*sith* after + *than*, weakened form of *thām*, dative of *thæt* THAT). Old English *sith* is cognate with Old Saxon *sith* since, Old High German *sīd* (modern German *seit*), Old Icelandic *síðr* less, scarcely (from Proto-Germanic **sīthiz* later, after), and Gothic *seithus* late.

The spelling *since* replaced *syns*, *synnes* in the 1500's to indicate the final sound is a voiceless *s*, as *ice* replaced *is*, *twice* replaced *twies*, etc. —**conj.** Probably before 1387 *synnes* after the time that; from the adverb. The sense of because, inasmuch as, is first recorded in about 1450. —**prep.** 1515, between (a specified time) and now; from the adverb.

sincere *adj.* 1533, honest, straightforward; borrowed from Middle French *sincere*, and probably directly from Latin *sincērus* sound, whole, pure, genuine, perhaps originally "of one growth," not hybrid, unmixed (dissimilated by loss of *r* after *c* in earlier **sincēros*), from *sem-*, *sin-* one + the root of *crēscere* to grow. —**sincerity** *n.* Probably before 1425 *sinceritie* honesty; borrowed from Middle French *sincérité*, and probably directly from Latin *sincēritatem* (nominative *sincēritās*), from *sincērus* sincere; for suffix see *-ity*.

sine *n.* 1593, the length of the side opposite an acute angle in a right triangle divided by the length of the hypotenuse; borrowed from Medieval Latin *sinus*, from Latin, fold in a garment, bend, curve. The medieval translators of Arabic geometrical texts confused Arabic *jiba* chord of an arc, sine (borrowed from Sanskrit *jīvā* bowstring) with Arabic *jaib* bundle, bosom, fold in a garment; hence the use of Latin *sinus*.

sinecure *n.* 1662, a church benefice without parish duties; borrowed from Medieval Latin *beneficium sine cura* benefice without care (of souls); Latin *sine* without and *cūrā*, ablative singular of *cūra* care. The extended sense of any paying job or position with little or no work is first recorded in 1676.

sinew *n.* Probably before 1200 *senuwe*; later *sinu* (before 1325), *synew* (before 1398); developed from Old English *seonowe*, *sionwe* (about 725, in *Beowulf*) oblique form from the nominative *sionu*, *sinu*; cognate with Old Frisian *sine* sinew, Old Saxon *sinewa*, Middle Dutch *sēnuwe*, *sēnewe* (modern Dutch *zenuw*), Old High German *senawa* (modern German *Sehne*), and Old Icelandic *sin* (Swedish *sena*, Danish and Norwegian *sene*), from Proto-Germanic **senawō*. —**sinewy** *adj.* Before 1382 *senewy* made of sinews; formed from *senewe*, *senuwe* sinew, *n.* + *-y*¹. The meaning of tough, stringy, is first recorded in 1578.

sing *v.* Probably before 1200 *singen*; developed from Old

English (about 725, in *Beowulf*) *singan* to chant, sing, tell in song (past tense *sang*, past participle *sungen*); cognate with Old Frisian *sionga*, *siunga* to sing, Old Saxon *singan*, Middle Dutch *singhen* (modern Dutch *zingen*), Old High German *singan* (modern German *singen*), Old Icelandic *syngva* (Norwegian and Danish *syng*, modern Icelandic *syngja*, and Swedish *sjunga*), Gothic *siggwan* (for **singwan*) to sing, from Proto-Germanic **sengwanan*. —**n.** 1871, a ringing sound; 1884, act of singing; from the verb. —**singer** **n.** About 1303; earlier as a surname *Le Singere* (1268); formed from Middle English *singen* to sing + *-er*. —**singsong** **adj.** 1734, of or like singsong; 1825, monotonous in rhythm; from the earlier noun (1609).

singe **v.** 1340 *zengen* to burn, scorch; later *sengen* (about 1350); developed from Old English (about 1000) *sengan* to burn lightly, burn the edges of (hair, wings, etc.); cognate with Old Frisian *sandza*, *sendaza* to singe, Middle Low German *sengen*, Middle Dutch *senghen* (modern Dutch *zengen*), Old High German *bisengan* (modern German *sengen*), from Proto-Germanic **sangjanan*, Middle High German *senge* dryness, dialectal Swedish *sjängla* to singe, dialectal Norwegian *sengra*, modern Icelandic *sangur* singed, burnt, *sengja* singed taste. —**n.** 1658, from the verb.

single **adj.** Probably before 1300 *sengle* without armor; later, unmarried, celibate (about 1303); borrowed from Old French *sengle*, *single* being one, separate, from Latin *singulus* one, individual, separate (usually pl., *singuli* one by one). The sense of individual is first recorded in Middle English before 1387. —**n.** Before 1376 *sengle* unmarried person; from the adjective. The sense of a single thing is first recorded in 1646. —**v.** 1570–76, to part, separate; from the adjective. The sense of pick from among others is first recorded in 1588. —**singly** **adv.** Before 1338 *senglely* separately; formed from Middle English *sengle* single, *adj.* + *-ly*.

singular **adj.** About 1340 *syngulere*, *synguler* living alone, unique, special, unsurpassed; borrowed from Old French *singuler* single, separate, singular, and directly from Latin *singularis* single, solitary, singular, from *singulus* single. The formation of *singular* in English was probably influenced by earlier *singularity*, especially in the sense of unique. —**n.** Probably about 1378 *synguler* particular thing. —**singularity** **n.** About 1230 *singularite* unusual behavior; borrowed from Old French *singularité*, learned borrowing from Late Latin *singularitatem* (nominative *singularitās*), from Latin *singularis* singular; for suffix see *-ITY*.

sinister **adj.** 1411 *sinistre* deceptive, false, dishonest; later, evil, corrupt (1474); borrowed through Old French *sinistre* contrary, unfavorable, on the left, or directly from Latin *sinister* left, on the left side, whose ending *-ter* (from earlier **-teros*) is the same contrastive suffix found in Latin *dexter*, meaning right, on the right. Latin *sinister* while used in augury in the sense of lucky, favorable, also had the meaning of harmful, unfavorably situated, adverse, which came from Greek influence, reflecting the early Greek practice of facing north when observing omens. The sense of evil or being underhanded is first found in English in 1474.

sink **v.** Probably before 1200 *sinken*; developed from Old English (about 950) *sincan* become submerged, go under (past tense *sanc*, past participle *suncen*); cognate with Old Saxon *sinkan* to sink, Middle Dutch *sincken* (modern Dutch *zinken*), Old High German *sinkan* (modern German *sinken*), Old Icelandic *sökva*, (modern Icelandic *sökkva*), Norwegian *sökke*, Swedish *sjunka*, Danish *synke*, and Gothic *singan* to sink, from Proto-Germanic **senkwanan*. —**n.** 1413–14, pool or pit for waste water or sewage; implied earlier in the compound *sin-creste*, the rim of a privy (1346); from the verb. The sense of a shallow basin with a drainpipe is found in 1566. —**sinkhole** **n.** (1456)

Sino- a combining form meaning China or Chinese, as in *Sinology* = the study of China; *Sino-Japanese* = Chinese and Japanese. Adapted from Late Latin *Sinae*, pl., the Chinese, from Greek *Sínai*, from Arabic *Sin* China, probably from Chinese *Ch'in*, name of the fourth dynasty in China.

sinuous **adj.** 1578, borrowed from Latin *sinuōsus* full of folds or bendings, from *sinus* curve, fold, bend; see *SINUS*; for suffix see *-OUS*.

sinus **n.** Probably before 1425, a hollow or cavity in the body; Medieval Latin *sinus*, from Latin *sinus* bend, fold, or curve.

-sion a suffix found in some words of Latin origin as a form of *-tion* added to and fusing with a final *-d* or *-t* of a verb stem, as in *suspension* from *suspend* and *conversion* from *convert*, and occasionally elsewhere, as in *compulsion* from *compel*. In the Latin originals of these words the suffix is *-siō* (nominative), *-siōnem* (accusative), *-siōnis* (genitive).

sip **v.** About 1395 *sippen* take a small drink; of uncertain origin; probably cognate with Low German *sippen* to sip, and perhaps related to Old English *sūpan* to take into the mouth a little at a time, taste, sip. —**n.** Before 1500 *syype* a small drink; from the verb.

siphon **n.** Before 1398, borrowed from Latin *siphō* (genitive *siphōnis*), from Greek *siphōn* pipe. —**v.** 1859, from the noun.

sir **n.** Probably before 1300, title of honor of a knight or baronet, placed before his name; variant of *SIRE*. This reduced form of *sire* probably resulted from the absence of stress before the following name. By about 1350 *sir* was used as a respectful form of address, and by 1425 as a salutation at the beginning of letters.

sire **n.** Probably before 1200, a title of respect for a man; borrowed from Old French *sire*, from Vulgar Latin **seior*, reduced from Latin *senior* older, elder. The meaning of father or male forebear is first recorded about 1250. —**v.** 1611, be the father of (a person), from the noun.

siren **n.** Before 1393, female creature in Classical mythology who lured sailors to their destruction by her singing; borrowed from Old French *sereine*, and directly from Latin *srēn*, from Greek *seirēn*. An earlier sense of a mythical serpent is recorded in Middle English in 1340. The device that makes a signal of warning (as from an ambulance, and, originally,

steamboat) is first recorded in 1879, borrowed from French *sirène* *siren*, from Old French *sereine*.

sirloin *n.* Before 1425 *surloyne*; borrowed from Middle French **surloigne*, *surlonge* (*sur* over, above + *longe* loin, from Old French *loigne* LOIN). The spelling with *sir-* first appeared in English in the 1600's, from an alleged story that this cut of beef was "knighted" by an English king because of its superiority.

sisal *n.* 1843, in allusion to *Sisal*, a port in Yucatán, from which the fiber was exported.

sister *n.* About 1250, probably borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *systir*, Swedish *syster*, and Danish and Norwegian *søster* *sister*). Middle English *sister* was a replacement of *suster* (before 1121), developed from Old English (835) *sweostor*, *swuster*, cognate of Old Icelandic *systir*; other Germanic cognates are found in Old Frisian *swester*, *suster*, Old Saxon *swestar*, Middle Dutch *suster* (modern Dutch *zuster*), Old High German *swester* (modern German *Schwester*), and Gothic *swistar*, from Proto-Germanic **swestr-*. The sense of closely related or like another (as in *sister ships*) is first recorded in 1641. The meaning of a nun is first recorded in English before 899. —**sister-in-law** *n.* (1440) —**sisterly** *adj.* (1570)

sit *v.* About 1125 *sitten*, developed from Old English *sittan* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *sitta* to sit, Old Saxon *sittian*, Middle Dutch *sitten* (modern Dutch *zitten*), Old High German *sizzen* (modern German *sitzen*), and Old Icelandic *sitja* (Swedish *sitta*, Danish *sidde*, Norwegian *sitte*), from Proto-Germanic **setjanan*. —**sitter** *n.* Probably before 1300 *sittere* a hare; literally, one that sits; formed from Middle English *sitten* to sit + *-ere* *-er*¹. The sense of one who sits is found in 1440 and that one who baby-sits in 1937.

sitar *n.* 1845, borrowing of Hindi *siṭār*, from Persian *siṭār* three-stringed (*si* three, from Old Persian *thri-*, + *tār* string).

site *n.* About 1380, location (of a building) borrowed from Anglo-French *site*, and directly from Latin *situs* (genitive *situs*) place, position, from *si-*, root of *sinere* let, leave alone, permit.

situate *v.* Probably before 1425 *situaten* put into proper position, set; borrowed from Medieval Latin *situatus*, past participle of *situare* to place, locate, from Latin *situs* (genitive *situs*) place, position, SITE; for suffix see -ATE¹. —**situation** *n.* Probably before 1425 *situacion* act of setting, position; borrowed through Middle French *situation*, or directly from Medieval Latin *situationem* (nominative *situatio*) position, location, situation, from *situare*; for suffix see -ATION. The sense of a state or condition (as in *an interesting situation*) is first recorded in English in 1710, as is the related sense of a position in life, or in relation to others.

six *adj.* Old English *siex*, *six* (before 899); earlier *sex* (835); cognate with Old Frisian *sex* six, Old Saxon *sehs*, Middle Dutch *ses* (modern Dutch *zes*), Old High German *sehs* (modern German *sechs*), Old Icelandic *sex* (modern Icelandic and Swedish *sex*, Danish and Norwegian *seks*), and Gothic *saḥs*, from Proto-Germanic **seHs*. —**sixteen** *adj.* Old English (before 900) *sixtyne*, *sixtēne* (*six* six + *-tēne* -teen, from *tēn* TEN).

—**sixth** *adj.* 1526, replacing earlier *sixte* (probably before 1200), developed from Old English *syxte* (before 899); for suffix see -TH². —**sixty** *adj.* Probably before 1200, developed from Old English (before 899) *sixtig* (*six* six + *-tig* group of ten, -TY¹).

size¹ *n.* extent, amount, magnitude. Probably before 1300 *sise* manner, style; about 1300, ordinance, law; borrowed from Old French *sise*, shortened from *assise* session, assessment, regulation, manner, ASSIZE. The sense of extent, amount, magnitude (about 1303) developed by influence of *assise* ordinance regulating weights. The spelling *size* appeared in the 1600's, its currency possibly influenced by *assise* being taken as a *size*. —**v.** Probably before 1400 *sysen* regulate according to a fixed standard; from the noun. The meaning of arrange according to size, is found before 1635.

size² *n.* sticky substance. About 1325 *sise*; probably borrowed from Middle French *sise*, special use of Old French *sise* a setting, fixing, shortened from *assise* ASSIZE. —**v.** 1633 from the noun.

sizzle *v.* 1603, to burn or scorch producing a hissing sound; perhaps a frequentative verb form of Middle English *sissen* hiss, buzz (before 1300), of imitative origin like Middle Dutch *cissen*, modern Dutch and Low German *sissen* to hiss, sizzle; for suffix see -LE³. The sense of hiss as fat does is found in English before 1825. —**n.** 1823, from the verb.

skald *n.* 1763, Scandinavian poet and singer of medieval times; borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *skáld*, modern Icelandic *skáld* skald, poet, Swedish and Norwegian *skald* poet, skald, and Danish *skjald* skald; compare SCOLD).

skate¹ *n.* fish. About 1340 *schat*; later *scate* (about 1375); in the surname *Scate* (1202); borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic and modern Icelandic *skata*, Norwegian *skate*, Danish *skade*, and Faeroese *skøta*).

skate² *n.* ice skate or roller skate. 1662 *skeates* ice skates; borrowed from Dutch *schaats* (a singular taken in English as plural) skate, stilt, from Middle Dutch *schaetse*, from Old North French *escache* a stilt, trestle, variant of Old French *eschace* stilt, from Frankish **skakkeja* thing that shakes or moves fast, perhaps related to the root of Old English *sceacan* to vibrate, SHAKE. The application of the word to roller skates is found in 1876. —**v.** 1696, from the noun. —**skateboard** *n.* (1964)

skein *n.* 1373 *skeyne*; borrowed from Middle French *escaigne* a hank of yarn, of uncertain origin (compare Medieval Latin *scagna* a skein).

skeleton *n.* 1578 *sceleton*, borrowed from New Latin *sceleton*, *skeleton* bones or bony framework of a body, from Greek *skeletón* dried-up, in *skeletón sōma* dried-up body, neuter of *skeletós* dried-up, from *skéllein* dry up. The meaning of a bare outline is first recorded in 1607, and formed the basis of *skeleton crew*, *skeleton key*. —**adj.** 1778, from the noun. —**skeletal** *adj.* 1854, formed from English *skeleton*, *n.* + *-al*¹.

skeptic or **sceptic** *n.* 1587, member of an ancient Greek school that doubted the possibility of real knowledge; borrowed through Middle French *sceptique* or Latin *scepticus* (plural *Sceptici* the Skeptics), from Greek *skeptikós* (plural *Skeptikoi*), literally, inquiring, reflective, assumed by the disciples of the ancient Greek philosopher Pyrrho as their distinctive name, from *sképtesthai* to reflect, look, view; for suffix see -IC. The meaning of one who has a doubting attitude, is first recorded in English in 1615.

The English spelling *sk-* influenced by the Greek form, is first recorded in English before 1631, and became the standard form in the United States. —**skeptical** *adj.* 1639, formed from English *skeptic* + *-al*. —**skepticism** *n.* 1646, borrowed from New Latin *scepticismus*, from Latin *scepticus* *skeptic*; for suffix see -ISM.

sketch *n.* 1668 *scetch*; borrowed from Dutch *schets*, from Italian *schizzo* *sketch*, drawing, special use of *schizzo* a splash, squirt, from *schizzare* to splash or squirt, of uncertain origin. The extended sense of a brief account is found in 1715. —**v.** 1694, from the noun. —**sketchy** *adj.* 1805, formed from English *sketch*, *n.* + *-y*¹.

skew *v.* About 1470 *skewen* to turn aside, move sideways, twist; borrowed from Old North French *eskeuer*, *escuer* shy away from, avoid, corresponding to Old French *eschiver*, *eschever* to ESCHEW. The meaning of depict or represent unfairly (that is in a slanted or twisted way) is first recorded in 1872. —**adj.** 1609, from the verb. —**n.** 1688, from the adjective or verb.

skewer *n.* 1411 *skuer*, later *skueier* (1458), *skewer* (1679); perhaps borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *skjifa* disk, cut, slice, Swedish *skiva*, Danish *skive*). The Scandinavian words are cognate with Old High German *scība* disk. Related to SHIVER². —**v.** 1701, fasten (meat) with a skewer, from the noun.

ski *n.* 1755, borrowing of Norwegian *ski*, also *skid*, related to Old Icelandic *skídh* snowshoe, stick of wood; cognate with Old High German *skīt* stick, block, board, plank (modern German *Scheit*), Old Frisian *skid*, and Old English *sād*, from Proto-Germanic **skīd-* to divide, split off; see SHED². —**v.** 1893, from the noun.

skid *n.* 1609–10, beam or plank on which something rests; perhaps borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *skídh* stick of wood; see SKI). The sense of a sliding along developed from the verb *skid* in the 1890's. —**v.** 1674, apply a skid to (a wheel); from the noun. The sense of slide along without turning, is first recorded in 1838; the extended sense of slip sideways is first recorded in 1884.

skiff *n.* Before 1500 *skif*; borrowed from Middle French *esquif*, from Italian *schifo*, from a Germanic source (compare Old High German *skif* boat; see SHIP).

skill *n.* About 1175 *skil* that which is reasonable or right, differentiation, distinction; later, the faculty of reason (probably before 1200); borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *skil* distinction, discernment; related to the verb *skilja* distinguish, separate; cognate with Middle Low

German *schelen* distinguish, separate; see SHELL). The sense of practical knowledge, ability, cleverness, is first recorded in Middle English before 1225. —**skillful** or **skilful** *adj.* Before 1325, formed from Middle English *skil* skill + *-ful*.

skillet *n.* 1404 *skelett*; as a surname *Skelete* (1332); of uncertain origin; perhaps borrowed from Middle French *esculete*, *esculete*, diminutive of *escuele* plate, from Latin *scutella* serving platter; see SCUTTLE¹ bucket; or formed in English from *skele* a wooden bucket or pail (about 1330) + *-et*. Middle English *skele* was a borrowing from a Scandinavian source (compare Old and modern Icelandic *skjōla* pail, bucket).

skim *v.* clear (a liquid) of fat or scum. 1373 *skemmen* to froth; later *skymen* to remove (floating matter) from a liquid (before 1398); as a surname *Skym* (1285); probably borrowed from Middle French *escumer* remove scum, from *escume* scum, from a Germanic source (compare Old High German *scūm* SCUM). The meaning of study in a superficial manner is first recorded before 1586.

skimp *v.* 1879, possibly developed by a back formation from *skimpy* and perhaps influenced by SCRIMP. —**skimpy** *adj.* 1842, from English *skimp*, *adj.*, scanty, meager (1775), perhaps alteration of *scrimp*, *adj.* (1718), from the same source as *scrimp*, *v.*; for suffix see -Y¹.

skin *n.* Probably before 1200 *skinn* animal hide or pelt; later, skin of the body (probably before 1325); borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *skinn* animal hide, Norwegian and Swedish *skinn*, Danish *skind*, from Proto-Germanic **skintha-*). The Scandinavian words are cognate with Middle Low German *schin* scurf, Middle High German *schint* rind, Old High German *scinten* to flay, skin (modern German *schinden*), Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *schinden*. —**v.** 1392 (implied in *yskynned*) to circumcise; before 1400 remove the skin off; from the noun. —**skinner** *n.* (1398) —**skinny** *adj.* About 1400, formed from Middle English *skin*, *n.* + *-y*¹.

skinflint *n.* Before 1700, miser; literally, person who would skin a flint to save or gain something (*skin*, *v.* + *flint*, *n.*)

skink *n.* 1590 *scinc*; 1591 *skink*; borrowed through Middle French *scinc*, and from Latin *scincus*, from Greek *skinkos* a kind of lizard common in Asia.

skip *v.* Probably before 1300 *skippen* jump over; perhaps borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *skoipa* to skip, run, from Proto-Germanic **skupanan*). The meaning of omitting intervening parts, is first recorded in English about 1386. —**n.** a leap. About 1422, from the verb.

skipper *n.* 1391; in the surname *Scipre* (1177); borrowed from Middle Dutch *scipper*, from *scip* SHIP; for suffix see -ER¹. —**v.** 1883, from the noun.

skirl *v.* About 1450 *scrillen*, *skirlen* shriek; borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare dialectal Norwegian *skryla*, *skerella* to shriek, or Swedish *skerälla* to crack, clap). The word was used in reference to the sound of bagpipes before 1665. —**n.** 1513; from the verb.

skirmish *n.* Probably about 1380 *skarmoch*; about 1385 *skar-myssh*; borrowed from Old French *escarmouche* skirmish, from Italian *scaramuccia*; borrowed from a Germanic source (compare Old High German *skirmen* to protect, defend, and *skirm* shield). Middle English *skyrmiss* (before 1400) was influenced by the verb *skirmysshen* to brandish a weapon. —**v.** Probably before 1200 *sceremiggen* engage in a skirmish; borrowed from Old French *escarmouchier* to skirmish, from Italian *scaramucciare*, from *scaramuccia* skirmish, *n.* The later form adopted the spelling of a separate verb *skirmysshen*, to brandish a weapon (1387), borrowed from Old French *eskirmis-*, stem of *eskirmir* to fence, ward off, from a Germanic source (compare Old High German *skirmen* to protect, defend); for suffix see -ISH².

The later verb and noun forms were also influenced by Middle English *skirmen* to fence, skirmish (probably before 1200); borrowed from Old French *eskirmir* to fence, ward off.

skirt *n.* Before 1325 *skirt* lower part of a woman's dress; earlier as a surname (1224); borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old and modern Icelandic *skyrta* shirt, Swedish *skjorta*, Danish and Norwegian *skjorte*; see SHIRT). The development in English of the lower part of a woman's dress from the meaning "a shirt" is unclear, but Middle Low German *schörte* apron, skirt, and the modern Low German *schört* a woman's gown, is a similar development and possibly the long shirt of peasant garb, was the source of the meaning that later referred to the lower part of shirt and thence a woman's dress. The sense of a border or edge is first recorded in Middle English about 1470. —**v.** 1602, to border, edge; later, to pass along the border or edge (1623); from the noun.

skit *n.* 1820, from the sense of whimsical notion or remark, caprice, whimsy (1727); perhaps noun use of verb *skit* be skittish, caper or frolic (1611), probably a back formation from SKITTISH.

skitter *v.* 1845, a frequentative verb form of *skite* to dart, run quickly (1721); perhaps borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare modern Icelandic *skjóta*, Swedish *skjuta* to SHOOT, or dialectal Norwegian *skutla* glide rapidly); for suffix see -ER⁴.

skittish *adj.* About 1412, very lively, frivolous; perhaps formed by influence of a Scandinavian base **skyt-* (represented by Old Icelandic *skýtt-*, stem of *skjóta* to SHOOT) + English suffix -ish¹. The sense of apt to start, or run, jump, is first recorded in English about 1510.

skittles *n.* 1634, plural of *skittle* one of the pins used in the game, probably borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Norwegian and Swedish *skytte* shuttle).

skoal *n., interj.* 1600 *scoll*; borrowed from Danish *skaal* (now *skål*) corresponding to Norwegian and Swedish *skål* a toast; literally, bowl, cup.

skua *n.* 1678, alteration of Faeroese *skúgvur* (earlier **skúvur*), related to Old Icelandic *skúfr* seagull, tuft, tassel, and possibly to *skauf* fox's tail.

skulduggery *n.* 1856 *schulduggy*, apparently alteration of

Scottish *sculdudrie* adultery (1713), *sculduddery* obscenity (1821), a euphemism of uncertain origin.

skulk *v.* Probably before 1200 *sculken* move stealthily; borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Norwegian *skulke* to shirk, maling, Danish *skulke* to spare oneself, shirk, and Swedish *skolka* play truant); possibly reborrowed in the 17th century.

skull *n.* Probably before 1200 *sculle*; of uncertain origin; probably borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *skalli* bald head, skull, modern Icelandic *skalli* bald head, Norwegian and Swedish *skalle* skull). Old Icelandic *skalli* is probably related to Old English *sealu* husk, SHELL.

skunk *n.* 1634 *squunck*; later *skunk* (1701); borrowed from Algonquian (probably Abnaki) *seganku*. —**v.** 1831, to defeat (as in the game of checkers); from the noun.

sky *n.* Probably before 1200; borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *ský* cloud, modern Icelandic *ský*, Norwegian and Danish *sky* cloud, and Swedish *sky* heaven, sky, cloud); cognate with Old Saxon *skion* cloud cover, probably with Old English *scēo* cloud, and perhaps more distantly with Old English *seau* shadow, shade, Old High German *sauwo*, Old Icelandic *skuggi* shadow, Gothic *skuggwa* mirror). —**skyscraper** *n.* 1888, a very tall building (1883, ornament on top of a building and *skyscraping building* 1884). *Skyscraper* was used earlier in various other senses: a high-flying bird (1840), and a light sail at the top of a mast (1794); also found as the name of a horse, *Skyscraper*, 1789.

slab *n.* About 1300 *slabbe*; later *slab* (before 1325); of unknown origin (possibly borrowed from Old French *esclape* thin fragment of wood).

slack¹ *adj.* loose, careless. About 1250 *slac* lazy, lax, slow; later *slak* (about 1350); developed from Old English *slæc* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Saxon and Middle Low German *slak* slack, Old High German *slah*, Old Icelandic *slakr* (modern Icelandic *slakur* loose, slack, Swedish *slak* and Norwegian *slakk* loose, slack), from Proto-Germanic **slakás*. The sense of not tight, loose, is first recorded in Middle English probably before 1300. —**n.** Before 1325 *slak* cessation of pain or grieving, relief; from the adjective. The sense of a quiet period, lull, is first recorded in 1851 and that of a loose part or end (as of a rope) is attested since 1794. The plural form *slacks*, loose trousers, is first recorded in 1824. —**v.** 1520, to moderate, make slack; from the adjective. —**adv.** 1392; from the adjective. —**slacken** *v.* Probably about 1425 *slakenen* to extinguish, abate; formed from Middle English *slac*, *slak*, *adj.* + *-enen* -en¹. The sense of delay, retard, is first recorded in 1580, and that of loosen, in 1611. —**slacker** *n.* person who shirks work (1898).

slack² *n.* small pieces left after coal is screened. About 1440 *slecke*; probably borrowed from Middle Dutch *slacke*, *slecke*; cognate with Middle Low German *slecke* slack, slag, perhaps related to *slagge* SLAG.

slag *n.* 1552, borrowed from Middle Low German *slagge*, related to modern German *Schlacke* slag, from Middle High

German *schlacken*; also related to Old High German *slahan* to strike, **SLAY**, with reference to the fragments produced by hammering metal.

slake *v.* About 1175 *slakien* make slack or loose; later *slaken* (before 1250); developed from Old English (about 1000) *slacian* slacken an effort, from *slæc* lax. The sense of allay (thirst, revenge, etc.) is first recorded in Middle English about 1325.

slalom *n.* 1921, borrowed from Norwegian *slalåm* skiing race; literally, sloping track (*sla* slope + *lām* track).

slam¹ *v.* shut with force. 1691, to beat or slap; probably borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare dialectal Swedish *slämma* to slam, bang, Norwegian *slamre*, and Icelandic *slæma*). The sense of shut with force is recorded in 1775. —**n.** 1672, impact, blow, probably borrowed from the same (Scandinavian) source as *slam*¹, *v.* and by accident of the record appearing before the verb in English.

slam² *n.* winning all tricks in a card game. 1621, the card game of ruff and honors; later, a slam, especially in whist (1660); of unknown origin. Reference to the game of bridge (*grand slam*) is first recorded in 1892.

slander *n.* About 1280 *sclaundre* disgrace; later, defamation (probably before 1300), and false statements meant to discredit (about 1300); borrowed from Anglo-French *esclaundre*, Old French *esclandre* scandalous statement, alteration of *escandle*, *escandele* scandal, from Latin *scandalum* cause of offense, stumbling block, temptation; see **SCANDAL**. The form *slander* (without *c*) is first recorded about 1340. —**v.** Probably about 1280 *sclaundren*; borrowed from Anglo-French *esclaundrer*, from *esclaundre* scandalous report or statement. —**slanderous** *adj.* 1397 *sclaunderous* insulting; later, defamatory (about 1425); formed from Middle English *sclaundre* slander + *-ous*.

slang *n.* 1756, special vocabulary of tramps or thieves; later, the jargon of a particular profession (1801); of uncertain origin. It has been suggested that *slang* was borrowed from a Scandinavian word; parallel forms exist in Norwegian: *sleng* peculiarity of style in speech and writing; literally, fling, toss, *slengenavn* nickname, and *slengord* gibe, jeer, taunt, related to Old Icelandic *slyngva* to SLING. The sense of very informal language characterized by vividness and novelty is first recorded in 1818. —**adj.** 1758, from the noun.

slant *v.* 1521, to strike obliquely, alteration of *slenten* slip sideways (probably about 1300), perhaps borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Swedish *slinta* to slip, from Proto-Germanic **slintanan*; more distantly related to Old Icelandic *sletta* to throw, spray from analogically created Proto-Germanic **slantjanan*). The sense of slope, is first recorded in 1698. —**n.** 1655, from the verb; also found in Middle English *on slent* at an angle, obliquely (probably before 1350). —**adj.** About 1618, from the verb. —**slantways** *adv.* (1826)

slap *n.* About 1450 *slappe*, probably of imitative origin, as in Low German *slapp*, *slappe* a slap. —**v.** Before 1470 *slappen*; from the noun. —**adv.** 1672, suddenly, probably from the verb; later, directly (1829).

slapstick *n.* 1926, so called from the *slapstick*, a device consisting of two sticks fastened so as to slap together loudly when a clown or actor hits somebody with it (1896, *slap*, *v.* + *stick*¹ piece of wood).

slash *v.* 1548, perhaps borrowed from Middle French *esclachier* to break, variant of *esclater* to break, splinter; see **SLAT**. —**n.** 1576, from the verb.

slat *n.* 1302–03 *sclat* slate; borrowed from Old French *esclat* split piece, splinter, from *esclater* to break, splinter, burst, probably from Frankish **slaitan* to tear, slit, related to Old High German *slizan* to SLIT. Compare **SLATE** and **ECLAT**. The spelling *slat* appeared in Middle English before 1400. The sense of a long, thin, narrow piece of wood or metal, is found in 1764.

slate *n.* About 1340 *sclate*; borrowed from Old French *esclate*, feminine of *esclat* split piece, splinter; see **SLAT**; so called because slate splits easily into thin layers. The sense of a writing tablet of slate is found in Middle English probably 1397; the sense of a list of candidates is first recorded in 1842. —**v.** 1530, from the noun. The sense of nominate is found in 1804, and that of propose or schedule in 1904. —**adj.** 1531, made of slate; later, of a slate color (1796); from the noun.

slather *n.* Usually *slathers* *pl.* large amount. 1857, of uncertain (probably dialectal) origin. —**v.** 1866, spread liberally; of uncertain origin.

slattern *n.* 1639 *slaterne*, of uncertain origin; probably cognate with Low German *Slattje* slut, Dutch *slodder*, and dialectal Swedish *slåta* SLUT.

slaughter *n.* Probably before 1300 *slauzter* killing of large numbers of people, massacre; later *slaghter* (about 1303); borrowed from an early Scandinavian word **slahtr* (compare Old Icelandic *slátr* a butchering, butcher meat, *slátra* to slaughter, and *slátrr* a mowing, related to *slā* SLAY); cognate with Gothic *slauhts* slaughter from Proto-Germanic **sluhtis*, and with Old High German *slahta* (modern German *Schlacht* battle), *slahōn* to slaughter, butcher (modern German *schlachten*), Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *slacht* slaughter, *slachten* to kill, slaughter, Old Saxon *slahta* slaughter, and Old English *slieht*, *sleht* slaughter, from Proto-Germanic **slahtiz* from *slaHanan*; see **SLAY**. —**v.** 1535, from the noun. —**slaughter-house** *n.* (about 1374)

Slav *n.* Before 1387 *Sclave*; borrowed from Medieval Latin *Sclavus*, from late Greek *Skλάβos*, alteration of Old Slavic *Slověninŭ* Slav, probably related to *slovo* word, speech, so that the name of the people meant originally a member of the speech community. The spelling *Slav* appeared in English in 1866 (in 1788 *Slave*), influenced by French or German *Slave* Slav, from Medieval Latin *Sclavus*. See **SLAVE**.

slave *n.* About 1300 *sclave* servant, slave; borrowed from Old French *esclave*, from Medieval Latin *Sclavus* slave, originally, *SLAV*; so called because many Slavs were sold into slavery by their conquerors. The spelling *slave* (without *c*, a reduction normal in English and most Germanic languages) is first recorded in Middle English about 1385. —**v.** 1559, to enslave (a person), from the noun. The sense of work like a slave is found

in 1719. —**slavery** *n.* 1551, drudgery; formed from English *slave*, *n.* + *-ery*. The sense of the condition or fact of being a slave is first recorded in 1577. —**slavish** *adj.* 1565, servile; formed from English *slave*, *n.* + *-ish*. The figurative sense of lacking originality is first recorded in 1753.

slaver *v.* Before 1325 *slaveren*; borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *slafra* to slaver, and Norwegian *slabbe* to slop, eat noisily; cognate with Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *slabben* to eat or drink noisily; compare SLOBBER). —**n.** Before 1325, probably from the verb.

slay *v.* Probably about 1200 *slan*; 1307 *slayen* (past tense *slow*, *slew*, past participle *slawen*, *slain*), developed from Old English (about 725, in *Beowulf*) *slēan* to strike, *slay* (past tense *slōg*, *slōh*, past participle *slægen*); cognate with Old Frisian *slā* to strike, beat, *slay*, Old Saxon *slahan*, Middle Low German *slān*, Middle Dutch *slaen* (modern Dutch *slaan*), Old High German *slahan* (modern German *schlagen*), Old Icelandic *slā* (Swedish, Norwegian, and Danish *slå*), and Gothic *slahan*, from Proto-Germanic **slahanan*.

slazy *adj.* About 1645, flimsy, unsubstantial; of unknown origin. The word is found with the sense of hairy, fuzzy, in 1644. The sense of shoddy, sordid, squalid, is first recorded in 1941. —**sleaze** *n.* 1961, back formation from *slazy*.

sled *n.* Probably before 1325 *sledde* vehicle for drawing loads over ground or ice; as a surname (1286); borrowed from Middle Dutch *sledde* sled, *slēde* (modern Dutch *slede*, *slee*), from Proto-Germanic **slidō*. Middle Dutch *sledde* is cognate with Old Saxon *slido* sled, Old High German *slito*, *slita* (modern German *Schlitten*), and Old Icelandic *sledhi* (Swedish *släde*, Norwegian *slede*, Danish *slæde*), all from the same Germanic root as Old English *slīdan* SLIDE. —**v.** 1718, carry on a sled; later, ride on a sled (1780); from the noun.

sledge¹ *n.* heavy hammer. 1336 *slegge*; developed from Old English (before 1000) *slegg* (from Proto-Germanic **slagj-*), related to *slēan* to strike, SLAY, and cognate with Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *slegge* sledge, Old Icelandic *sleggia*, and Swedish *slägga*. —**v.** 1654, from the noun. —**sledgehammer** *n.* (1495)

sledge² *n.* sled, sleigh. 1617, borrowed from dialectal Dutch *sleedse*, *sleeds*, related to modern Dutch *slede*, *slee* SLED. —**v.** 1708, from the noun.

sleek *v.* 1440 *sleken*; later variant of *sliken* to SLICK. —**adj.** 1589, later variant of Middle English *slike* SLICK.

sleep *v.* 1137 *slepen* be or fall asleep; developed from Old English (before 830) *slæpan*; cognate with Old Frisian *slēpa* to sleep, Old Saxon *slāpan*, Middle Dutch *slāpen* (modern Dutch *slapen*), Old High German *slāfan* (modern German *schlafen*), and Gothic *slēpan*, from Proto-Germanic **slāpanan*. —**n.** 1135 *sleep*; developed from Old English *slæp* (about 725, in *Beowulf*), related to *slæpan* to sleep and cognate with Old Frisian *slēp* sleep, Old Saxon *slāp*, Middle Dutch *slaep* (modern Dutch *slaap*), Old High German *slāf* (modern German *Schlaf*), and Gothic *slēps*. —**sleep**² *n.* Probably before 1200, one who sleeps; 1607, strong horizontal beam; 1892, something whose

importance proves to be greater than expected. —**sleepy** *adj.* Probably before 1200 *sleepi*; formed from Middle English *slep*, *n.*, sleep + *-y*¹.

sleet *n.* Before 1300 *slete*; later *sleet* (about 1395) from Proto-Germanic **slautjan-*; cognate with Middle High German *slōz*, *slōze* (modern German *Schlosse*) hailstone, Middle Low German *slōten*, pl., hail, *slōt* mud, puddle, pool, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *sloot* ditch, and Old Frisian *slāt* ditch, from Proto-Germanic **slaut-*. —**v.** Before 1325 *sleten*, from the noun.

sleeve *n.* Probably before 1200 *sleve* garment, or part of a garment, which covers the arm; developed from Old English *slēfe* (before 901, West Saxon), *slēfe* (before 971, Mercian), from Proto-Germanic **slauþjōn*, and related to *slīfan* put on (clothes), and *slūpan* to slip, glide, which are cognate with Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *slūpen* to slip (modern Dutch *sluipen*), Old High German *slīfan* (modern German *schlafen*), Gothic *slīupan* to slip in, from Proto-Germanic **slūpanan*. —**v.** 1440 *sleven*, from the noun.

sleigh *n.* 1703 *slay*; borrowed from Dutch *slee*, *slede* SLED. The spelling *sleigh* first appeared in 1768, but an early form is found in Middle English *scleye* (about 1400), borrowed from Middle Dutch *slēde* sled. —**v.** 1728 *slay*; from the noun. The spelling *sleigh* for the verb is implied in *sleighter* one who drives a sleigh (1830).

sleight *n.* Before 1325 *slight*; later *sleight* (before 1338); alteration of *sleahthe*, *sleththe* strategy, wisdom, cleverness (probably before 1200); borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *slægðh* cleverness, cunning, slyness, from *slægr* SLY). The term *sleight of hand* is first found before 1460.

slender *adj.* Probably before 1400 *slendre*; earlier *sclendir* (about 1387–95); probably borrowed from Old French *esclendre* thin, slender, from Old Dutch *slinder*.

sleuth *n.* Probably about 1200 *sloth* track, trail of a person or animal; later *sleuth* (1375); borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *slōðh* trail, of uncertain origin). *Sleuth* a detective (1872) is a shortened form of *sleuthhound* keen investigator, tracker (1856), itself a figurative use of a kind of bloodhound for tracking game or fugitives (1375). —**v.** 1900, American English; from the noun.

slew¹ *n.* swampy place. 1708, variant of SLOUGH¹ muddy place.

slew² *v.* to turn, swing, twist. 1834, earlier *slue* (1769), a nautical word of uncertain origin.

slew³ *n.* large number or amount. 1840, borrowed from Irish *sluagh* a host, crowd, multitude.

slice *n.* Probably before 1300 *slice* splinter, sliver; borrowed from Old French *esclis* splinter, from *esclier* to splinter, from Frankish **slītan* to split, related to Old High German *slīzan* to SLIT. —**v.** Before 1475 *sklicen*; borrowed from Middle French *esclier* to splinter.

slick *v.* Probably about 1200 *sliken*; probably developed from

Old English (before 900) *-slician* (attested in *nīgslīcod* newly made sleek), from Proto-Germanic **slikōjanan*; cognate with Old High German *slīhhan* to glide (modern German *schleichen*), Middle Low German *slīk* mud, mire, Middle Dutch *slīc* (modern Dutch *slīk*), and Old Icelandic *slīkr* smooth, from Proto-Germanic **slikaz*. Compare SLEEK. —**adj.** Before 1325 *slike*, and in the place name *Slickeburn* (181); related to *slīken*, v. The sense of clever in deception, smooth (1599), is from this sense in the adverb (about 1300). —**n.** 1626, ointment, from the adjective or verb. Slick place or spot is first recorded in 1849. —**slicker** n. 1884, waterproof raincoat.

slide v. Probably about 1150 *sliden*; developed from Old English (before 950) *slīdan* move smoothly, glide; cognate with Middle High German *slīten* to slide, glide, and early Low German *slīden*, from Proto-Germanic **slīdanan*. —**n.** 1570, from the verb. The smooth surface for sliding on (as at a playground) is first recorded in 1687 and that of mounting to examine under a microscope (1819).

slight adj. Before 1325, smooth, plain, slender, small, unimportant; probably developed from Old English *-sliht* level (attested in *eorhtslihtes* level with the ground), and cognate with Old Frisian *slīucht* smooth, even, Old Saxon *sliht*, Old Icelandic *slētr* (Norwegian *slett*, Swedish *slät*), Old High German *slēht* smooth, even, Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *slēcht*, *slīcht* smooth, simple, plain, Old High German *slīhtan* make smooth or level (modern German *schlichten*, whence *schlicht* simple, plain, smooth), and Gothic *slaihts* smooth, plain, from Proto-Germanic **slihtaz*. —**v.** Before 1325 *slīhten* make oneself appear sleek; from the noun. The sense of treat with indifference or disdain, is first recorded in 1597, influenced by the adjective sense of having little worth, insignificant. —**n.** 1549–62, small amount, weight, or matter; from the adjective; indifference or disrespect is first recorded in 1701.

slim adj. 1657, thin or slight; later, sly (1674); borrowed from Dutch *slim* bad, sly, clever, from Middle Dutch *slīm*, *slīmp* bad, crooked, cognate with Middle Low German *slīm* bad, crooked, Middle High German *slīmp* slanting, awry (modern German *schlimm* bad), from Proto-Germanic **slēmbaz*. —**v.** 1808, to do little or no (work); from the adjective; later, make slim (1862).

slime n. About 1300 *shyme* soft, sticky mud; developed from Old English (before 1000) *slīm* slime, probably related to *līm* sticky substance; see LIME¹; and cognate with Middle Low German *slīm* slime, Middle Dutch and Dutch *slīm*, Middle High German *slīm* (modern German *Schleim*), Old Icelandic *slīm* (Norwegian and Danish *slim*), from Proto-Germanic **slīmaz*. —**v.** 1628, from the noun. —**slimy** adj. Probably before 1387 *shymy* covered with slime; formed from Middle English *shyme* n., slime + *-y¹*.

sling n. Probably before 1300 *slynge* implement for throwing stones; probably borrowed from Middle Low German *slīnge* sling, corresponding to Old Frisian *slīnge* sling, loop, and Old High German *slīnga* (modern German *Schlinge*); cognate with Old English *slīngan* to creep, twist, Middle Low German and

Middle Dutch *slīngen*, Old High German *slīngan* (modern German *schlingen*), Old Icelandic *slyngva* to throw, sling (Norwegian *slengje*, Danish *slynge*, and Swedish *slunga*), from Proto-Germanic **slenzanan*.

The sense of a loop for lifting or carrying heavy objects is first recorded in 1323–24. —**v.** Probably about 1200 *slīngen* strike down using a sling; later, to throw, hurl (about 1250); probably borrowed from Old Icelandic *slyngva* to throw, sling.

slink v. About 1385 *slīnken* move in a sneaking, guilty manner; developed from Old English *slīncan* to creep, crawl; cognate with Old Swedish *slīnka* to creep, cling to, Middle Low German, Middle Dutch, and modern Dutch *slīnken* to shrink, subside, from Proto-Germanic **slenkanan*. —**slinky** adj. 1921, sinuous, slender; formed from *slīnk* + *-y¹*. The sense of stealthy, furtive, is first recorded in 1944.

slip¹ v. to glide, slide. Before 1325 *slīppen* get away, escape; later, slide out of place (about 1340); probably borrowed from Middle Low German *slīppen* to glide, slide; cognate with Middle Dutch *slīpen* to glide, slide (modern Dutch *slīpen*), Old High German *slīfan* (modern German *schleifen* to slide, grind, polish), from Proto-Germanic **slīpanan* and Old Icelandic *slīpari* polisher, *slīpr* slippery (Norwegian *slīp*). —**n.** 1455–56 *slīpe*, 1467 *slīppe* landing place for ships; from the verb. The act of slipping is first recorded in 1596. A sleeveless garment worn by women is found in 1761. —**slipper** n. Before 1475, formed from Middle English *slīppen* slip + *-ere* *-er¹*; perhaps also influenced by earlier *slīpper* readily slipping (1377); see SLIPPERY. —**slippery** adj. Probably before 1500 *slīpperie* having a smooth surface; formed from Middle English *slīpper* readily slipping + *-ie* *-y¹*, perhaps by influence of Low German *slīpperīg*. Middle English *slīpper* readily slipping (1410; *slīper*, 1377) developed from Old English (before 1050) *slīpor* slippery; cognate with Middle Low German *slīpper* slippery, Old High German *slēffar*, and Old Icelandic *slīpr*; see SLIP¹. The sense of deceitful, is first recorded in English in 1555.

slip² n. narrow strip. 1440 *slīp* edge of a garment; later *slīppe* narrow piece or strip (1555); probably borrowed from Middle Low German or Middle Dutch *slīppe* cut, slit, lappet (modern Dutch *slīp*), related to Middle Low German *slīppen* to cut, possibly cognate with Old English *-slīfan* (as in *tōslīfan*) to split, cleave; see SLIVER. The sense of a slender sprig for planting is recorded in English in 1530, that of a young slender person (*a slīp of a girl*) in 1582 and a narrow piece of paper (as in *a citation slīp*) in 1687. —**v.** 1498, to cut off; probably borrowed from Middle Dutch or Middle Low German *slīppen* to cut. The sense of cut slips from (a plant) is recorded in 1530.

slip³ n. potter's clay. 1440 *slīp* mud, slime; probably developed from Old English (about 1000) *slīppe* slime, related to *slīpan* to slip; see SLEEVE. The sense of potter's clay is first recorded in 1640.

slipshod adj. 1580, wearing slippers or loose shoes; formed from English *slīp*¹ to slide + *shod* wearing shoes, from past participle of shoe, v. The figurative sense of slovenly, careless, is found in 1815.

slit v. Probably before 1200 *slīten* cut, split, divide; related to

Old English *slītan* cut or tear up, slit (which developed into Middle English *sliten*). Old English *slītan* is cognate with Old Frisian *slīta* to slit, tear, Old Saxon *slītan*, Middle Dutch *slīten* (modern Dutch *slijten*), Old High German *slīzan* split or tear off (modern German *schleissen*), and Old Icelandic *slīta* (Swedish *slita* pull, tear, rend, Norwegian *slite*), from Proto-Germanic **slītanan*, earlier **sklītanan*. —**n.** About 1250 *slitte*, from the verb.

slither *v.* Probably before 1200 *slēthren* to fall; later, to slip or slide (probably before 1425); variant of *slideren*, developed from Old English *slīdrian*, *sliderian* (before 899), a frequentative form of *slīdan* to SLIDE; for suffix see -ER⁴. For the change in spelling from *d* to *th*, see GATHER.

sliver *n.* About 1385 *slyvere* piece cut off, splinter; formed from earlier *sliven* to split, cleave (about 1300) + -*ere*¹. Middle English *sliven* developed from Old English *-slīfan* (as in *tōslīfan*) to split, cleave, from Proto-Germanic **slīfanan*, earlier **sklīfanan*.

slob *n.* 1780, mud, muddy land, ooze; borrowed from Irish *slab* mud, probably borrowed from English *slab* muddy place, puddle (1610), borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare dialectal Swedish *slabb* slime, mud, and Icelandic *slabb* sludge). The sense of an untidy person, careless worker, is first recorded in 1861.

slobber *v.* Probably about 1380 *sloberen* (implied in *sloberande*, present participle); probably cognate with Frisian *slobberje* to slurp, Middle Low German *slubberen* slurp, Middle Dutch *ōverslubberen* wade through a ditch, modern Dutch *slobberen* to lap up, eat noisily, related to Middle Dutch *slabben* to eat or drink noisily; see SLAVER. —**n.** Probably before 1400 *slober* mud, slime; related to the verb. The sense of saliva running from the mouth is first recorded in 1755.

sloe *n.* Probably before 1300 *slo* (plural *slon*); developed from Old English (before 800) *slāh*, plural *slān*; cognate with Frisian *slē* sloe, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *slee*, Old High German *slēha*, *slēwa* (modern German *Schlehe*), Old Swedish *slā* (modern Swedish *slän*), from Proto-Germanic **slaiHwōn*.

slog *v.* 1824, hit hard; probably variant of SLUG³ hit hard. The sense of walk dogged, as through snow, is first recorded in 1872, and work hard, plod, in 1888.

slogan *n.* 1513 *slogorne* battle cry used by Irish or Scottish Highland clans; borrowed from Gaelic *sluagh-ghairm* (*sluagh* army, host, slew + *ghairm* a cry). The spelling *slogan* appeared in 1680, and the sense of a distinctive word or phrase used by a political or other group in 1704.

sloop *n.* 1629, borrowed from Dutch *sloep* a sloop, earlier *sloep*, probably from French *chaloupe*, from Old French *chalupe* small sloop-rigged vessel, found also in English *shallop*.

slop *n.* Probably before 1400 *sloppe* muddy place; probably developed from Old English -*sloppe* dung (in *cūsloppe* cow dung), related to *slippe* slime; see SLIP³ potter's clay. The sense of a weak liquid or semiliquid food (usually *slops*) is first recorded in 1657. The meaning of an act of spilling is found in

1727. —**v.** 1557, to spill; from the noun. —**sloppy** *adj.* 1727, very wet, muddy; formed from English *slop*, *n.* + -*y*¹. The sense of loose, ill-fitting, is first recorded in 1825, influenced by English *slop* loose outer garment (1376, probably borrowed from Middle Dutch *slop*).

slope *v.* 1591, from *slope*, *adj.*, slanting (1502), probably from Middle English *aslope*, *adv.*, on the incline (before 1398), developed from Old English **āslopan*, past participle of *āslūpan* to slip away (*ā-* away + *slūpan* to slip; see SLEEVE). —**n.** 1611, from the verb.

slosh *n.* 1814, probably a blend of *slop* (muddy place) and *slush*. —**v.** 1844, from the noun.

slot *n.* Probably about 1390, the hollow at the base of the throat above the breastbone; borrowed from Old French *esclot*, of uncertain origin. The sense of a narrow opening or depression into which something can be fitted is first recorded in 1523. The sense of a position in a list, hierarchy, system, etc., is first recorded in 1942. —**v.** Probably before 1400 *slotten* stab through the hollow at the base of the throat; later, cut a slot or slots in (1747), and designate or appoint (1960's); from the noun.

sloth *n.* Before 1150 *slauthe* indolence, sluggishness; later *slouthe* (before 1300); formed from Middle English *slou*, *slowe* SLOW + -*th*¹. The sense of slowness, tardiness, is first recorded about 1380. Sloth a very slow-moving mammal is found in 1613.

slouch *n.* 1515, awkward, slovenly, or lazy man; variant of *slouk* (1570); perhaps borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *slōkr* lazy fellow, Swedish *slōkr*, probably related to *slaker* loose, careless, SLACK¹). The meaning of a stooping of the head and shoulders, is first recorded in 1725. —**v.** 1754, move or walk with a slouch; from the noun.

slough¹ *n.* muddy place. Before 1250 *slo* degraded condition; later, *sloghe* (about 1340), *slough* (about 1390, and as a surname, 1273); earlier in the place name *Polsewe* (1159); developed from Old English *slōh* muddy place (before 899); possibly cognate with Middle Low German *slōch* muddy place, and Middle High German *sluoche* ditch, from Proto-Germanic **slōHaz*, earlier **sklōHaz*.

slough² *n.* cast-off skin of a snake or other animal. Before 1325 *slughe*; possibly cognate with Middle High German *sluch* snakeskin (modern German *Schlauch* tube, pipe), Middle Low German *slū* husk, peel, skin, modern Dutch *sluiken* to smuggle, from Proto-Germanic **slūk-*. —**v.** 1720, from the noun.

sloven *n.* Probably before 1475 *slovey* immoral woman; later *sloven* knave, rascal (before 1500); probably borrowed from Middle Flemish *sloovin* a scold, related to *sloef* untidy, shabby, Dutch *slof* careless, negligent, from Proto-Germanic **slup-*. —**slovenly** *adj.* Before 1515, low, base, lewd; later, untidy, dirty (before 1568); formed from English *sloven*, *n.* + -*ly*².

slow *adj.* Probably before 1200 *slou*, *slowe*; developed from Old English *slāw* sluggish (before 899); cognate with Old Saxon *slēu* blunt, dull, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *slee*,

Middle Low German *slē*, Old High German *slēo*, Old Icelandic *sljör*, *slær* (Swedish *slö*, Danish and Norwegian *sløv*), from Proto-Germanic **slāwaz*. —**v.** Probably about 1175 *slawen* be slow; later *slouwen* (before 1425); from the adjective. The meaning of go slower is found in 1594. —**adv.** Before 1500, from the adjective.

sludge *n.* 1649, of uncertain origin; possibly from earlier *slutch* mud, mire (implied in a past participle in the 1300's); or perhaps a variant of SLUSH. Other words for mud or mire, such as *slitch* (about 1400) and *sleeche* (1587), suggest possible sources for a variant form *sludge*.

slug¹ *n.* animal like a snail. 1408 *slogge* lazy person; later *slugge* (about 1425); borrowed, possibly by influence of Middle English *sluggard* lazy person (before 1398), from a Scandinavian source (compare dialectal Swedish and Norwegian *slugga* be sluggish, and dialectal Norwegian *slugge* a heavy slow person).

slug² *n.* lead for firing from a gun. 1622, of uncertain origin; perhaps special use of SLUG¹, with reference to its shape. The token or counterfeit coin, is first recorded in 1881. The meaning of a strong drink, is first recorded in 1756. —**v.** 1856, in *slug it up*.

slug³ *n.* a hard blow. 1830, dialectal English, of uncertain origin. —**v.** 1862, probably from the noun. —**slugger** *n.* (1877)

sluggard *n.* About 1386 (implied in *sluggardy* laziness, indolence), a surname *Slogard* (1275); formed from *sluggi*, *sloggi* sluggish, indolent (probably before 1200) + *-ard*. Middle English *sluggi*, *sloggi* was probably borrowed from a Scandinavian word related to the source of Middle English *slugge*, *slogge* lazy person; see SLUG¹. —**adj.** 1593, from the noun.

sluggish *adj.* Before 1450 *sloggiſsh* lazy; about 1450 *slugiſsh* slow, dull; formed from Middle English *slugge* lazy person (see SLUG¹) + *-iſsh* *-iſh*¹.

sluice *n.* About 1400 *sluse*, alteration of *scuse* (1340); borrowed from Old French *escluse* a sluice, floodgate, from Late Latin *exclūsa* barrier to shut out water, from feminine singular of Latin *exclūsus*, past participle of *exclūdere* shut out, EXCLUDE. The spelling *sluice*, paralleling *juice*, came into general use in the 1700's.

slum *n.* 1845, from earlier *back slum* back alley or street inhabited by poor people (1825), originally a slang word meaning a room, especially a back room (1812); of unknown origin. —**v.** 1884, from the noun. The meaning of live in a manner of indifference to appearance or surroundings is first recorded in 1928.

slumber *v.* Before 1376 *slumberen*, *slomberen* to sleep, especially to sleep lightly; alteration (by influence of noun spelling *slomber*) of *slumeren* (before 1250), frequentative verb form of *slumen* to doze, probably from Old English (before 1000) *slūma* light sleep; for suffix see *-ER*⁴ and cognate with Middle High German *slumen*, *slummern* to slumber (modern German *schlummern*), Middle Low German *slummeren*, Middle Dutch *slūmen*, *slūmeren* (modern Dutch *sluimeren*), and Norwegian

slumre. The appearance of *b* between *m* and *r* parallels *number*, *lumber*, *-cumber* (in *cucumber*), etc. —**n.** Before 1338 *slomber*, from the verb.

slump *v.* Before 1677, fall or sink into a muddy place; perhaps borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Norwegian and Danish *slumpe* fall upon, chance upon; cognate with Middle Low German *slump* lucky accident, modern German *schlumpen* hang loosely, be slovenly). —**n.** 1888, heavy decline in prices on the stock exchange; also sudden fall, collapse; from the verb. The sense of a sharp decline in trade or business, is attested since 1922.

slur *v.* 1602, to smear, stain, sully; possibly verb use of dialectal English *slur* thin or fluid mud, variant of Middle English *sloor*, *slore* (1440); cognate with Middle Low German *slūren*, Middle Dutch *sloren*, and Dutch *slouren* to drag, trail, and Middle High German *slīer* mud. The sense of insult, disparage, is first recorded in 1660, and that of blur (implied in *slurred* 1746). —**n.** 1609, insult, slight, from the verb.

slurp *v.* 1648, drink noisily; borrowed from Dutch *slurpen*, perhaps of imitative origin similar to Middle Low German *slorpen*, modern German *schlürfen*, and Norwegian *slurpe* to slurp. —**n.** a slurping sip or noise. 1949, from the verb.

slurry *n.* Before 1438 *slory* mud, slime; probably related to Middle English *sloor*, *slore* thin or fluid mud; see SLUR. —**v.** 1440 *sloryen* to dirty, soil, smear; probably from the noun.

slush *n.* 1641, perhaps borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Norwegian and Swedish *slask* slushy ground or weather, obsolete Danish *slus* sleet, and modern Danish *slud*). —**slush fund** 1839, money obtained from the sale of a ship's slush (1756, refuse fat) distributed among a ship's officers; later money collected to spread influence, bribes, etc. (1874). —**slushy** *adj.* (1791)

slut *n.* 1402 *slutte* slovenly woman; later, woman of loose morals (probably before 1475), of uncertain origin; probably cognate with dialectal German *Schlutt*, *Schlutte* slovenly woman, dialectal Swedish *slåta* idle woman, slut, Dutch *slodde*, *slodder* slut.

sly *adj.* Probably about 1200 *sleh* clever, crafty, wily; later *slye* (about 1303); borrowed from a Scandinavian source; compare Old Icelandic *slœgr* (from Proto-Germanic **slōȝis*), modern Icelandic *slægur*, Norwegian *slog* cunning, crafty, sly. —**n.** **on the sly**, in a sly way, secretly. 1812, from the adjective.

smack¹ *n.* taste or flavor. Probably about 1200 *smacc*; later *smak* (about 1250); developed from Old English (before 1000) *smæc*; cognate with Old Frisian *smek*, *smaka* taste or flavor, Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *smāke* (modern Dutch *smak*), Old High German *smac*, *gismac* (modern German *Geschmack*), and Old Icelandic *smekker* (Norwegian and Swedish *smak*, Danish *smag*), from Proto-Germanic **smak-*. —**v.** Before 1250 *smaken* to smell (something); later, to taste (something), before 1333, and to have a taste (before 1398); from the noun. The figurative sense of have a trace or suggestion (as in a remark that *smacks of sarcasm*), is found in 1595.

smack² *v.* open (the lips) quickly to make a sharp sound. 1557, probably of imitative origin similar in formation to Middle Low German *smacken* to strike, throw, Low German and Dutch *smakken* to fling, dash, and German *schmatzen* to smack the lips. The sense of slap, appears in 1840. —**n.** 1570, from the noun.

smack³ *n.* sailboat. 1611, probably borrowed from Dutch or Low German *smak* sailboat, from *smakken* to fling, dash (see SMACK²).

small *adj.* Probably before 1200 *smal*; developed from Old English (before 800) *smæl* slender, narrow, small; cognate with Old Frisian *smel* narrow, Old Saxon, Middle Low German, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *smal*, Old High German *smal* (modern German *schmal*), Old Icelandic *smalr* small (in compounds), *smali* small cattle, and Gothic *smalista* smallest, from Proto-Germanic **smalaz*. —**adv.** About 1375, developed from Old English *smale* (before 899); from Old English *smæl*, *adj.* —**n.** Probably before 1200; from *smal* *adj.* —**small fry** (1697, small fish; 1885, insignificant people) —**smallish** *adj.* (about 1370) —**smallpox** *n.* (1518)

smarmy *adj.* 1924, offensively flattering, formed in English from *smarm* to behave in a flattering way (1920), variant of *smalm* (1890) and *smaum* (1846) to smear, bedaub, of unknown origin; for suffix see -Y¹.

smart *v.* Probably about 1150 *smerten* cause (someone) to suffer grief or sorrow, distress; later *smearthen* ache, be painful (probably before 1200), and *smarten* (about 1303); developed from Old English *smeortan* be painful (before 899); cognate with Middle Low German *smerten* to be painful, Middle Dutch *smerten*, *smarten* (modern Dutch *smarten*), and Old High German *smertzan* (modern German *schmerzen*), from Proto-Germanic **smertanan*. —**adj.** Probably before 1200 *smarte*, *smerte* sharp, severe, stinging; developed from Old English (before 1023) *smear*, related to *smeortan* to smart. The meaning of quick, active, prompt, is first recorded about 1303; and that of quick at learning, clever, in 1628. —**n.** Probably about 1175 *smirte*; later *smerte* (probably before 1300); cognate with Middle Dutch and Middle Low German *smerte*, *smarte* sharp pain, Old High German *smertza*, *smertzo* (modern German *Schmerz*), from the same Germanic source as Old English *smeortan* to smart. —**adv.** About 1300 *smerte* sharply, severely; from the adjective. —**smarten** *v.* (1815) —**smarts** *n.* pl. 1968, good sense, intelligence, from *smart*, *adj.*; for suffix see -s¹. —**smarty** *n.* (1861); *adj.* (1883)

smart aleck 1865 *smart Aleck*, perhaps in allusion to *Aleck Hoag*, a notorious pimp, thief, and confidence man in New York City in the early 1840's.

smash *v.* 1778, break to pieces, crush, shatter; earlier, to kick downstairs (before 1700); probably of imitative origin, similar to *clash*, *crash*, etc. —**n.** 1725, hard blow; from the verb. The sense of a sound of smashing, crash, is first recorded in 1808.

smatter *v.* About 1410 *smateren* talk idly, chatter; of uncertain (perhaps imitative) origin. Similar forms occur in Middle High German *smetern* to chatter (modern German *schmettern*

to dash, resound), and Swedish *smattra* to patter, rattle. —**n.** 1668, superficial knowledge, smattering; from the verb. —**smattering** *n.* 1538, formed from English *smatter*, *v.* + -ing¹.

smear *n.* Probably about 1200 *smere* fat, grease, ointment; developed from Old English (before 800) *smeoru* grease, from Proto-Germanic **smerwan*; cognate with Old Saxon *smero* fat, grease, Middle Dutch *smere* (modern Dutch *smeer*), Old High German *smero* (modern German *Schmer*), Old Icelandic *smjör*, *smjör* butter (Swedish *smör*, Norwegian and Danish *smør*), and Gothic *smairthr* fat, from Proto-Germanic **smerthran*. The meaning of a mark or stain left by smearing is first recorded in 1611. —**v.** About 1125 *smeren* rub or daub with a greasy substance, anoint; developed from Old English (before 830) *smerian*, *smirian*, related to *smeoru* grease, and cognate with Middle Low German, Middle Dutch and Dutch *smeren* to smear, Old High German *smirwen* (modern German *schmieren*), and Old Icelandic *smyrva*, *smyrja* (Swedish *smörja*, Norwegian and Danish *smøre*).

smell *v.* About 1175 *smellen* emit or perceive an odor, perhaps cognate with Middle Dutch *smölen*, *smölen* to SMOLDER. The Old English equivalent is *stenc* STENCH. —**n.** About 1175 *smel*; related to the verb.

smelt¹ *v.* melt (ore). 1543; implied in Middle English *smeltar* one who smelts ore (1455), as a surname *Smelter* (probably about 1382); borrowed from Dutch or Low German *smelten*, from Middle Dutch or Middle Low German; cognate with Old High German *smelzan* to melt (modern German *schmelzen*), Old Swedish *smälta* (modern Swedish *smälta*), Norwegian and Danish *smelte*, and Old English *meltan* to MELT.

smelt² *n.* sea fish. Old English (before 800) *smelt*; cognate with Dutch *smelt* sand eel, Norwegian *smelte*, and Danish *smelt*.

smidgen or **smidgeon** *n.* 1845 *smitchin*; later *smidgeon* (1878), and *smidgen* (1886), perhaps formed from Scottish *smitch* very small amount, small insignificant person (1822) + -in, dialectal variant of -ing¹.

smile *v.* About 1303 (implied in *smylung* pleasant); also as a surname *Smyles* (1301); of uncertain origin; perhaps borrowed from Middle Low German **smilen*; or from a Scandinavian source (compare Swedish *smila* smile); suggested as cognates with Old High German *smilan* to smile, Middle High German *smielen*. —**n.** 1562, from the verb.

smirch *v.* Before 1398 *smorchen* to discolor, soil; of uncertain origin; perhaps from Old French *esmorcher* to torture, with a lost meaning, such as befoul or stain (as also found later in English). Old French *esmorcher* is from *es-* out + *morcher* to bite. The altered spelling *smirch* is first recorded in 1599, and the sense of dishonor, disgrace, discredit, in 1820. —**n.** Before 1688, from the verb.

smirk *v.* Probably about 1200 *smirken* to smile; later, to smile in an affected, silly way (before 1500); developed from Old English *smearcian* to smile (before 899); related to *smerian* to laugh at. —**n.** About 1560, from the verb.

smite *v.* Probably before 1200 *smiten* to strike or hit hard; developed from Old English (before 800) *smītan*; cognate with Old Frisian *smīta* to throw, Old Saxon *smītan*, Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *smīten* to throw, strike (modern Dutch *smijten*), Old High German *bismīzan* to soil, stain, Middle High German *smīzan* to smear, strike (modern German *schmeissen* to throw, fling), Norwegian and Swedish *smita*, Danish *smide*, and Gothic *bismēitan* anoint, from Proto-Germanic **smītanan*. The sense of to slay (originally Biblical) is found before 1325. The sense of inspire with love (in the past participle *smitten*) occurs in 1663.

smith *n.* Old English *smith* one who makes or shapes things out of metal, blacksmith (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *smith* blacksmith, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *smid*, Old High German *smid* (modern German *Schmied*, and the surname *Schmidt*), Old Icelandic *smidhr* (Norwegian, Swedish, and Danish *smed*), and Gothic *-smitha* (in *aizasmitha* coppersmith), from Proto-Germanic **smithaz*. —**smithy** *n.* Before 1250 *smithie*; probably a formation of *smith* + *-ie* *-y*³; influenced by Old Icelandic *smidhja* smithy, from *smidhr* SMITH, but based on Old English *smiththe*; cognate with Old High German *smitta* (modern German *Schmiede*) smithy, Middle Dutch *smisse* (modern Dutch *smidse*), and Old Frisian *smithe*, from Proto-Germanic **smithjōn*.

smithereens *n. pl.* 1829 *smiddereens*, borrowed from Irish *smidirín*, diminutive of *smiodar* fragment; for suffix see *-s*¹.

smock *n.* About 1300 *smoke*, before 1325 *smockwoman's* undergarment, chemise; developed from Old English (before 1000) *smoc*; cognate with Old High German *smoccho* and Old Icelandic *smokkr* woman's garment, from Proto-Germanic **smukkaz*, earlier **smuznās*, and related to Middle High German *gesmuc* (modern German *Schmuck* adornment) and *smiegen* (modern German *schmiegen* creep close to), Old English *smūgan* to creep, modern Dutch *smuigen* to sneak, and Old Icelandic *smjúga* creep into.

smog *n.* 1905, blend of *smoke* and *fog*; reputedly coined in reference to the London fog. —**v.** 1966, from the noun. —**smoggy** *adj.* (1905)

smoke *n.* 1137 *smoke*, developed from Old English (about 1000) *smoca*, related to *smēocan* give off smoke, from Proto-Germanic **smeukanan*; cognate with Middle Dutch *smieken* give off smoke, *smoock* smoke (modern Dutch *smook*), Middle Low German *smōk*, and Middle High German *smouch* smoke (modern German *Schmauch*). —**v.** 1137 *smoken* give off smoke, expose to smoke; developed from Old English (about 1000) *smocian*, from *smoca* smoke, *n.* —**smoker** *n.* 1599, person who cures fish, bacon, etc., by means of smoke; formed from English *smoke*, *v.* + *-er*¹. A person who smokes tobacco is first recorded in 1617. —**smoky** *adj.* (about 1300)

smolder *v.* Probably about 1380 *smolderen* (implied in *smolderande*, present participle) to smother, suffocate; from *smolder*, *n.*, smoke (about 1378), and cognate with Middle Dutch *smōlen*, *smōlen* to smolder (modern Dutch *smeulen*), Low German *smelen*, *smālen*, and Flemish *smoel* hot, from Proto-Germanic **smel-/smul-/smōl-*. The meaning of burn and

smoke without flame is first recorded in English in 1529, fell into disuse, and was revived in the 1800's.

smooch *v., n.* 1932 *v.*, 1942 *n.*; alteration of dialectal English *smouch*, noun (1578) and verb (1583), possibly imitative of the sound of kissing.

smooth *adj.* About 1330 *smothe* level, flat; developed from Old English (before 1050) *smōth* free from roughness, not harsh; cognate with Old Saxon *smōthi* smooth, and dialectal German *smoje* soft, supple. The sense of pleasant, polite, sincere, is first recorded probably about 1390. —**v.** 1340 *smothen*, from the adjective. —**smoothen** *v.* 1635, formed from English *smooth*, *adj.* + *-en*¹.

smorgasbord *n.* 1893, borrowing of Swedish *smörgåsbord*, formed from *smörgås* bread and butter (*smör* butter + dialectal Swedish *gås* lump of butter) + *bord* table.

smother *v.* Probably about 1200 *smeorthren* (implied in *smeorthrinde*, present participle) suffocate with smoke, from *smorthre*, *n.*, dense, stifling smoke (probably before 1200); developed from the stem of Old English (before 800) *smorian* to suffocate, choke; cognate with Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *smören* to suffocate, stew (modern Dutch *smoren*), Flemish *smoren*, *smooren* to smoke, be smoky, and possibly with Middle Dutch *smōlen*, *smōlen* to SMOLDER. The spelling *smother* (without medial *r*) is recorded about 1300, perhaps from shortening of the initial vowel or by dissimilation. The sense of stifle, suppress, is first recorded in 1579.

smudge *v.* Probably before 1425 *smogen* (implied in *smoginge*, gerund) to soil, stain, blacken, smirch; later *smodge* (1624); see *drudge* for development. —**n.** 1768–74, from the verb.

smug *adj.* 1551 *smugge* trim, neat, spruce, smart; of uncertain origin, but possibly an alteration of **smucke*, borrowed from Low German *smuk* trim, neat, from Middle Low German *smucken* to adorn, related to Middle High German *smücken* to adorn, and *smiegen* press close; see *SMOCK*. The meaning of having a self-satisfied air (1701) is an extension of smooth, sleek (1582).

smuggle *v.* Before 1687 *smuckele*; 1687 *smuggle*; borrowed from Low German *smukkeln*, *smuggeln* or Dutch *smokkelen* to transport (goods) illegally, apparently a frequentative formation; compare modern Dutch *smuigen* (from Proto-Germanic **smūzanan*) to sneak; for suffix see *-LE*³. —**smuggler** *n.* 1661 *smuckellor*, borrowed from Low German *smukkeler* or Dutch *smokkelaar*. The later form *smugler* (1670), was probably borrowed from Low German *smuggeler*, variant of *smukkeler*; for suffix see *-ER*¹.

smut *v.* Probably before 1425 *smutten* debase, defile; probably variant of *smotten* (before 1387); cognate with Middle High German *smotzen*, *smutzen* (modern German *schmutzen*) make dirty, from Proto-Germanic **smutt-* (earlier **smuth-*). The sense of blacken, is first recorded in English in 1587. —**n.** 1664, black mark or stain; from the verb. *Smut* a plant disease is implied in *smutty* (1597). The sense of indecent or obscene language is first recorded in 1698.

snack *v.* About 1300 *snaken* (of a dog) to bite or snap; probably borrowed from Middle Dutch *snacken* to snatch, chatter; see SNATCH. The meaning of have a mere bite or morsel, eat a light meal, is first recorded in 1807; from the noun. —**n.** 1402 *snak* a bite, taste; from the verb. A mere bite or morsel, light meal, is recorded in 1757.

snaffle *n.* 1533, perhaps borrowed from Dutch *snavel* beak, bill; see NIB. —**v.** 1559, from the noun.

snafu *n.* 1941, American English (Army use) acronym formed from the initial letters of *situation normal—all fouled* (probably a euphemism for *fucked*) *up*. —**adj.** 1942, from the noun or acronym. —**v.** 1943, from the noun or acronym.

snag *n.* 1577–87, stump of a tree or of a branch; borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare dialectal Norwegian *snage* point of land, *snag* stump, spike, and Old Icelandic *snagi* clothes peg, *snaga* a kind of ax). The meaning of a sharp or jagged projection is first recorded in 1586, and that of an obstacle, impediment, in 1829. —**v.** 1807, be caught or damaged by a snag; from the noun (possibly influenced by *snagged* jagged, ragged, 1658).

snail *n.* Before 1250 *snaille*; developed (with *i* for *g*, as in *nail*) from Old English (before 800) *snægl*, a diminutive form (with *g* for *ç*) of *snaca* a snake; literally, creeping thing. Old English *snægl* is cognate with Old Saxon *snegil* snail, Middle Low German *sneil*, Middle High German *sneigel* (dialectal German *Schnegel*), from Proto-Germanic **snaizilās*, and with Old Icelandic *snigill* (Swedish *snigel*, Danish and Norwegian *snegl*).

snake *n.* 1137 *snāke*, developed from Old English (about 1000) *snaca*, related to *snægl* SNAIL. Old English *snaca* (from Proto-Germanic **snakon*), is cognate with Middle Low German *snake*; literally, creeper, Old Icelandic *snāker*, *snōkr* (modern Icelandic *snákur*) serpent. The sense of a treacherous person is first recorded in 1590. —**v.** 1653, to twist or wind; later, to move, wind, or curve like a snake (1848); from the noun. —**snaky** *adj.* (1567)

snap *n.* 1495 *snappe* a quick, sudden bite or cut; probably borrowed from Dutch or Low German *snappen* to snap, snatch; cognate with Middle High German *snappen* to snap, snatch (modern German *schnappen*), Old Icelandic *snapa*, and probably related to Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *snāvel* beak, bill; see NIB. The sense of a quick movement or effort is first recorded in 1631; that of something easily done in 1877. —**v.** 1530 *snappe* to bite suddenly; probably from the noun. The meaning of catch or seize suddenly (*snap up*) appeared in 1550, followed by break suddenly or sharply, in 1602. —**adv.** 1583, quickly, smartly, with a snap; from the verb. —**adj.** 1790 quick, smart, sharp; from the verb.

snare¹ *n.* noose for catching animals and birds. Before 1100 *snear*; later *snares* (before 1325); borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *snara* noose, snare, related to *sō* *ēnri* twisted rope; and cognate with Old Saxon *snari* string, cord, Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *snāre* (modern Dutch *snaar*), and Old High German *snaraha*, *snarha* noose,

snare, from Proto-Germanic **snarHō*. —**v.** About 1395 *snaren*; from the noun.

snare² *n.* one of the strings stretched across a drum. 1688, probably borrowed from Dutch *snaar* string; see SNARE¹ noose.

snarl¹ *v.* to growl and bare the teeth. 1589 (*snarle*, frequentative verb with *le*, see -LE³) from earlier *snar* (1530); perhaps borrowed from Dutch or Low German *snarren* to rattle, probably of imitative origin. The sense of speak in a harsh manner is first recorded in 1693, from the earlier meaning of quarrel (1593). —**n.** 1613, probably in the sense of a harsh or rude answer; from the verb.

snarl² *n.* tangle. Before 1387, moral snare, temptation, trap; probably a diminutive formed from SNARE¹ noose, trap. The tangle or knot is first recorded in 1609. —**v.** Before 1387 *snarlen* to trick, ensnare; from the noun. The sense of tangle, twist, is first recorded in 1440.

snatch *v.* Probably before 1200 *sneccen* take a sudden snap or bite at something; later *snacchen* (about 1225); perhaps borrowed from Middle Dutch *snacken* (modern Dutch *snakken*) to snatch, chatter; cognate with Middle Low German and Middle High German *snacken* to chatter, and Old Icelandic *snaka* to sniff about. The meaning of seize suddenly is first recorded before 1338. —**n.** Probably before 1300 *snacche* trap, snare; from the verb.

snazzy *adj.* 1932, of uncertain origin; perhaps a blend of *snappy* (stylish, elegant) and *jazzy*.

sneak *v.* 1596, move in a stealthy way; also found in *sneakishly*, *adv.*, (1560); probably related to *sniken* to creep, crawl (probably about 1200), developed from Old English **snician*, related to *snīcan* (before 899). The Old English form *snīcan* (from Proto-Germanic **sneikanan*) is cognate with Old Icelandic *sníkja* to desire, reach for sneakily (Norwegian *sniike*, Swedish *sniika*, Danish *snige* to sneak). —**n.** Before 1643, from the verb. —**sneaky** *adj.* (1833)

sneaker *n.* 1895, altered (by influence of *sneaker* one who sneaks, 1598) from earlier *sneak* rubber-soled shoe (1883); so called because the shoe was noiseless; for suffix see -ER¹.

sneer *v.* Before 1400 *sneren* mock, hold in derision, scoff; probably cognate with North Frisian *sneere* to scorn, and similar to Middle High German *snerren* to chatter, prate, *snarren* to rattle, and *snurren* to whirl, drone, hum. —**n.** 1707, from the verb.

sneeze *v.* Before 1333 *sniesen*, *snesen*; alteration of *fnesan* to sneeze (about 1150). The change *fn-* to *sn-* is likely due to the gradual loss of the initial sound of *f*, producing *nesen* in the early 1300's, and that, influenced by words such as *snort* and *snore*, *s* began to appear.

The original Middle English form *fnesan* developed from Old English (about 1000) *fnēosan* to snort, sneeze (Proto-Germanic **fneusanan*); cognate with Middle Dutch *fniesen* to sneeze, Old High German *fnehan* to breathe, Old Icelandic *fnýsa* to snort. —**n.** 1632, powder for inducing sneezing; from

the verb. The meaning of an act of sneezing is recorded in 1646, the earlier form being *nesing* (1382), *neesing* (1609).

snicker *v.* 1694, giggle; possibly of imitative origin, similar to Dutch *snikken* to gasp, sob, Low German *snucken* to sob; for suffix see -ER⁴. —**n.** 1836, from the verb.

snide *adj.* 1859 (thieves' slang) counterfeit, sham; of unknown origin. The sense of bad, contemptible, is found in 1903, that of sneering, in 1933.

sniff *v.* About 1350 *sniffen* draw air through the nose in short quick breaths; possibly related to *snývelen* SNIVEL. —**n.** 1767, from the verb.

sniffle *v.* 1819, frequentative form of SNIFF; for suffix see -LE³. —**n.** 1880, sound of sniffing, from the verb. The plural form *sniffles*, meaning a slight head cold, is found in 1825.

snip *v.* 1578 (implied in *snipped*), to snap, snatch; later, to cut, cut off (1593); probably borrowed from Dutch or Low German *snippen* to snip, shred, of unknown origin. —**n.** 1558, small piece cut off; probably borrowed from Dutch or Low German *snip* and *snippe* a small piece, related to *snippen* to snip. —**snippers** *n.* pl. 1593, scissors. —**snippy** *adj.* 1727, mean, parsimonious; formed from English *snip*, *v.* + -y¹. The meaning of fault-finding, sharp, is recorded in 1848.

snipe *n.* Probably before 1300, borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *-snipa* in *mýrisnipa* marsh snipe), Norwegian *snipe*, *snipa*; cognate with Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *snippe* (modern Dutch *snip*), and Old High German *snepfa* (modern German *Schnepfe*) snipe. —**v.** 1782, to shoot from a hidden place, from the noun; so called in allusion to the hunting of the snipe as game. —**sniper** *n.* (1824)

snippet *n.* 1664, formed from English *snip*, *v.* + -et.

snitch¹ *n.* an informer. 1785, of unknown origin. A meaning "the nose" (1700) is preceded by a fillip on the nose (1676). —**v.** be an informer. 1801, from the noun.

snitch² *v.* to snatch, steal. 1904, to take stealthily; perhaps variant of SNATCH, *v.*

snivel *v.* About 1300 *snývelen* to run at the nose, sniffle; developed from Old English **snýflan* (implied in early *snýflung* sniveling, before 1100); related to Old English *snofl* nasal mucus; cognate with Middle Low German *snuve* nasal mucus, Middle Dutch *snūven* to sniff (modern Dutch *snuiven*), Middle High German *snūben* to blow, snort (modern German *schnauben*), *snupfe* head cold (modern German *Schnupfen*), and probably Old Icelandic *snoppa* snout, Middle Low German *snoppe* nasal mucus. —**n.** About 1440, mucus running from the nose; from the verb. The meaning of a sniveling or sniffing is first recorded in 1848.

snob *n.* 1781, a shoemaker or his apprentice; of unknown origin. About 1796 (in Cambridge University slang) a townsman or local merchant. 1831, a person of the ordinary or lower classes. The meaning of a person who has pretensions to social importance, and wishes to associate with those who are so-

cially prominent, was popularized in 1843, and especially after 1848. —**snobbery** *n.* 1833, the class of people belonging to ordinary classes; later, the character or quality of people having social pretensions, 1843. —**snobbish** *adj.* (1840)

snood *n.* Before 1225 *snod* ribbon for the hair; developed from Old English (before 800) *snōd*, from Proto-Germanic **snōdō*. The spelling *snood* is first recorded (1643) is preceded by *snude* (1535). The net or bag worn over a woman's hair is first recorded in 1938. —**v.** 1725, bind (hair) with a snood; from the noun.

snooker *n.* 1889, of uncertain origin; perhaps an allusive use (with reference to the rawness of the play of a fellow officer) of earlier British slang *snooker* a newly joined cadet (1872). —**v.** 1889, to block (a player) in snooker; from the noun. The sense of baffle, stymie, fool, is first recorded in 1915.

snoop *v.* 1832 (probably take food on the sly); borrowed from Dutch *snoepen* eat in secret, eat sweets, sneak, probably related to *snappen* to bite, snatch, SNAP, and cognate with East Frisian *snōpen* eat in secret, and Norwegian *snope* to chew, munch. —**n.** 1891, from the verb. The sense of an act of snooping is first recorded in 1908. —**snoopy** *adj.* (1895)

snoot *n.* 1861, originally a Scottish variant of SNOUT. —**snooty** *adj.* 1919, probably an alteration of *snouty* (1858), formed from English *snout* + -y¹; from the idea of looking down one's nose.

snooze *v.* 1789, of unknown origin (possibly in part influenced by the form of *sneeze*, and more distantly, *doze*). —**n.** 1793, from the verb.

snore *v.* 1440 *snoren* to snore; earlier, to snort (about 1400); probably related to SNORT, and both probably of imitative origin, similar to Middle Dutch and Middle Low German *snorren* to whir, drone, hum, Middle High German *snurren* (modern German *schnurren*) to rattle, *snarchen* (modern German *schnarchen*) to snore. —**n.** Before 1338, a snort, snorting; probably of imitative origin, similar to the verb.

snorkel *n.* 1944 *Schnorkel*, 1949 *snorkel*; borrowed from German navy slang *Schnorchel* nose, related to *schnarchen* to SNORE; so called from its resemblance to a nose, and its noise, when in operation. The curved tube used by a swimmer to breathe underwater is first recorded in 1953. —**v.** About 1950, to swim using a snorkel; from the noun.

snort *v.* About 1410 *snorten* to snore; probably related to *snoren* to snort, SNORE. The meaning of force the breath through the nose with a loud, harsh sound, is first recorded in 1530. The sense of turn up (the nose) is found probably before 1400. —**n.** 1619, a snore; from the verb.

snot *n.* About 1425 *snot* nasal mucus; earlier, *snotte* snuff of a candle (about 1395); probably developed from Old English *gesnot* nasal mucus, from Proto-Germanic **snutnān*, earlier **snutnān*; cognate with Old Frisian *snotta* nasal mucus, Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *snotte* (modern Dutch *snot*), Middle High German *snuz*, Old High German *snuzza*, Norwegian *snottet* snotty. —**snotty** *adj.* 1570, foul with snot;

formed from English *snot* + *-y*¹. The meaning of impudent, curt, conceited, is found in 1870.

snout *n.* Probably about 1225 *snute* a person's nose (used derisively); possibly borrowed from, or cognate with, Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *snūte* (modern Dutch *snuit*) snout, modern German *Schnauze*, Norwegian *snute* snout, from Proto-Germanic **snūt-* and related to Old English *gesnot* SNOT. Both the spelling *snout* and the sense of the projecting nose of a dog, pig, etc., are found probably before 1300, preceded by *snute* an elephant's trunk (before 1250).

snow *n.* Probably before 1200, developed from Old English (before 830) *snāw*; cognate with Old Frisian *snē* snow, Old Saxon *snēo*, Middle Low German *snē*, Middle Dutch *snee* (modern Dutch *sneeuw*), Old High German *snēo* (modern German *Schnee*), Old Icelandic *snær*, *snjör* (Norwegian *sne*, Swedish *snö*, Danish *sne*), and Gothic *snaiwus*, from Proto-Germanic **snaiwaz*. —**v.** Probably before 1300 *snowen*; from the noun. —**snowball** *n.* (probably before 1200); *v.* (1684, form snowballs; 1855, throw snowballs at; 1929, grow like a rolling snowball) —**snowdrift** *n.* (before 1325) —**snow-white** *adj.* About 1386, developed from Old English *snāwhwīt* (about 1000).

snub *v.* Probably before 1250 *snibben* reprove, rebuke; later *snubben* (about 1340); borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *snubba* to curse, scold, reprove, dialectal Norwegian and Swedish *snubba* to cut short, reprove). The meaning of treat coldly or with contempt appeared in the 1700's. —**n.** 1537, act or instance of snubbing, sharp rebuke; from the verb. Middle English *snibbe* (about 1350), with the same meaning, was derived from *snibben* to snub. —**adj.** 1724, (of the nose) short and turned up; from the verb.

snuff¹ *n.* burned part of a candlewick. Before 1382 *snoffe*; later *snuffe* (probably before 1475); of unknown origin. —**v.** Before 1450 *snuffen* to cut or pinch off the snuff; from the noun. The meaning of extinguish, put out (a candle), is recorded in 1687.

snuff² *v.* draw in through the nose. Before 1477 *snoffen* clear one's nose, sniffle; later *snuff* to inhale (1527); borrowed from Dutch or Flemish *snuffen* to sniff, snuff, related to Dutch *snuiuen* to sniff; see SNIVEL. The meaning of inhale powdered tobacco, take snuff, first occurs in Scottish, in 1725, but was introduced by Scottish soldiers stationed in the Low Countries during the 1600's. —**n.** 1683, borrowed from Dutch or Flemish *snuff*, shortened from *snufftabak* snuff tobacco, from *snuffen* to sniff, snuff.

snuffle *v.* 1583, to sniff at contemptuously; probably borrowed from Dutch or Flemish *snuffelen* to sniff about, pry, related to Dutch and Flemish *snuffen* to sniff, SNUFF². The meaning of breathe noisily through the nose is first recorded about 1600. —**n.** Before 1764, act or sound of snuffing; from the verb. An earlier sense of a surge (of the sea) is found in 1630.

snug *adj.* About 1595, (of a ship) compact, trim; perhaps borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Swedish *snugg* neat, trim, and Old Icelandic *snoggr* short-haired). The sense of in a state of ease or comfort is first recorded in 1630. The

meaning of fitting closely is not found before 1838. —**v.** 1583, to nestle; later, to make comfortable and tidy, make snug (1787); probably from the adjective.

snuggle *v.* 1687, frequentative form of SNUG, *v.*; for suffix see -LE³.

so *adv., conj.* Probably about 1150, developed from Old English (about 700) *swā*, *swā*; cognate with Old Frisian *sā*, *sō* so, Old Saxon *sō*, Middle Dutch *sō* (modern Dutch *zo*), Old High German *sō* (modern German *so*), Old Icelandic *svá*, and Gothic *swa* so, *swē* as. Compare AS and ALSO. —**so-and-so** *n.* (1596, something unspecified; 1897, a euphemistic term of abuse) —**so-so** *adv.* indifferently (1530); *adj.* neither very good nor very bad (1542).

soak *v.* About 1340 *soken* wet through, saturate; developed from Old English (about 1000) *socian*, related to *sūcan* to SUCK. —**n.** About 1450 *soke*; from the verb.

soap *n.* Before 1250 *sope*; developed from Old English (about 1000) *sāpe*; cognate with Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *sēpe* (modern Dutch *zeep*) soap, Old High German *seifa* (modern German *Seife*), and probably Old Icelandic *sāpa* (Swedish *såpa*, Norwegian *såpe*, Danish *sæbe*), though the Old Icelandic word might have been borrowed from Old English *sāpe*, from West Germanic **saipō*. Late Latin *sāpō* soap, the source of French *savon*, Italian *sapone*, Spanish *jabón*, etc., is probably ultimately from Germanic. —**v.** 1585, from the noun.

soar *v.* About 1380 *soren* fly high; borrowed from Old French *essorer* fly up, soar, from Vulgar Latin **exaurāre* rise into the air (Latin *ex-* out + *aura* breeze).

sob *v.* Before 1200 *sobben* to cry with short, quick breaths; probably of imitative origin. —**n.** a sobbing. About 1385 *sobbe*; from the verb.

sober *adj.* 1340 *sobre* moderate, temperate; borrowed from Old French *sobre*, and possibly directly from Latin *sōbrius* not drunk, temperate (**sō-*, variant of *sē-* without + *ēbrius* drunk). The sense of not drunk is first recorded in English about 1384, and that of serious, solemn, before 1390. —**v.** About 1375 *sobren* to calm, appease; from the adjective. The sense of make sober is first recorded in 1726. —**sobriety** *n.* 1402 *sobriete* quality of being temperate or sober; borrowed from Middle French *sobriété*, from Latin *sōbrietās* moderation, temperance, from *sōbrius* sober, *adj.*; for suffix see -TY².

sobriquet *n.* 1646, borrowing of French *sobriquet*, from Middle French *soubriquet* a chuck under the chin, of unknown origin.

soccer *n.* 1889 *socca*; later, *socker* (1891), *soccer* (1895); originally university slang, from a shortened form of *assoc.*, abbreviation of *association* (football); for suffix see -ER⁵.

sociable *adj.* 1553, liking society, friendly; borrowing of Middle French *sociable*, and directly from Latin *sociābilis* close, intimate, from *sociāre* to join, unite, from *socius* companion; see SOCIAL; for suffix see -ABLE. —**sociability** *n.* Before 1471

sociability friendly discourse, formed from Latin *sociābilis* close, intimate + Middle English *-itee*, *-ite* *-ity*.

social *adj.* Before 1387 *social* domestic; borrowing of Middle French *social*, and borrowed directly from Latin *sociālis* united, living with others, from *socius* companion, from earlier **soqwyos*, related to Latin *sequi* to follow; for suffix see -AL¹. The meaning of marked by companionship or friendliness is first recorded in 1667, and that of living or liking to live with others, in 1722. —**n.** 1870, from the adjective. An earlier sense of companion, associate, is found in 1632. —**socialization** *n.* 1841, process of making social; formed from English *socialize* + *-ation*. The sense of a process of making socialistic is first recorded in 1884. —**socialize** *v.* 1828, to make social, borrowed from French *socialiser*, formed from *social*, *adj.*, *social* + *-iser* *-ize*. The meaning of make socialistic (as in *to socialize medicine*) is first recorded in 1846.

socialism *n.* 1837, formed from English *social* + *-ism*, perhaps after earlier *socialist*; apparently first used in English with reference to Robert Owen's efforts to achieve social reform through small experimental communities. French *socialisme* was probably first used in 1831 with reference to the teachings of Comte de Saint-Simon, founder of French socialism. —**socialist** *n.* 1827, borrowed from French *socialiste* or formed independently from English *social*, *adj.* + *-ist*. —**socialistic** *adj.* 1848, formed from English *socialist* + *-ic*.

socialite *n.* 1928, (probably a coinage among writers and editors at *Time* magazine); formed from *social*, *adj.* + *-ite*¹.

society *n.* 1531, companionship, fellowship; borrowed from Middle French *société*, and probably directly from Latin *societas*, from *socius* companion; see SOCIAL; for suffix see -TY². The meaning of an organized group, club, association, is first recorded before 1548, and that of a system or condition of living with others as a community, in 1553. The sense of fashionable people or their doings is first recorded in 1823.

socio- a combining form meaning: 1 of society, social, as in *sociopath* = *person lacking social sense*, antisocial person (1930). 2 social and —, as in *socioeconomic* = *involving social and economic factors* (1883). 3 of or having to do with sociology, sociological, as in *sociography* = *sociological analysis or description* (1881). Borrowed from French *socio-*, combining form of Latin *socius* companion, associate, on the analogy of similar combining forms derived from Greek, such as *psycho-*.

sociology *n.* 1843, borrowed from French *sociologie*, from *socio-* (from Latin *socius* associate) + *-logie* *-logy*. —**sociological** *adj.* 1843, formed from English *sociology* + *-ical*. —**sociologist** *n.* 1843, formed from English *sociology* + *-ist*.

sock¹ *n.* short stocking. About 1330, developed from Old English (before 800) *soc* light slipper; an early borrowing from Latin *soccus* light low-heeled shoe. Also borrowed from Latin are Middle Dutch *socke*, *soc* (modern Dutch *sok*) sock, Old High German *soc* (modern German *Socke*), and Old Icelandic *sokkr*. Latin *soccus* is borrowed from Greek **sókchos*, variant of *sykchos*, *sykchás* a kind of shoe.

sock² *v.* strike or hit hard. Before 1700, of uncertain origin.

—**n.** Before 1700, from the same (uncertain) source as the verb.

sockdolager *n.* 1830, a decisive blow; fanciful formation from SOCK² to hit hard. The sense of something exceptional is first recorded in 1838.

socket *n.* Probably before 1300 *soket* spearhead (originally, such a weapon shaped like a plowshare); borrowed from Anglo-French *soket*, diminutive formed from Old French *soc* plowshare, from Vulgar Latin **soccus*, probably from a Gaulish source (compare Welsh *swch* plowshare, Middle Irish *soc* plowshare, hog's snout, and Old Irish *soc* hog; see SOW²); for suffix see -ET. The meaning of a hollow part or piece for receiving and holding something is first recorded in Middle English before 1425.

sod *n.* Before 1450, probably borrowed from Middle Dutch *sode* (modern Dutch *zode*) turf, or Middle Low German *sode*, *sade*, corresponding to Old Frisian *sātha* sod, all of uncertain origin. —**v.** Probably about 1400 *sodden* bury, cover with sod (implied in *i-sod*, past participle); possibly from the noun.

soda *n.* 1471 *sode* sodium carbonate; later *soda* saltwort (before 1500); borrowed from Italian *soda* a kind of saltwort from which sodium is obtained, *soda*, from Arabic *suwwād* the name of a variety of saltwort exported from North Africa to Sicily in the Middle Ages, and related to *sawād* black, the color of the plant. The explanation that *soda* came from Medieval Latin **soda* is no longer valid.

The meaning of carbonated water (originally, water containing a solution of sodium bicarbonate) is first recorded in English in 1834, shortened from *soda water* (1802).

sodality *n.* 1600, friendship; borrowed from Middle French *sodalité*, or directly from Latin *sodalitatem* (nominative *sodalitās*) companionship, a brotherhood, from *sodālis* companion; for suffix see -ITY.

sodden *adj.* About 1390 *soden* boiled (earlier *sothen*, alteration influenced by *sethen* to seethe, before 1325); developed from Old English *soden*, past participle of *sēothan* to cook, boil; see SEETHE. The meaning of soaked through is first recorded in 1820, preceded by the sense of resembling one that has been soaked or steeped in water (1599).

sodium *n.* 1807, New Latin, from English *soda*; for suffix see -IUM; so named because this element was isolated from caustic soda (sodium hydroxide).

sodomy *n.* Probably about 1280 *sodomye*, borrowed from Old French *sodomie*, from *Sodome* Sodom, from Latin *Sodoma*, ultimately from Hebrew *s'dōm* Sodom, a morally corrupt city in ancient Palestine destroyed, together with Gomorrah, by fire from heaven; for suffix see -Y³. —**sodomite** *n.* Before 1387, borrowed from Old French *sodomite*, from Late Latin *sodomīta* inhabitant of Sodom, from Latin *Sodoma* Sodom. —**sodomize** *v.* 1868, formed from English *sodomy* + *-ize*.

sofa *n.* 1625, cushioned dais for reclining; borrowed from Arabic *suffah* bench.

soffit *n.* 1613–39, *soffita*, borrowed from Italian *soffitta*, feminine of *soffitto* ceiling, (originally) fixed beneath, past participle (*sof-* under, from Latin *sub-* + *fitto*, past participle of *figgere* to fix, fasten, from Latin *figere*); and later (1725) borrowed from French *soffite*, from Italian.

soft *adj.* Before 1114 *softe* meek, mild; developed from Old English *sōfte* (about 1000); later, alteration (influenced by *sōfte*, adv., soft) of *sēfte* gentle, easy, comfortable, agreeable; cognate with Old Saxon *sāfti* soft, Middle Dutch *sachte* (modern Dutch *zacht*), Middle High German *senfte*, and Old High German *semfti* (modern German *sanft*), from West Germanic **samfti*, Proto-Germanic **samftijaz* (earlier **samptijaz*). These adjectives are probably cognate with Old Icelandic *semja* to arrange, settle, Gothic *samjan* to please, the semantic connection between these words being (approximately): level, even, smooth, gentle, soft. The sense of yielding to the touch, not hard, is found in Middle English before 1200. —**adv.** Probably before 1200 *softe*; developed from Old English *sōfte* (before 1000); cognate with Old Saxon *sāfto*, Middle High German *sanfte*, and Old High German *samfto* (modern German *sanft*) in a soft manner. —**soften** *v.* About 1386 *softnen*, formed from Middle English *softe*, *adj.*, soft + *-enen* *-en*¹.

soggy *adj.* Before 1722, perhaps formed from dialectal English *sog* bog, swamp (1538, of unknown origin) + *-y*¹; or *sog* become soaked (1440 *soggon*, past participle; of unknown origin) + *-y*¹.

soil¹ *v.* make dirty. Before 1250 *soillen*; borrowed from Old French *soillier* to soil, make dirty; originally, to wallow, from *soil*, *soil* tub, wild boar's wallow, pigsty, from Latin *solum* tub for bathing, seat.

soil² *n.* earth, dirt. Probably before 1300 *sol* land, area, place; later *soyle* dirt, the ground (probably about 1380); borrowed from Anglo-French *soil* piece of ground, place, from Latin *solum* seat, influenced in meaning by Latin *solum* soil, ground.

soiree *n.* 1793, a French word from *soir* evening, from Old French *soir*, variant of *seir*, from Latin *sēro*, adv., late, at a late hour, from *sērum* late hour, neuter of *sērus* late.

sojourn *v.* Probably before 1300 *soiournen* stay for a time; borrowed from Old French *sojorner* stay or dwell for a time, from Vulgar Latin **subdiurnare* to spend the day (Latin *sub-* under, until + *diurnus* of a day). —**n.** About 1250 *suriurn*; later *soiourne* (probably before 1300); borrowed from Old French *sojorn*, from *sojorner* *v.*

sol¹ *n.* fifth note of the musical scale. Before 1380, borrowed from Medieval Latin *sol*, from the initial syllable of Latin *solve* purge, the word sung to this note in the Hymn for St. John the Baptist's day; see *GAMUT*.

sol² *n.* colloidal solution. 1899, shortened form of *SOLUTION*.

Sol *n.* sun. 1392, borrowed from Latin *sōl* the sun.

solace *n.* Probably before 1300 *solas* joy, comfort, relief; borrowed from Old French *solas*, from Latin *sōlācium*, from *sōlari* to console, soothe. —**v.** Probably about 1280 *solacen*; bor-

rowed from Old French *solacier*, *solasier* to console, from *solas* solace, *n.*

solar *adj.* About 1450, borrowed from Latin *sōlāris* of the sun, from *sōl* sun; for suffix see *-AR*.

solarium *n.* 1891, borrowing of Latin *sōlārium* sundial, solarium, from *sōl* sun. An earlier sense of a sundial is found in English in 1842.

solder *n.* About 1320 *soudour*; borrowed from Old French *soldure*, from *solder* to join with solder, from Latin *solidāre* to make solid, from *solidus* SOLID. The spelling with *l* (1428) Middle English *souldour* parallels the pronunciation retained in Great Britain. —**v.** Before 1450 *soudren*; from the noun.

soldier *n.* Probably before 1300 *souder*; borrowed from Old French *soudier*, *soldeer* one who serves in an army for pay, soldier, from Medieval Latin *soldarius* a soldier; literally, one having pay; from Late Latin *soldum*, from the accusative of Latin *solidus* a Roman gold coin, SOLIDUS. The spelling with *l* appears before 1350 as *soldeyour* in imitation of the Latin. —**v.** 1647, from the noun.

sole¹ *n.* bottom of the foot. About 1325, borrowing of Old French *sole*, from Latin *solea* sandal, bottom of a shoe, from *solum* bottom, ground, soil. The bottom of a shoe or boot is found in Middle English in 1378–79. —**v.** 1570, from the noun.

sole² *adj.* single. About 1395 *soul* single, unmarried; borrowed from Old French *soul*, *sol* (feminine *soule*, *sole*), from Latin *sōlus* alone. The sense of one and only (as in *one's sole support*) is found before 1398.

sole³ *n.* flatfish. 1252, borrowed from Old French *sole*, from Latin *solea* a kind of flatfish; originally, sandal (see *SOLE*¹); so called from the resemblance of the fish to a sandal.

solecism *n.* 1577, borrowed from Middle French *solécisme*, and directly from Latin *soloecismus* mistake in speaking or writing, from Greek *soloikismós*, from *soloikos* speaking incorrectly (said to refer to *Sóloi*, an Athenian colony in Cilicia, whose dialect the Athenians considered barbarous); for suffix see *-ISM*.

solemn *adj.* Before 1333 *solempne* connected with religion, formal, ceremonial; later *solemne* (1340); and in the sense of serious, grave, earnest (before 1375), borrowed from Old French *solempne*, *solemne*, from Latin *sollemnis* formal, ceremonial, traditional. The explanation that Latin *sollemnis* was formed from *sollus* whole + *annus* year is not considered valid.

—**solemnity** *n.* About 1300 *solempnete*; about 1303 *solemnyte*; borrowed from Old French *solempnité*, and directly from Latin *sollemnitas* a solemnity, from Latin *sollemnis* solemn; for suffix see *-ITY*. —**solemnize** *v.* Before 1382 *solempnysen*; borrowed from Old French *solempniser*, (*solempne* *sollemn* + *-iser* *-ize*).

sol-fa *n.* 1548, borrowed from Italian *solfa*, from Medieval Latin *solfa* (*sol* SOL¹ + *fa* FA). In Middle English there was a verb *solfen*, to sing the notes of the scale (about 1380).

solicit *v.* About 1422 *soliciten* to disturb, trouble; 1450, to

further (business affairs); borrowed from Middle French *soliciter*, *soliciter*, from Latin *solicitare* to disturb, rouse, from *solicitus* restless, uneasy (*sollus* whole, entire + *citus* aroused, past participle of *ciere* shake, excite). The sense of make requests or appeals is first recorded in English in 1509. —**solicitation** *n.* 1492, management; later, act of soliciting (1500–20); borrowed from Middle French *solicitation*, and directly from Latin *solicitationem* (nominative *solicitationē*) vexation, disturbance, from *solicitare* disturb; for suffix see -ATION. —**solicitor** *n.* Before 1420 *solicitor* instigator; later, agent, representative (about 1449); borrowed from Middle French *soliciteur*, *soliciteur*, from *soliciter*, *soliciter* to solicit; for suffix see -OR².

solicitous *adj.* 1563, showing care or concern, borrowed from Latin *solicitus* restless, uneasy, careful (see SOLICIT); for suffix see -OUS. —**solicitude** *n.* Probably before 1425, borrowed from Middle French *solicitude*, and directly from Latin *solicitudō* anxiety, from *solicitus* restless, uneasy; for suffix see -TUDE.

solid *adj.* 1391 *solide* not hollow; perhaps, firm, hard (before 1450); borrowed from Old French *solide* firm, dense, compact, and directly from Latin *solidus* firm, whole, entire, related to *salvus* SAFE. —**n.** Before 1398, a body that has length, breadth, and thickness; from the adjective. The sense of a solid substance, is first recorded in 1698. —**solidify** *v.* 1799, to make solid; borrowed from French *solidifier*, from *solide* solid, from Old French; for suffix see -FY. —**solidity** *n.* 1392 *silidite* (error for *solidite*) quality of being solid; later *solidite* (probably before 1425); borrowed from Middle French *solidité*, from Latin *soliditas* solidness, from *solidus* solid; for suffix see -ITY.

solidarity *n.* 1841, borrowed from French *solidarité* mutual responsibility, from *solidaire* interdependent, complete, entire, from *solide* SOLID; for suffix see -ITY.

solidus *n.* Before 1387 *solidy* English shilling and Roman gold coin; later *solidus* (before 1398); borrowed from Late Latin *solidus* an imperial Roman coin; see SOLID. The sloping line used to separate related thing is first recorded in 1891.

soliloquy *n.* 1613, monologue; borrowed from Late Latin *soliloquium* a talking to oneself (from Latin *solus* alone, + *loqui* speak); also in the title *Bok Soliloquijs* (about 1380), translation of Latin *Liber Soliloquiorum*, treatise by Saint Augustine.

solitaire *n.* Before 1500 *solitère* widow; later *solitaire* solitary person, recluse (1716); borrowed from French *solitaire*, from Latin *solitarius* SOLITARY. The card game played by one person is found in English in 1746.

solitary *adj.* About 1340, alone; borrowed from Old French *solitaire*, and directly from Latin *solitarius* alone, lonely, from *solitās* loneliness, solitude, from *solus* alone; for suffix see -ARY. —**n.** Before 1396, from the adjective.

solitude *n.* Probably 1348, state of being alone; borrowing of Old French *solitude* loneliness, and probably directly from Latin *solitūdō* loneliness, from *solus* alone; for suffix see -TUDE.

solmization *n.* = sol-fa. 1730 *solmisation*, borrowing of

French *solmisation*, from *solmiser* to sing to the sol-fa syllables (sol SOL¹ + mi MI); for suffix see -ATION.

solo *n.* 1695, borrowed from Italian *solo* piece of music for one voice or instrument; literally, alone, from Latin *solus* alone. —**adj.** 1776, from the noun. The sense of alone, unassisted (as in a *solo flight*) is first recorded in 1909. —**adv.** 1712, from the noun. —**v.** 1858, perform a musical solo; from the noun; later fly solo (1917). —**soloist** *n.* (1864)

solstice *n.* About 1250, borrowed from Old French *solstice*, from Latin *solstitium* a point at which the sun seems to stand still (*sol* sun; see SOLAR + -stitium, from earlier **statyom*, as if formed from the past participle *statum* of *sistere* to come to a stop, make stand still).

soluble *adj.* 1373 *solabill* relaxed, unconspicuous; later *soluble* capable of being dissolved (probably before 1425); borrowed from Middle French *soluble*, from Late Latin *solubilis* that may be loosened or dissolved, from Latin *solvere* loosen, dissolve.

solution *n.* 1375, a solving or being solved, clarification, explanation; borrowed from Old French *solution*, from Latin *solūtōnem* (nominative *solūtio*) a loosening or unfastening, a solving, from *solūt-*, past participle stem of *solvere* loosen, untie, solve, dissolve; for suffix see -TION. The act or process of dissolving is first recorded before 1393. The sense of a liquid containing a dissolved substance is found in 1594.

solve *v.* Before 1398 *solven* to disperse, dissipate, loosen; borrowed from Latin *solvere* to loosen, dissolve. The meaning of explain, answer (about 1533), is found in the corresponding noun *solution* in 1375.

solvent *adj.* 1653, able to pay all one owes; borrowed from French *solvent*, from Latin *solventem* (nominative *solvens*), present participle of *solvere* loosen, dissolve; for suffix see -ENT. The meaning of able to dissolve substances is first recorded in 1686. —**n.** 1671, probably borrowed from Latin *solventem* (nominative *solvens*), present participle of *solvere* to loosen, dissolve. —**solvency** *n.* 1717, formed from English *solvent*, *adj.* + -ency.

somatic *adj.* 1775, borrowed from French *somatique*, and probably directly from Greek *sōmatikós* of the body, from *sōma* (genitive *sōματος*) body; for suffix see -IC.

somber *adj.* 1760 *sombre*, borrowed from French *sombre* dark, gloomy, from Old French *sombre*, from a lost verb **sombrer*, from Late Latin *subumbrāre* to shadow (from *sub umbrā*; Latin *sub* under; *umbrā*, ablative of *umbra* shade, shadow).

sombrero *n.* 1770, borrowing of Spanish *sombrero* a broad-brimmed hat; originally, umbrella or parasol, from *sombra* shade, alteration of Latin *umbra* shade by influence of Spanish *sol* sun; or from *sombrar* to shade, from Late Latin *subumbrāre* to shadow. An earlier meaning of an Oriental umbrella appeared in English in 1598.

some *adj.*, 1106, *pron.* 1102 *sumne*; later *some* (*adj.* 1340, *pron.* about 1300); developed from Old English *sum* (about 725); cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *sum* some, Middle

Low German and Middle Dutch *som*, Old High German *sum*, Old Icelandic *sumr*, and Gothic *sums*, from Proto-Germanic **sumás*. —**adv.** to some degree. About 1280, from the adjective. —**somebody** pron. (about 1303) —**someone** pron. (about 1305) —**something** pron. (about 1000) —**sometime** adv., adj. (1279) —**sometimes** adv. (1526) —**somewhat** adv. (probably about 1200) —**somewhere** adv. (probably about 1200)

—**some**¹ a suffix forming adjectives: 1 (added to verbs) tending to, as in *meddlesome* = *tending to meddle*. 2 (added to nouns) causing, as in *troublesome* = *causing trouble*. 3 (added to adjectives) to a considerable degree, as in *lonesome* = *lone to a considerable degree*. Middle English *-som*, developed from Old English *-sum*; cognate with Old Frisian *-sum* -some, Old Saxon *-sam*, Middle Dutch *-sam*, *-saem* (modern Dutch *-zaam*), Old High German and modern German *-sam*, Old Icelandic *-samr*, and Gothic *-sams* -some, related to *sama* SAME.

—**some**² a suffix added to a number, meaning a group of that number, as in *twosome* = *a group of two*. Middle English *-sum*, developed from Old English *sum* SOME, pron. Old English *sum* was used after the genitive plural of a numeral as in *sixa sum* six-some; the inflection disappeared in Middle English and the pronoun was suffixed to the numeral.

—**some**³ a combining form meaning body, as in *chromosome* = *color body*. Borrowed from New Latin *-soma*, from Greek *sōma* body.

somersault *n.* 1530, borrowed from Middle French *sombresault*, from Old Provençal *sobresaut* (*sobre* over, from Latin *suprā* over + *saut* a jump, from Latin *salvus*, from the root of *salire* to leap). —**v.** 1858, from the noun.

somnambulism *n.* 1797, formed from New Latin *somnambul* sleepwalker (Latin *somnus* sleep + *ambulāre* to walk) + English *-ism*. —**somnambulant** *adj.* 1866, formed from New Latin *somnambulus* + English *-ant*. —**somnambulist** *n.* 1794, formed from New Latin *somnambulus* + English *-ist*.

somnolent *adj.* About 1460 *sompnolente*; later *somnolent* (1615); probably formed in English as an adjective to *somnolence* on the model of Middle French *sompnolent*, *somnolent*, from Latin *somnolentus*, from *somnus* sleep; for suffix see -ENT. —**somnolence** *n.* About 1390, *sompnolence*, borrowed from Old French *sompnolence*, *somnolence*, from Latin *somnolentia* sleepiness, from *somnolentus* *somnolent*; for suffix see -ENCE.

son *n.* Probably before 1150 *sone*; developed from Old English *sunu* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *sunu* son, Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *sone* (modern Dutch *zoon*), Old High German *sun* (modern German *Sohn*), Old Icelandic *sonr* (Norwegian *son*, *sønn*, Swedish *son*, Danish *son*), and Gothic *sunus*, from Proto-Germanic **sunuz*.

sonant *adj.* 1846, voiced, borrowed from Latin *sonantem* (nominative *sonāns*), present participle of *sonāre* make a noise; for suffix see -ANT. —**n.** 1849, from the adjective.

sonar *n.* 1946, acronym formed from *so(und) na(vigation) r(ang)ing*, on the pattern of *radar*.

sonata *n.* 1694, borrowing of Italian *sonata* piece of instrumental music having three or four movements; literally, sounded (played on an instrument, in contrast to *cantata* sung), feminine past participle of *sonare* to sound, from Latin *sonāre* to sound.

song *n.* Probably before 1200; developed from Old English *sang* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *sang* song, Middle Dutch *sanc* (modern Dutch *gezang*), Old High German *sang* (modern German *Gesang*), Old Icelandic *songr* (modern Icelandic *söngur*, Swedish *sång*, Danish and Norwegian *sang*), and Gothic *sangus*; from Proto-Germanic **sangwaz*; from the root of the Germanic verb **singwan* to SING. —**songbook** *n.* 1489; found in Old English (about 1000) *sangbōc* (*sang* song + *bōc* book). —**songster** *n.* 1382, singer, in the Wycliffe Bible; developed from Old English (about 1000) *sangystre* (*sang* song + *-estre* -ster).

sonic *adj.* 1923, formed from Latin *sonus* sound + English *-ic*; perhaps patterned on *phonic*, *conic*, *tonic*.

sonnet *n.* 1557, borrowed from Middle French *sonnet*, and probably directly from Italian *sonetto*, from Old Provençal *sonet* song, diminutive of *son* song, sound, from Latin *sonus* sound; for suffix see -ET.

sonorous *adj.* 1611, borrowed from Latin *sonōrus*, from *sonor* (genitive *sonōris*) sound, noise, from *sonāre* to sound; for suffix see -OUS. The meaning of having a full, rich sound, is first recorded in 1693. Modern English *sonorous* replaced *sonouse* *sonorous* (attested before 1500; borrowed from Medieval Latin *sonosus*, from Latin *sonus* sound), and *sonoure* possessing a pleasant voice (attested about 1400; from *sonōrus* + *-e* -y³). —**sonority** *n.* 1623, borrowed from French *sonorité*, and directly from Latin *sonōritās*, from *sonōrus* *sonorous*; for suffix see -ITY.

soon *adv.* Before 1121 *sone*; later *soon* (about 1250); developed from Old English (before 830) *sōna* at once, immediately; cognate with Old Frisian *sōn* at once, Old Saxon *sān*, *sāna*, *sāno*, Middle Low German *sān*, Old High German *sān*, *sāno* (from Proto-Germanic **sānō*).

soot *n.* Before 1200 *soṭ*; later *soot* (about 1385); developed from Old English (before 800) *sōt*; cognate with Middle Low German *sōt* soot, Middle Dutch *soet*, and Old Icelandic *sōt* (Norwegian and Swedish *soṭ*, Danish *sod*), from Proto-Germanic **sōtan* what settles. —**sooty** *adj.* (before 1250)

sooth *n.* About 1380, truth; developed from Old English *sōth* (about 725, in *Beowulf*), noun use of *sōth*, *adj.*, true; cognate with Old Saxon *sōth* true, Old High German *sand*, Old Icelandic *sannr* (Norwegian and Swedish *sann*, Danish *sand*), from Proto-Germanic **santhaz*, and Gothic *sunja* truth, **sunjis* true (Proto-Germanic **sundjās*). —**soothsayer** *n.* 1340 *zoth ziggere* truth sayer, truthful person; later *sothseiere* (before 1393). The meaning of a person who makes prophecies is first recorded in 1381.

soothe *v.* Probably before 1200 *sothien* to prove to be true, verify; developed from Old English (about 950) *sōthian*, from *sōth* true, SOOTH. The sense of to quiet, comfort, mollify (1697), developed from confirm or encourage (1568), and corroborate, support (before 1553).

sop *n.* Before 1338, developed from Old English (before 1000) *sopp-* (in *soppcuppe* sopcup, cup into which sops are put); cognate with Middle Low German *soppe* broth, Middle Dutch *sop*, Old High German *sopfa* sop, and Old Icelandic *soppa* soup, from Proto-Germanic **suppō*.

The meaning of something given to appease (1665), is in allusion to sop given by the Sibyl to Cerberus, the three-headed dog guarding the entrance to Hades, in Vergil's *Aeneid*. —**v.** Old English (about 1000) *soppian*; from the noun. This verb is not recorded in Middle English, but reappears in modern English before 1529. —**sopping** *adj.* 1877, from the present participle of *sop*, *v.* The use *sopping wet* is first recorded in 1897. —**soppy** *adj.* 1611, full of sops; formed from English *sop*, *n.* or *v.* + *-y*¹. The meaning very wet, soaked, is first recorded in 1823, and that of sentimental in 1918.

sophism *n.* Probably before 1430 *sophisme*; borrowed from Latin *sophisma*; replacement of earlier Middle English *sophyme* (about 1383); borrowed from Old French *sophime* a fallacy, false argument, from Latin *sophisma*, from Greek *sōphisma* sophism, clever device, from *sophizesthai* become wise, from *sophós* wise, clever; for suffix see *-ISM*. —**sophist** *n.* 1440 *sophiste*, borrowed from Late Latin *sophista* a sophist, from Greek *sophistēs* a wise man, master, teacher, from *sophizesthai* become wise; for suffix see *-IST*. —**sophistic** *adj.* 1549, shortened form of *sophistical* 1382 (implied in *sophistically*); borrowed from Latin *sophisticus* of sophists, from Greek *sophistikós* of or pertaining to a sophist, from *sophistēs* SOPHIST; for suffix see *-IC*. —**sophistry** *n.* 1340, unsound and misleading reasoning; borrowed from Old French *sophistrie*, from *sophistre* sophist, from late Latin *sophista*; for suffix see *-RY*.

sophisticate *v.* About 1400 *sophisticaten* adulterate, make impure, and directly from Medieval Latin *sophisticatus*, past participle of *sophisticare* to adulterate, cheat, quibble, from Latin *sophisticus* of sophists, from Greek *sophistikós* of or pertaining to a sophist, from *sophistēs* SOPHIST; for suffix see *-ATE*¹. The meaning of make less genuine or honest, corrupt, is first recorded in English in 1604, and that of make artificial, deprive of simplicity, in 1796. —**n.** 1923, from the verb. —**sophistication** *n.* Probably about 1400 *sophisticacioun* the use of sophistry, falsification; later, adulteration (1423); borrowed from Middle French *sophistication*, and directly from Medieval Latin *sophisticationem* (nominative *sophisticatio*), from *sophisticare* adulterate; for suffix see *-ATION*. The meaning of worldliness, urbanity, is first recorded in 1850.

sophomore *n.* 1688; earlier *sophumer* student in the second year of university study (1653); originally, one taking part in dialectic exercises; formed from earlier *sophom* (before 1603), variant of Middle English *sophime* SOPHISM + *-or*². The later form *sophomore* was probably influenced by Greek *sophós* wise, and *mōrós* foolish, dull. —**sophomoric** *adj.* (1813)

soporific *adj.* 1690, borrowed from French *soporifique*, formed from Latin *sopor* (genitive *sopōris*) deep sleep + French suffix *-fique* *-fic*. —**n.** 1722–27, from the adjective.

soprano *adj.* 1730, borrowing of Italian *soprano* the treble in music; literally, high, from *sopra* above, from Latin *suprā* SUPRA. —**n.** 1738, from the adjective.

sorb *v.* 1909, to absorb or adsorb; abstracted from *absorb* and *adsorb* on the pattern of *sorption*. —**sorption** *n.* 1909, abstracted from *absorption* and *adsorption*.

sorbet *n.* 1585, a cooling drink of fruit juice and water; later, a frozen dessert, sherbet (1864); borrowing of French *sorbet*, probably from Italian *sorbetto*, from Turkish *serbet*, from Arabic *sharbat* a drink.

sorcery *n.* Probably before 1300 *sorcerie*; borrowing of Old French *sorcerie*, from *sorcier* sorcerer, from Vulgar Latin **sortiārius*, literally, one who influences, fate, fortune, from Latin *sors* (genitive *sortis*) lot, fate, fortune; for suffix see *-Y*³. —**sorcerer** *n.* Probably about 1425 *sorcerour*; later *sorcerer* (probably before 1475); formed in English from earlier *sorser* sorcerer (probably about 1380) + *-our* *-or*², *-er* *-er*¹. Middle English *sorser* was borrowed from Old French *sorcier*. —**sorceress** *n.* About 1380 *sorceresse*; formed in English from *sorser* sorcerer + *-esse* *-ESS*.

sordid *adj.* Probably before 1425 *sordide* festering; later, dirty, foul, low, mean (1611); borrowed from Latin *sordidus* dirty, from *sordere* be dirty, be shabby, related to *sordēs* dirt.

sore *adj.* Probably about 1175 *sare*; later *sore* (probably before 1200); developed from Old English *sār* painful, grievous, aching (before 899); cognate with Old Saxon *sēr* sore, Middle Low German *sēr*, Middle Dutch *seer* (modern Dutch *zeer*), Old High German *sēr* (modern German *sehr* very), and Old Icelandic *sárr* sore, wounded (modern Icelandic *sár*, Norwegian, Danish, and Swedish *sår*), from Proto-Germanic **sairaz*. —**n.** About 1150 *sor*; developed from Old English *sār* pain, injury, suffering, grief (before 830), related to *sār*, *adj.*, painful. The Old English noun is cognate with Old Saxon *sēr* pain, wound, Middle Dutch *seer* (modern Dutch *zeer*), Old High German *sēr*, Old Icelandic *sár*, and Gothic *sair*.

sorghum *n.* 1597, New Latin *Sorghum*, the genus name, from Italian *sorgo* a tall cereal grass, probably from Medieval Latin *surgum*, perhaps a variant of Latin *syricum* Syrian, from (the Greek name) *Syriá* Syria, possibly a source of this plant or its grain.

sorority *n.* 1532, a society of women; borrowed from Medieval Latin *sororitas* of or pertaining to sisters, from Latin *soror* SISTER; for suffix see *-ITY*.

sorrel¹ *adj.* reddish-brown. 1397 *sorell*; earlier in *sorelborgh* name of a horse (1340); borrowed from Middle French *sorel*, from *sor* yellowish-brown, probably from a Frankish word (compare Middle Dutch *soor* and Middle Low German *sōn* dry). If Middle French *sorel* is a diminutive form (unexplained) of *sor*, then the suffix is *-el*, form of *-LE*². —**n.** 1397 *sorell* horse

of a sorrel color; borrowed from Middle French *sorel*, from *sorel*, adj.

sorrel² *n.* plant with sour leaves. 1373 *sorell*; borrowed from Old French *surele*, from *sur* sour, from a Frankish word (compare Old High German *sūr* SOUR); for suffix see -LE¹.

sorrow *n.* Probably about 1150 *sorege* grief, emotional distress; later *sonve* (probably before 1200), and *sorrowe* (about 1400); developed from Old English *sorg*, grief, regret, trouble, care (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Saxon *sorga* sorrow, care, Middle Dutch *sorghe* (modern Dutch *zorg*), Old High German *sorga* (modern German *Sorge*), Old Icelandic *sorg* (Swedish, Norwegian, and Danish *sorg*), and Gothic *sairga*, from Proto-Germanic **surgō*. —**v.** Probably before 1200 *sorhin*, *sorgeden*; later *sorowen* (probably before 1300), developed from Old English *sorgian* to feel sorrow (about 725, in *Beowulf*), from *sorg*, *n.*, and corresponding to Old Saxon *sorgōn* to sorrow, Middle Dutch *sorghen* (modern Dutch *zorgen*), Old High German *sorgēn* (modern German *sorgen*), Old Icelandic *syrja* (Swedish *sörja*, Norwegian and Danish *sørge*), and Gothic *sairgan*.

sorry *adj.* 1114 *sari*; later *sori* (probably before 1200); developed from Old English *sārig* distressed, full of sorrow (about 725, in *Beowulf*), from *sār* SORE; for suffix see -Y¹. The meaning of wretched, worthless, poor, is first recorded in Middle English about 1250. The shift in spelling from *a* to *o* represents the semantic connection with *sorrow*.

sort *n.* About 1390, borrowed from Old French *sorte* class, kind; earlier *sort*, from Latin *sortem* (nominative *sors*) lot, fate, share, portion, rank, category. —**v.** 1358 *sorten* (implied in *sortinge* verbal noun) to allot, arrange, sort; borrowed from Old French *sortir* allot, sort, assort, from Latin *sortiri* draw lots, divide, choose, from *sors* lot, fate, share. Some senses of the English verb derive from the noun, and some senses are perhaps a shortened form of *assort*.

sortie *n.* 1778, borrowing of French *sortie*, from feminine past participle of *sortir* to go out, from Old French, to go out, escape, from Vulgar Latin **surctire*, from **surctum*, past participle (replacing *surrectum*) of Latin *surgere* rise up; see SURGE.

SOS *n.* 1910, from the letters *s o s* of the International Morse code, arbitrarily chosen as being easy to transmit and distinguish, and not, as has been mistakenly averred, an acronym for “save our ship,” “save our souls,” etc. —**v.** 1918, from the noun.

sot *n.* Old English (about 1000) *sott* stupid person, fool; borrowed from Old French *sot*, from Gallo-Romance **sott-*, of uncertain origin, represented Spanish and Portuguese *zote* fool, Calabrian *ciotu* foolish, and in Medieval Latin *sottua* (about 800); also borrowed into Middle Dutch *sot* (modern Dutch *sot*) fool, foolish, Middle High German *sot*, and Middle Low German *sot*, *sotte*.

The meaning of English *sot* one who is stupefied by drink, drunkard, is first recorded in 1592. —**v.** Probably before 1200 *sotten* delude, confuse; later, become stupid or foolish (before 1415); from the noun. The more common intensive verb, *besot*

affect with a foolish infatuation (1580, *be- + sot*, *v.*) is later found in the sense of make mentally or morally stupid or blind (1615).

soufflé *n.* 1813, a French word, from the past participle of *souffler* puff up, from Latin *sufflāre* (*suf-* under, up + *flāre* to blow²).

sough *v.* About 1380 *souzen*; make a rustling or murmuring sound; earlier *swowen* (probably before 1300), and *suhhzhenn* (probably before 1200); developed from Old English *swōgan* (about 750); cognate with Old Saxon *swōgan* to rustle, Old Icelandic *sægr* noise, commotion, and Gothic *gaswōgjan* to sigh, from Proto-Germanic **swōzanan*. —**n.** About 1380 *swogh*, *swough*, from the verb.

soul *n.* Before 1121 *sawle*, later *sowle*, *soule* (probably before 1200); developed from Old English *sāwol* the spiritual and emotional part of a person, animate existence (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *sēle* soul, Old Saxon *seola*, *siola*, Middle Low German *sēle*, Old Low Franconian *sēla*, *sīla*, Middle Dutch *siele* (modern Dutch *ziel*), Old High German *sēula*, *sēla* (modern German *Seele*), and Gothic *saiwala*, from Proto-Germanic **saiwalō* coming from or belonging to the sea, so related because that was supposed to be a stopping place of the soul before birth and after death. The meaning of a spirit of a (deceased) person is first recorded in Old English in 971, and that of a person, individual (as in *every living soul aboard ship*), about 1000.

sound¹ *n.* what is heard. About 1280 *soun*, borrowed from Old French *son*, from Latin *sonus* sound. The spelling with final *-d* (about 1350), was not the established spelling until the 1500's. This spelling shows a tendency from the 1300's on to add the sound *d* after *n* (as is often heard in *drownd*). —**v.** Probably about 1225 *sunen*, later *sownen* (probably about 1343); borrowed from Old French *soner*, from Latin *sonāre*, related to *sonus* sound, *n.*

sound² *adj.* free from injury or defect. Probably before 1200 *sund*, *sunde*, developed from Old English *gesund* sound, safe, healthy (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *sund* healthy, sound, Old Saxon *gisund*, Middle Dutch *ghesont* (modern Dutch *gezond*), and Old High German *gisunt* (modern German *gesund*), from Proto-Germanic **sundās*. —**adv.** About 1330 *sounde*, from the adjective.

sound³ *v.* to measure the depth (of water), fathom, probe. About 1385 *sounden* sink in, penetrate; later, measure the depth of water (before 1460); borrowed from Old French *sonder*, from *sonde* sounding line, probably from a Germanic source (compare Old English *sund* water, sea, and *sundline* sounding line, *sundgyrd* sounding pole, *sundrāp* sounding rope, and Old Icelandic *sund* strait, SOUND⁴). It was earlier held that Old French *sonder* developed from Vulgar Latin **subundāre* submerge (Latin *sub-* under + *unda* wave).

sound⁴ *n.* narrow channel of water, strait. Before 1300; developed from Old English *sund* power of swimming, water, sea, and probably influenced by, if not borrowed from, a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *sund* a strait, swimming,

Norwegian, Swedish, and Danish *sund* channel, strait, sound, from Proto-Germanic **sumdān*.

soup¹ *n.* liquid food. 1653, borrowed from French *soupe* soup, broth, from Late Latin *suppa* bread soaked in broth, from a Germanic source (compare Middle Dutch *sop* sop, broth, and Old High German *sopfa* sop).

soup² *v.* increase the horsepower of (an engine). 1921 *soup up*, probably from *soup*¹ a narcotic injected into horses to make them run faster; perhaps also influenced by *sup(er)charge*, *v.*, 1876.

soupcon *n.* 1766, slight trace or flavor, a French word from Old French *sospeçon*, from Late Latin *suspectiōnem* (nominative *suspectiō*) SUSPICION.

sour *adj.* Probably 1303 *sour* tart, acid, bitter (implied in *soure dogh* sourdough); developed from Old English (about 1000) *sūr*; cognate with Middle Dutch *suur* (modern Dutch *zuur*) sour, Old High German *sūr* (modern German *sauer*), and Old Icelandic *súrr* (Norwegian, Swedish, and Danish *sur*), from Proto-Germanic **sūraz*. —*v.* Probably before 1300 *souren* to become sour, spoil; from the adjective. —*adv.* About 1300, bitterly or severely; later, crossly, disagreeably (as in *to look sour*, 1500–20); from the adjective. —*n.* Before 1325 *sure*; later *soure* (about 1333–52); developed from Old English (about 1000) *sūr*; from the adjective.

source *n.* 1346, a support or base; later *sours* main cause, origin (about 1385), and *source* (before 1393); borrowed from Old French *source* rise, beginning, spring, feminine noun use of the past participle of *sourdre* to rise, spring up, from Latin *urgere* to rise, SURGE.

sourdough *n.* 1898, prospector or pioneer in Alaska or Canada; so called from the practice of the early prospectors in the Yukon of saving a lump of fermented dough as leaven for raising bread baked during the winter. The compound *sour-dough*, *sour dough*, fermented dough, is first recorded in Middle English probably in 1303.

souse *v.* Before 1387 *sousen* to pickle, steep in vinegar; probably borrowed from Old French **souser*, from *sous*, *souci*, *adj.*, preserved in salt and vinegar, pickled, from Frankish **sultia*; cognate with Old High German *sulza* saltwater, pickled meat (modern German *Sülze* brine, jellied meat), and Old Saxon *sultia* saltwater. The participial adjective *soused* steeped in alcoholic liquor, drunk, is found in 1613. —*n.* 1391 *sous* liquid used for pickling; borrowed from Old French *sous*, variant of *souci* pickle. The act of drenching with water (from the verb) is first recorded in 1741.

south *adv.* Before 1300, developed from Old English *sūth* southward, in the south (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *sūthar* southward, south, Middle Low German *sūt*, Old High German *sund-* (modern German *süd*), and Old Icelandic *sudhr*, from Proto-Germanic **sunthaz*. —*adj.* Probably before 1300, developed from Old English (before 800) *sūth-* (as in *sūthdæl* the southern region, the south), adjective use of *sūth*, *adv.* —*n.* Probably before 1300; from the adverb. —**southerly** *adj.* 1551, situated toward the

south, formed from *south*, *adj.* + *-ly*², on the pattern of *westerly*, *easterly*. —*adv.* 1577, in a southern position or direction; for suffix see *-ly*¹. —**southern** *adj.* About 1300, developed from Old English (before 899) *sūtherne* (*sūth* south + *-erne*, suffix denoting direction); cognate with Old High German *sundrōni* and Old Icelandic *sudhrœnn* southern, from Proto-Germanic **sunthronijaz*. —**southward** *adj.* About 1290, developed from Old English (before 899) *sūthweard* (*sūth* south + *-weard* -ward).

souvenir *n.* 1775, remembrance, memory; borrowing of French *souvenir*, noun use of *souvenir*, *v.*, to remember, come to mind, from Latin *subvenire* come to mind (*sub-* up + *venire* come). The meaning of a token of remembrance, memento, is first recorded in English in 1782.

sovereign *n.* About 1280 *sovereyn* a superior, ruler, or master; borrowed from Old French *soverain*, from Vulgar Latin **super-ānus*, from Latin *super* over. The spelling *sovereign* (with *g*) is found about 1378, and earlier as *soveraigne* (1357), probably by influence of *reign*. —*adj.* Before 1338 *sovereigne* great, superior, supreme; borrowed from Old French *soverain*, *adj.* and *n.* —**sovereignty** *n.* About 1340 *soveraynte*; later *sovereignete* (about 1385); borrowed through Anglo-French *sovereyneté*, *soverentee*, from Old French *soveraineté* quality or condition of being sovereign, from *soverain*; for suffix see *-ty*².

soviet *n.* 1917, borrowed from Russian *sovét* governing council; literally, council, from Old Russian *sūvētū* (*sū* with + *vētū* counsel); loan translation of Greek *symbolion* council of advisors. —*adj.* 1918, from the noun.

sow¹ *v.* to plant, seed. Probably about 1150 *sowen*; developed from Old English (before 830) *sāwan*; cognate with Old Saxon *sāian* to sow, Middle Dutch *sayen* (modern Dutch *zaaien*), Old High German *sāwen*, *sājen* (modern German *säen*), Old Icelandic *sā* (Norwegian, Swedish, and Danish *så*), and Gothic *saian*, from Proto-Germanic **sājanan*. Related to SEED.

sow² *n.* female pig. Probably before 1200 *suhe*; later *souwe* (about 1300), *sowe* (before 1325); developed from a blend of Old English (before 800) *sugu*, and *sū* sow. Old English *sugu* (from Proto-Germanic **su3ō*) is cognate with Old Saxon *suga* sow, Middle Low German *soge*, Middle Dutch *sōghe* (modern Dutch *zeug*). Old English *sū* sow, is cognate with Old High German *sū* (modern German *Sau*) and Old Icelandic *sýr*, accusative *sū* (Swedish and Danish *so*). Related to SWINE.

soy *n.* 1696 *soy*; earlier *saio* (1679); borrowed from Dutch *soya*, *soja*, from Japanese *sōyu*, variant of *shōyu* soy, from Chinese *shi-yu* (*shi* fermented soybeans + *yu* oil). Soy passed into English through Dutch, since the Dutch had trade relations with Japan before any other European nation and continued to trade with the Japanese throughout the period in which the English had no contact with Japan (1624–1868).

spa *n.* 1626, mineral spring, from earlier (1565) *Spa*, health resort in Belgium, known for the curative properties of its mineral springs.

space *n.* Probably before 1300, an area, extent, expanse; borrowed from Old French *espace*, from Latin *spatium* room, area,

distance, stretch of time. The sense of the great expanse in which the stars and planets are situated is first recorded in 1667. —**v.** 1548, to separate by a space or spaces; from the noun. An earlier use, walk or pace, is found about 1385. —**adj.** 1600, of or involving space; from the noun. The meaning of having to do with travel in outer space appeared about 1894. Many compounds incorporating this sense first appeared in science fiction or other speculative writing: *spaceship* (1942), *spaceship* (1894), *space station* (1936), *spacesuit* (1920), *space travel* (1931). —**spacious** *adj.* Before 1382, wide, extensive; borrowed from Old French *spacieux*, and directly from Latin *spatiōsus*, from *spatium* space, *n.*; for suffix see -OUS.

spacy or **spacey** *adj.* 1971, dazed or stupefied; also eccentric; formed from earlier *space(d)* or *space(d-out)* dazed or stupefied (1965) + *-y*¹; probably so called from the behavior of people under the influence of hallucinogenic drugs.

spade¹ *n.* tool for digging. Probably before 1200; developed from Old English (before 800) *spadu*; cognate with Old Frisian *spada* spade, shovel, Old Saxon *spado*, Middle Dutch and Dutch *spade*, Middle High German *spat*, *spate* (modern German *Spaten*), Icelandic *spadhi*, and Danish, Swedish, and Norwegian *spade*, from Proto-Germanic **spadōn*.

spade² *n.* leaf-shaped figure on playing cards. 1598, probably a borrowing of Italian *spade*, plural of *spada* sword, *spade*¹, from Latin *spatha* broad, flat weapon or tool, from Greek *spáthē* broad blade.

spadix *n.* 1760, spike composed of minute flowers, New Latin, from Latin *spādix* branch broken off a date-palm tree; from Greek *spādix*, from *spān* tear away, pull.

spaghetti *n.* 1849 *spaghetti*; later *spaghetti* (1888); borrowing of Italian *spaghetti*, plural of *spaghetto* string, twine, diminutive of *spago* cord, of uncertain origin.

span¹ *n.* distance between two objects. Old English *span*, *spann* distance between the thumb and little finger of an extended hand (before 899); cognate with Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *spanne* span, Old High German *spanna* (modern German *Spanne*), Old Icelandic *spönn* (Norwegian and Swedish *spann*, Danish *spand*), and is probably related to Old English *spannan* to join, fasten; see SPAN². The meaning of a length of time is found in 1599. —**v.** Before 1398 *spannen* to twist around; about 1420, to grasp, take hold of; from the noun.

span² *n.* pair of animals driven together. 1769, borrowed from Dutch *span*, from *spannen* to stretch or yoke, from Middle Dutch *spannen*; cognate with Old English *spannan* to join, fasten, clasp, Old Frisian *spanna*, Old Icelandic *spenna* to fasten (Norwegian and Swedish *spanna*), and Old High German *spannan* to fasten, yoke (modern German *spannen*), from Proto-Germanic **spanwanan*.

spangle *n.* 1440 *spangele*, *spangyl* small piece of glittering metal; diminutive of *spang* glittering ornament, spangle (1406); probably borrowed from Middle Dutch *spange* brooch, clasp (for suffix see -LE¹); cognate with Old English *spang* buckle, clasp, Old High German *spanga* (modern German

Spange), and Old Icelandic *spōng* (Norwegian *spōng*), from Proto-Germanic **spanzō*, from an extension of the root of SPAN². —**v.** Probably before 1450 *spanglen* (implied in *spangled*, participial adjective); from the noun.

Spaniard *n.* Before 1400 *Spainard*; later *Spaniard* (1443); as surnames *Spainard* (1318), *Spaniard* (1379); borrowed from Old French *Espaignart*, *Espaniard*, from *Espaigne* Spain, from Latin *Hispānia*, from Greek *Hispāniā*; for suffix see -ARD.

spaniel *n.* About 1350 *spaynel*; as a surname (with the original sense of Spaniard) *Spaynel* (1275); borrowed from Old French *espagneul*, literally, Spanish (dog), from Vulgar Latin **Hispāniolus* of Spain, diminutive of Latin *Hispānus* Spanish, Hispanic, from Greek *Hispānós*, from *Hispāniā* Spain.

Spanish *adj.* Probably before 1200 *Spainisc*; formed from *Spaine* Spain (borrowed from Anglo-French and Old French *Espaigne*; see SPANIARD) + *-isc* *-ish*¹; replacing Old English *Speonisc*. The spelling *Spanish* is (before 1533) an alteration through influence of Latin *Hispānia* (compare SPANIARD).

spank¹ *v.* to strike with the open hand. 1727, possibly imitative in origin, in reference to the sound of spanking. —**n.** 1785, from the verb.

spank² *v.* to move quickly and vigorously. 1807–10, probably a back formation from SPANKING.

spanker *n.* 1794, fore-and-aft sail nearest the stern; probably formed from English *spank(ing)* + *-er*¹. An earlier sense of anything fine or unusual is found in 1751.

spanking *adj.* Before 1666, very big or fine; later, moving at a lively pace (1738); perhaps borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Danish *spanke* to strut); for suffix see -ING².

spar¹ *n.* stout pole. Before 1325 *spar* rafter, beam, stout pole; cognate with Old Saxon *sparro* rafter, Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *sparre* (modern Dutch *spar*), Old High German *sparro* (modern German *Sparren*), Old Icelandic *sparri* (Danish, Swedish, and Norwegian *sparre*), from Proto-Germanic **sparrōn*; related to Old English *spere* SPEAR¹ lance.

spar² *v.* to box. Probably before 1300 *sparden* go quickly, rush; later *sparren* (probably about 1380); perhaps borrowed from Middle French *esparer* to kick, from Italian *sparare* to fling (*s-* as an intensive form from Latin *ex-* + *parare* ward off, parry). The meaning of attack with the arms and fists, box, is recorded in 1755, and that of dispute, bandy words, in 1698. —**n.** Probably about 1400, a thrust or blow; from the verb.

spar³ *n.* shiny mineral that splits easily. 1581, borrowed from Low German *Spar*, from Middle Low German *spar*, *sper*; cognate with Old English *spær-* (in *spærstān* sparstone, gypsum), and *spæren*, *adj.*, of gypsum or plaster. Compare FELDSPAR.

spare *v.* Probably about 1150 *sparen*; developed from Old English (before 830) *sparian* to refrain from harming, go free; cognate with Old Frisian *sparia* to spare, Old Saxon *sparon*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *sparen*, Old High German *sparōn*, *sparēn* (modern German *sparen*), and Old Icelandic *spara* (Norwegian and Danish *spare*, Swedish *spara*); from the

source of Old English *spær* sparing, frugal, Old High German *spar*, and Old Icelandic *sparr* sparing, frugal, from Proto-Germanic **sparaz*. —**adj.** Probably about 1380, free for other use, additional, extra; related to Old English *spær* sparing, frugal, and *sparian* to spare. —**n.** Before 1325, a sparing, leniency, mercy; from the verb. The meaning of a spare thing or part is first recorded in 1642.

spark *n.* Probably before 1200 *sperke*, *sparke*, *spær*; developed from Old English (before 800) *spearca*; cognate with Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *sparke* spark, Old Icelandic *sparkr* lively, from Proto-Germanic **spark-*. —**v.** Probably about 1200 *sparken*; cognate with or possibly borrowed from Middle Low German or Middle Dutch *sparken* to spark, related to the noun; also cognate with Old Icelandic *spraka* to crackle, spark (Norwegian *sprake*, Swedish *spraka*, Danish *sprage*).

sparkle *v.* Probably before 1200 *sperclen*, **sparklen* (not recorded before 1338) send out little sparks; frequentative verb form of Middle English *sparke*, *v.*; see SPARK; for suffix see -LE³. —**n.** About 1300, either a diminutive form of Middle English *sparke* SPARK, *n.*; for suffix see -LE¹; or from the verb *sparklen*; perhaps formed on analogy of the verb.

sparrow *n.* Probably before 1200 *sparewe*, *sparwe*; developed from Old English (before 800) *spearwa*; cognate with Gothic *sparwa*, Middle High German *sparwe*, and older Danish *sparve* (Swedish *sparv*, Danish and Norwegian *spurv*), from Proto-Germanic **sparwōn*. The original *w* of the stem is reflected in the ending of Old High German *sparo* and in the vocalism of Old Icelandic *sporr* (from Proto-Germanic **sparwaz*).

spare *adj.* 1727, widely spaced or spread out; borrowed from Latin *sparsus* scattered, past participle of *spargere* to scatter, spread.

spasm *n.* 1373 *spasom*, *spasum*; later *spasme* (1392); borrowed from Old French *spasme*, and from Latin *spasmus* a spasm, from Greek *spasmós* a spasm, convulsion, from *spân* draw up, tear away, contract violently, pull. —**spasmodic** *adj.* 1681 (earlier *spasmodic*, 1603, borrowed from French *spasmatique*); borrowed from New Latin *spasmodicus* convulsive, from Greek *spasmódēs* of the nature of a spasm, from *spasmós*; for suffix see -IC.

spastic *adj.* 1753, borrowed from Latin *spasticus*, from Greek *spastikós* afflicted with spasms; literally, drawing, pulling, from *spân* draw up; for suffix see -IC. —**n.** 1896, from the adjective.

spat¹ *n.* petty quarrel. 1804, of unknown origin. —**v.** 1809, probably from the noun.

spat² *n.* short gaiter covering the ankle. 1779 *spatts*, shortened form of *spatterdash* long gaiter to keep trousers or stockings from being spattered with mud (1687, formed from English *spatter*, *v.* + *dash*, *v.*)

spate *n.* About 1425, flood, inundation; of unknown origin. A sudden or violent outpouring (of words, anger, etc.) is first recorded about 1614.

spathe *n.* 1785, bract that encloses a flower cluster; borrowed

from Latin *spatha* spathe of a palm tree, broad, flat weapon or tool, from Greek *spáthē* broad blade.

spatial *adj.* 1847, occupying space; later, of or relating to space (1857); formed in English as an adjective to *space*, *n.*, from Latin *spatium* SPACE + English -al¹.

spatter *v.* 1576 (implied in *spattering*) to scatter in drops or particles; possibly a frequentative verb form of the stem *spat-*, found in Dutch or Low German *spatten* to spout, burst, or the extended form *spatter-*, in Frisian *spatterje* and *spetter-*, in Flemish *spetteren* to spatter; for suffix in English see -ER⁴. —**n.** 1797, from the verb.

spatula *n.* 1525, borrowing of Latin *spatula*, *spatula* broad piece, spatula, diminutive of *spatha* broad, flat tool or weapon, from Greek *spáthē* broad blade. The Latin word was also borrowed into Middle English as *spatule* a medical instrument used to spread salve or clean wounds (about 1425).

spavin *n.* Probably before 1430 *spaven*; borrowed from Middle French *espavain*, *esparvain*, probably from Frankish **spanvan* sparrow, related to Middle High German *spanve* SPARROW. The disease was perhaps so called from a comparison between a sparrow's ungainly gait and that of a horse affected with spavin. —**spavined** *adj.* Probably before 1430 *spaveyned* affected with spavin; formed from *spaveyne*, *spaven* spavin + -ed².

spawn *v.* 1413 *spawnen* (of fish) to reproduce; borrowed through Anglo-French *espaundre*, or Old French *espaudre* to spread out, pour out, from Latin *expandere* EXPAND. The meaning of give birth to, produce, is first recorded in 1594. —**n.** Before 1450 *spawne* the male reproductive glands of a fish; later, tiny eggs of fishes, etc. (1491); from the verb.

spay *v.* About 1410 *spaien* stab with a sword, kill; also, remove the ovaries of; borrowed from Anglo-French *espeier* cut with a sword, from Middle French *espeer*, from Old French *espee* sword, from Latin *spatha* broad, flat weapon or tool, from Greek *spáthē* broad blade.

speak *v.* Probably before 1200 *speken*; developed from Old English (about 1000) *specan*, variant of earlier *sprecan* to speak (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *spreka* to speak, Old Saxon *sprecan*, Middle Dutch *speken*, *spreken* (modern Dutch *spreken*), Old High German *spehhan*, *sprehhan* (modern German *sprechen*), from Proto-Germanic **sprekanan*. —**n.** Scottish and dialectal English. talk, speech. About 1300 *speke*, from the verb. 1949, in the compound *Newspeak*, in Orwell's novel *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, and later as a combining form to coin ad hoc compounds such as *artspeak*, *videospoke*, etc. —**speaker** *n.* 1303, a person who speaks; formed from English *speak*, *v.* + -er¹. The word was first applied to a person who presides over a legislative assembly about 1400.

speakeasy *n.* 1889, an unlicensed saloon; formed from *speak*, *v.* + *easy* softly; so called from the practice of speaking quietly about such an establishment in public, or speaking softly to avoid attracting undue attention, as by neighbors or the police. *Speakeasy* gained wide currency during the period of Prohibition (1920–1932).

spear¹ *n.* long thrusting weapon, lance. Old English (before 800) *spere*; cognate with Old Frisian *spere*, *spiri* spear, Old Saxon *sper*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *speer*, Old High German *sper* (modern German *Speer*), and Old Icelandic *spjör*, pl., spears, from Proto-Germanic **speri*. —**v.** 1755, from the noun. —**spearhead** *n.* pointed head of a spear (about 1400); later, the leading part of an attack, undertaking, etc. (1929). —**v.** to lead. 1938, from the noun.

spear² *n.* sprout or shoot of a plant. 1509 *speere* church spire, variant of SPIRE. The sprout or shoot of a plant is first recorded in 1647.

special *adj.* Probably before 1200 *spetiale* uncommon, exceptional; later *speciale* (probably before 1300); borrowed from Old French *especial*, and directly from Latin *specialis* individual, particular, from *speciēs* appearance, kind, sort; for suffix see -AL¹. —**n.** Probably before 1300 *speciale* special person or thing; from the adjective. —**specialist** *n.* 1856, borrowed from French *spécialiste*, and formed in English from *special*, *adj.* + -*ist*. —**speciality** *n.* Probably before 1425 *specialite*, borrowed from Middle French *specialité*, *specialité*, and probably directly from Late Latin *specialitās* particularity, peculiarity, from Latin *specialis* special, *adj.*; for suffix see -ITY. —**specialize** *v.* 1613, to mention specially, formed from English *special*, *adj.* + -*ize*. The meaning of engage in a special study, some special line of business, etc., appeared in 1881. —**specially** *adv.* 1297, in a special manner; formed from English *special* + -*ly*¹. The sense of for a special purpose, expressly, is first recorded about 1315. —**specialty** *n.* About 1303 *specialte* special affection; borrowed from Old French *especialté*, from Late Latin *specialitās* speciality; for suffix see -TY². The meaning of special line of work is first recorded in 1860.

specie *n.* 1615, coin, money in the form of coins; from earlier *in specie* in the real or actual form (1551), from Latin *in speciē* in kind, ablative case of *speciēs* kind, form, sort.

species *n.* Before 1398, a classification in logic; borrowed from Latin *speciēs* kind, sort; originally, appearance. The sense in biology of a group of animals or plants that have common characteristics is first recorded in 1608.

specific *adj.* Before 1631, having a special quality; borrowed from French *spécifique*, and directly from Late Latin *specificus* constituting a species, from Latin *speciēs* kind, sort; for suffix see -FIC. The meaning of definite, precise, is first recorded in English in 1740. —**n.** 1661, specific remedy or cure; from the adjective. The sense of a specific quality, detail, etc., (as in *the specifics of the accident*), is first recorded in 1697. —**specification** *n.* 1615, conversion to something specific; borrowed from Medieval Latin *specificationem* (nominative *specificatio*), from Late Latin *specificāre* to specify; for suffix see -ATION. The meaning of detailed statement, is first recorded in 1642. —**specificity** *n.* 1876, borrowed from French *spécificité*, or formed from English *specific*, *adj.* + -*ity*. —**specify** *v.* Before 1325 *specifien* speak of something in detail; borrowed from Old French *spécifier*, learned borrowing from Late Latin

specificāre mention particularly, from *specificus* specific; for suffix see -FY.

specimen *n.* 1619, a pattern, model, borrowing of Latin *specimen* appearance, model, from *specere* to look at. The meaning of a single thing regarded as typical of its kind is first recorded in English in 1654. An earlier sense of a means of finding out, is found in 1610.

specious *adj.* About 1390 *speciose* pleasing to the sight, fair; borrowed from Latin *speciōsus*, from *speciēs* appearance; for suffix see -IOUS. The meaning of seemingly desirable, reasonable, or probable, but not really so, is first found in 1611.

speck *n.* Before 1398 *spekke*; developed from Old English (before 800) *specca* small spot, stain. The sense of tiny bit, particle, is first recorded in the early 1400's. —**v.** 1580, from the noun.

speckle *n.* 1440 *spakle*; later *speckle* (1495); probably related to Old English *specca* small spot, speck, and corresponding to Middle Dutch *speckel* speckle (modern Dutch *spikkel*), by loss of *r* from earlier **sprekel*, as found in Middle High German *sprekel* a spot or speck; originally, an eruption on the skin. —**v.** 1570, from the noun, or back formation from earlier *speckled*, *adj.*, marked with speckles or specks (1440 *spaklyd*; before 1387 *splekked*).

spectacle *n.* About 1340 *spectakil* public entertainment or display; borrowed from Old French *spectacle*, from Latin *spectāculum* a show, spectacle, from *spectāre* to view, watch, frequentative verb form of *specere* to look at. The sense of a glass lens to help a person's sight (usually *spectacles*) is first recorded in 1415. —**spectacular** *adj.* 1682, striking or imposing as a display; formed from Latin *spectāculum* spectacle + English suffix -*ar*. —**n.** 1890, a show or display; from the adjective.

spectator *n.* Before 1586, onlooker, observer; borrowed from Latin *spectātor* viewer, watcher, from *spectāt-*, past participle stem of *spectāre* to view, watch; for suffix see -OR².

specter *n.* 1605, borrowed from French *spectre* an image, figure, ghost, from Latin *spectrum* appearance, vision, apparition; see SPECTRUM.

spectro- a combining form meaning having to do with the spectrum of colors, as in *spectroscope* = an instrument for spectrum analysis. Formed by abstraction from *spectrology*, etc., and from English *spectrum* + the connective vowel -*o*-.

spectroscope *n.* 1861, formed from English *spectro-* + -*scope*. —**spectroscopic** *adj.* (1864) —**spectroscopy** *n.* (1870)

spectrum *n.* 1611, apparition, specter; borrowed from Latin *spectrum* appearance, image, apparition, from *specere* to look at, view. The band of colors formed when a beam of light is broken up is first recorded in 1671.

speculate *v.* 1599, think carefully, consider; back formation from *speculation* or *speculator*, modeled on Latin *speculātus*, past participle of *speculārī* to watch, observe, from *specula* watchtower, from *specere* to look at; for suffix see -ATE¹. The meaning of conjecture is first recorded in English before 1677, and

the commercial sense of buy or sell hoping for profit, in 1785. —**speculation** *n.* About 1380 *speculacioun* careful thought; borrowed from Old French *speculation*, and directly from Late Latin *speculatiōnem* (nominative *speculatiō*) contemplation, observation, from Latin *speculārī* observe; for suffix see -ATION. The meaning of financial speculation is first recorded in 1774. —**speculative** *adj.* About 1380 *speculatif*, borrowed from Old French *speculatif* (feminine *speculative*), and directly from Late Latin *speculativus*, from *speculāt-*, past participle stem of *speculārī* observe; for suffix see -IVE. —**speculator** *n.* 1555, person who engages in mental speculation; borrowed from Latin *speculātor* scout, sentinel, from *speculāt-*, past participle stem of *speculārī* observe; for suffix see -OR². The sense of a person who engages in financial speculation is first recorded in 1778.

speech *n.* Probably about 1150 *speche*; developed from Old English *spæc* act of speaking, manner of speaking, utterance (before 1050), variant of *spæc* (before 800), related to *sprecan*, *specan* to SPEAK and cognate with Old Frisian *spreke*, *spreze* speech, Old Saxon *spraka*, Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *sprake* (modern Dutch *spraak*), Old High German *sprāha* (modern German *Sprache*), and Old Icelandic *spraki* rumor, report, from Proto-Germanic **sprækijō*.

speed *n.* Probably about 1200 *sped* swiftness, quickness; developed from Old English (before 800) *spēd* success, prosperity, advancement, swiftness; cognate with Old Saxon *spōd* success, prosperity, speed, Middle Dutch *spoed* (modern Dutch *spoed* speed), and Old High German *spuot*, from Proto-Germanic **spōdōs*. —*v.* Probably before 1200 *speden* to travel swiftly; developed from Old English (993) *spēdan* to succeed, prosper, advance, from *spēd* success, speed, and cognate with Old Saxon *spōdian* to prosper, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *spoeden* to speed, and Old High German *spuoten* to succeed, prosper (modern German *sputen* make haste, hurry). —**speedy** *adj.* 1375 *spedy* moving with speed, swift; formed from *sped* speed, *n.* + *-y*¹.

speleology *n.* 1895, borrowed from French *spéléologie*, from Latin *spelaeum* cave (from Greek *spēlaion*) + French *-logie* -logy. Greek *spēlaion* is related to *spēos* cave, grotto, and *spēlynx* (genitive *spēlyngos*) cave; compare SPELUNKING.

spell¹ *v.* name the letters of. Before 1325 *spellen* to read letter by letter, read with difficulty; probably developed from Old English *spellian* to tell, speak, and borrowed from Old French *espeller* declare, spell, from a Germanic source (compare Old High German *spellōn* to tell, Old Icelandic *spjalla* to talk, converse, and Gothic *spillōn*, from the same root as Old English *spell* story, discourse; see SPELL²). The meaning of write or say the letters of a word is first recorded before 1400.

spell² *n.* incantation, charm. Old English *spell* story, speech (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Saxon *spell* story, Old High German *spel*, Old Icelandic *spjall*, and Gothic *spill*, from Proto-Germanic **spellan*, earlier **spelman*. The meaning of a set of words with magical powers, incantation, charm, is first recorded in English in 1579; the word is also a part of the compound GOSPEL.

spell³ *v.* work in place of (another) for a time. 1595, developed

from Old English (about 960) *spelian* to take the place of, represent, related to *gespelia*, *spala* substitute, of uncertain origin. —*n.* Before 1625, turn of work taken to relieve another; earlier, relay, shift of workers (1593); related to the verb, and perhaps directly representing Old English *gespelia* substitute. The meaning of a period of some work or occupation is first recorded in 1706, and that of an indefinite period of time, in 1728.

spellbound *adj.* 1799, formed from English *spell*² charm + *bound*¹ fastened. —**spellbind** *v.* 1808, formed from *spell*² charm + *bind*, as a verb to *spellbound*.

spelt *n.* Old English (before 1000) *spelt*, corresponding to Old Saxon *spelta* spelt, Middle Dutch *spelte*, *spelt* (modern Dutch *spelt*), Old High German *spelza* (modern German *Spelz*, *Spelt*); an early borrowing from Late Latin *spelta* spelt.

spelunking *n.* 1946, formed from obsolete English *spelunk* cave or cavern + *-ing*. *Spelunk* is first recorded as *spelunke*, about 1378; borrowed from Old French *spelunke*, from Latin *spēlunca* a cave, cavern, grotto, from Greek *spēlynx* (genitive *spēlyngos*); compare SPELEOLOGY. —**spelunker** *n.* 1942, formed from *spelunk*, *n.* + *-er*¹.

spend *v.* About 1175 *spenden* pay out, expend; developed from Old English *-spendan* (as in *forspendan* use up); borrowed from Latin *expendere* to expend, and cognate with Old High German *spendōn* (modern German *spenden*) to give, present, bestow, and Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *spenden*, also borrowed from Latin *expendere*. —**spendthrift** *n.* 1601, formed from English *spend*, *v.* + *thrift*, *n.*, savings, profits, wealth.

sperm¹ *n.* male reproductive cell. About 1375 *sperme* semen; borrowed probably from Old French *esperme*, and directly from Late Latin *sperma* seed, semen, from Greek *spérma* seed, from *spérein* to sow, scatter. —**spermatic** *adj.* 1392 *spermatik* containing, conveying, or producing sperm; borrowed from Middle French *spermatique*, and directly from Late Latin *spermatikus* of sperm, from Greek *spermatikós*, from *spérma* (genitive *spérmatos*) seed; for suffix see -IC.

sperm² *n.* = spermaceti. 1839, shortened form of SPERMACEITI. The term *sperm whale* (1839) is a shortening of *spermaceti whale*; so called because the waxy substance in its head was erroneously identified with animal sperm.

spermaceti *n.* Probably 1471, borrowed from Medieval Latin *sperma ceti* sperm of a whale (Late Latin *sperma* seed; and Medieval Latin *ceti*, genitive of Latin *cetus* large sea animal).

spermato- a combining form meaning seed, sperm, as in *spermatocyte* = a germ cell that produces sperms. Borrowing of Greek *spermato-*, combining form of *spérma* (genitive *spérmatos*) seed, semen, SPERM¹.

spermatozoon *n.*, pl. *-zoa* 1836–39, New Latin, formed from *spermato-* + *-zoon*, from Greek *zōion* animal.

spew *v.* Probably before 1200 *spewen*; developed from Old English *spīwan* (before 899); cognate with Old Frisian *spīa* to

spew, spit, Old Saxon *spūwan*, Middle Dutch *spūwen* (modern Dutch *spuwen*), Old High German *spūwan* (modern German *speien*), Old Icelandic *spýja* (Danish, Norwegian, and Swedish *spy*), and Gothic *speiwan*, from Proto-Germanic **spīwanan*.

sphagnum *n.* 1741, New Latin, from Latin *sphagnos* a kind of lichen, from Greek *sphágnos* a spiny shrub.

sphere *n.* Before 1450 *sphere* hollow globe containing the stars and planets; alteration (influenced by Latin *sphaera*) of *spere* the cosmos (probably before 1300), and globe, ball (before 1382); borrowed from Old French *espere*, and probably directly from Latin *sphaera* globe, ball, celestial sphere, from Greek *sphaíra* globe, ball. A sense of place is recorded in 1601, and that of the whole range of something in 1602. —**spherical** *adj.* (1523) —**spheroid** *n.* (1570)

sphincter *n.* 1578, borrowed from Middle French *sphincter*, and directly from Late Latin *sphinctēr* contractile muscle, from Greek *sphinkteír* band, anything that binds tight, from *sphíngein* to squeeze, bind.

sphinx *n.* Probably about 1421 *Spynx*; later *Sphinx* (1579–80); borrowed from Latin *Sphinx* monster having a lion's body with a woman's head, from Greek *Sphínx* (genitive *Sphingós*), back formation from *sphíngein* to squeeze, bind, with reference to the monster in Greek mythology that strangled everyone who could not solve the riddle it posed.

spice *n.* Probably before 1200, borrowed from Old French *espice*, from Late Latin *speciēs* (plural) spices, goods, wares, from Latin, kind, sort. —**v.** Before 1325 *spicen* (implied in *spiced*) prepare with a spice or spices, season; from the noun. —**spicy** *adj.* 1562, like a spice, sharp and fragrant; formed from English *spice*, *n.* + *-y*¹. The sense of racy, salacious, is first recorded in 1844.

spick-and-span or **spic-and-span** *adj.* 1665, shortened form of *spick-and-span-new* new as a recently made spike and chip of wood (1579–80, from *spick* SPIKE¹ nail + *span-new* very new, borrowed from Old Icelandic *spān-nýr*, from *spānn* chip + *nýr* new).

spicule *n.* 1785, borrowed from Latin *spīculum*, diminutive of *spīca* ear of grain, SPIKE².

spider *n.* 1440 *spyde* (error for *spyder*), alteration of earlier *spithre* (1340); developed from Old English *spīthra*, earlier **spīnthra*, from Proto-Germanic **spenthro*, formed from **spenwanan* to SPIN. —**spiderweb** *n.* (before 1649; earlier *spiders webbe*, 1539) —**spidery** *adj.* (1825)

spiel *v.* 1894, to speak in a glib manner; earlier, to play circus music (1870); borrowed from German *spielen* to play, from Old High German *spīlōn*; cognate with Old English *spīlian* to play, Old Frisian *spīlia*, Old Saxon *spīlōn*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *spelen*. —**n.** 1896, glib speech, pitch; probably from the verb, though with influence of German *Spiel* play, game.

spiffy *adj.* 1853, smart, neat, trim, of uncertain origin.

spigot *n.* Before 1382, plug used to stop the hole of a cask; probably borrowed from Old French **espigot*, represented by

dialectal (Gascony) *espigot* core of a fruit, small ear of grain, Old French *espigeot* badly-threshed ear of grain, diminutive forms from Old Provençal *espiga* ear of grain, from Latin *spīca* ear of grain. The valve for controlling the flow of a liquid, faucet, appeared about 1530.

spike¹ *n.* large nail. 1345–46, probably borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *spik* splinter, *spiker* nail, from Proto-Germanic **spīkaz*, and Middle Swedish *spike*, *spijk* nail, Norwegian and Swedish *spik*, Danish *spig*; cognate with Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *spiker* nail [modern Dutch *spijker*], Middle High German *spīcher*, Old English *spīcing* large nail). —**v.** 1624, from the noun.

spike² *n.* ear of grain. Probably before 1300 *spyc*, borrowed from Latin *spīca* ear of grain.

spill *v.* Probably before 1200 *spillen* to waste; before 1325, to shed (blood); about 1340, let (liquid) fall or run out; developed from Old English (about 950) *spīllan* destroy, kill, variant of *spīldan*, from Proto-Germanic **spēlthijanan*, and corresponding to Old Saxon *spīldian* destroy, kill, Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *spīlden*, *spīllen* to waste, squander, *spīll* (modern Dutch *spillen*), Old High German *spīldan* destroy, waste, and Old Icelandic *spīlla* destroy, kill (Swedish *spīlla* to shed, waste, *spill*, Norwegian *spille*, Danish *spilde*). —**n.** Before 1845, a fall or tumble; from the verb. The spilling of liquid is first recorded about 1848.

spin *v.* Before 1250 *spinnen* (implied in *sponnen* spun); developed from Old English (before 800) *spinnan* draw out and twist fibers into thread; cognate with Middle Low German, Middle Dutch, and modern Dutch *spinnen* to spin, Old High German *spinnan* (modern German *spinnen*), Old Icelandic *spinna* (Swedish *spinna*, Norwegian *spinne*, Danish *spinde*), and Gothic *spinnan*, from Proto-Germanic **spenwanan*. The meaning of revolve, turn around rapidly, is first recorded in 1667. —**n.** a spinning. 1831, from the verb. —**spinner** *n.* Before 1250 *spinnere*; probably formed in English from *spinnen* + *-ere* *-er*¹. —**spinning wheel** (1404)

spinach *n.* Before 1399 *spynoch*; as a surname *Spinach* (1267); borrowed from Old French *espinache*, from Old Provençal *espinarc*, *spinarch*, from Catalan *espinac* or Spanish *espinaca*, from Spanish-Arabic *ispīnākh*, variant of Arabic *isbānākh*, *isfānākh*, from Persian *aspanākh* spinach.

spindle *n.* Before 1225, alteration (with added *d* after *n*, as in *sound* and *thunder*) of Old English (before 800) *spīnel*, related to *spinnan* to SPIN; for suffix see *-LE*¹. Old English *spīnel* is cognate with Old Frisian *spīndel* spindle, Old Saxon *spīnīla*, and Old High German *spīnīla* (modern German *Spindel*). —**v.** 1441–42 (of plants, etc. implied in *spīndling* grow tall and slender); from the noun in the sense of a stalk, stem, or shoot. —**spīndly** *adj.* 1651, formed from *spīndle*, *n.* + *-y*¹.

spindrift *n.* 1600 *spenedrift*; Scottish; formed from *spene*, alteration of *spoon* to sail before the wind (1576, of uncertain origin) + *drift*, *n.*

spine *n.* About 1400, backbone; later, pointed, thornlike part (probably before 1422); borrowed from Old French *espine*, and

directly from Latin *spīna* backbone; originally, thorn or prick. —**spinal** adj. 1578, of or having to do with the backbone; borrowed from Late Latin *spinālis* of or pertaining to the spine or a thorn, from Latin *spīna* spine; for suffix see -AL¹. —**spiny** adj. 1586, like a spine; later, covered with spines (1604); formed from English *spine* + -y¹.

spinet *n.* 1936, a small upright piano; earlier *spinette* small harpsichord (1664); borrowed from earlier French *espinette* (now *épinette*), from Middle French, from Italian *spinetta*, perhaps diminutive of *spina* thorn, spine, from Latin *spīna* thorn, SPINE; so called because the strings of the spinet were plucked with quills; for suffix see -ET; or possibly named in allusion to the inventor, Giovanni Spinetti.

spinnaker *n.* 1866 *spinniker*, of uncertain origin; perhaps derived from *spin* in the sense of go rapidly; or possibly a formation of *spinx*, mispronunciation of *Sphinx*, the name of the first yacht known to carry this type of sail.

spinster *n.* Before 1376 *spinster* female spinner of thread; formed from Middle English *spinnen* to SPIN + -ster -ster. Since spinning was commonly done by women, the term *spinster* was often used with the names of women to denote their occupation, and was later used (from the 1600's to the early 1900's) in the legal documents for an unmarried woman.

spiral adj. 1551, borrowed from Middle French *spiral*, and directly from Medieval Latin *spirālis* winding, coiling, from Latin *spīra* coil, from Greek *spētra* coil, twist, wreath; for suffix see -AL¹. —**n.** 1656, from the adjective. —**v.** 1834, from the noun.

spirant *n.* = fricative. 1862, borrowed from Latin *spīrantem* (nominative *spīrāns*) breathing, present participle of *spīrāre* to breathe; for suffix see -ANT.

spire *n.* About 1250, sprout, shoot; developed from Old English (before 1000) *spīr*; cognate with Middle Low German *spīr* small point or top, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *spier* shoot, blade of grass, and Old Icelandic *spīra* reed, slender tree (Swedish *spira*, Norwegian and Danish *spire* sprout, spire), from Proto-Germanic **spīraz*. The extended meaning of the tapering top part of a tower or steeple is first recorded in 1596. —**v.** Before 1325 *spiren* to send forth or develop shoots, sprout; from the noun.

spirit *n.* About 1250, animating or vital principle, breath of life; borrowed from Old French *esprit*, and directly from Latin *spīritus* (genitive *spīritūs*) soul, courage, vigor, breath, related to *spīrāre* to breathe.

The original English uses of *spirit* are mainly derived from passages in the Vulgate, in which Latin *spīritus* is used to translate Greek *pneūma* and Hebrew *rūah*. The meaning of a supernatural being, is first recorded probably before 1350, and the sense of the essential principle (as in *the spirit of independence*), before 1382. The plural *spirits* volatile substance is first recorded in 1610; and strong alcoholic liquor, in 1678. —**v.** 1592, make more lively; from the noun. The meaning of carry off or away secretly is first recorded in 1666. —**spiritual** adj. About 1303 *spirituele* of, relating to, or consisting of spirit,

relating to sacred or religious matters; borrowed from Old French *spirituel*, and directly from Medieval Latin *spiritualis* of or pertaining to breath, wind, air, or spirit, from Latin *spīritus* spirit; for suffix see -AL¹. —**n.** Probably before 1400, the church; later, a spiritual person (1532); from the adjective. A spiritual song, is first recorded in 1870. —**spiritualism** *n.* 1796, tendency towards a spiritual view of things; formed in English from *spiritual*, adj. + -ism, perhaps on the model of French *spiritualisme*. —**spiritualist** *n.* 1649, formed from English *spiritual*, adj. + -ist, perhaps on the model of French *spiritualiste*.

spirochete or **spirochaete** *n.* 1877, borrowed from New Latin *Spirochaeta*, the genus name; formed from Greek *spētra* a coil + *chaltē* hair.

spit¹ *v.* expel saliva. Probably before 1200 *spitten*, developed from Old English *spittan* (about 950, Anglian), probably a dialectal variant of *spētan* (West Saxon), of imitative origin, and found in dialectal German *spitzen* to spit, Danish and Norwegian *spytte*, Swedish *spotta*, and Icelandic *spýta*; compare SPITTLE. —**n.** Before 1325, from the verb.

spit² *n.* sharp-pointed rod on which meat is roasted. Probably before 1200, developed from Old English *spitu* (about 1000); cognate with Middle Dutch *spit*, *spet* spit (modern Dutch *spit*), Old High German *spiz* spit (modern German *Spieß*), *spizzi* pointed (modern German *spitz*), Swedish *spett* spit, and Danish *spid*, from Proto-Germanic **spituz*. —**v.** Probably before 1200 *spiten* to put on a spit, thrust through with a spit; from the noun.

spite *n.* Probably before 1300, contempt, disdain, ill will; shortened form of *despit* malice, DESPITE. —**v.** Probably before 1400 *spiten* to regard with spite; from the noun.

spittle *n.* 1481, probably alteration (influenced by SPIT¹) of earlier *spatel* saliva (before 1250); developed from Old English *spætl*, *spātl* (before 899), from Proto-Germanic **spætan*, related to *spētan* to SPIT¹.

spittoon *n.* 1823, formed from *spit¹*, *v.* + -oon.

spitz *n.* 1842, borrowing of German *Spitz* (also, rarely, *Spitzhund*), from *spitz* pointed.

splash *v.* 1715, probably alteration of PLASH, with initial *s* regarded as intensive to the meaning. —**n.** 1736, from the verb. —**slashy** adj. 1834, sounding like a splash; 1836, attracting attention, sensational; formed from English *splash* + -y¹.

splatter *v.* 1784–85 (found earlier in *splatterdash*, 1772, variant of *spatterdash* leggings 1687), perhaps a blend of *spatter* and *splash*. —**n.** 1819, from the verb.

splay *v.* Before 1338 *splayen* to unfold, unfurl; shortened form of *desplayen* to DISPLAY. The meaning of spread out, extend, is first recorded probably before 1405.

spleen *n.* Probably before 1300 *splen*; borrowed through Old French *esplen*, *espien*, or directly from Latin *splēn*, from Greek *splēn*.

In the Middle Ages and even into the 1700's the spleen was believed to be the seat of emotions, especially of low spirits, found in 1393. The meaning of bad temper, is found in 1594, and in *vent one's spleen* (1885). —**splenetic** adj. 1544, borrowed from Late Latin *splēneticus*, from Latin *splēn* SPLEEN; for suffix see -IC. The word is also found as a noun *splenetik* a person afflicted with a disorder of the spleen (before 1398). The meaning of irascible, is found in 1592.

splendid adj. 1624, sumptuous, grand, magnificent; perhaps a shortened form of earlier *splendidus* (probably before 1425), on the model of, and probably borrowed directly from, French *splendide*, and borrowed directly from Latin *splendidus* resplendent, brilliant, from *splendēre* be bright, shine. —**splendiferous** adj. About 1460; borrowed from Medieval Latin **splendifer*, Late Latin *splendōrifer* (*splendor* + *ferre* to bear); reformed 1843 from Medieval Latin **splendifer*, for suffix see -OUS. The latter formation is considered a playful usage, similar to *splendacious* (1843, formed in English from *splend(id)* + -acious).

splendor n. Probably before 1475 *splendure* great brightness, brilliant light; borrowed from Middle French *esplendour*, and directly from Latin *splendor*, from *splendēre* be bright; for suffix see -OR¹. —**splendorous** adj. (1591)

splice v. Before 1625 (nautical use) join together by weaving; back formation from earlier *splicing* act of joining together ropes, etc., by weaving (1524–25); borrowed from Middle Dutch *splicinge*, verbal noun of *splicen* to splice. The general sense of fasten together is first recorded in 1626, later in reference to a motion picture film in 1912, and to genetic materials, such as DNA, in 1975. —n. act or result of splicing. 1627, from the verb.

splint n. Probably before 1300 *splente* flexible strip of wood or metal; earlier in *splente* strip of wood (1267), later *splynte* (1376–78); probably borrowed from Middle Low German *splinte*, *splente* thin piece of iron, related to Middle Dutch *splint* splint (modern Dutch *splint*), and cognate with Norwegian and Swedish *splint* pin, wedge, splinter. The meaning of a piece of wood, etc., to hold a broken bone in place appeared before 1400. —v. 1392, bind with a splint; from the noun.

splinter n. Before 1325 *splentre*; later *splintre* (before 1398); borrowed from Middle Dutch *splinter*, *splenter* a splinter, related to *splinte* SPLINT. —adj. 1935, (as in *splinter party*), from the noun. —v. 1582, from the noun.

split v. 1590, to break up; 1593, to divide, cleave, rend; borrowed from middle Dutch *splicen*; cognate with Middle Low German *splicen* to split, Middle High German *spliczen* (modern German *spalten*), and Old Frisian *splic* to split, from Proto-Germanic **spleit-/split-*. —n. 1597, from the verb. —adj. 1648, from the past participle of the verb.

plotch n. 1601, perhaps a blend of *spot*, *blot*, and *botch*; compare later *blotch*. —v. 1654, from the noun. —**plotchy** adj. (1863)

splurge n. 1830, ostentatious display; perhaps a blend of *splash*

and *surge*. The sense of an extravagant indulgence in spending is found in 1928. —v. 1843, to show off, from the noun. The sense of spend extravagantly, is first recorded in 1934.

splutter n. 1677, noise or fuss; later, violent and confused talk (1688); perhaps variant of *SPUTTER*, intensified by substitution of the prefixal *spl-* as in *splash* and *splatter*. —v. 1728, from the noun.

spoil v. Probably about 1300 *spoulen* undress (someone), strip (an enemy) of arms and armor; later *spoulen* (about 1330); borrowed from Old French *espoillier* to strip, plunder, from Latin *spoliare* to strip of clothing, rob, from *spolium* armor stripped from an enemy, booty. Middle English *spoulen* may be in some uses a shortened form of *despoilen* DESPOIL. —n. Often, **spoils**. About 1340; borrowed from Old French *espoille*, *espoille*, from Latin *spolium* booty.

spoke n. Probably before 1300 (of a wheel), developed from Old English *spāca* spoke (before 899), related to *spicing* large nail, SPIKE¹. Old English *spāca* is cognate with Old Frisian *spēke* spoke, Old Saxon *spēka*, Middle Dutch *speke*, *speec*, and Old High German *speicha* (modern German *Speiche*), from Proto-Germanic **spaikōn*. —v. 1720, from the noun.

spokesman n. 1519, an interpreter; later, a person who speaks for another or others (1540); irregularly formed from English *spoke* (past participle of *speak*) + *man*, on analogy of *craftsman*, *landsman*, etc. —**spokesperson** n. 1972, coined to avoid reference to the subject's sex. —**spokeswoman** n. (1654)

spoliation n. Probably about 1400 *spoliacion*; borrowed from Latin *spoliatiōnem* (nominative *spoliatiō*), from *spoliare* to plunder, rob; see SPOIL; for suffix see -ATION.

spondee n. Before 1382, borrowed from Old French *spondee*, from Latin *spondēus*, from Greek *spondēos* the meter originally used in chants accompanying libations, from *spondē* libation, related to *spondein* make a drink offering.

spondulicks n. 1856, money, cash, of unknown origin, used by Mark Twain and by O. Henry and since then adopted in British English.

sponge n. Old English (about 1000) *sponge*, borrowed from Latin *spongia*, *spongia* a sponge or the sea animal from which it comes, from Greek *spongiā*, related to *spóngos* sponge. —v. 1393 *spongen* (implied in *spongyng*, verbal noun) wipe or clean with a sponge; from the noun. The meaning of live on others in a dependent or parasitic manner is found in 1673.

sponson n. 1835 *sponcing*; 1838 *sponson*; nautical use, of unknown origin.

sponsor n. 1651, godfather or godmother; borrowing of Late Latin *spōnsor* sponsor in baptism, Latin, a surety guaranty, from *spōns-*, past participle stem of *spondere* give assurance, promise solemnly; for suffix see -OR². The sense of a person who makes a pledge on behalf of another, is first recorded in 1677 and that of a person who pays for a radio (or, after 1947, television) program in order to advertise, in 1931. —v. 1884, from the noun.

spontaneous *adj.* Probably about 1200 *sponntaneuss* acting of one's own accord; borrowed from Late Latin *spontāneus* willing, from Latin (*suā*) *sponte* of one's own accord, willingly; for suffix see -OUS. The sense of occurring without external stimulus, is first recorded in 1656. —**spontaneity** *n.* 1651, formed as a noun to English *spontaneous*; for suffix see -ITY.

spoof *n.* 1889, a hoax, deception; extended sense of earlier *Sponf*, a game involving hoaxing (1884). The sense of a parody is first recorded in 1914. —**v.** 1889, to hoax or deceive, from the noun.

spook *n.* 1801, borrowed from Dutch *spook*, from Middle Dutch *spooc* spook, ghost, related to Middle Low German *spōk* spook, of unknown origin. —**v.** 1867, haunt, scare; from the noun. —**spooky** *adj.* (1854)

spool *n.* Before 1325, borrowed from Old North French *spole* a spool, and directly from Middle Dutch *spoel* a spool; cognate with Middle Low German *spōle* and Old High German *spuola* spool (modern German *Spule*), from Proto-Germanic **spōlōn*. —**v.** 1603, from the noun.

spoon *n.* About 1300 *spōn* eating utensil (implied in *sponeful* spoonful); also, chip of wood (probably before 1300); found in Old English (before 800) *spōn* chip, shaving; cognate with Middle Low German *spōn* wooden spatula, Middle Dutch *spaen* chip, splinter (modern Dutch *spaen*), Old High German *spān* (modern German *Span*), and Old Icelandic *spānn*, *spōnn* chip, tile, spoon, from Proto-Germanic **spānuz*. The sense of an eating utensil was perhaps borrowed from Old Icelandic *spōnn*. —**v.** 1715, from the noun. The meaning of court or flirt is first recorded in 1831.

spoonerism *n.* 1900 (perhaps about 1885), accidental transposition of sounds of two or more words, such as "a well-boiled icicle" for "a well-oiled bicycle;" 1900, formed in allusion to W. A. Spooner, who was famous for such mistakes +English -ism.

spoor *n.* 1823, borrowed from Afrikaans *spoor*, from Middle Dutch *spor*, *spoor*; cognate with Old English, Old High German, and Old Icelandic *spor* footprint, track, trace, modern German *Spur*, Danish and Norwegian *spor*, and Swedish *spår*. —**v.** 1850, borrowed from Afrikaans, from Middle Dutch *sporen*, from *spor*, *spoor*, *n.*

sporadic *adj.* Before 1689, (of diseases) occurring in scattered instances; shortened form of *sporadical* (1654); borrowed from Medieval Latin *sporadicus* scattered, from Greek *sporadikós* scattered, from *sporás* (genitive *sporádos*) scattered, from *spōrā* a sowing; see SPORE; for suffix see -IC, -ICAL. The meaning of happening at intervals, occasional, is first recorded in 1847.

sporangium *n.* 1821, New Latin, formed from Greek *spōrā* seed, SPORE + *angēon* vessel, from *ángos* vessel, pail.

spore *n.* 1836, borrowed from New Latin *spora*, from Greek *spōrā* seed, a sowing, related to *spōros* sowing, and *spērein* to sow.

sporo- a combining form meaning spore, as in *sporogenesis* =

the formation of spores. Formed in English from New Latin *spora* SPORE + English connective -o-.

sporran *n.* 1818, borrowed from Gaelic *sporan*, Irish *sparan* purse, of uncertain origin. An earlier Scottish form *sparren* appeared in 1752.

sport *n.* About 1400 *sporte* pleasant pastime, amusement, diversion; shortened from earlier *dysporte* (about 1303); borrowed from Anglo-French *disport*, from Old French *desport* pastime, recreation, pleasure, sport, from *desporter* to divert, amuse, please, play; see DISPORT. The sense of a game involving physical exercise, is first recorded in English in 1523. —**v.** Probably before 1400 *sporten* to amuse; shortened from *disporten* to DISPORT. The meaning of display, show off, is found in 1712. —**adj.** 1582, from the noun. —**sporting** *adj.* (1653) —**sports** *adj.* (1897); —**n.** (1594). —**sportsman** *n.* (1706–07) —**sportsmanship** *n.* (1745)

spot *n.* Probably before 1200 *spot* small mark, blot, stain; as a surname *Spotte* (1194); perhaps, in part, developed from Old English *splot* a spot, and borrowed from the same Germanic source as the cognate forms Middle Dutch *spotte*, *spot* speck, spot, East Frisian *spot* speck, North Frisian *spōt* speck, piece of ground, and Old Icelandic *spotti* small piece, bit. The sense of a particular place or site, is first recorded probably about 1380. —**v.** About 1250 *spotten*; from the noun. The sense of note or recognize was originally applied to a criminal or suspected person (1718), and later, used generally (1860). —**spotless** *adj.* (probably about 1380) —**spotty** *adj.* 1340, speckled; formed from *spot*, *spotte*, *n.* + -y¹. The sense of lacking in uniformity, is first recorded in 1812.

spouse *n.* Probably before 1200 *spuse* married woman, wife; also, a betrothed man, bridegroom (probably about 1225), and *spouse* (about 1280); borrowed from Old French *spus* (feminine *spuse*), also *espus* (feminine *espuse*), and *espouse* from Latin *spōsus* bridegroom (feminine *spōnsa* bride), from the masculine and feminine past participles of *spondere* to bind oneself, promise solemnly.

spout *v.* Before 1325 *sputen* discharge (a liquid), gush with water, blood, etc.; later *spouten* (before 1338); cognate with Middle Dutch *spuiten* to spout (modern Dutch *spuiten*), North Frisian *spūtji* spout, squirt, and probably with Middle Dutch *spūwen* to spit, SPEW. —**n.** 1392–93 *spowte* pipe for carrying off water; in the place name *Sputekelde* (about 1200); cognate with Middle Dutch *spoite* spout, North Frisian *spūtj* spout, squirt. The sense of a forceful discharge of water, stream, jet, is first recorded in English in 1500–20.

sprain *n.* 1601, of uncertain origin. —**v.** 1622, probably from the noun.

sprat *n.* 1469 *spratte*, variant of *sprotte* (1309–10); developed from Old English (about 1000) *sprot* a small herring; cognate with Middle Low German, Middle Dutch, and modern Dutch *sprot*, modern German *Sprotte*, all meaning a sprat.

sprawl *v.* About 1300 *spraulen* move convulsively, writhe, spread oneself out; developed from Old English (about 1000)

spræawlian move convulsively; of unknown origin. —**n.** 1719, from the verb.

spray¹ *n.* liquid in drops, sprinkle. Before 1621, noun use of obsolete *spray* to sprinkle (1527); borrowed from Middle Dutch *sprayen*, *spraeyen* (from Proto-Germanic **spræwjanan*); cognate with Middle High German *spræjen*, *spræwen* to squirt, spray, modern German *sprühen*, and modern Dutch *sproeien*. —**v.** 1829, from the noun.

spray² *n.* small branch. About 1250, leafy branches and twigs collectively; as a place name *Spray* (1179); possibly related to Old English *spræc* shoot, twig; see **SPRIG**.

spread *v.* Probably before 1200 *spreaden*, *spradden* extend over an area; developed from Old English *-sprædan* (especially in *tōsprædan* to spread out, and *sprædung* spreading); cognate with Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *sprēden*, *spreiden* to spread (modern Dutch *spreiden*), Old High German and modern German *spreiten*, and Old Swedish *sprēdha*, from Proto-Germanic **spraidijanan*. —**adj.** About 1511, from the past participle of the verb. —**n.** 1626, act of spreading; from the verb. The meaning of the extent or expanse of something is found in 1691, and that of food for spreading, as butter or jam since 1812. —**spreadsheet** *n.* (1982)

spre *n.* 1804, perhaps alteration of French *esprit* lively wit, from Middle French; see **ESPRIT**.

sprig *n.* Before 1398 *sprigge* shoot or twig; probably related to Old English *spræc* shoot, twig; cognate with Middle Low German *sprīk*, *sprok* dry twig, Middle Dutch *sproc*, modern Dutch *sprokkel*, Old High German *sprahhula* splinter, chaff, and Old Icelandic *sprek* dry wood.

sprightly *adj.* 1596, formed from English *spright* (before 1533, variant of **SPRITE** spirit) + *-ly*². —**adv.** 1604, from the adjective; for suffix see *-ly*¹.

spring *v.* Probably before 1200 *springen* move suddenly, leap, jump; developed from Old English *springan* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *springa* to spring, Middle Dutch *springhen* (modern Dutch *springen*), Old High German *springan* (modern German *springen*), and Old Icelandic *springa* spring up, burst through (Swedish *springa*, Danish and Norwegian *springe*), from Proto-Germanic **sprengjanan*. —**n.** Old English (816) *spring* source of a stream or river, wellspring, related to *springan* to spring, and cognate with Middle Low German *spring* spring, Old Frisian *spring* leap, Old Saxon and Old High German *gispring* spring. The elastic device that returns to its own shape, is found in 1428, and that of the season of the year after winter (when plants spring up) before 1398.

springbok *n.* 1775, borrowed from Afrikaans (*spring* to leap, from Middle Dutch *springhen* to **SPRING** + *bok* antelope, from Middle Dutch *boc* **BUCK**¹).

sprinkle *v.* Before 1382 *sprynkelen* (implied in *sprynkklyd*, participial adjective) mark with spots, scatter in drops; cognate with Dutch *sprengelen* to sprinkle, Middle Low German, Middle Dutch, and Middle High German *sprengel*, *sprinkel* spot,

speck, Swedish *spräcklig* speckled, Old Icelandic *sprækr* lively, nimble. The meaning of rain lightly is first recorded in 1778. —**n.** Before 1382 *sprynkill* device for sprinkling holy water; related to the verb. —**sprinkling** *n.* About 1450, action of someone who sprinkles; later, small amount (1594); formed from English *sprinkle*, *v.* + *-ing*¹.

sprint *v.* 1566, to spring, dart; probably alteration of *sprenten* to leap, spring (before 1325); borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *spretta* to jump up, and dialectal Swedish *sprinta* to jump, hop, related to Old Icelandic *spradhka* to wriggle).

The meaning of run at full speed for a short distance, is first recorded in English in 1871 (implied in *sprinting*). —**n.** Before 1790, from the verb.

sprit *n.* Probably before 1300 *spreet* pole used for propelling a boat; later *spryt* (probably before 1400); developed from Old English (before 800) *sprēot* pole; originally, a sprout, shoot, branch, which is cognate with Middle Low German *sprēt* pole, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *spriet*, and North Frisian *sprit*, *spret*.

sprite *n.* About 1303 *spryt* spirit, sprite; borrowed from Old French *esprit*, *esprit* spirit, from Latin *spīritus* **SPRIT**.

sprocket *n.* 1536, piece of timber used in framing; of unknown origin. The sense of a projection from the rim of a wheel, engaging the links of a chain, is first recorded in 1750.

sprout *v.* Probably before 1200 *spruten* to shoot forth, bud; later *sprouten* (before 1400); developed from Old English *-sprūtan*, as in *āsprūtan* to sprout; cognate with Old Frisian *sprūta* to sprout, Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *sprūten* (modern Dutch *spruiten*), Old High German *sprūozan* (modern German *sprießen*), from Proto-Germanic **spreutanan*, Middle High German *sprützen* to squirt, sprout (modern German *spritzen* to squirt), and Gothic *sprautō*, adv., quickly, soon. —**n.** Before 1400 *sproute*; from the verb.

spruce¹ *n.* evergreen tree. 1670, from *spruse*, adj. made of spruce wood (1412); literally, Prussian, from *Spruce*, *Sprus*, *Pruce* Prussia (about 1378); borrowed from Anglo-French *Prus*, *Prus* Prussia; probably the tree was so called because it was grown widely in Prussia.

spruce² *adj.* neat, trim. 1589, brisk, smart, lively, perhaps a special use of *Spruce* Prussian (as in jerkins of *spruce leather* 1466, a popular style in the 1400's made in Prussia and considered smart-looking); see **SPRUCE**¹. The meaning of neat, trim, is first recorded in 1599. —**v.** 1594, from the adjective.

spry *adj.* 1746, dialectal English, perhaps shortened and altered form of **SPRIGHTLY**; or borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare dialectal Swedish *sprygg* lively).

spud *n.* 1440 *spudde* small or poor knife; of uncertain origin. The sense of a spade is found in 1667. The sense of a potato is first recorded in 1845 as a New Zealand usage.

spume *n.* Before 1393, foam, froth; borrowed from Old French *spume*, *espume*, from Latin *spūma* **FOAM**.

spumone or **spumoni** *n.* 1929, borrowing of Italian *spumone* (singular), *spumoni* (plural), from *spuma* foam, from Latin *spūma* FOAM.

spunk *n.* 1536 *spunk* a spark; Scottish, from Gaelic *spung* tinder, pith, sponge; compare Middle Irish *spunge* tinder (modern Irish *spunc* sponge, tinder, spark, courage, spunk); borrowed from Latin *spongia* SPONGE. The sense of courage, pluck, mettle, first appeared in 1773. —**spunky** *adj.* 1786, formed from English *spunk* + *-y*¹.

spur *n.* Probably before 1200 *spure* device for poking the side of a horse; developed from Old English *spura*, *spora* (before 800), related to *spurnan* to kick, SPURN. Old English *spura*, *spora* (from Proto-Germanic **spurōn*) are cognate with Middle Dutch *spōre* spur (modern Dutch *spoor*), Old High German *sporo* (modern German *Sporn*), and Old Icelandic *spori* (Danish and Norwegian *spore*, Swedish *sporre*). The sense of anything that urges on or stimulus is first recorded about 1390, and is from the verb. —**v.** Probably before 1200 *spuren*; from the noun. The sense of urge or prompt is first recorded about 1200.

spurge *n.* plant with an acrid milky juice. 1373 *sporge*; later *spurge* (before 1400); borrowed from Old French *espurge*, from *espurgier* to purge, from Latin *expūrgāre* (ex- out + *pūrgāre* to PURGE); so called from the plant's purgative properties.

spurious *adj.* 1598, born out of wedlock; borrowed from Latin *spurius* illegitimate, from *spurius*, *n.*, illegitimate child, probably from Etruscan; for suffix see -IOUS. The sense of having an irregular origin, not properly constituted, is first recorded in 1601, and that of false, sham, in 1615.

spurn *v.* Probably before 1200 *spurnen* to kick, trip, stumble; later, to reject, despise (before 1382); developed from Old English (about 1000) *spurnan* to kick, reject, scorn, despise; cognate with Old Frisian *spurna* to kick, Old Saxon and Old High German *spurnan*, and Old Icelandic *sporna*, *spyrna*, *sperna* (Swedish *spjärna* to spurn), from Proto-Germanic **spurnanan*. Related to SPUR.

spurt¹ *v.* gush out, squirt. 1570, variant of *spirt*; perhaps cognate with Middle High German *spürzen*, *spürzen* to spit, and *sprützen* to squirt, SPROUT. —**n.** 1716 *spirt*, from the verb, and probably from *spurt*² in *by spurts* flowing intermittent (1644).

spurt² *n.* brief burst of effort or activity. Before 1566, a short spell or period of time; variant of *spirt* brief period of time (about 1550); of uncertain origin. The sense of a brief burst of effort or activity is first recorded before 1591. —**v.** 1559 *spirt*, from the noun.

sputnik *n.* 1957, borrowing of Russian *spútnik* satellite; literally, traveling companion, from Old Slavic *sŭpŭtníkŭ* (from *sŭ* together, with + *pŭtŭ* way, journey + *-nik*).

sputter *v.* 1598 (implied in *sputtering*), to spit out saliva, etc., with explosive sounds; cognate with Dutch *sputteren* to sputter, and *sputten* to SPOUT; for suffix see -ER⁴. The meaning of utter in an explosive manner is found before 1677, and that of

make spitting sounds, as hot fat, in 1692. —**n.** 1673, from the verb.

sputum *n.* 1693, borrowing of Latin *spūtum*, noun use of neuter past participle of *spuere* to spit.

spy *v.* About 1250 *spien* to watch in a secret manner; borrowed from Old French *espier* to spy, from a probable Frankish word cognate with Old High German *spehōn* to look out for, scout, spy (modern German *spähen*), Middle Low German *spēen*, Middle Dutch *spien* (modern Dutch *spieden*), and Old Icelandic *spā* to foretell, predict (Norwegian and Swedish *spå*, Danish *spaa*), from Proto-Germanic **speH-*.

The sense of catch sight of, notice, observe, is first recorded in Middle English probably before 1300. —**n.** About 1250 *spie* one who spies on others; borrowed from Old French *espier* a spy, from *espier* to spy.

squab *n.* 1682, very young bird (in 1640, unformed, lumpish person); perhaps borrowed from a Scandinavian word (compare dialectal Swedish *skvabb* loose or fat flesh, *skvabba* fat woman, and dialectal Norwegian *skvabb* soft wet mass), from Proto-Germanic **(s)kwab-*. These Scandinavian words are probably cognate with Old Saxon *quappa* eelpout (a fish).

squabble *n.* 1602, probably of imitative origin; similar to dialectal Swedish *skvabbel* quarrel, and dialectal German *schwabbeln* to babble, prattle. —**v.** 1604, probably from the noun.

squad *n.* 1649, borrowed from French *esquade*, from Middle French *escadre*, from Spanish *escuadra* or Italian *squadra* battalion; literally, square, both from Vulgar Latin **exquadra* SQUARE; so called because troops were commonly arranged in a square formation to repel cavalry or superior forces, especially prior to large-scale use of automatic weapons in the American Civil War.

squadron *n.* 1562, a body of soldiers arranged in square formation; borrowed from Italian *squadrone*, augmentative form of *squadra* battalion, SQUAD. The sense of a division of a naval fleet, is first recorded in 1588, and that of a unit of an air force in 1913.

squalid *adj.* 1591, filthy, degraded; borrowed from Middle French *squalide*, and directly from Latin *squalidus* rough, coated with dirt, filthy, related to *squālēs* filth, *squālis* filthy, *squālēre* be covered with a rough or scaly layer, be coated with dirt, be filthy.

squall¹ *n.* sudden, violent gust of wind. 1719, originally nautical use; probably borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Norwegian *skval* sudden rush of water, splash, and Swedish *skvala* to gush, pour down).

squall² *v.* cry out loudly. Before 1631, probably borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *skvala* to cry out). —**n.** 1709, from the verb.

squalor *n.* 1621, misery and dirt, filth; borrowed from Latin *squālor*, related to *squālēre* be filthy; see SQUALID; for suffix see -OR¹.

squamous *adj.* 1547, borrowed from Latin *squāmōsus* covered

with scales, scaly, from *squāma* scale; for suffix see -OUS. An earlier English spelling *scamous* (1541) was probably borrowed from Middle French *scamoux* scaly, from Latin *squāmōsus*.

squander *v.* 1593, to spend (money, goods, etc.) wastefully; of unknown origin.

square *n.* About 1250 *squire* tool for measuring right angles; later *square* rectangular area or shape (before 1382); borrowed from Old French *esquire*, *esquarre*, *esquerre* a square, squareness, from Vulgar Latin **exquadra*, from **exquadrāre* to square (Latin *ex-* out + *quadrāre* make square, from *quadrus* square; related to *quattuor* FOUR). The meaning of an open space (square in shape) in a town or city, used as a park, etc., is first recorded in 1687. —**adj.** Before 1325, borrowed from Old French *esquarré*, past participle of *esquarrer* to square, from Vulgar Latin **exquadrāre* to square; see the noun. The sense of honest, fair, is first recorded in 1591, and that of being old-fashioned, or too conventional in 1946. —**v.** Before 1382 *squaren* to make square or rectangular; borrowed from Old French *esquarrer*, from Vulgar Latin **exquadrāre* to square; see noun. —**adv.** 1557, so as to be squared (by multiplication); from the adjective. The meaning of in a square form or position is first recorded in 1631.

squash¹ *v.* to crush. Before 1325 *squachen* annul, shoot, destroy, crush; borrowed from Old French *esquasser* to crush, from Vulgar Latin **exquassāre* (Latin *ex-* out + *quassāre* to shatter; see QUASH¹ to crush). —**n.** 1590, unripe pod of a pea; from the verb. The sense of something squashed (as in *lemon squash*) is found in 1888.

squash² *n.* fruit. 1643, shortened form of *isquountersquash*, borrowed from Algonquian (Narraganset) *askūtasquash*, literally, the green things that may be eaten raw.

squat *v.* Before 1349 *squatten* to thrust, crush; borrowed from Old French *esquatir* press down, lay flat, crush, (*es-* out, from Latin *ex-* + Old French *quatir* press down, flatten, from Vulgar Latin **coāctire* press together, force, from Latin *coāctus*, past participle of *cōgere* compel). The meaning of to crouch on the heels is first recorded about 1410. —**adj.** About 1410, (of a hare) seated in a squatting posture, from the past participle of *squatten* to squat. The meaning of short and thick, like the figure of an animal squatting, is first recorded in 1630. —**n.** Before 1400, heavy fall or bump; from the verb. The meaning of an act of squatting is first recorded in 1584. —**squatter** *n.* 1788, settler who occupies land or property without legal title to it.

squaw *n.* 1634, borrowed from Algonquian (Massachuset) *squa* woman (compare Narraganset *squaws* and related forms in other Algonquian languages).

squawk *v.* 1821 (implied in *squawking*), probably of imitative origin. —**n.** 1850, from the verb.

squeak *v.* Before 1387 *squeken* make a short, sharp, shrill sound; probably of imitative origin, similar to Middle Swedish *skvåka* to squeak, croak. —**n.** 1664, act of squeaking; from the verb.

squeal *v.* About 1300 *suelen*; later *squelen* (before 1325); probably of imitative origin, similar to Old Icelandic *skvala* to cry out. The sense of inform on another is first recorded in 1865. —**n.** 1747, from the verb.

squeamish *adj.* Before 1398 *squaymisch* readily affected with nausea; variant of *squeymous* disdainful, fastidious (about 1330); borrowed from Anglo-French *escoymous*, of unknown origin; the suffix -OUS was replaced by -ISH¹. The sense of easily shocked, prudish, is first recorded in 1567.

squeegee *n.* 1844, nautical use, perhaps formed from *squeege* to press (1782, alteration of SQUEEZE, *v.*) + the suffix -ee.

squeeze *v.* Before 1601 *squease*, probably an alteration of *quease* (about 1550), from Middle English *quysen* to squeeze (before 1450); developed from Old English *cwysan*, *cwiesan* to squeeze, of unknown origin. —**n.** 1611, act of squeezing; from the verb.

squelch *n.* 1620, a heavy, crushing fall or blow onto soft matter, possibly imitative of the sound made. The sense of a squashing or complete suppression, is first recorded in 1685. —**v.** 1624, to press on or strike with crushing force; from the noun. The sense of squash or suppress completely, is first recorded in 1864.

squib *n.* About 1525, of unknown origin. The sense of a small firework that burns with a hissing noise is found before 1530; if this is the earliest sense, the word is perhaps imitative. —**v.** 1579–80, from the noun.

squid *n.* 1613, of unknown origin.

squiggle *v.* 1804 (implied in *squiggling*), suggesting a blend of *squirm*, *v.* and *wriggle*, *v.* The meaning of writhe, squirm, wriggle, is first recorded in 1816, and that of write or draw in a twisty manner in 1942, from the noun. —**n.** 1902, wriggly twist; from the verb. The sense of a twisty drawing or wavy writing is found in 1928. —**squiggly** *adj.* (1902)

squint *v.* 1599, have an indirect aim, reference, etc.; shortened form of *asquint*, *adv.*, obliquely, with a sidelong glance (before 1200); probably formed from *a-*¹ + *-squint*, of unknown origin, but related to *quin*, *skwyn*, (about 1440, found in *ofskwyn* obliquely). —**n.** Before 1652, cross-eyed condition; from the verb.

squire *n.* Probably about 1225 *squier* young man who attended a knight; later, member of the landowning class ranking below a knight (about 1300); borrowed from Old French *esquier*, *escuier* squire; literally, shield carrier, from Late Latin *scūtārius* guardsman, from Latin *scūtum* shield, perhaps from earlier **scoitom*. —**v.** escort. About 1395 *squieren*; from the noun.

squirm *v.* 1691, originally referring to eels; of unknown origin, sometimes associated with worm or swarm.

squirrel *n.* 1327 *scurelle*; about 1330 *squirel*; borrowed through Anglo-French *esquirel*, Old French *escurel*, from Vulgar Latin **scūriolus*, diminutive form of **scūrius* squirrel, variant of Latin

sciūrus, from Greek *skelouros* a squirrel; literally, shadow-tailed, (probably *skia* shadow + *oura* tail).

squirt *v.* Before 1475 *squyrtten* eject water in a jet, of uncertain origin (compare Low German *swirtjen* to squirt, dart). —**n.** Before 1398 *squirtte* diarrhea; from the same source as the verb. The meaning of a jet of liquid is first recorded in 1626.

squish *v.* 1647, to squeeze, squash; probably a variant of *squash*, perhaps formed by influence of earlier *squiss* to squeeze or crush (1558). The meaning of make a splashing sound when walked on appeared before 1825. —**n.** 1902, from the verb. An earlier sense of marmalade is recorded in 1874. —**squishy** *adj.* (1847)

stab *v.* 1375 *staben* to thrust with a pointed weapon; Scottish, of uncertain origin. Connection with *stob* to stab, is doubtful, since *stob* is not attested before 1529. —**n.** 1440, wound produced by stabbing; from the verb. The meaning of act of stabbing is first recorded in 1530 and that of an attempt at something in 1908.

stability *n.* Probably before 1349 *stabylyte* firmness, steadfastness; borrowed from Old French *stabilit  *, *establi  *, from Latin *stabilit  s* firmness, steadfastness, from *stabilis* steadfast, firm, STABLE²; for suffix see -ITY. —**stabilize** *v.* 1861, borrowed from French *stabiliser*, from Latin *stabilis* stable; for suffix see -IZE.

stable¹ *n.* building where horses or cattle are kept. Probably about 1225, borrowed from Old French *estable* a stable, stall, from Latin *stabulum* a stall, fold, aviary, etc.; literally, a standing place, from *st  re* to STAND. —**v.** About 1330 *stabilen*, from the noun.

stable² *adj.* steadfast, firm. Probably about 1150; borrowed from Old French *estable*, *stable*, from Latin *stabilis* firm, steadfast; literally, able to stand, from *st  re* to STAND.

staccato *adj.* 1724, borrowing of Italian *staccato*, literally, detached, from past participle of *staccare* to detach, shortened form of *distaccare* separate, detach, from Middle French *destacher*, from Old French *destachier* to DETACH. —**adv.** in a staccato manner. 1844, from the adjective.

stack *n.* About 1300 *stac* pile, heap; earlier as the surname *Stac* (1199); borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *stakker* haystack, Norwegian *stakke*, Danish *stak*, and Swedish *stake*); cognate with Middle Low German *stak* barrier of stakes, and Old English *staca* stick, STAKE¹. The sense of chimneys, flues, or pipes standing together is first recorded in 1667, and that of a chimney or funnel of a factory, locomotive, or steamship, in 1825. —**v.** Before 1325 *stacken*, from the noun. The meaning of arrange unfairly (as in *stack the cards*) is first recorded in 1825.

stadium *n.* About 1380, a foot race; before 1398, measure of length; borrowed from Latin *stadium* a measure of length, a race course, from Greek *st  dion* a measure of length, a running track (the track at Olympia, which was one stadium in length). Greek *st  dion* may be, literally, a fixed standard of length, or

from *sp  dion* (from *sp  n* to draw up, pull; see SPASM) by influence of Greek *st  dios* firm, fixed.

The sense of a running track, recorded in English in 1603, was used to mean a large, open, oval structure with tiers of seats, used for sports events.

staff *n.* Before 1102 *staf* a bishop's staff; also, a stick carried to aid in walking or climbing (probably before 1200); developed from Old English (before 800) *st  f* stick, staff; cognate with Old Frisian *stef* staff, Old Saxon, Middle Dutch, and modern Dutch *staf*, Old High German *stab* (modern German *Stab*), Old Icelandic *stafr* (Swedish, Danish, and Norwegian *stav*), from Proto-Germanic **stabaz*, and Gothic *stabeis* (nominative plural). The sense of a group of military officers that assists a commanding officer is first recorded in 1779, and that of a group of employees (as at an office or in a hospital) in 1837. —**v.** 1859, provide with a staff of assistants, from the noun. —**staffer** *n.* (1949)

stag *n.* 1318, *stagge* young male horse; 1346, male deer; developed from Old English *stagg* stag; cognate with Old Icelandic *andarsteggi* drake (modern Icelandic *steggi* male bird), (earlier) tomtat, male fox, from Proto-Germanic **staz-*. The word probably originally meant a male animal in its prime. —**adj.** 1843, from the sense of male (1606), as in *stag bird*, *stag horse*.

stage *n.* About 1250, a story or floor of a building; later, raised platform for public performance (before 1325); borrowed from Old French *estage* a story, floor, stage for performance, from Vulgar Latin **staticum* a place for standing, from Latin *statum*, past participle of *st  re* to STAND. The sense of period of development or time in life is first recorded in 1608. —**v.** Before 1338 *stagen* to erect, build; from the noun. The meaning of put into a play is first recorded in 1601.

stagger *v.* About 1434 *stageren*; variant of *stakeren* to stagger (before 1325); borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *stakra* to push, stagger, Old Danish *stagna*, modern Danish *stavre*, and Old Icelandic *staka* to push, stagger; cognate with Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *st  ken* to push, fix in the ground, and *st  ke* post, STAKE¹). The sense of bewilder, amaze, is first recorded in English in 1556 and that of arrange in a zigzag pattern in 1856. —**n.** 1577 *the staggers* disease of domestic animals; from the verb.

stagnant *adj.* 1666, probably formed as an adjective to *stagnancy*, *n.* (1659); and borrowed from French *stagnant*, and directly from Latin *stagnantem* (nominative *stagn  ns*), present participle of *stagn  re* STAGNATE; for suffix see -ANT.

stagnate *v.* 1669, probably formed as a verb to *stagnancy*, *stagnant*, and in part borrowed from Latin *stagn  tum*, past participle of *stagn  re* to stagnate, from *stagnum* standing water; for suffix see -ATE¹.

staid *adj.* 1541, fixed, permanent, adjective use of *stayed*, past participle of STAY¹. The meaning sober, sedate, is first recorded in 1557.

stain *v.* Before 1382 *steynen* to discolor or dye, probably formed by fusion of a Scandinavian form (compare Old Icelandic *steina* to paint), and by shortening from Middle English

disteynen to discolor or stain; borrowed from Old French *desteyn-*, stem of *desteyndre* to remove the color (*des-*, from Latin *dis-* remove + Old French *teindre* to dye, from Latin *tingere* to TINGE). The sense of taint, blemish is found in Middle English in 1446. —**n.** 1563, act of staining; from the verb.

stair *n.* Probably before 1200 *steire* flight of steps; also, a single stair step; later *staire* (about 1385); developed from Old English *stæger* (about 1000), from Proto-Germanic **staigrī*, related to Old English *stigan* to climb, go, and *stīg* narrow path; cognate with Old Frisian *stiga* to rise, climb, Old Saxon *stigan*, Middle Dutch *stighen* (modern Dutch *stijgen*), Old High German *stigan* (modern German *steigen*), Old Icelandic *stiga*, and Gothic *steigan*, from Proto-Germanic **stīžanan*. —**staircase** *n.* (1624)

stake¹ *n.* pointed stick or post. Probably before 1200; developed from Old English *staca* (before 899), from Proto-Germanic **stakōn*; cognate with Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *stāke* stake (modern Dutch *staak*), and Old Icelandic *lysistaki* candlestick. —**v.** Before 1338 *staken* mark with stakes; from the noun.

stake² *v.* to risk, wager. 1530, probably from Middle English *stake* post on which a gambling wager was placed (before 1300); see **STAKE**¹. —**n.** 1540, from the verb, or from *stake* post on which a gambling wager is placed. The plural *stakes*, as in horse racing, is first recorded in 1696.

stalactite *n.* 1677, borrowed from New Latin *stalactites*, from Greek *stalaktōs* dripping, from *stalassein* to trickle; for suffix see -ITE¹. Compare **STALAGMITE**.

stalagmite *n.* 1681, borrowed from New Latin *stalagmites*, from Greek *stalagmōs* a dropping, or *stálagma* a drop, drip, from *stalassein* to trickle; see **STALACTITE**; for suffix see -ITE¹.

stale *adj.* Probably about 1225 (of ale, wine, etc.) freed from dregs or lees; cognate with Middle Dutch *stel* (of beer, etc.) stale, and probably ultimately from the same Germanic source as Old English *standan* to STAND. The meaning of not fresh is first recorded in Middle English in 1475. —**v.** 1440 *stalen*; from the adjective.

stalemate *n.* 1765, position of complete standstill in chess; formed from *stale* stalemate (probably before 1437) + *mate*² checkmate. Middle English *stale* was probably borrowed from Anglo-French *estale* standstill, from Old French *estal* place, stand, stall, from a Frankish word (compare Old High German *stal* stand, place, **STALL**¹). —**v.** 1765, from the noun.

stalk¹ *n.* stem of a plant. Before 1325, probably a diminutive with *k* suffix of *stale* one of the uprights of a ladder, handle, stalk (probably before 1200); developed from Old English *stalu* wooden part (as of a harp), from Proto-Germanic **stalō*, related to *stela* stalk, support (from Proto-Germanic **stelōn*), and *steall* place, **STALL**¹. Parallels are found in Swedish *stjälk* stalk, Norwegian and Danish *stilk*. Old English *stela* is cognate with Middle Dutch *stale* handle, and Old Icelandic *stjqlr* rump, coccyx, *stäl* haystack, pile.

stalk² *v.* pursue stealthily. Probably before 1300 *stalken* to walk stealthily or cautiously; developed from Old English *-stealcian*, as in *bestalcian* to steal along (about 1000, from Proto-Germanic **stalkōjanan*), and from Old English *stealcung* a stalking, related to *stealc* steep, lofty; cognates with Middle Low German *stolkeren* strut about, flaunt, Old Swedish *stjælke* stalk, stem, Old Icelandic *stelkr* pewit (bird). —**n.** Before 1470 *stalke* act of stalking game; from the verb.

stall¹ *n.* place in a stable for one animal. Probably before 1200 *stalle*; developed from Old English (before 800) *steall* place where cattle are kept, place, position; cognate with Old Frisian *stal* stall, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *stal*, Old High German *stal* (modern German *Stall*), Old High German and modern German *stellen* to place, and Old Icelandic *stallr* pedestal, stall (Swedish and Norwegian *stall*, Danish *stald* stable), from Proto-Germanic **stallaz*, earlier **stalnaz*.

Several meanings having to do with the sense of seat or chair and that of a stand for selling were probably influenced by Old French *estal* place, stand, stall, from a Germanic source related to English *stall*¹. —**v.** Before 1333 *stallen* be situated, dwell; from the noun in English, and as a borrowing from Old French *estaller*. The meaning of come to a (forced) stop, is first recorded about 1410.

stall² *n.* pretense to avoid doing something. Probably before 1500, bird used as a decoy, variant of earlier *stale* decoy (before 1425); borrowed from Anglo-French *estale* decoy, probably from a Germanic source (compare Old English *stælhrian* decoy reindeer, related to *stæl* place, position, and *steall* place, **STALL**¹). An evasive trick or story, pretext, excuse, is first recorded in 1812. —**v.** 1592, from the noun. The meaning of put off or prevent by evasive tactics is first recorded in 1812.

stallion *n.* 1440 *stalyone*, alteration of *staloun*, *stalun* (before 1300); in the place name *Stalnesbusc* (1218); borrowed from Old French *estalon* a stallion, from Frankish **stal*, cognate with Old High German *stal* stable, **STALL**¹; perhaps developed from stall, stable, because such horses were kept there to service mares.

stalwart *adj.* 1375, Scottish variant of *stealewurthe* (probably before 1200); developed from Old English *stælwierthe*, *stælwyrthe* the good, serviceable (896), probably a contraction of **statholwierthe* steadfast, well-based; literally, having a worthy foundation (*stathol* foundation, support + *wierthe* the good, excellent, worthy, **WORTH**). Old English *stathol* is related to *standan* to STAND, and cognate with Old Frisian *stathul* foundation, Old High German *stadal* barn, shed, and Old Icelandic *stodhull* milking shed, from Proto-Germanic **stathlaz*. Alternatively, Old English *stælwierthe*, *stælwyrthe* the good, serviceable; literally, worthy of place (*stæl* place + *wierthe* the worth, worthy). Old English *stæl* derives from Proto-Germanic **stælaz*. —**n.** About 1470, stalwart person; from the adjective.

stamen *n.* 1668, borrowed from Latin *stāmen* warp, thread, stamen, related to *stāre* to STAND. An earlier sense of warp (of cloth) is first recorded in English in 1650.

stamina *n.* Before 1676, rudiments or original elements of something; borrowed from Latin *stāmina* threads, plural of

stāmen (genitive *stāminis*) thread, warp, STAMEN. The sense of power to resist or recover, strength, endurance, is first recorded in 1726, deriving partly from the Latin application to the threads spun by the Fates that determine how long one will live, and partly from a figurative use of Latin *stāmen* the warp (of cloth), since the warp provides the underlying foundation of a fabric.

stammer *v.* Before 1200 *stameren* to stutter; developed from Old English (about 1000) *stamerian*; cognate with Old Saxon *stamarōn* to stammer, Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *stameren*, *stamelen* (modern Dutch *stamelen*), Old High German *stamalōn* (modern German *stammeln*), Old Icelandic adjective *stammr* stammering (Norwegian and Swedish *stamm*, Danish *stam*), and Gothic adjective *stamms* stammering. —**n.** 1773, from the verb.

stamp *v.* About 1200 *stampen* pound, beat, crush, mash, probably an alteration (by Scandinavian influence) of earlier **stempen*; developed from Old English *stempan* to pound in a mortar, stamp; cognate with Middle Low German *stempen* to stamp, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *stampen* to pound, Old High German *stampfōn* (modern German *stampfen* to stamp with the foot, pound), Old Icelandic *stappa*, Swedish *stampa*, Norwegian and Danish *stampe* to stamp, from Proto-Germanic **stampōjanan*.

The meaning of impress or mark (something) with a die is first recorded in English in 1560. The Germanic root **stamp-* is the source of the verb in several Romance languages, as represented by Italian *stampare* to stamp, press, print, Provençal, Spanish, and Portuguese *estampar*, Old French *estamper*. —**n.** 1465 *stampe* a stamping tool; from the verb. The sense of an official mark or imprint is first recorded in 1542. This sense, after adhesive labels were issued by the government to serve the same purpose as impressed stamps (about 1840), is found in adhesive postage stamps.

stampede *n.* 1844 (1838 *stomped*; 1826 *stompado*); borrowed from Mexican Spanish *estampida*, from Spanish, an uproar, from *estampar* to stamp, press, pound, from Germanic (see Germanic root under STAMP). —**v.** 1823, from the noun.

stance *n.* 1532, standing place, station, position; probably borrowed from Middle French *stance* resting place, harbor, from Italian *stanza* stopping place, station, from Vulgar Latin **stantia*, from Latin *stāns* (genitive *stantis*), present participle of *stāre* to STAND; for suffix see -ANCE. The sense of position of the feet is first recorded in 1897 and that of a manner of standing, posture in 1929, and attitude, point of view, in 1956.

stanch¹ *v.* to stop the flow. Probably before 1325 *staunchen* to stanch, quench, allay; before 1333 *stanchen*; borrowed from Old French *estanchier* to stop, hinder, from Vulgar Latin **stanchicāre*, probably from Latin *stāns* (genitive *stantis*), present participle of *stāre* to STAND.

stanch² *n.* See STAUNCH.

stanchion *n.* 1321 *staunson*; later *stanchon* (1343); borrowed from Middle French *estanchon* prop, brace, support, probably

from *estant* upright, from present participle of *ester* be upright, stand, from Latin *stāre* to STAND.

stand *v.* Before 1121 *standen*, developed from Old English *standan* (from Proto-Germanic present stem **sta-n-d-*), also found in Old English past participle *gestanden* (about 725, in *Beowulf*). Old English *standan* is cognate with Old Frisian *standa*, *stān* to stand, Old Saxon *standan*, *stān*, Middle Dutch *standen*, *staen* (modern Dutch *staan*), Old High German *stantan*, *stān* (modern German *stehen*), Old Icelandic *standa*, and Gothic *standan*. —**n.** Before 1325, place, position; from the verb. The noun is recorded in Old English (about 950) in the sense of a pause or delay. —**standing** *n.* 1382, act of a person who stands; formed from English *stand*, *v.* + *-ing*¹. The sense of rank or status is first recorded in 1580.

standard *n.* 1138, a flag or banner raised on a pole to indicate the rallying point of an army; borrowed from Old French *estandard*, probably developed from a Frankish compound **standhard*, literally, stand fast or firm! (represented by Old High German *stantan* and Gothic *standan* to stand + Old High German *hart* and Gothic *hardus* hard); the flag or banner so called because the pole or spear bearing it was fixed in the ground so as to stand upright. Middle High German *stanthart* and Middle Dutch *standaert*, are cited as evidence of the compound in Germanic.

Others maintain Old French *estandard* was derived from *estendre* to stretch out, from Latin *extendere* EXTEND, and that Middle High German *stanthart* and Middle Dutch *standaert* were borrowed from Old French *estandard*; see -ARD.

The sense development is somewhat obscure. The meaning of an authorized unit of measure (1327) is recorded in Anglo-French *estaundart* in the 1200's. The sense of an authoritative or recognized model, as of correctness or quality, is first recorded about 1445. —**adj.** 1538, upright; later, serving as a standard of measure, weight, or value (1622); from the noun. —**standardize** *v.* 1873, to bring to a standard or uniform size, strength, shape, etc.; formed from English *standard*, *n.* or *adj.* + *-ize*.

stannic *adj.* 1790, formed from New Latin *stannum*, Late Latin *stannum* tin; scribal alteration of Latin *stagnum*, probably from a Celtic source (compare Irish *stān* tin, Welsh *ystaen*, Cornish and Breton *stēn*) + English *-ic*. —**stannous** *adj.* 1849, formed from New Latin *stannum* + English *-ous*.

stanza *n.* 1588 *stanze*, borrowed from Italian *stanza* verse of a poem; originally, standing, stopping place, from Vulgar Latin **stantia* a stanza of verse (so called from the stop at the end of it); from Latin *stāns* (genitive *stantis*), present participle of *stāre* to STAND.

stapes *n.* 1670, New Latin, special use of Medieval Latin *stapes* stirrup, probably an alteration of Late Latin *stapia* (so called because the bone is shaped like a stirrup).

staphylococcus *n.* 1887, New Latin, the genus name, from Greek *staphylē* bunch of grapes + New Latin *coccus* spherical bacterium (from Greek *kókkos* berry, grain); so called because these bacteria usually bunch together in irregular masses.

staple¹ *n.* U-shaped piece of metal with pointed ends. 1289 *stapel* post, stake; 1295 *staple* fastener; developed from Old English *stapol* post, pillar (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *stapul*, *stapel* tooth stem, Old Saxon *stapal*, *stapel* candle, Middle Low German *stāpel* pillar, platform, heap, Middle Dutch *stāpel* foundation, heap (modern Dutch *stapel* heap), Old High German *staffel* step (modern German *Staffel* rung), and Old Icelandic *stǫpull* post, tower, from Proto-Germanic **stapulaz*. —**v.** Probably about 1390 *staplen* to fasten with a staple; from the noun.

staple² *n.* principal article grown or made in a place. Before 1400, official market; borrowed from Anglo-French *estaple*, Old French *estaple* market, from a Germanic source (compare Middle Dutch *stāpel* market; see STAPLE¹). The sense of a principal article grown or made in a place (1616) is a shortened form of *staple ware* (1432), *staple gude* (1455, Scottish), wares or goods from a staple (market). —**adj.** 1615, having a foremost place; from the noun. The sense of most important, chief, is first recorded in 1715.

star *n.* 1135 *sterre*; developed from Old English (before 830) *steorra* (from Proto-Germanic **stersōn*); cognate with Old Frisian *stēra* star, Old Saxon *sterro*, Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *sterre* (modern Dutch *ster*), Old High German *sterro*, *sterno* (modern German *Stern*), Old Icelandic *stjarna* (Swedish *stjärna*, Danish and Norwegian *stjerne*), and Gothic *stairnō* (from Proto-Germanic **sternō*). —**v.** 1592, to mark with a star; from the noun. The sense of appear as a star, perform the leading part (said of an actor, singer, etc.), is first recorded in 1824. —**starlight** *n.* (about 1380) —**starry** *adj.* (about 1380)

starboard *n.* Probably before 1400 *stere-bourde*; developed from Old English (before 899) *stēorbord* side on which a vessel was steered (*stēor*- rudder, steering paddle + *bord* ship's side). —**adj.** 1495, from the noun.

starch *v.* 1390–91, (implied in *starchying*) to stiffen, make rigid; probably developed from Old English (Mercian) **stercan* make rigid, (West Saxon) **stiercan*, and found in *stercedferth* fixed, hard, or resolute (from Proto-Germanic **starkijanan*), from *stearc* stiff, strong; see STARK. Cognates of the Old English verb include Old Frisian *sterka* to stiffen, strengthen, Old Saxon *sterkian*, Middle Dutch and Dutch *sterken*, Old High German *sterchan* (modern German *stärken*), and Swedish *stärka*. —**n.** 1440 *starche* pasty substance obtained from flour and used to stiffen cloth; from the verb. —**starchy** *adj.* (1802)

stare *v.* About 1250 *staren* to gaze fixedly, be wide-eyed; developed from Old English *starian* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *stāren* to stare (modern Dutch *staren*), Old High German *stārēn* to stare, *starrēn*, be rigid (modern German *starren* to gaze fixedly, stare), and Old Icelandic *stara* to stare (Norwegian *stare*), from Proto-Germanic **star-*. —**n.** Probably about 1380, power of sight; from the verb. The sense of an act of gazing, fixed gaze, is first recorded in 1700.

stark *adj.* Probably before 1200 *stark*, *sterc* firm, steadfast, powerful, severe; developed from Old English *stearc* stiff,

strong (about 750), from Proto-Germanic **starkaz*, and related to Old English *starian* to STARE. Old English *stearc* is cognate with Old Frisian *sterk* strong, Old Saxon and Middle Low German *stark*, Middle Dutch *starc*, *staerc* (modern Dutch *sterk*), Old High German *starc* (modern German *stark*), *gistorchanēn* become stiff, Old Icelandic *sterkr* strong, *storkna* coagulate, and Gothic *gastairknan* become stiff.

The meaning of utter, complete, sheer, absolute, is first recorded in Middle English, probably before 1400, and that of bare, barren, desolate, in 1833. —**adv.** Probably before 1200, in a stark manner, firmly, strongly; from the adjective. The sense of utterly, quite (as in *stark mad*) is found in 1489.

starling *n.* Before 1325 *sterling*; as the surname *Starling* (1165–66); developed from Old English (before 1050) *stærling* (*stær* starling + *-ling*). Old English (before 800) *stær* (from Proto-Germanic **staraz*) is related to *stearn* a kind of bird, and cognate with Old High German *stara* (modern German *Star* starling), from Proto-Germanic **starōn*, Old Icelandic *stari* (Norwegian and Danish *stær*, Swedish *stare*).

start *v.* Probably before 1200 *sterten* move or spring suddenly; later *starten* (before 1325); perhaps developed from Old English **steortian* or **stiertan*, variants of *styrtan* to leap up (about 1000); related to *starian* to STARE. Old English *styrtan* is cognate with Old Frisian *sterta* to overturn or overthrow, Middle Low German *storten* to overthrow or fall, Middle Dutch and Dutch *storten* to spill or throw, Old High German *sturzen* to fall or throw (modern German *stürzen*), Middle High German *sterzen* stand stiffly or move briskly, and Old Icelandic *sterta* to stiffen or strengthen.

The sense of awaken suddenly is first recorded about 1386, and that of flinch or recoil in alarm, before 1325. The meaning of cause to begin acting or operating is first recorded in 1666, and the specific sense of begin to move, leave, depart, in 1821. —**n.** Probably before 1200 *stert* sudden movement, short space of time; from the verb. The act or fact of beginning to move, go, or act, is first recorded in 1566, and that of a sudden jump of the body in reaction to surprise, fear, etc., about 1385.

startle *v.* Probably before 1300 *startlen*, *stertlen* run to and fro; developed as a frequentative verb form of *sterten* to START; for suffix see -LE³. The sense of move suddenly in fear or surprise is first recorded in 1530, and the meaning of frighten suddenly, cause to start, in 1595.

starve *v.* Before 1225 *sterven* to die, kill; developed from Old English *steorfan* to die (about 1000); cognate with Old Frisian *sterva* to die, Old Saxon *sterban*, Middle Dutch and Dutch *sterven*, Old High German *sterban* (modern German *sterben*), from Proto-Germanic **sterbanan*. The meaning of kill with hunger is first recorded in English in 1530. —**starvation** *n.* 1778, act of starving; formed from English *starve* + *-ation*.

stash *v.* 1797, hide or put away, of unknown origin. An earlier sense of stop, desist from, is found in 1794. —**n.** 1914, something hidden away; from the verb.

stat *adv.* Before 1970, immediately; shortened form of Latin *statim*, an adverb originally meaning to a standstill, a vestigial accusative of a lost noun **statis* a standing still; see STATION.

—**stat** a combining form used in naming devices for stabilizing, regulating, or controlling, as in *gyrostat*, *rheostat*, *thermostat*. Borrowed from New Latin *-stata*, and French *-stat*, from Greek *statós* standing, stationary, or *-státēs*, suffix forming agent nouns, from *histánai* to cause to stand.

state *n.* Probably before 1200 *stat* position in society, station; later, condition or fact of being (about 1280); borrowed from Latin *status* (genitive *statūs*) manner of standing, position, condition, from *stāre* to stand. Some of the senses in Middle English were borrowed from Old French *estat*, from Latin *status*. The sense of government of a nation, territory, etc., is found about 1300. The sense of one of a number of governments united under one federal government is first recorded in 1774. —**v.** About 1590, to place, station; from the noun. The meaning of set forth in proper form is recorded before 1641, and the sense of declare in words, in 1647. —**stately** *adj.* About 1386 *statly* befitting or indicating high estate, noble; formed from *stat*, *n.*, state + *-ly*². The meaning of magnificent, splendid, is first recorded before 1420. —**statement** *n.* (1775)

static *adj.* 1638, relating to the effects of weight; shortened form of earlier *statistical* (1570); from the noun and modeled on New Latin *staticus*, from Greek *statikós* causing to stand, skilled in weighing (*sta-*, stem of *histánai* to cause to stand, weigh); for suffix see *-ic*. The sense of having to do with bodies at rest or with forces that balance each other is first recorded in *statistical* 1802. The meaning of in a fixed or stable condition is first recorded in *statistical*, *adj.* 1855. The sense in reference to electricity is first recorded in 1837 in *statistical*. —**n.** 1570, science relating to weight and its mechanical effects; borrowed from New Latin *statica*, from Greek *statikē* (*téchnē*) (science) of weighing. The sense of electrical disturbances in the air is first recorded in 1913.

The plural form *statics* is first recorded in 1656, in the sense of the science relating to weight. The branch of physics concerned with the action of forces is found by 1867.

station *n.* About 1280 *stacioun* place which one normally occupies; borrowed from Old French *station*, from Latin *stationem* (nominative *statiō*) a standing, post, dwelling, position, a pre-Latin extension of a lost noun **statis*, from *stāre* to stand; for suffix see *-TION*. The meaning of a place of special purpose (*police station*) is first recorded in 1823; and in the sense *radio station* (1912). The meaning of a regular stopping place (*a bus station*) is first recorded in 1797, from the stopping place on a journey (1585). The meaning of a person's rank or position in the world is first recorded in 1675. —**v.** 1748, from the noun. —**stationary** *adj.* Probably before 1430 *stacionarye* (of planets, etc.) having no apparent motion; borrowed through Middle French *stationnaire* motionless, and directly from Medieval Latin *stationarius*, from Latin *stationārius* of or belonging to a military station, from *stationem* (nominative *statiō*) station, post; for suffix see *-ARY*. The meaning of not movable, remaining unchanged, is first recorded in English in 1628.

stationer *n.* 1311 *stacioner* book dealer; borrowed from Medieval Latin *stationarius*, originally, stationary seller, as distinct from a roving peddler, from Latin *stationem* (nominative *statiō*)

STATION; for suffix see *-ER*¹. The distinction between a bookseller and a stationer was not established until the 1700's, although the current sense of *stationer* is recorded in 1656.

—**stationery** *n.* 1727 *stationary*; earlier in *stationery wares* articles sold by a stationer (1679–88); formed from *stationer* + *-y*³.

statistics *n.* 1770, science dealing with data about the condition of a state or community; borrowed from German *Statistik*, probably from New Latin *statisticum* (*collegium*) (lecture course on) state affairs, from Italian *statista* one skilled in statecraft, from Latin *status* *STATE*; for suffix see *-ICS*. The sense of numerical data collected and classified is found in *medical statistics* (1829). —**statistical** *adj.* 1787, formed from English *statistics* + *-al*¹. —**statistician** *n.* 1825, formed from obsolete English *statistic* of or relating to statistics (1789) + *-ian*.

statue *n.* About 1375, statue, image, borrowing of Old French *statue*, from Latin *statua*, back formation from *statuere* to cause to stand, set up, from *status* (genitive *statūs*) a standing, position, from *stāre* to stand. —**statuary** *n.* 1563, art of making statues, sculpture, borrowed from Middle French *statuaire*, and directly from Latin *statuāria*, noun use of feminine of *statuārius* of a statue, from *statua* statue; for suffix see *-ARY*. —**adj.** 1627, from the noun, possibly influenced by Latin *statuārius* of a statue. —**statuesque** *adj.* Before 1834, like a statue; formed from English *statue* + *-esque*, patterned on *picturesque*.

stature *n.* Before 1325 *statur* height, borrowed from Old French *stature*, *estature*, from *statūra* height or size of a body, size, growth, from *stāre* to stand; for suffix see *-URE*. The figurative sense of quality, worth, status, is first recorded in English in 1834.

status *n.* 1671, height; later, legal standing of a person (1791); borrowing of Latin *status* (genitive *statūs*) condition, position, state, from *stāre* to stand. The sense of social or professional standing is first recorded in 1820. —**status quo** 1833, borrowing of Latin *status quo* the state in which; see *STATE*.

statute *n.* Probably before 1300 *statout* decree; also a law of the land (about 1300); borrowed from Old French *statut*, *estatut*, from Late Latin *statūtum* a law, decree, noun use of neuter past participle of Latin *statuere* enact, establish, from *status* (genitive *statūs*) condition, position, from *stāre* to stand. —**statutory** *adj.* 1717, (of a clause in a statute) enacting; formed from English *statute* + *-ory*. The meaning of having to do with or consisting of statutes is first recorded in 1766.

staunch or **stanch** *adj.* Before 1393 *staunche* firm, intact, certain; borrowed from Middle French *estanche* firm, watertight, feminine of *estanc*, from Old French, dried, exhausted, wearied, vanquished, from *estanchier* cause to cease flowing, stop; see *STANCH*¹. The sense of strong, substantial, is first recorded in 1455–56.

stave *n.* Before 1398 *staves*, plural of *STAFF*, found earlier as *stafas* rungs of a ladder (possibly Old English, but recorded about 1175), and *staves* (before 1325). The singular *stave* is a back formation from the plural (1750). —**v.** 1542, to fit with staves, from the noun.

stay¹ *v.* to remain. 1440 *steyen* to halt, come to a stop; borrowed from Middle French *stai-*, *estai-*, and *stei-*, *estei-*, stem of *ester* to stay or stand, from Old French, from Latin *stāre* to stand. The sense of continue or remain is first recorded in 1573–80. —**n.** 1523–34, appliance for stopping; from the verb. The sense of a halt, a stop, is first recorded in 1537, and that of a suspension of a judicial proceeding in 1542. The meaning of an act or period of remaining in a place, is first recorded in 1538.

stay² *n.* support, prop, brace. About 1515, borrowed from Middle French *estaie* piece of wood used as a support, from Frankish **staka* support (compare Middle Dutch *stāke* stick, STAKE¹). —**v.** 1423 *staien*; borrowed from Middle French *estayer*, from *estaie* support, prop.

stay³ *n.* strong rope which supports a ship's mast. 1294–95 *stei*; developed from Late Old English (before 1100) *stæg*; cognate with Middle Low German *stach* stay, rope, Dutch *stag*, dialectal German *stagen* become stiff, and Old Icelandic *stag* stay, from Proto-Germanic **stazán*. —**v.** Before 1613, (of a ship) to change to the other tack; from the noun. The meaning of secure or steady with stays is first recorded in 1627.

stead *n.* Probably before 1200, place or function (of another); about 1450 *steade*; developed from Old English *stede* place, position, standing, delay (before 899), related to *standan* to stand; cognate with Old Frisian *stede*, *stidi* stead, Old Saxon *stedi*, Middle Low German *stede* place, abode, Middle Dutch *stat*, *stēde* town (modern Dutch *stad*), Old High German *stat* place (modern German *Statt* stead, *Stätte* place, abode, *Stadt* town), Old Icelandic *stadr* place, and Gothic *staths*, from Proto-Germanic **stadi-*. —**steadfast** *adj.* Probably before 1200 *studevest* firmly fixed, unchangeable, loyal; also *stedefast* (about 1200); developed from Old English (993) *stedefæst* secure in position (*stede* stead + *fæst* firmly fixed; see FAST¹, *adj.*).

steady *adj.* Probably about 1200 *stidiz* stubborn; later *studi* not deviating from course (about 1300), and *stedye* fixed, immovable (1530); formed from Middle English *stude*, *stede* stead, place + *-y*¹. The sense of regular, uniform, is recorded in 1548, and that of firm, not shaking, in 1574. —**adv.** Before 1605, from the adjective. —**v.** 1530, from the adjective.

steak *n.* 1440 *steyke* thick slice of meat cut for roasting; probably borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *steik* roast meat).

steal *v.* Probably about 1150 *stelen* take dishonestly; later, to go away stealthily (probably before 1160); developed from Old English (before 800) *stelan* to commit theft (past tense *stael*, past participle *stolen*); cognate with Old Frisian *stela* to steal, Old Saxon *stelan*, Middle Dutch *stēlen* (modern Dutch *stelen*), Old High German *stelan* (modern German *stehlen*), Old Icelandic *stela* (Swedish *stjåla*, Norwegian *stjæle*, Danish *stjæle*), and Gothic *stilan*, from Proto-Germanic **stelanan*. —**n.** 1825, a theft, the thing stolen; from the verb. An earlier sense of an act of going secretly is found in 1590, and in Middle English as *stele* a theft, probably before 1200.

stealth *n.* About 1250 *stalt* theft; later, secret action (about 1300), and *stelh* (before 1325, from Old English **stælh*, Proto-Germanic **stælihō*); related to *stelen* to STEAL; for suffix see -TH¹. —**stealthy** *adj.* 1605, moving or acting by stealth; formed from English *stealth* + *-y*¹.

steam *n.* Old English (before 1000) *stēam* vapor, fume; cognate with West Frisian, Low German, and Dutch *stoom* steam (from Proto-Germanic **staumaz*). —**v.** About 1387–95 *stemmen* to emit flame, glow; developed from Old English (before 1000) *stēmen*, *stýman* to emit a scent or odor, related to *stēam* vapor, fume. The meaning of emit steam or vapor is first recorded in 1614, influenced by the noun. —**steamy** *adj.* 1644, emitting steam; formed from English *steam*, *n.* + *-y*¹. The sense of erotic, sexy, is first recorded in 1952.

stearin *n.* 1817, borrowed from French *stéarine*, formed from Greek *stēār* (genitive *stēātos*) tallow, fat (see STONE) + French *-ine* -INE². —**stearic acid** 1831, partial translation of French *acide stéarique* (Greek *stēār* fat + French *-ique* -IC).

steed *n.* horse. Probably about 1150 *stede*; developed from Old English *stēda* stallion (before 899), related to *stōd* STUD².

steel *n.* Probably before 1200 *stel*, *steele*; developed from Old English *stýle* (about 725, in *Beowulf*). Old English *stýle* (Old Mercian dialect *stēle*) and Old Saxon *stehli* were derived from a Proto-Germanic adjective **staHlijan* made of steel. The related noun is represented by Middle Low German *stāl* steel, Middle Dutch *stael* (modern Dutch *staal*), Old High German *stahal* (modern German *Stahl*), and Old Icelandic *stāl* (Swedish and Norwegian *stål*, Danish *staal*), from Proto-Germanic **staHla-* standing fast. —**adj.** Probably before 1200 *steele*; from the noun. —**v.** Probably about 1200 *stelen* harden (iron); developed from Old English *stýlan* (about 750), from *stýle*, *n.* The sense of make hard or strong like steel is first recorded in 1581. —**steely** *adj.* 1509, hard as steel; formed from English *steel*, *n.* + *-y*¹.

steenbok *n.* 1775, borrowing of Afrikaans *steenbok*, from Middle Dutch *steenboc* (*steen* stone + *boc* buck¹); cognates with Old English *stānbucca* mountain goat, and Old High German *steinboc* ibex (modern German *Steinbock*).

steep¹ *adj.* having a sharp slope. Probably about 1200 *stepe* high, elevated; developed from Old English *stēap* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *stāp* high, lofty, Old High German *stouf* cliff, and Old Icelandic *staup* hole in a road, from Proto-Germanic **staupaz*. The sense of precipitous, is first recorded probably before 1300. —**n.** steep slope. 1555; from the adjective.

steep² *v.* to soak in a liquid. Before 1325 *stepen*; of uncertain origin; probably cognate with Old Icelandic *steypa* to pour out, throw (from Proto-Germanic **staupijanan*), Norwegian *støppe* to pour, cast, and Swedish *stöpa*; perhaps from Proto-Germanic **staupaz*. —**n.** About 1430 *stipe*; later *stepe* (about 1450); from the verb.

steeple *n.* Before 1121 *stepel* high tower, usually with a spire; developed from Old English *stēpel* (Mercian), *stīpel* (West Saxon, before 1050), from Proto-Germanic **staupilaz*, related

to *stēap* high, lofty; see STEEP¹. —**steeplechase** *n.* 1793, formed from English *steeple* + *chase*¹ to hunt; so called because formerly it was a race with a church steeple in view as a goal.

steer¹ *v.* guide the course of a vehicle, etc. Before 1150 *steren*; developed from Old English *stēran* (Mercian), *stieran* (West Saxon, before 899); cognates of Old Frisian *stiōra* to steer, Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *stūren* (modern Dutch *sturen*), Old High German *stiuren* (modern German *steuern*), Old Icelandic *stýra* (Swedish *styra*, Norwegian and Danish *styre*), and probably Gothic *stiurjan* establish, affirm; from the Proto-Germanic **steurijanan*, which probably derived from **steurō* rudder, represented by Old English *stēor* helm, rudder (as in *stēoresman* steersman), Old Frisian *stiure*, Old High German *stiura* (modern German *Steuer*), Middle Dutch *stiure* (modern Dutch *stuur*), and Old Icelandic *stýri* rudder. —**steerage** *n.* 1399–1401 *sterage* steering apparatus of a ship; formed from Middle English *steren* to steer + *-age*. The meaning of section of a ship with the cheapest accommodations is first recorded in 1804. —**steersman** *n.* About 1330 *steres man*, developed from Old English *stēoresman* (about 1000), formed from *stēores-*, genitive of *stēor* helm, rudder + *man* person.

steer² *n.* young ox. About 1250 *stere* young bull; developed from Old English (before 800) *stēor*; cognate with Middle Low German *stēr* young ox, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *stier*, Old High German *stior* (modern German *Stier*), Old Icelandic *stjórr*, *thjórr* (Swedish *tjur*, Norwegian *tjor*, *tyr*, Danish *tyr* bull), and Gothic *stiur*, from Proto-Germanic **steuraz*.

stein *n.* 1855, borrowing of German *Stein*, shortened form of *Steinkrug* stone jug (*Stein* stone + *Krug* jug, pitcher).

stellar *adj.* of or like a star. 1656, borrowed from Latin *stellāris* pertaining to a star, starry, from *stēlla* STAR; for suffix see -AR.

stellate *adj.* About 1500, starry; later, star-shaped (1661); borrowed from Latin *stellātus* covered with stars, from *stēlla* STAR; for suffix see -ATE¹.

stem¹ *n.* main part of a plant above the ground. 1294–95 *stemme* sternpost of a ship; later *stem* trunk of a tree (before 1338); developed from Old English *stemn*, *stefn* stem of a plant, also either end of a ship (before 899), from Proto-Germanic **stamniz*; cognate with Old Saxon *stamn* stem of a ship, Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *stēvene* (modern Dutch *steven*), Old High German *stam* stem of a plant (modern German *Stamm* trunk or stem of a tree), and Old Icelandic *stafn* stem of a ship, from Proto-Germanic **stamnaz*. —**v.** 1577, to rise erect; from the noun. The meaning of remove the stem from is first recorded in 1724. The phrase *stem from* develop from (as from a stem), spring from, is first recorded in 1932, as a translation of German *stammen aus*. . .

stem² *v.* to stop. Before 1325 *stemmen* to delay, hesitate, stop; probably borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *stemma* to stop; cognate with Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *stemmen* to stop, and Middle High German and German *stemmen*). The sense of stop, check, dam up, is first recorded probably before 1350.

stench *n.* Probably before 1200; developed from Old English *stenc* pleasant or unpleasant smell (before 899), related to *stincan* emit a smell, STINK. Old English *stenc* (from Proto-Germanic **stankwiz*) is cognate with Old Saxon *stank* stench, Middle Dutch *stanc* (modern Dutch *stank*), and Old High German *stank* (modern German *Gestank*).

stencil *n.* 1707 *stanesile*; later *stencil* (1848); probably developed from Middle English *stencellen* to ornament, color (before 1400); borrowed from Middle French *estenceler* cover with sparkles or stars, powder with color, from *estenceler* spark, spangle, from Vulgar Latin **stincilla*, alteration (by metathesis of *t* and *c*) of Latin *scintilla* spark. —**v.** Before 1400 *stencellen* to ornament, color; see noun; later, to produce (a design, etc.) with a stencil (1861); from the noun.

stenography *n.* 1602, shorthand; formed from Greek *stenós* narrow + English *-graphy*. —**stenographer** *n.* 1809, a shorthand writer; formed from English *stenography* + *-er*¹. —**stenographic** *adj.* 1681, formed from English *stenography* + *-ic*.

stentorian *adj.* 1605, formed in allusion to *Stentor* (1600, in Greek, *Sténtōr*), a legendary Greek herald in the Trojan War, whose voice (as described in the *Iliad*) was as loud as the voices of fifty men; for suffix see -IAN. An earlier form *stentorious* (*Stentor* + *-ious*) appeared in the 1500's.

step *v.* Probably before 1200 *steppen* to walk, go, move; later, take a step (before 1250); developed from Old English *steppan* (before 1000, Anglian), *stæppan* (before 899, West Saxon); forms cognate with Old Frisian *stapa*, *steppa* to step, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *stappen*, Old High German *stapfōn*, *stapfen* (modern German *stapfen*), and Old Icelandic *stappa* (Norwegian and Danish *stappe*, Swedish *stappa*); probably related to *stampfōn* to pound, STAMP. —**n.** Before 1225 *steepe*; developed from Old English *steppa* (Mercian), *stæpe*, *stepe* (before 830, West Saxon); cognate with Old Frisian *stap* step, pace, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *stap*, and Old High German *stapf*, *stapfo* (modern German *Stapfen*); related to the verb. —**stepping stone** (about 1325, stone used in crossing a stream; 1653, means of advancing)

step- a combining form meaning related by remarriage of a parent rather than by blood, as in *stepfather*, *stepsister*. Middle English, developed from Old English *stēop-*; cognate with Old Frisian *stiāp-* *step-*, Middle Low German *stēf-*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *stief-*, Old High German *stiof-* (modern German *stief-*), and Old Icelandic *stjúp-* (Swedish *stiv-*, Old Danish *stiúp-*, Norwegian *ste-*). The original sense is indicated in Old English *stēopcild* stepchild, for "orphan," and by the cognates, Old English *āstiepan*, *bestiepan* to bereave, Old High German *arstiufen*, *bestiufen* to bereave. Etymologically, *stepfather* or *stepmother* (before 800) means "one who becomes a father (or mother) to an orphan," and *stepson* (before 800) or *stepdaughter* (before 850) "an orphan who becomes a son (or daughter) by the remarriage of a parent."

The combining form, going back to the Germanic base **stepa-*, is anomalously represented by *f*, probably from assimilation to the following *f*-sound in the compounds of *stepfather*

(Middle Low German *stēfvadere*, Middle Dutch *stiefvader*, as well as the early Middle English variant *steffader*).

steppe *n.* 1671 *step*; borrowed from Russian *step'*. The form *steppe* (1762) was borrowed from German *Steppe*, from Russian *step'*.

-ster a suffix forming nouns meaning: **1** a person who _____s, as in *trickster* = *a person who tricks*. **2** a person who makes or handles, as in *rhymester* = *a person who makes rhymes*. **3** a person who is, as in *youngster* = *a person who is young*. **4** also with special meanings, as in *gangster*, *roadster*, *teamster*.

Middle English *-estre*, *-ester*, *-ster*, developed from Old English *-istre*, *-estre*, (from Proto-Germanic *-istrijōn* and *-astrijōn*) a feminine agent suffix used exactly as masculine *-ere* (*-er*¹); cognate with Middle Low German *-ester*, *-ster*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *-ster*, modern Frisian *-ster*, and probably from Germanic suffix **-stra-* forming nouns of action, as in Old Icelandic *bakstr* act of baking.

In Middle English the suffix was broadened in use, perhaps due to the frequent adoption by men of trades like weaving, baking, etc., and the suffix came to be used interchangeably with *-er*¹ irrespective of gender, which gave rise to feminines in *-ess*: *seamstress*, *songstress*.

In modern English the suffix became very productive in forming derivatives of existing nouns, such as *gamester*, *rhymester*, *jokester*, *punster* and of an occasional adjective as in *youngster* (1589), suggested by the earlier *youunker*, borrowed from Middle Dutch and *oldster* (1818) patterned on *youngster*.

stere *n.* 1798, unit of volume equal to one cubic meter; borrowing of French *stère*, from Greek *steréōs* solid.

stereo *n.* 1823, shortened from *stereotype*; 1876, from *stereoscope*; 1954, from *stereophonic*.

stereo- a combining form meaning: **1** hard, firm, or solid, as in *stereotype* (a solid printing block). **2** three-dimensional, as in *stereoscope* and *stereophonic*. Borrowed from Greek *stereo-*, combining form of *steréōs* solid.

stereophonic *adj.* 1927, formed from English *stereo-* + *-phonic*.

stereoscope *n.* 1838, formed from English *stereo-* + *-scope*. 1855, formed from English *stereoscope* + *-ic*.

stereotype *n.* 1798, method of printing from a plate; formed from a mold of composed type; borrowed from French *stéréotype*, *adj.*, printed by means of a solid plate of type (*stéréo-*stereo-, solid + *type* type). The sense of an image, phrase, etc., perpetuated without change, is first recorded in English in 1850, from the verb in this sense. —**v.** 1804, to print from stereotype plates; borrowed from French *stéréotyper*, from *stéréotype*, *adj.* The sense of perpetuate in an unchanging form, standardize, is first recorded in English before 1819.

sterile *adj.* About 1450, (of a tree) producing no fruit, barren; borrowed from Middle French *stérile* not producing fruit or offspring, and directly from Latin *sterilis* barren, unproductive; cognate with Greek *stérēsthai* be deprived of, *stérēa* sterile. The sense of free from microorganisms, sterilized, is first recorded

in 1877. —**sterility** *n.* Probably before 1425 *sterilitēe* infertility; borrowed from Middle French *sterilité*, from Latin *sterilitās* unfruitfulness, barrenness, from *sterilis* sterile; for suffix see *-ITY*. —**sterilize** *v.* 1695, destroy the fertility of; formed from English *sterile* + *-ize*; possibly also influenced by, or borrowed from, French *stériliser*, from Middle French *steriliser* to make or become impotent. The meaning of make incapable of reproducing is first recorded in 1828, and that of render free of microorganisms is first recorded in 1878. —**sterilizer** *n.* 1839, substance that makes soil unproductive; later, apparatus for destroying microorganisms (1891).

sterling *n.* 1299, the English silver penny; probably formed from Middle English *sterre* STAR (which appeared on certain Norman coins) + *-ling*; known on the Continent in Old French *esterlin* (perhaps before 1104), later in Anglo-Latin *sterlingus* 1180, possibly from Old English **steorling* coin with a star, from *steorra* star. Money having the quality of the sterling is first recorded in 1565, and English money as distinguished from foreign money, in 1601. —**adj.** 1425, of English money; from the noun. The sense of having a fixed standard of purity for silver (*sterling silver*) is first recorded in 1551, and the figurative sense of excellent, dependable, about 1645.

stern¹ *adj.* severe, strict. About 1250 *sterne*; developed from Old English (before 1000) *styrne*, *stierne*- (as in *sternlice* sternly), from Proto-Germanic **sternijaz*.

stern² *n.* hind part of a ship. Probably about 1225 *sterne*; probably borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *stjörn* a steering, related to *stýra* to guide, STEER¹); alternatively the word may have come into Middle English through Old Frisian *stiārne* rudder, related to *stiōra* to STEER¹.

sternum *n.* 1667, New Latin, from Greek *stérnon* man's chest, related to *stornýnai* to spread out, STREW, emphasizing the chest as broad and flat, as opposed to the neck.

steroid *n.* 1936, any of a class of compounds including the sterols and various hormones; formed from English *ster(ol)* + *-oid*.

sterol *n.* 1913, any of a group of solid, chiefly unsaturated alcohols; abstracted from (*chole*)sterol.

stet *n.* 1821, borrowing of Latin *stet* let it stand, third person singular present subjunctive of *stāre* to stand. —**v.** About 1875; from the noun.

stethoscope *n.* 1820, borrowed from French *stéthoscope* (Greek *stēthos* chest, breast + French *-scope*).

Stetson *n.* 1902, trademark of a type of high-crowned hat, worn especially in the western United States; named after John B. Stetson, an American hat manufacturer.

stevedore *n.* 1828 (in 1788 *stowadore*); borrowed from Spanish *estibador* one who loads cargo, from *estibar* to stow cargo, from Latin *stipāre* pack down, press.

stew *v.* Before 1399 *stewen* to cook by slow boiling; earlier *styven* bathe in a steam bath (1373); borrowed from Old French *estuver* bathe, stew; of uncertain origin, possibly from

Vulgar Latin **extūfare* evaporate (Latin *ex-* out + Vulgar Latin **tūfus* vapor, steam, from Greek *tūphos* smoke). —**n.** Before 1300 *stu* caldron, cooking pot; borrowed from Old French *estuve* heated room, hothouse, bathing room; of uncertain origin, possibly from Vulgar Latin **extūfa*, from **extūfare* evaporate. The sense of stewed meat is first recorded in English in 1756.

steward *n.* Probably before 1300, manager of a household or estate; developed from Old English (probably about 900) *steward*, *stigeard* house guardian (*stig* hall, pen + *ward* guard). The officer on a ship in charge of provisions and meals is first recorded about 1450. —**stewardess** *n.* 1631, formed from English *steward* + *-ess*. The woman employed on a ship to wait on passengers is first recorded in 1837, and extended to airplanes (now replaced by *flight attendant*, 1956).

stick¹ *n.* short piece of wood. Probably about 1150 *sticke*; developed from Old English (about 1000) *sticca* rod, twig, spoon; cognate with Middle Dutch *stecke* stick (modern Dutch *stek* slip, cutting), Old High German *stehho*, *stecko* stick (dialectal German *Stecken*), and Old Icelandic *stik*, *stika* stick, yardstick, from a Proto-Germanic form derived from the root **stik-* pierce, prick; see **STICK**².

stick² *v.* pierce, stab; fasten. Probably before 1200 *stiken* pierce; later, to attach or fasten (about 1250); developed from Old English *stician* to pierce, stab; also, remain imbedded, be fastened (before 899). Old English *stician* is cognate with Old Frisian *steka* to pierce, Old Saxon *stekan*, Middle Dutch *stēken* (modern Dutch *steken*), Old High German *stehhan* (modern German *stechen*), and Old Icelandic *stika* to dam, measure; derived from Proto-Germanic **stik-* pierce, prick, be sharp. —**n.** 1633, a stab; from the verb. —**sticker** *n.* Before 1585, person who sticks or stabs; formed from English *stick*², *v.* + *-er*¹. The meaning of a gummed adhesive label is first recorded in 1871. —**sticky** *adj.* that sticks. 1735, formed from English *stick*², *v.* + *-y*¹.

stickle *v.* 1530, act as umpire, mediate; probably a variant of Middle English *stichtelen*, *steghtelen* to regulate, control (before 1350), frequentative form of *stihthen* to arrange, place (before 1121); developed from Old English (before 830) *stihthan* to arrange, order; for suffix see *-LE*³. Old English *stihthan* is cognate with Old Icelandic *stétta* to support, establish, *stét* stair, step, rank, and *stiga* to rise, climb. The meaning of make objections about trifles, insist stubbornly, is first recorded in 1819, influenced by *stickler*. —**stickler** *n.* 1538, moderator, umpire; formed from *stickle* + *-er*¹. The person who contends or insists stubbornly is first recorded in 1644.

stiff *adj.* Probably before 1200 *stif* not flexible, rigid; developed from Old English (1000) *stif* (from Proto-Germanic **stifaz*), cognate with Middle Low German *stif* stiff, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *stijf*, and Old Icelandic *stifla* to dam up. —**stiffen** *v.* Probably before 1425 *stiffnen* make more steadfast or unyielding; formed from *stif*, *adj.* + *-enen* *-en*¹.

stifle *v.* Before 1387 *stuflen* to choke, suffocate, drown; later *stiflen* (about 1495), of uncertain origin; possibly an alteration (influenced by Old Icelandic *stifla* dam up) of Old French

estouffer to stifle, smother, from a Germanic source (compare Old High German *stopfōn* to plug, stop up, stuff). The sense of suppress (a cry, cough, etc.) is first recorded about 1495 and that of suppress (a fact, truth, etc.) in 1577.

stigma *n.* 1596, special mark burned on the skin of a slave, criminal, etc.; earlier in the Anglicized form *stigne* (probably about 1400); borrowed from Latin *stigma*, from Greek *stigma* (genitive *stigmatos*) mark, puncture, especially one made by a pointed instrument, from *stig-*, root of *stizein* to mark, tattoo. A mark of disgrace is first recorded in English before 1619. The part of the pistil in flowering plants that receives the pollen is first recorded in 1753. —**stigmatize** *v.* 1585, to brand, tattoo; borrowed from Middle French *stigmatiser*, and directly from Medieval Latin *stigmatizare*, from Greek *stigmatizein* mark, brand, from *stigma*; for suffix see *-IZE*. The sense of set a mark of disgrace on, is first recorded in 1619.

stile *n.* 1333–52, developed from Old English (about 779) *stigel*; cognate with Old High German *stigilla* stile, and related to Old English *stigen* to climb; see **STAIR**.

stiletto *n.* 1611, borrowing of Italian *stiletto*, diminutive of *stilo* dagger, from Latin *stilus* pointed writing instrument, **STYLE**.

still¹ *adj.* quiet, tranquil. Old English *stille* motionless, stationary (about 725, in *Beowulf*); later, (before 1000) quiet, silent; cognate with Old Frisian *stille* still, Old Saxon *stilli*, Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *stille* (modern Dutch *stil*), and Old High German *stilli* (modern German *still*), from Proto-Germanic **steljaz*. —**v.** Probably before 1200 *stillen*, developed from Old English (before 900) *stillan* to make or become still, related to the adjective, and cognate with Old Saxon *stillian* to make quiet, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *stillen*, Old High German and modern German *stillen*, and Old Icelandic *stilla*. —**n.** Probably before 1200, a calm; from the adjective. —**adv.** Probably before 1200 *stille* without moving, quietly (as in *stand still*); found in Old English *stille* (from Proto-Germanic **steljaz*), with cognates in Old Saxon and Old High German *stillo*, Middle Dutch and modern German *stille*, modern Dutch *stil*, Swedish *stilla*, and Danish *stille*. The meaning of even now or even then, yet (as in *to still smell of skunk*) is first found in 1535, and the sense of even, yet (as in *still more*) in 1730. —**conj.** 1722, nevertheless, notwithstanding; from the adjective.

still² *n.* apparatus for distilling. 1562, noun use of Middle English *stillen* to distill (probably about 1225), subsequently a variant of *distillen* to **DISTILL**.

stilt *n.* Probably before 1300, crutch; later, one of two poles used in walking above the ground (before 1425); cognate with Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *stelte* stilt (modern Dutch *stelt*), Old High German *stelza* (modern German *Stelze*), Swedish *stylta*, and Danish *stylte*, from Proto-Germanic **steltijōn*. —**stilted** *adj.* 1615, furnished with or having stilts; formed from English *stilt* + *-ed*². The sense of pompous, stiffy, is first recorded in 1820.

stimulate *v.* 1619, spur on, stir up; earlier, to prick, sting (before 1548); probably a back formation from *stimulation*, and

perhaps in part borrowed from Latin *stimulātus*, past participle of *stimulāre* prick, goad, urge, from *stimulus* spur, goad; for suffix see -ATE¹. —**stimulant** n. 1728, borrowed from Latin *stimulāntem* (nominative *stimulāns*), present participle of *stimulāre* stimulate; for suffix see -ANT. —**stimulating** adj. (1684) —**stimulation** n. 1526, act of pricking or spurring to action; borrowed from Latin *stimulātiōnem* (nominative *stimulātiō*), from *stimulāre* stimulate; for suffix see -ATION. —**stimulative** adj. 1791, formed from English *stimulate*, v. + -ive. —**stimulus** n. 1684, borrowing of Latin *stimulus* spur, goad.

sting v. Probably before 1200 *stingen*; developed from Old English *stingan* to prick with a small point (before 899), from Proto-Germanic **stenganan*; cognate with Old High German *stungen* to sting, Old Icelandic *stinga*, and Gothic *usstangan* to pluck out. —n. Old English *sting* act of stinging, wound (before 899); from the verb. —**stinger** n. 1552, one who goads or instigates; later, part of an insect or animal that stings (before 1889, earlier *sting*, 1398), formed from English *sting*, v. + -er¹. —**stinging** adj. Probably before 1200, that causes hurt feelings or irritation, biting.

stingy adj. 1659, of uncertain origin; possibly a dialectal use (with altered pronunciation and meaning) of earlier *stingy* biting, sharp, stinging (about 1615), formed from English *sting*, n. or v. + adjective suffix -y¹.

stink v. Probably before 1200 *stinken* emit a strong offensive smell; developed from Old English (before 800) *stincan* emit a smell of any kind; cognate with Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *stinken* to stink, Old High German *stinkan* (modern German *stinken*), from Proto-Germanic **stinkwanan*. —n. About 1250 *stinc* offensive quality or odor; from the verb. —**stinker** n. (1607) —**stinky** adj. (1888)

stint v. be sparing. Probably about 1200 *stinten* to cease, cause to stop; developed from Old English *styntan* to blunt, make dull; cognate with Old Icelandic *styttan* to shorten, from Proto-Germanic **stuntjanan*. The meaning of limit or confine is first recorded in 1513. —n. Before 1325, cessation; from the verb. The meaning of an allotted amount, is found about 1485, and that of an allotted portion of work, before 1530.

stipend n. 1444–46, shortened form of earlier *stipendy* (probably before 1425); borrowed from Latin *stipendium*, shortened form of **stipendium* (*stips* alms, small payment + *pendere* weigh).

stipple v. 1760–62; borrowed from Dutch *stippelen*, frequentative form of *stippen* to prick, speckle, from *stip* a point; for suffix see -LE³. —n. 1837, from the verb. The plural *stipples*, dots used in shading a design, is recorded earlier (1669), probably borrowed from Dutch *stippel*, diminutive of *stip* a point.

stipulate v. Before 1624, make a bargain or contract; probably a back formation from *stipulation*, and in part borrowed from Latin *stipulātus*, past participle of *stipulārī* to exact a promise; for suffix see -ATE¹. The meaning of demand as a condition of agreement is first recorded in English about 1645. —**stipulation** n. 1552, engagement or undertaking to do something; borrowed from Latin *stipulātiōnem* (nominative

stipulātiō), from *stipulārī* exact a promise; for suffix see -ATION. The act of specifying one of the terms of an agreement, condition in an agreement, is first recorded in 1750.

stipule n. 1793, borrowed from French *stipule*, from Latin *stipula* stalk (of hay), straw; for suffix see -ULE.

stir v. Probably before 1160 *styren* to trouble, disquiet, set in motion; developed from Old English *styrian* (about 725, in *Beowulf*), from Proto-Germanic **sturjanan*; cognate with Old Frisian *stēra* to disturb, Old Saxon *stōrian*, Middle Low German *storen*, Middle Dutch *stören* (modern Dutch *storen*), Old High German *stōran*, *stōren* (modern German *stören*), from Proto-Germanic **staurijanan*, and Middle High German *stürn* to stir, poke, Old Icelandic *styr* disturbance, tumult, struggle, and Norwegian *styrje* cause a disturbance. —n. 1375 *stir* commotion, disturbance, tumult; about 1375 *stere*; probably borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *styr* disturbance, tumult). The sense of movement, bustle, activity (about 1586) represents a noun use of English *stir*, v.

stir-crazy adj. 1908, dazed, disturbed, or upset, usually because of long confinement; formed with English *crazy*, from the word *stir* prison (1851, probably an alteration of *Start Newgate* prison in London, 1747; later any prison, 1823; probably borrowed from Romyan *stardo* imprisoned, related to *staripen* a prison).

stirrup n. About 1225 *stirope*; developed from Old English (about 1000) *stigrāp* stirrup; literally, climbing rope; formed from *stige* a climbing, ascent (from Proto-Germanic **stijiz*) + *rāp* rope. The Old English compound corresponds to Old Saxon *stigerēp* stirrup, Middle Dutch *stegereep*, Old High German *stegareif*, and Old Icelandic *stigreip*.

stitch n. Probably before 1200 *stiche* sudden stabbing pain in the side; developed from Old English *stice* a prick, puncture (before 899); cognate with Old Frisian *steke* prick, stab, Old Saxon *stiki* point, thrust, Middle Low German *steke* prick, sting, stab, Old High German *stih* (modern German *Stich*), and Gothic *stiks* point of time, from Proto-Germanic **stikiz*.

The senses in sewing or shoemaking and that of a complete stitch, are first recorded about 1300. —v. Probably before 1200 *stichen* fasten with stitches; from the noun.

stoa n. 1603, borrowed from Greek *stoá* portico.

stoat n. Before 1475 *stote*, ermine in its summer coat of brown; of uncertain origin.

stochastic adj. 1662, pertaining to conjecture; borrowed from Greek *stochastikós* able to guess, conjecturing, from *stocházesthai* guess, from *stóchos* guess; for suffix see -IC. The sense of randomly determined, involving chance or probability, is first recorded in English in 1934, borrowed through German *Stochastik*.

stock n. Probably before 1200 *stocke* tree trunk; developed from Old English *stoc* stump, post, stake; cognate with Old Frisian *stok* tree trunk, stump, Old Saxon *stok* stick, Middle Low German *stok* stick, stump, Middle Dutch *stoc* (modern Dutch *stok* stick, cane), Old High German *stoc* stick, stump

(modern German *Stock* stick, cane), and Old Icelandic *stokkr* block of wood, tree trunk, from Proto-Germanic **stukkaz*.

The meaning of ancestry, family (before 1200), is a figurative use of tree trunk, from which came the meaning of the heavy part of a tool, later extended to the part of a rifle or musket held against the shoulder (1541).

The plural *stocks* wooden frame, used for punishment (before 1325) is a special use of post, stake (Old English about 1000). The meaning of a supply for future use (1428), and that of a sum or fund of money (probably 1419) gave rise to the sense of a company's capital worth divided into shares, before 1692. These senses occur originally only in English and their ultimate origin is uncertain. —**v.** Before 1325 *stocken* to place in the stocks, imprison; from the noun. The meaning of furnish, supply, is first recorded in 1622. —**adj.** Before 1625, kept regularly in stock; from the noun. The figurative sense of commonly used, conventional, trite, is first recorded in 1738. —**stock-still** **adj.** About 1470, literally, as still as a tree trunk; formed from *stocke* tree trunk + *still*. —**stocky** **adj.** About 1300 *stokki* made of wood; formed from *stocke* stock + *-y*. The meaning of having a sturdy build, thick-set, is first recorded in 1676.

stockade **n.** 1614 (in 1612, *staccado*); borrowed from Spanish *estacada*, from *estaca* stake, from a Germanic source (compare Old English *staca* STAKE); for suffix see -ADE. The meaning of prison, especially on a military post, is first recorded in 1882. —**v.** 1755, protect or fortify with a stockade; from the noun.

stocking **n.** 1583, formed in English from *stocka* leg covering, sock (1457) + *-ing*; probably so called in reference to a log or trunk.

stodgy **adj.** 1823, of a thick, semi-solid consistency; formed from English *stodge* to stuff (1674), + *-y*. The meaning of dull, heavy, developed by 1874 from the senses of the noun *stodge* (1825) applied to food: as heavy, solid (1841), and of the adjective thick, glutinous (1858).

stogie or **stogy** **n.** 1847 *stoga* rough, heavy kind of shoe; later *stogie* long, cheap cigar (1873); both shortened from *Conestoga*, a town in Pennsylvania (supposed to be so called because drivers of Conestoga covered wagons, first built in Conestoga, were associated with the use of such shoes and cigars).

Stoic or **stoic** **n.** About 1384, borrowed from Latin *stōicus*, from Greek *stōikós* pertaining to a member or the teachings of an ancient Greek school (founded by Zeno) characterized by austere ethical doctrines; literally, pertaining to a portico, from *stoá* portico, porch, specifically the portico in Athens where Zeno taught; for suffix see -IC. The meaning of a person who represses feelings or practices patient endurance, is first recorded in English in 1579. —**adj.** 1596, like a Stoic in character, practicing patient endurance; borrowed from Latin *stōicus*, **adj.** and **n.** —**stoical** **adj.** = Stoic. Probably before 1425 *stociale*; formed from Latin *stōicus*, **adj.** and **n.** + Middle English *-al*. —**stoicism** **n.** 1626, borrowed from New Latin *stoicismus*, from Latin *stōicus*; for suffix see -ISM.

stoke **v.** 1683 (implied in *stoking-hole*), back formation from earlier English *stoker* person who tends a furnace (1660); bor-

rowed from Dutch *stoker*, from *stoken* to stoke, from Middle Dutch *stōken* to poke, thrust, related to *stoc* stick, stump, STOCK. The sense of stir up or excite (hate, lust, etc.) is found in 1837.

stole **n.** Old English *stole* long robe, scarflike garment worn by clergymen (about 950); an early borrowing from Latin *stola* robe, vestment, from Greek *stolē* a long robe; originally, garment, equipment.

stolid **adj.** About 1600, perhaps a back formation from earlier *stolidity*; also borrowed from Middle French *stolide*, and directly from Latin *stolidus* insensible, dull, unmovable, brutish. —**stolidity** **n.** 1563–83, borrowed from Middle French *stolidité*, and directly from Latin *stoliditās* dullness, stupidity, from *stolidus*; for suffix see -ITY.

stolon **n.** 1601, borrowed from Latin *stolōnem* (nominative *stolō*) a shoot, branch, sucker.

stoma **n.** 1684, small opening, New Latin, from Greek *stōma* mouth.

stomach **n.** Before 1325 *stomak*; later *stomach* (before 1393); borrowed from Old French *estomac*, *stomaque*, from Latin *stomachus* stomach, throat; also, taste, liking, and distaste, irritation, from Greek *stómachos* throat, stomach; literally, mouth, opening, from *stōma* mouth. The figurative senses of Latin are first recorded in English in the sense of appetite (about 1386), taste, liking (1513), and irritation (about 1540). —**v.** 1523, to be offended at, resent; from the noun. The sense of put up with, endure, is found in 1677.

stomp **v.** 1803, variant of STAMP. —**n.** 1912, a social dance with heavy stamping; later, a heavy walking gait (1971). —**stomping** **n.** (1819)

stone **n.** Probably before 1200 *ston*; developed from Old English (before 830) *stān*; cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *stēn* stone, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *steen*, Old High German *stein* (modern German *Stein*), Old Icelandic *steinn*, and Gothic *stains*, from Proto-Germanic **stainaz*. —**v.** Probably about 1200 *stanen* to throw stones at; from the noun. —**adv.** totally, completely (as in *stone broke*). About 1290, from the noun, with reference to hardness, etc. —**stonewall** **n.** 1876, also *stone wall* an act or instance of obstruction; found in Old English (before 830), wall built of stone. —**v.** 1880, to adopt tactics of obstruction. —**stonny** **adj.** Probably about 1200 *stani* hard, insensible; developed from Old English (about 950) *stānig*, from *stān* stone + *-ig* -Y.

stooge **n.** 1913, stage assistant, of uncertain origin. The sense of a lackey, or person used for another purpose, is first recorded in 1937.

stool **n.** Old English *stōl* seat (before 899); cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *stōl* seat, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *stoel*, Old High German *stuol* (modern German *Stuhl*), Old Icelandic *stōll*, Gothic *stōls* throne (from Proto-Germanic **stōlaz*). The meaning of bowel movement (1533) derived from the sense of privy (1410). The term *stool pigeon*, one

fastened to a stool to lure other pigeons, is first recorded in 1836, and the person used as a decoy in 1830.

stoop¹ *v.* bend forward. Probably before 1200 *stūpen*; later *stoupen* (about 1280); developed from Old English *stūpian* (before 899); cognate with Middle Dutch *stūpen* to bow, bend, and Old Icelandic *stūpa* to stand upright (Norwegian and Swedish *stupa* fall, plunge). —**n.** About 1300 *stoupe*; from the verb.

stoop² *n.* porch. 1755, borrowed from Dutch *stoep* flight of steps, doorstep, stoop, from Middle Dutch (from Proto-Germanic **stōpō*); cognate with Middle Low German *stope* step, flight of steps, and Old High German *stuofa*, *stuoffa* step (modern German *Stufe*).

stop *v.* Probably before 1200 *stoppen* to plug or block; developed from Old English *-stopian* (in *forstopian* to stop up, stuff); cognate with Old Frisian *stoppia* to plug, stop up, stuff, Old Low Franconian *stuppōn*, Middle Low German, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *stoppen*, and Old High German *stopfōn* (modern German *stopfen*); either: 1) a common West Germanic adoption of Vulgar Latin **stuppāre* to stop or stuff with tow or oakum (as found in Italian *stappare*, Provençal and Spanish *estopar*, and Old French *estoper*), from Latin *stappa* coarse flax or hemp, tow, from Greek *stýppē*; or 2) the Germanic group of words derives from a base **stoppōn*, and by tracing Germanic *-pp-* (before an accented syllable) to Indo-European *-pn-*, the group is related to Latin *stupēre* to be stunned, dazed, paralyzed; see STUPID, with German *stopfōn* and its cognates influenced by Vulgar Latin **stuppāre* both in form and meaning. This influence spread from the Lower Rhine valley, where plugs made of tow were used from ancient times. Compare STUFF.

English *stop* to bring or come to a halt (1440) was a specially English development, though the English word has been widely adopted in other languages, as French *stopper*, German *stoppen*, etc. —**n.** 1385–86, a plug, something that stops; from the verb. The sense of a cessation or stopping is first recorded about 1450. —**stopgap** *n.* (1684) —**stoppage** *n.* 1540, obstruction; earlier deduction from payments (1465) an act of stopping (1657). —**stopper** *n.* (1480)

store *v.* 1264 *storen* to supply or stock; borrowed from Old French *estorer* erect, furnish, store, from Latin *instaurāre* restore (*in-* + *-staurāre*, from a lost noun **stauros*; cognate with Greek *staurós* pole, stake). The meaning of put away for future use is first recorded in 1600. —**n.** Probably before 1300, supply, stock; borrowed from Old French *estor*, from *estorer* erect, furnish. The meaning of a place where goods are kept for sale is first recorded in 1721. —**storage** *n.* 1612–13, space for storing; formed from English *store*, *v.* + *-age*. The sense of an act of storing is first recorded in 1828. —**storehouse** *n.* (1348)

stork *n.* Old English (before 850) *storc*, related to *stearc* stiff, strong (see STARK); so called with reference to the bird's stiff or rigid posture, and cognate with Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *storc* stork, Old High German *stora* (modern German *Storch*), and Old Icelandic *storkr* (Swedish, Norwegian, and Danish *stork*), from Proto-Germanic **sturkaz*.

storm *n.* Old English *storm* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Saxon *storm* storm, Middle Low German, Middle Dutch, and modern Dutch *storm*, Old High German *sturm* (modern German *Sturm*), and Old Icelandic *stormr*, from Proto-Germanic **sturmaz*. —**v.** About 1380 *stormen* to rage, be violent; from the Middle English noun. —**stormy** *adj.* Before 1325 *stormi* characterized by storm, subject to storms; developed from Late Old English *storemig* (before 1150); formed from Old English *storm*, *n.* + *-ig* *-y¹*.

story¹ *n.* account of some happening. Probably before 1200 *storie* historical narrative or writing; borrowed from Old French *estorie*, from Late Latin *storia*, and Latin *historia* history, account, tale, story, from Greek *historiā* history, record, inquiry, from *historeîn* inquire, from *hístōr* wise man, judge.

story² *n.* floor of a building. Before 1384, borrowed from Anglo-Latin *historia* picture, floor of a building, from Latin *historia* HISTORY; perhaps so called because the front of buildings in the Middle Ages often were decorated with rows of painted windows; *-story* is found in early use in the term *clerestory* (1412).

stoup *n.* 1397 *stoup* jug, jar; borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic and modern Norwegian *stau* cup).

stout *adj.* Probably before 1300 *stout* proud, brave, strong; borrowed from Old French *estout*, earlier *estolt* strong, from a Germanic source (compare Old Frisian *stult* proud, stately, arrogant, Middle Low German *stolt*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *stout*, Middle High German and modern German *stolz*, and Norwegian *staut* stately, fine); possibly related to STILT, from the notion of rising above others. Middle English *stout* also meaning physically strong, having a powerful build, developed the meaning thick-bodied, fat and large, first recorded in 1804. —**n.** strong, dark-brown beer. 1677, from the adjective.

stove *n.* 1456, heated room, room filled with steam for sweating; probably borrowed from Middle Low German *stove* a heated room or Middle Dutch *stove* a heated room, a foot warmer (modern Dutch *stoof* stove, furnace); both cognate with Old English *stofa* steam or bath, Old High German *stuba* heated room (modern German *Stube* room), Old Icelandic *stofa* house, bathing room with a stove, Norwegian *stove*, *stue* cottage, cabin, Swedish *stuga* cottage, and Danish *stue* room. The device for heating is first recorded in English before 1618.

The relation between the West Germanic group of words listed above and Romance words, including Old French *estuve* heated room, hothouse, caldron (modern French *étuve* steam room), Spanish *estufa* stove, and Italian *stufa* is uncertain.

stow *v.* Probably about 1380 *stowen* to put in a certain place or position; verb use of *stowe* a place (before 1200); developed from Old English *stōw* a place (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *stō* a place, Middle Low German, Middle Dutch, and modern Dutch *stouwen* to stow, Middle High German *stouwen* (modern German *stauen*) to stow (from Proto-Germanic **stōwījanan*), and Old Icelandic *-sto* in *eldstō* fireplace.

The meaning of put away to be stored, pack, is first recorded in Middle English probably before 1400. The phrase *stow away*, to conceal, is first found in 1795. —**stowage** n. 1391, act of packing cargo, formed from *stowen* to stow + *-age*. The sense of a place to stow occurs before 1641. —**stowaway** n. 1850, from the verb phrase *stow away*.

strabismus n. 1684, also Anglicized *strabism* (1656); New Latin *strabismus*, borrowed from Greek *strabismós*, from *strabízein* to squint, from *strabós* squinting, squint-eyed; for suffix see *-ISM*.

straddle v. 1565, probably an alteration of Middle English (about 1450) *stridlen*, frequentative form of *striden* to STRIDE; for suffix see *-LE*³.

strafe v. 1915, originally punish, attack; borrowed from the German slogan *Gott strafe England* may God punish England, current in Germany about 1914–16. Middle High German *strāfen* punish (modern German *strafen*) is from Proto-Germanic **strāf-*. —**n.** 1916 (in 1915, *straff*), from the verb.

straggle v. Before 1425 *straglen* move about aimlessly, wander; perhaps borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare dialectal Norwegian *stragla* to walk laboriously); or an altered frequentative form of *straken* to move, go (probably before 1325); for suffix see *-LE*³.

straight adj. Probably before 1325 *streyt* not bent or curved; later *streight* (1369); adjective use of Old English *streht* (altered, by analogy with *streccan*, from earlier *streaht*), past participle of *streccan* to STRETCH. —**adv.** Probably before 1300 *streite* closely, carefully; later *streight* immediately, directly (probably before 1325); adverb use of Old English *streht*, past participle of *streccan* to STRETCH. —**n.** 1645, from the adjective. —**straighten** v. 1542, to make straight; formed from *straight*, adj. + *-en*¹. —**straightforward** adj. (1806)

strain¹ v. to stretch, draw tight. About 1300 *streinen* draw tight, stretch; later *strainen* (1432); borrowed from Old French *estreindre* bind tightly, clasp, squeeze, from Latin *stringere* bind or draw tight. The sense of press through a filter is first recorded before 1325 and that of lay undue stress on, make a forced interpretation of (1449, and the adjective form *strained*, about 1600). —**n.** 1432 *straine* filter, strainer, from the verb. The sense of injury caused by straining is first recorded about 1400 (implied in *straining*), and that of strong muscular effort, in 1590. The passage of song or music, melody, probably developed from the verb meaning (before 1387) to tighten (the strings of a musical instrument). —**strainer** n. (1326–27)

strain² n. line of descent. Probably before 1200 *strene* offspring, line of descent, stock; developed from Old English (about 950) *strion*, *strion* gain, begetting (from Proto-Germanic **streun-*); shortened form of *gestreōn*, *gestrion*, related to *striēnan* to gain, and cognate with Old High German *striunan* to gain; originally, to pile up. The sense of variety of an animal species is first recorded in 1607.

strait n. Often, **straits**. About 1390 *straite*; noun use of adjective *strait* narrow, strict (probably before 1300); borrowed from Old French *estreit* tight, close, narrow, from Latin *strictus*, past

participle of *stringere* bind or draw tight. The sense of difficulty, plight (usually *straits*) is first recorded in 1544. —**straiten** v. 1523, to restrict, narrow; formed from English *strait*, adj. + *-en*¹.

strand¹ n. shore. Old English (about 1000) *strand*; cognate with Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *strant* shore, beach (modern Dutch *strand*), Old Icelandic *strönd* border, edge, coast (Swedish, Norwegian, and Danish *strand*), from Proto-Germanic **strandās*. —**v.** 1621, from the noun. The sense of leave helpless is first recorded in 1837.

strand² n. one of the fibers of a rope, string, etc. 1497 *strond*; perhaps cognate with Old High German *strēno* (modern German *Strähne*) lock, tress, strand of hair (compare dialectal English *stran*), of unknown origin.

strange adj. About 1280 *stroung* from elsewhere, foreign, unknown, unfamiliar; later *straunge* (probably before 1300); borrowed from Old French *estranger* foreign, alien, from Latin *extrāneus* foreign, external, from *extrā* outside of; see *EXTRA-*. —**stranger** n. 1375, unknown person, foreigner; borrowed from Old French *estranger* foreigner, alien, from *estranger* strange; for suffix see *-ER*¹.

strangle v. Probably about 1280 *stranglen* to kill; later, to choke, smother (about 1300); borrowed from Old French *estrangler*, from Latin *strangulāre* to choke, stifle, check, constrain, from Greek *strangālān* choke, twist, from *strangālē* a halter, cord, lace, related to *strangós* twisted.

strangulate v. 1665, to choke, stifle; probably a back formation from *strangulation*, influenced by Latin *strangulātus*, past participle of *strangulāre* to choke, STRANGLE; for suffix see *-ATE*¹. —**strangulation** n. 1542; borrowed from Latin *strangulationem* (nominative *strangulatiō*), from *strangulāre* STRANGLE; for suffix see *-ATION*.

strap n. 1620, loop or band for fastening things together, variant of *strobe* loop or strap on a harness (1345–49); probably borrowed from Old French *estrop* strap, from Latin *stroppus* strap, band, perhaps from Etruscan, ultimately from Greek *stróphos* twisted band, from *stréphein* to turn; see *STROPHE*. Late Old English *strop* (about 1050) from Latin *stroppus*, is probably not continuous with the Middle English word. —**v.** 1711, from the noun. —**strapping** adj. 1657, tall and sturdy (applied originally to a woman), formed from English *strap*, v. + *-ing*².

stratagem n. 1489, trick for deceiving an enemy; borrowed from Middle French *stratagème* trick, especially to outwit an enemy, borrowed from Italian *stratagemma* (with vowel assimilation of *e* to *a*), from Latin *stratēgēma*, from Greek *stratēgēma* the act of a general, military stratagem, from *stratēgēs* to be a general, command, from *stratēgós* general; see *STRATEGY*.

strategy n. 1810, art of planning military operations; borrowed from French *stratégie*, and probably directly from Greek *stratēgiā* office or command of a general, from *stratēgós* general (*stratós* army + *agós* leader, from *ágein* to lead); for suffix see *-Y*³. —**strategic** adj. 1825 (implied earlier in *strategically* 1810); borrowed from French *stratégique*, and probably directly from

Greek *stratēgikós* of a general, from *stratēgós* general; for suffix see -IC. —**strategist** *n.* 1838, person skilled in strategy; borrowed from French *stratégiste*, from *stratégie* strategy; for suffix see -IST.

stratify *v.* 1661, back formation from *stratification*; for suffix see -FY. —**stratification** *n.* 1617, borrowed from New Latin *stratificationem* (nominative *stratificatio*), from *stratificare* (*stratum* thing spread out, STRATUM + the root of Latin *facere* to make); for suffix see -FICATION.

stratosphere *n.* 1908, borrowed from French *stratosphère*, formed from Latin *strātus* (genitive *strātūs*) a spreading out (from the root of *sternere* to spread out) + French -*sphère*, as in *atmosphère*.

stratum *n.* 1599, New Latin, special use of Latin *strātum* thing spread out, coverlet, pavement, from neuter past participle of *sternere* to spread out.

straw *n.* About 1200 *strawe* stalk or stem, piece of straw; developed from Old English (about 950) *strēaw*, related to *strēowian* to STREW, and cognate with Old Frisian *strē* straw, Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *strō* (modern Dutch *stroo*), Old High German *strō* (modern German *Stroh*), and Old Icelandic *strā* (Norwegian, Danish, and Swedish *strå*), from Proto-Germanic **strāwān*.

strawberry *n.* Probably about 1200 *streaberie* the plant, 1328–29 the fruit; later *strawbery* (1373); developed from Old English (about 1000) *strēawberige* (*strēaw* STRAW + *berige*, *berie* BERRY). No corresponding compound is found in other Germanic languages and the reason for the name is uncertain.

stray *v.* About 1300 *strayen* wander from a path; borrowed from Old French *estraier* wander about; literally, go about the streets or highways, from *estree* route, highway, from Late Latin *via strāta* paved road; see STREET. —**n.** 1228 *strai* domestic animal found wandering; borrowed from Anglo-French *stray*, *estrai*, from Old French *estraié* strayed, past participle of *estraier* to stray. The act of straying (probably 1404) from the verb.

streak *n.* Before 1387 *strike* line, mark, stroke; later *streke* (1440); developed from Old English *strica* (about 1000), from Proto-Germanic **striukōn*, related to *strīcan* pass over lightly; see STRIKE and cognate with Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *strēke* line, stroke (modern Dutch *streek*), Old High German *strich* (modern German *Strich*), and Gothic *striks*. The sense of thin irregular lines of contrasting color or texture is found in English in 1567. —**v.** 1440 *streken* to cancel by drawing a line or lines across; from the noun.

stream *n.* Old English (before 850) *strēam* a course of water forming a river, brook, etc.; cognate with Old Frisian *strām* stream, Old Saxon *strōm*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *stroom*, Old High German *stroum* (modern German *Strom*), and Old Icelandic *straumur* (Swedish *ström*, Norwegian *strøm*, Danish *strøm*), from Proto-Germanic **straumaz*. —**v.** Probably before 1200 *stremen*; from the noun. —**streamer** *n.* 1292 *stremer* flag waving in the air; formed from *stremen* to stream + -*er*¹. —**streamline** *adj.* 1898, free from turbulence; from noun meaning the path traced by a flowing fluid (1868).

—**v.** (1913, implied in *streamlined*) give a streamline form to; from the adjective. The sense of simplify, organize, appeared in 1936.

street *n.* Probably about 1175 *strate*, *stret*; later *strete* (probably before 1200); developed from Old English (Mercian) *strēt* paved road, highway, (West Saxon) *stræt* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); an early borrowing from Late Latin *strāta*, used elliptically for *via strāta* paved road, from past participle of Latin *sternere* lay down, spread out, pave. The borrowing of Late Latin *strāta* was common to many West Germanic languages including Old Frisian *strēte* street, Old Saxon *strāta*, Middle Dutch *strāte* (modern Dutch *straat*), Old High German *straza*, *strazza* (modern German *Strasse*), and in the Romance languages the word is represented by Provençal, Spanish, and Portuguese *estrada*, Old French *estree*, and Italian *strada*.

strength *n.* 1106 *strengthe*; developed from Old English *strengthu* power, force, vigor, moral resistance (before 899), from *strang* STRONG; for suffix see -TH¹. Old English *strengthu* is cognate with Old High German *strengida* strength, from Proto-Germanic **stranzīthō*. —**strengthen** *v.* Probably about 1378 *strengthenen* give support to, abet; formed from *strengthe* strength + -*nen* -*en*¹.

strenuous *adj.* Before 1460 (implied in *strenuously*) vigorous, energetic; borrowed from Latin *strenuus* active, vigorous, keen; for suffix see -OUS. The sense of requiring much energy, arduous, is first recorded in 1671.

strep *n.* 1927 *strep throat*; shortened form of STREPTOCOCCUS.

streptococcus *n.* 1877, New Latin; formed from Greek *streptós* twisted + New Latin *coccus* spherical bacterium, from Greek *kókkos* berry; so called because these bacteria usually form chains.

streptomycin *n.* 1944, formed from New Latin *Streptomyces*, genus name of the soil bacterium from which the antibiotic was obtained, from Greek *streptós* twisted + *mýkēs* fungus; for suffix see -IN².

stress *n.* About 1303 *stres*, *stresse* hardship, coercion, pressure; in part developed as a shortened form of Middle English *destresse* DISTRESS, and borrowed from Old French *estrece* narrowness, oppression, from Vulgar Latin **strictia*, from Latin *strictus* compressed, past participle of *stringere* draw tight. The sense of great strain, anguish, is first recorded probably about 1380, and the phonetic sense in pronunciation in 1749. —**v.** About 1303 *stressen* restrain, confine; borrowed from Old French *estrecier* straighten, contract, from Vulgar Latin **strictiāre*, from **strictia* narrowness, oppression. The sense of put emphasis on, attach importance to (1896), derives from the noun.

stretch *v.* Probably before 1200 *strecchen* to extend; developed from Old English *streccan* (before 899); cognate with Old Frisian *strekka* to stretch, Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *strecken* (modern Dutch *strekken*), and Old High German *strecchan* (modern German *strecken*), from Proto-Germanic **strekjanan*. —**n.** Probably about 1175 *strecche* expanse of land; from the verb. The act of stretching or straining

is first recorded in 1541, and an uninterrupted continuance (as in *at one stretch*) in 1661. —**stretcher** *n.* (about 1420, person who stretches; 1845, canvas stretched on a frame for carrying the sick or wounded)

strew *v.* Probably before 1300 *strewen* to scatter, sprinkle; developed from Old English (about 971) *strēowian*; cognate with Old Frisian *strēwa* to strew, Old Saxon *strōian*, Middle Dutch *strōien* (modern Dutch *strooien*), Old High German *streuen* (modern German *streuen*), Old Icelandic *strā* (Norwegian and Danish *strø*, Swedish *strö*), and Gothic *straujan*, from Proto-Germanic **straujanan*.

striated *adj.* 1646, formed from New Latin *striatus* striped, streaked + English *-ed*². New Latin *striatus* is a special use of Latin *striātus*, a participle-like formation, developed directly from the noun *stria* furrow, channel; for suffix see *-ATE*³. —**striation** *n.* 1849, one of a number of parallel streaks; formed from New Latin *stria* stripe, streak + English *-ation*.

stricken *adj.* 1513, wounded, affected (by disease, trouble, etc.), adjective use of the past participle of **STRIKE**, *v.* An early adjective use of the past participle is found in the phrase *striken in elde* advanced in years (before 1300).

strict *adj.* Probably before 1425 *stricte* narrow, drawn in, small; perhaps influenced by *stricture*, but also a borrowing from Latin *strictus* drawn together, tight, rigid, past participle of *stringere* draw or bind tight. The sense of stringent (as a law, rule, etc.) is first recorded in English in 1578, as is the sense of stern in matters of morality and conscience (implied in *strictness*, 1578). The meaning of characterized by unrelaxing effort (as in *a strict examination*) is first recorded in 1596.

stricture *n.* Before 1400, an abnormal narrowing or contraction in a bodily part; borrowed from Late Latin *strictūra* contraction, constriction, from *strict-*, past participle stem of *stringere* to bind or draw tight; for suffix see *-URE*. The sense of criticism, critical remark, is first recorded in English about 1779.

stride *v.* Probably before 1200 *striden* to walk with long steps; developed from Old English (before 800) *strīdan* to straddle; cognate with Middle Low German *striden* to straddle, take long steps. The verb is not found with a similar sense in other Germanic languages, but it is similar in form to a verb meaning strive, quarrel, found in Old Saxon *strīdian* and Old Frisian *strīda*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *strijden* to fight, struggle, Old High German *strītan* (modern German *streiten*), and Old Icelandic *strīdha* (Swedish *strida*, Danish and Norwegian *stride*), from Proto-Germanic **strīdanan*. Thus the primary meaning of Proto-Germanic **strīd-* to strive, make a strong effort, might account for the development of the English and Low German sense of move or walk with long steps. See also **STRIFE**, **STRIVE**. —**n.** Old English (before 800) *strīde* distance covered by a long step, related to *strīdan* to stride.

strident *adj.* 1656, borrowed from French *strident*, and directly from Latin *stridentem* (nominative *strīdēns*), present participle of *strīdere*, *strīdēre* utter an inarticulate sound, grate, screech; possibly of imitative origin; for suffix see *-ENT*.

stridulous *adj.* 1611, borrowed from Latin *stridulus* giving a shrill sound, creaking, from *strīdere* to utter an inarticulate sound, grate, creak; for suffix see *-OUS*. —**stridulate** *v.* 1838, formed either from Latin *stridulus* giving a shrill sound + English *-ate*¹, or by back formation from *stridulation*. —**stridulation** *n.* 1838, borrowed from French *stridulation*, or formed directly from Latin *stridulus* giving a shrill sound, creaking + English *-ation*.

strife *n.* Probably before 1200 *strif* quarrel, fighting, discord; borrowed from Old French *estrif*, accusative of **estris* (formed by analogy with such pairs as *baillif*, *baillis*), variant of *estrif* quarrel, dispute, impetuosity, from Frankish **strīd* (compare Old High German *strīt* quarrel, dispute, related to *strītan* to fight; see **STRIDE**). Related to **STRIVE**.

strike *v.* Before 1325 *striken* to deal a blow, hit with force (past tense *stroke*, *strak*, past participle *striken*); developed from Old English (before 1000) *strīcan* pass over lightly, stroke, smooth, rub, go, proceed (past tense *strāc*, past participle *strīcen*). Old English *strīcan* is cognate with Old Frisian *strika* pass over lightly, stroke, rub, move, go, Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *striken* (modern Dutch *strijken*), and Old High German *strīhhan* (modern German *streichen*), from Proto-Germanic **strih-*.

Related to **STREAK** and **STROKE** in form and meaning by the Proto-Germanic forms **straike-* (stroke) and **strike-* (streak), and perhaps influenced in the development of the sense of stroke, rub; later, hit, by the Old Icelandic *striuka* (Swedish *stryka*, Danish *stryge*), from Proto-Germanic **streuk-*.

The meaning of cancel with the stroke of a pen is first recorded about 1395. The sense of refuse to continue work as a group to force an employer to meet demands is first recorded in 1768, perhaps from the sailors' practice of *striking* or lowering a ship's sail as a symbol of their refusal to go to sea (1768). The meaning in baseball of fail to hit a ball pitched in the strike zone is first recorded in 1853. —**n.** 1587, act of striking, from the verb. Some Middle English uses of the noun *strike*, such as the sense of a bundle or hank of flax, hemp, etc., were probably borrowed from Middle Low German derivatives of the same root as English *strike*. The meaning in baseball is first recorded in 1841. —**striker** *n.* Probably before 1387, a vagrant; 1850, a worker on strike. —**striking** *adj.* About 1611, that strikes; 1752, remarkable, impressive.

string *n.* About 1175 *stringe*; developed from Old English *streng* line, cord, thread (about 725, in *Beowulf*, from Proto-Germanic **stranziz*); cognate with Middle Low German *strenk* string, Middle Dutch *strenc*, *streng* (modern Dutch *streng*), Old High German *strang* (modern German *Strang*), and Old Icelandic *strengr* (Swedish *sträng*, Norwegian and Danish *streng*). The sense of a number of objects arranged in a line, series, file, is first recorded in 1488–92. —**v.** About 1400 *strengen* to fit (a bow) with its string; from the noun. The sense of thread or hang on a string, appeared in 1612, and that of extend or stretch (as in *debris strung out along the shore*) before 1670. —**string bean** (1759) —**stringy** *adj.* (1669)

stringent *adj.* 1605, astringent, constrictive; borrowed from Latin *stringentem* (nominative *stringēns*), present participle of

stringere to compress, contract, bind or draw tight; see STRAIN¹ stretch; for suffix see -ENT. The sense of strict, rigorous, binding, severe, is first recorded in 1846. —**stringency** n. 1844, formed from English *stringent* + -cy.

strip¹ *v.* make bare. Probably about 1200 *strūpen* remove the clothes of; later, remove the bark of a tree (about 1225), and *stripen* (before 1387); developed from Old English *-striēpan*, *-strypan*, as in West Saxon *bestrypan* to plunder; cognate with Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *strōpen* to plunder, strip (modern Dutch *stroopen*), and Old High German *stroufen* to plunder (modern German *streifen* strip off), from Proto-Germanic **straupijanan*. —**stripper** n. 1581, person who strips off something, as bark off a tree; 1835. The sense of a woman who performs in a striptease act is implied in *strip*¹, *v.* 1929.

strip² *n.* long, narrow, flat piece. 1459, narrow piece of cloth; probably borrowed from Middle Low German *strippe* strap, thong, related to *stripe* STRIPE¹. The sense of a long narrow tract of land, piece of wood, etc., is first recorded in 1638. —**v.** 1885, cut into strips; from the noun.

stripe¹ *v.* to ornament or mark with long, narrow bands of color. 1415 *stripen*; probably borrowed from Middle Flemish *stripen* to form a narrow band; cognate with Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *stripen* to strip off, *stripe* stripe, streak (modern Dutch *streep*), Middle High German *strīfe* stripe (modern German *Streifen*), Norwegian *stripe*, Swedish *stripa*, and Danish *strobe*, from Proto-Germanic **striþanan*. —**n.** 1415, a line or band in cloth, of different material, color, etc., from the rest; probably borrowed from Middle Dutch or Middle Low German *stripe* stripe, streak; see the verb.

stripe² *n.* a stroke or lash. Before 1420 *strype* mark of a lash, scar; later, a stroke (before 1481); probably a special use of STRIPE¹, *n.*

stripling *n.* Before 1398, of uncertain origin, but possibly formed from *strip*² long narrow piece (though unrecorded before 1459) + -ling. The underlying sense would be that of one who is slender as a strip, and whose figure is not yet filled out.

strive *v.* Probably before 1200 *striven* to quarrel, contend; later, to try hard, endeavor (before 1325); borrowed from Old French *estriver* to quarrel, dispute, from *estrif*, *estrit* quarrel, STRIFE.

strobe *n.* 1942, shortened form of earlier *stroboscope* instrument for studying motion by periodically interrupted light (1896); formed from Greek *strōbos* act of whirling + English -scope.

stroke¹ *n.* act of striking, blow. Before 1300 *stroke*; probably from Old English **strāc* (from Proto-Germanic **straikaz*), the source of the verb *strācian* STROKE², and cognate with Middle Low German *streke* blow, stroke, Middle High German *streich* (modern German *Streich*), and Old High German *strihhan* pass over lightly, stroke. Related to STREAK and STRIKE. The sense of a mark made by a pen, etc., is first recorded in 1567. The striking of a clock is first recorded in 1436; a feat or achieve-

ment (as in a *stroke of genius*) in 1672; a single pull of an oar, in 1583, and a single movement of machinery (as in the *stroke of a piston*) in 1731. The sense of an apoplectic seizure is first recorded in 1599. —**v.** 1597, to mark with strokes; from the noun.

stroke² *v.* pass the hand gently over. About 1300 *stroken*; developed from Old English *strācian* (before 899), formed from Old English **strāc* stroke; related to *strācan* pass over lightly; see STRIKE; also related to STREAK. Old English *strācian* is cognate with Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *strēken* to stroke (modern Dutch *streeken*), and Old High German *streichhōn* (modern German *streichen*), from Proto-Germanic **straikō-janan*. —**n.** 1631, from *stroke*², *v.* and related to *stroke*¹, *v.*

stroll *v.* 1603, to roam, wander; perhaps borrowed from dialectal German *strollen*, variant of German *strolchen* to stroll, loaf, from *strolch* vagabond, vagrant; also fortuneteller; perhaps from Italian *astrologo* astrologer. —**n.** 1814, a leisurely walk; from the verb. An earlier sense of itinerant actor is found in 1623. —**stroller** *n.* (1608)

strong *adj.* Probably before 1200, developed from Old English *strang* (about 725, in *Beowulf*, from Proto-Germanic **stranzaz*), cognate with Old Saxon *strang* strong, bold, severe, Middle Dutch *strenge* (modern Dutch *streng* strict), Middle Low German *strenge*, Old High German *strango* strongly, severely, *strenge* strong, severe, strict (modern German *streng*), and Old Icelandic *strangr* strong, hard, severe; related to Old English *strenge* cord, rope, sinew; see STRING. —**stronghold** *n.* Before 1325, formed from *strong* strong + *hold* fortified place, refuge.

strontium *n.* 1808, New Latin, from *Strontian*, in allusion to a parish in Argyllshire, Scotland, location of the lead mines where strontium was first found; for suffix see -IUM.

strap *n.* 1345–49 *strope* loop or strap on a harness; probably borrowed from Old French *estrop*; see STRAP. The leather strap used for sharpening razors is first recorded in 1702. —**v.** 1841, from the noun.

strophe *n.* 1603, borrowed from Greek *strophē* stanza; originally, a turning, referring to a section of an ancient Greek ode sung by the chorus while turning in one direction, from *strophēin* to turn.

structure *n.* Probably 1440, building materials; borrowed from Latin *strūctūra* a fitting together, adjustment, building, from *strūct-*, past participle stem of *struere* to pile, build, assemble, related to *struēs* heap; for suffix see -URE. The sense of something built, a building, is first recorded in 1615, and that of the manner of construction, in 1650. —**v.** Before 1693, from the noun. —**structural** *adj.* (1835)

struggle *v.* About 1395 *struglen* to contend physically, grapple; probably a frequentative formation of uncertain origin; for suffix see -LE³. —**n.** 1692, from the verb.

strum *v.* 1775, play on a musical instrument by running the fingers across the strings, possibly imitative of the sound so made. —**n.** About 1793, from the verb.

strumpet *n.* About 1325, of uncertain origin. A supposed connection (through Medieval Latin) with Latin *stuprāta*, feminine past participle of *stuprāre* have illicit sexual relations with, has not been established.

strut¹ *v.* walk in vain, important manner. Before 1300 *strouten* stick out, protrude; later, to bluster, threaten (about 1300), and *struten* (before 1325); developed from Old English *strūtian* to stand out stiffly (about 1000, from Proto-Germanic **strūt-*); cognate with Middle High German *striuzen* to contend, Middle High German and modern German *strotzen* to bulge, swell, Norwegian and Danish *strutte* to swell, and Swedish *strutta* to strut, trip. The sense of display one's clothes proudly or vainly is found about 1399. —**n.** 1607, from the verb.

strut² *n.* supporting piece, brace. 1587, of uncertain origin; perhaps related to **STRUT**¹ (compare Old Icelandic *strútr* horn-like headdress, Norwegian *strut* a spout, nozzle, Low German *strutt* stiff, rigid, ultimately from Proto-Germanic **strūt-* probably in the sense of to stand out, protrude).

strychnine *n.* 1819, borrowing of French *strychnine*, from New Latin *Strychnos*, the genus name of a plant (*nux vomica*) from which the poison is obtained, from Greek *strychnon* a kind of nightshade; for suffix see **-INE**².

stub *n.* About 1250 *stubbe* stalk of grain or flax; later, stump of a tree (1324); developed from Old English (967) *stybb* stump of a tree, from Proto-Germanic **stubbjaz*; cognate with Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *stubbe* stump, and Old Icelandic *stúfr* stub, piece, *stubbi*, *stubbr* stump (Norwegian and Swedish *stubb*, *stubbe*, Danish *stub*, *stubbe*), from Proto-Germanic **stubbjaz*. —**v.** About 1450 *stubben* to dig up stumps and trees; from the noun. The sense of strike (one's toe) against something is first recorded in 1848. —**stubby** *adj.* 1572, short and thick or broad; earlier, ground covered with stubble (about 1410).

stubble *n.* About 1300 *stouple* stalk of grain; later *stubil* the ends of grain stalks after reaping (about 1340), and *stuble* (about 1350); borrowed from Old French *estuble* stubble, from Latin *stupla*, reduced form of *stupula*, variant of *stipula* stem, stalk (of hay), related to *stipes* trunk, stick; see **STIPULE**. The sense of bristle, is first recorded before 1596.

stubborn *adj.* About 1395 *stibourne* unyielding, obstinate; later *styborne*, *stuborn* (about 1449); of uncertain origin.

stucco *n.* 1598, borrowing of Italian *stucco*, from a Germanic source (compare Old High German *stukki* crust, piece, fragment; see **STOCK**). —**v.** 1726, from the noun.

stud¹ *n.* nailhead, knob, etc. 1277 *stude* upright piece of timber (in *studewerk*); developed from Old English (about 850) *studu* pillar, prop, post; cognate with Middle High German *stud* post, prop, and Old Icelandic *stodh* (Swedish *stöd*), from Proto-Germanic **stud-*. —**v.** 1505–06, set with studs; from the noun.

stud² *n.* horses used for breeding. Probably before 1200 *stod meare* mare kept for breeding; later *stode* place where horses are kept for breeding (before 1250); developed from Old English

stōd place where horses are kept for breeding (about 1000, from Proto-Germanic **stōdō*); cognate with Middle Low German *stōt* collection of horses, Old High German *stuot* (modern German *Stute* mare), and Old Icelandic *stōdh* stud of mares (Danish *stod* stud of 12 horses); related to Old English *standan* **STAND**. The spelling *stud* is found in 1252–53. The sense of a male horse kept for breeding, is first recorded in 1803, and that of any young man, in 1929.

student *n.* Probably before 1425, one who pursues knowledge, scholar; alteration (influenced by Latin *studēre* to study) of *studient* (before 1398); borrowed from Old French *estudiant*, *estudiant* one who is studying; also, present participle of *estudier* to study, from Medieval Latin *studiare* to study, from Latin *studium* **STUDY**; for suffix see **-ENT**.

studio *n.* 1819, borrowing of Italian *studio* room for study, study, from Latin *studium* **STUDY**. The meaning of a room or building for the filming of motion pictures is first recorded in 1911, and that of a place for radio broadcasting in 1922, for television broadcasting in 1938.

study *n.* About 1300 *studie* pursuit of knowledge, effort to learn; also, room in which to read or study (about 1303); borrowed from Old French *estudie* application to learn, study, from Latin *studium* study, application; originally, eagerness, related to *studēre* to study, be eager, apply oneself; for suffix see **-Y**³. The sense of a subject of study, is first recorded in 1477. —**v.** About 1125 *studien* devote oneself to something; later, apply oneself to learning (about 1303); borrowed from Old French *estudier* to study, from Medieval Latin *studiare*, from Latin *studium* **STUDY**. —**studious** *adj.* Before 1349 *studiouse* zealous, later *studious* eager to learn (before 1382); borrowed from Latin *studiosus* eager, assiduous, from *studium* eagerness, zeal, study; for suffix see **-OUS**.

stuff *n.* Before 1338 *stof* quilted material worn under chain mail; later *stoffe* material, cloth (1345–49); household goods, equipment (1395); borrowed from Old French *estoffe* quilted material, furniture, provisions, from *estoffer* to equip or stock, probably from Old High German *stopfōn* to plug, stuff, or from a Frankish word related to Old High German *stopfōn*; see **STOP**. The spelling *stuffe* is first recorded probably about 1390. —**v.** Probably about 1350 *stuffen* to furnish, supply, fill, cram; borrowed from Old French *estoffer* to equip, stock. —**stuffing** *n.* (1530, material used to fill or pack something; 1538, seasoned mixture used to stuff fowl before cooking) —**stuffy** *adj.* 1551–52, full of stuff; 1831, poorly ventilated (as in a *stuffy little room*); 1895, pompous, smug.

stultify *v.* 1766, (in law) allege to be of unsound mind; borrowed from Late Latin *stultificāre* turn into foolishness, from a lost adjective **stultificus* rendering foolish, from Latin *stultus* foolish + the root of *facere* to make; for suffix see **-FY**. The meaning of cause to appear foolish or absurd, is first recorded in 1809. —**stultification** *n.* 1832, formed from English *stultify*, on analogy of *mortify*, *mortification*, etc.; for suffix see **-FICATION**.

stumble *v.* About 1303 *stomblen* to lose one's footing morally; in part possibly influenced by *stumpen* to stumble, but probably

borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare dialectal Norwegian *stumla*, dialectal Swedish *stambla* to stumble), probably from a variant of the Germanic base **stam-*, the source of Old English *stamerian* to STAMMER. The literal sense of miss one's footing, trip, is first recorded about 1325. —**n.** 1547, from the verb.

stump *n.* Probably about 1350 *stompe* remaining part of a severed arm, leg, etc., stump of a limb; later *stumpe* tree stump (1440); cognate with Middle Low German *stump* and Middle Dutch *stomp* stump, Old High German *stumpf* stump (modern German *Stumpf*), and Old High German *stumpf* mutilated (modern German *stumpf* blunt, dull), from Proto-Germanic **stump-*. —**v.** Before 1250 *stumpen* to stumble over a tree stump or other obstacle; perhaps from *stomp* as a variant of *stamp*. The sense of walk clumsily or heavily is recorded in 1600, and the sense of cause to be at a loss, baffle, in 1812.

stun *v.* Before 1325 *stunen* to daze, knock unconscious; probably borrowed from Old French *estoner*, *estuner* to stun, see ASTONISH. —**stunning** *adj.* 1667, dazing, astounding; later, splendid (1849–50); from the present participle of *stun*.

stunt *v.* 1659, to check in growth, dwarf, from bring to an abrupt stand, nonplus (1603), and to irritate, provoke (1583); verb use of Middle English adjective *stunnt* foolish (probably about 1200); developed from Old English (about 960) *stunt* short-witted, stupid, foolish, from Proto-Germanic **stuntaz*. The Old English word is cognate with Middle High German *stunz* short, blunt, Old Icelandic *stuttr* scanty, short, and more distantly with Old Icelandic *stinnr* stiff, hard, and Old English *stith*, from Proto-Germanic **stenthaz*.

stunt *n.* 1878, feat to attract attention; originally college athletics slang, of uncertain origin. —**v.** perform a stunt or stunts. 1914 (implied in *stunting*), from the noun.

stupefy *v.* Probably before 1425 *stupifien* make senseless, deaden; also *stupefien*; borrowed from Middle French *stupéfier*, from Latin *stupefacere* make stupid or senseless, from *stupere* be stunned + *facere* to make; for suffix see -FY. —**stupefaction** *n.* Probably before 1425 *stupefaccioun* property of making senseless; borrowed from French *stupéfaction* act or condition of stupefying, or directly from New Latin *stupefactionem* (nominative *stupefactio*), from Latin *stupefact-*, past participle stem of *stupefacere* stupefy; for suffix see -TION. The sense of astonishment is found in 1597.

stupendous *adj.* 1666, amazing, marvelous, from earlier *stupendous* (1547); borrowed from Late Latin *stupendus* to be wondered at, gerundive form of Latin *stupere* be stunned; for suffix see -OUS, -IOUS.

stupid *adj.* 1541, slow or dull in thinking; borrowed from Middle French *stupide* and directly from Latin *stupidus* struck senseless, amazed, confounded, stupid, from *stupere* be stunned, amazed, confounded. The sense of characterized by stupidity or dullness is first recorded in English in 1621. —**stupidity** *n.* 1541, borrowed from Latin *stupiditas* senselessness, dullness, from *stupidus* stupid; for suffix see -ITY. A stupid idea or action is first recorded in 1633.

stupor *n.* Before 1398, borrowed from Latin *stupor* insensibility, numbness, dullness, from *stupere* be stunned; for suffix see -OR¹.

sturdy *adj.* Probably before 1300 *stourdi* hard to manage, reckless, violent; borrowed from Old French *estourdi* violent; originally, dazed, past participle of *estourdir* to daze, from Vulgar Latin **exturdire*, conjectured as if from Latin *ex-* + *turdus* a thrush (characterized as dizzy: compare Italian *tordo* thrush, simpleton, or French *soûl comme une grive* drunk as a thrush). The sense of solidly built, strong, hardy, is first recorded about 1386.

sturgeon *n.* About 1300 *sturgiun*, borrowed through Anglo-French *sturgeon*, *esturgeoun*, from Old French *esturjon*, *esturjon*, *esturion*, from a Germanic source (compare Old High German *sturio* sturgeon, modern German *Stör*, modern Dutch *steur*, Old English *styria*, and Old Icelandic *styrja*).

stutter *v.* 1570, frequentative verb form of *stutt* (before 1500), from Middle English *stutten* to stutter, stammer (about 1395); cognate with Middle Low German *stōten* to knock, strike against, collide, Old High German *stōzan* to push, shove (modern German *stossen*), and Norwegian and dialectal Swedish *stotre* to stammer, from Proto-Germanic **staut-* push, thrust. —**n.** 1854, from the verb.

sty *n.* pen for pigs. Before 1200 *sti*; developed from Old English *stī*, *stīg* hall, pen, as in *stī-fearh* sty-pig (from Proto-Germanic **stijan*); cognate with Middle Low German *stege* and Middle Dutch *stije* sty (modern Dutch *stijg*), and Old Icelandic *-stī*, as in *svīn-stī* swine-sty, *stīa* pen, fold (Danish and Norwegian *sti*, Swedish *stia*).

sty *n.* inflamed swelling on the eyelid. 1617 *stye*, probably shortened from *styan* (1601), from *styanne*, literally, sty-eye (1440); developed from Old English *stīgend* sty; literally, riser, from present participle of *stīgan* go up, rise.

style *n.* Before 1325 *stīle* designation, title; later, manner or mode of expression (before 1338); borrowed from Old French *estīle* a stake, pale, from Latin *stilus* stake, instrument for writing, manner of writing, mode of expression.

The spelling *style* (with *y*), in English and French, is by association with Greek *stýlos* pillar. The meaning of mode or fashion of life, is first recorded in 1770, and mode of dress, in 1814. The botanical sense is first recorded in 1682. —**v.** 1508, to address with a title; from the noun. The sense of design in a fashionable style appears in 1934. —**stylish** *adj.* (1797) —**stylist** *n.* 1795, writer as characterized by his style; 1937, person who styles hair. —**stylize** *v.* (1898)

stylus *n.* 1728, stemlike part of a flower pistil; New Latin, alteration of Latin *stilus* stake, stylus. The spelling with *y* was influenced by Greek *stýlos* pillar. The meaning of instrument for writing appeared in 1807.

stymie *n.* 1857, condition in which an opponent's golf ball blocks the hole; perhaps from earlier Scottish *stymie* person who sees poorly (1616); formed from *stīme* the least bit (before 1325) + *-ie*. —**v.** 1857, (in golf) to block with a stymie; from

the same source as the noun. The general sense of block, hinder, thwart, is first recorded in 1902.

styptic *adj.* Before 1400 *stiptik* astringent, acidic, styptic; borrowed from Old French *stiptique*, or directly from Latin *styp-ticus* astringent, from Greek *stýptikós*, from *stýphein* to constrict, draw together; for suffix see -IC. The spelling *styptic* (with *y*) was influenced by the Latin and Greek forms. —**n.** 1392 *stiptice*, borrowed from Late Latin *stypticum* an astringent, from Greek *stýptikón*, neuter of *stýptikós*, *adj.*

su- a form of the prefix *sub-* before *sp-*, in some words of Latin origin, as in *suspect*; see *SUB-*.

suasion *n.* persuasion. About 1380 *suasioun*, borrowed probably from Old French *suasion*, and directly from Latin *suasiōnem* (nominative *suasiō*) an advising, a counseling, from *suās-*, past participle stem of *suādere* to urge, persuade; for suffix see -SION. —**suasive** *adj.* 1601, borrowed from Middle French *suasif* (feminine *suasive*), and perhaps formed in English from Latin *suāsus*, past participle + English *-ive*.

suave *adj.* About 1501, gracious, kindly; borrowed from Middle French *suave*, from Latin *suāvis* agreeable. The sense of smoothly agreeable or polite is first recorded in 1831.

sub¹ *prep.* the Latin preposition for “under,” used in various phrases, such as: —**sub rosa** 1654, privately, secretly; literally, under the rose; so called because the rose was regarded as a symbol of secrecy. —**sub voce** 1859, under the word or heading.

sub² *v.* 1853, shortened form of *substitute*, *v.* —**n.** 1830, shortened form of *substitute*, *n.*

sub- a prefix acquired in numerous words of Latin origin and productive in English, meaning: 1 under, below, as in *substandard* = *belowstandard*. 2 down, further, again, as in *subdivide* = *divide again*. 3a near, nearly, less than, as in *subtropical* = *nearly tropical*. b incompletely, partially, as in *subconscious* = *incompletely conscious*. 4a lower, subordinate, as in *sublease* = *subordinate lease*. b resulting from further division, as in *subsection* = *a section resulting from further division of something*. 5 slightly, somewhat, as in *subacid* = *slightly acid*. Borrowed from Latin *sub-*, from *sub*, *prep.*, under, up to, towards; see *UP*. Assimilations or changes in the final consonant of the prefix that took place in Latin survive in English in the forms *suc-*, *suf-*, *sug-*, *sum-*, *sup-*, and *sur-*; an assumed early variant *sup-* remained in Latin and in English as *sus-* before some words beginning with the consonants *c*, *p*, or *t*, and simply *su-* before *sp-*, as in *suspect*.

subaltern *adj.* 1581, borrowed from Middle French *subalterne*, and probably directly from Late Latin *subalternus* (Latin *sub-* under + *alternus* every other, as in every other one; *ALTER-NATE*). —**n.** 1605, subordinate officer, from the adjective.

subconscious *adj.* 1823, (implied in *subconsciously*) not wholly conscious; formed from English *sub-* incompletely + *conscious*. —**n.** the subconscious. 1890, from the adjective.

subdivision *n.* 1553, one of the parts into which something is divided; formed from English *sub-* + *division*.

subdue *v.* Before 1387 *sodewen*, *sudewen* conquer, overcome; later *subdewen* (probably before 1475); borrowed from Old French *souduire* deceive, seduce, from Latin *subducere* draw, lead away, withdraw (*sub-* from under + *ducere* to lead). Latin influence is probably found in the English meaning, altered by Latin *subdere* to subdue (*sub-* under + *-dere* to put).

subject *n.* Before 1333 *sugge* person under the rule of another, subordinate; later *subgit* (about 1380), *subiecte* (before 1398); borrowed from Old French *suget*, *subject*, later *subject* a subject person or thing, representing various stages of borrowing from Latin *subjectus* noun use of the past participle of *subicere* to place under (*sub-* under + *-icere*, combining form of *jacere* to throw).

Some of the specific senses as in logic and philosophy, are early borrowings in Middle English from Latin *subjectum* foundation or subject of a proposition, from neuter of *subjectus*, past participle, and eventually this spelling replaced the Middle English spelling from French in all uses. The Latin is a loan translation of Greek *tò hypokείμενον*, literally, that which lies beneath. —**adj.** Before 1338 *suget* owing allegiance or obedience (to); later *subgit* (before 1393), and *subject* (about 1386); borrowed from Old French *suget*, *subgiest*, *subject*, from Latin *subjectus* inferior in status, subject, from past participle of *subicere* to place under. The meaning of prone (to), likely to have, is first recorded in Middle English about 1380. —**v.** before 1382 *subjecten* to subjugate; borrowed from Old French *subjecter* to subject, subjugate, from Latin *subjectare* throw under, subjugate, frequentative form of *subicere* to place under. The meaning of expose, lay open (to), is first recorded in 1549. —**subjection** *n.* About 1375 *subieccioun* dominion, control, domination; borrowed from Old French *subjection*, from Latin *subjectionem* (nominative *subiectiō*) a placing under, reducing to obedience, from *subject-*, past participle stem of *subicere* to place under; for suffix see -TION. —**subjective** *adj.* Probably before 1450 *subiective* submissive, obedient; borrowed from Latin *subjectivus*, from *subjectus* subject, *n.*; for suffix see -IVE. The meaning of existing in the mind is first recorded in English in 1707.

subjugate *v.* Probably before 1425 *subiugaten*; possibly a back formation from *subjugation* (Middle English *subiugacioun*), influenced by Latin *subjugātus*, past participle of *subjugāre* subdue; literally, bring under a yoke (*sub-* under + *jugum* YOKE); for suffix see -ATE. —**subjugation** *n.* 1373 *subiugacion* act of subjugating, subjection; borrowed from Late Latin *subjugātiōnem* (nominative *subjugātiō*), from Latin *subjugāre*; for suffix see -ATION.

subjunctive *adj.* 1530, borrowed from Late Latin *subjunctivus* serving to join, connecting, (in grammar) subjunctive, from Latin *subjunct-*, past participle stem of *subjungere* to append, add at the end, place under (*sub-* under + *ungere* to join; see YOKE); for suffix see -IVE. Late Latin *subjunctivus* is probably a loan translation of Greek *hypotaktikós* subordinated, so called because in Greek the subjunctive mood is used almost exclusively in subordinate clauses. —**n.** 1622, from the adjective.

sublet *v.* 1766, to lease to a subtenant; formed from English *sub-* + *let*, *v.*

sublimation *n.* Before 1393 *sublimacion*, process of purifying by heating into a vapor; borrowed from Old French *sublimation*, or directly from Medieval Latin *sublimationem* (nominative *sublimatio*) refinement; literally, a lifting up, deliverance, from *sublimare* refine or purify by sublimation, from Latin *sublimāre* to raise, elevate, from *sublimis* lofty, **SUBLIME**; for suffix see **-ATION**. The sense in psychology of changing an undesirable impulse into a form acceptable to the conscious mind, is first recorded in 1910; probably influenced by *subliminal*. —**sublimate** *n.* 1543, substance obtained by sublimation; borrowed from Medieval Latin *sublimatum*, from neuter past participle of *sublimare* refine or purify by sublimation. —**v.** 1591, purify, refine, from the adjective (1562) with the meaning purified or refined by sublimation; probably borrowed from Medieval Latin *sublimatus*, past participle of *sublimare*; or the verb may be a back formation in English of *sublimation*.

sublime *adj.* 1586, lofty, noble; borrowed from Middle French *sublime*, or directly from Latin *sublimis* uplifted, high, lofty; possibly originally, sloping up to the lintel (*sub-* up to + *līmen* lintel). —**v.** About 1395 *sublimen* to subject (a substance) to sublimation; borrowed from Old French *sublimier*, from Medieval Latin *sublimare* refine or purify by sublimation. The sense of exalt or elevate is first recorded in 1609. —**sublimity** *n.* Probably about 1425 *sublimitee* worthiness, nobility; borrowed from Latin *sublimitās* loftiness, elevation, from *sublimis* lofty, sublime; for suffix see **-ITY**.

subliminal *adj.* 1886, below the threshold of consciousness; formed from English *sub-* + Latin *līmen* (genitive *līminis*) threshold + English *-al*¹, apparently as a loan translation of the German *unter der Schwelle (des Bewusstseins)* beneath the threshold (of consciousness).

submarine *adj.* 1648, formed from English *sub-* + *marine*. —**n.** 1703, organism that lives under water; from the adjective. Mention of a boat that can go under water is first found in 1648, later recorded as *submarine boat* (1807), and in the noun use *submarine* (1899).

submerge *v.* 1606, borrowed from French *submerger*, or possibly directly from Latin *submergere* (*sub-* under + *mergere* to plunge, immerse).

submerge *v.* 1727, (implied in *submersed*), probably a back formation from earlier *submersion*, influenced by Latin *submersus*, past participle of *submergere* **SUBMERGE**. —**submersible** *adj.* 1866, that may be submerged, borrowed from French *submersible*, and formed from English *submerge* + *-ible*. —**n.** 1900, submersible boat, from the adjective. —**submersion** *n.* 1611, act of submerging; borrowed from French *submersion*, and directly from Late Latin *submersiōnem* (nominative *submersiō*), from Latin *submers-*, past participle stem of *submergere* to sink, **SUBMERGE**; for suffix see **-SION**.

submission *n.* About 1390 *submissioun* act of submitting; borrowed from Old French *submission*, or directly from Latin *submissiōnem* (nominative *submissiō*) a lowering, sinking, yielding, from *submiss-*, past participle stem of *submittere* lower, reduce, yield; see **SUBMIT**; for suffix see **-SION**. The sense of humble obedience, is first recorded about 1449. —**sub-**

missive *adj.* Before 1586, yielding, obedient; formed from Latin *submitissus*, past participle + English *-ive*.

submit *v.* About 1380 *submitten* to yield or surrender; borrowed from Latin *submittere* to yield, lower, let down, put under, reduce (*sub-* under + *mittere* let go, send). The sense of refer to another for consideration, etc., is first recorded in 1560.

subordinate *adj.* About 1449 *subordinat* inferior, lower, secondary; borrowed from Medieval Latin *subordinatus* placed in a lower order, made subject, past participle of *subordinare* place in a lower order (Latin *sub-* under + *ordināre* arrange, **ORDAIN**); for suffix see **-ATE**¹. —**n.** 1640, from the adjective. —**v.** 1597, borrowed from Medieval Latin *subordinatus*, past participle of *subordinare* place in a lower order. —**subordination** *n.* Before 1600, condition of being subordinate; probably formed in English from *subordinate*, *v.* + *-ion*, on the model of Medieval Latin *subordinationem* (nominative *subordinatio*).

suborn *v.* 1534, borrowed from Middle French *suborner*, or directly from Latin *subornāre* suborn; originally, equip (*sub-* under, secretly + *ornāre* equip, related to *ordō* **ORDER**). The sense of persuade someone to commit perjury is first recorded in 1557.

subpoena or **subpena** *n.* 1422–61 *sub pena*; borrowing of Medieval Latin *sub poena* under penalty, the first words of the writ (Latin *sub* under + *poenā*, ablative of *poena* penalty). —**v.** 1640, from the noun.

subscribe *v.* 1425 *subscriben* to sign at the bottom of a document; borrowed from Latin *subscribere* write underneath, sign one's name (*sub-* underneath + *scribere* write). The meaning of give one's consent, agree to, is first recorded in 1549; that of contribute money to (a fund, society, etc.) in 1640; and put one's name down as a regular buyer of a publication, in 1711, from the noun *subscription*. —**subscriber** *n.* (1599)

subscript *n.* Before 1704, something written underneath; borrowed from Latin *subscriptus*, past participle of *subscribere* write underneath; see **SUBSCRIBE**. —**adj.** written underneath. 1871, from the noun.

subscription *n.* 1409 *subscripcion*; borrowed from Middle French *subscription*, and directly from Latin *subscriptiōnem* (nominative *subscriptiō*) anything written underneath, a signature, from *subscript-*, past participle stem of *subscribere* **SUBSCRIBE**; for suffix see **-TION**. The meaning of subscribing to a periodic publication is first recorded in 1679.

subsequent *adj.* About 1450, coming after, following; borrowed from Middle French *subséquent*, and directly from Latin *subsequentem* (nominative *subsequēns*), present participle of *subsequi* to follow closely (*sub-* closely, up to + *sequi* follow); for suffix see **-ENT**.

subservient *adj.* 1632, useful, serviceable; borrowed from Latin *subservientem* (nominative *subserviēns*), present participle of *subservire* assist, lend support (*sub-* under + *servire* **SERVE**); for suffix see **-ENT**. The meaning of slavishly obedient, servile, is first recorded in 1794.

subside *v.* 1681, to sink or fall to the bottom; possibly a back formation from *subsidence*, influenced by Latin *subsidiere* settle, sink, sit down, or remain (*sub-* down + *sidere* to settle, related to *sedere* SIT). The meaning of abate, is first recorded before 1700. —**subsidence** *n.* 1646, sediment; later, a settling to the bottom (1656); borrowed through French *subsidence*, and directly from Latin *subsidentia* sediment, from *subsīdēs*, present participle of *subsidiere* settle or sink down; for suffix see -ENCE.

subsidiary *adj.* 1543, supplementary; borrowed, through Middle French *subsidaire*, and directly from Latin *subsidiarius* serving to assist or supplement, from *subsidium* help, aid; see SUBSIDY; for suffix see -ARY. The sense of subordinate, secondary, is first recorded in 1831. —**n.** 1603, from the adjective.

subsidy *n.* Before 1387 *subsidie*, borrowed through Anglo-French *subsidie*, *subside*, from Old French *subside* help, aid, contribution, from Latin *subsidiū* help, aid, assistance, (military) reinforcements, from **subsidiere* (*sub-* behind, near + *sedere* to SIT). The sense of a contribution of money is first recorded in 1421. —**subsidize** *v.* (1795)

subsist *v.* 1549, to have real existence; borrowed from Middle French *subsister* continue to exist, and directly from Latin *subsistere* stand firm, take a stand, support, continue (*sub-* under, up to + *sistere* to assume a standing position, from *stare* to stand). In some senses the word is probably a back formation from English *subsistence*, but in the meaning of continue to exist, remain in use or force (about 1600), the word is most likely a borrowing from French. The sense of support oneself, make a living, is first attested in 1646. —**subsistence** *n.* Probably before 1425, real existence; borrowed from Late Latin *subsistentia* substance, reality, from Latin *subsistēs*, present participle of *subsistere* stand still or firm; for suffix see -ENCE. Late Latin *subsistentia* is a loan translation of Greek *hypóstasis* substance, foundation, support. The sense of means of livelihood is first recorded in 1639.

subsonic *adj.* 1937, formed from English *sub-* below + *sonic*. Compare SUPERSONIC.

substance *n.* Probably before 1300 *substaunce* essential nature, matter, material; borrowed from Old French *substance*, from Latin *substantia* being, essence, material, from *substāns*, present participle of *substāre* stand firm, be under or present (*sub-* up to, under + *stāre* to stand); for suffix see -ANCE. The sense of possessions, means, wealth (as in *a person of substance*) is first recorded before 1325. The sense of any particular kind of matter is found before 1393.

substantial *adj.* 1340 *substancel* ample, abundant; borrowed from Old French *substancel*, and directly from Latin *substantialis* having substance or reality, material, from *substantia* SUBSTANCE; for suffix see -AL¹.

substantiate *v.* 1657, give substance to, make real or substantial; borrowed from New Latin *substantiatus*, past participle of *substantiare*, from Latin *substantia* SUBSTANCE; for suffix see -ATE¹. The sense of establish by evidence, prove, is first recorded in 1803. —**substantiation** *n.* 1760–72, embodiment;

formed from English *substantiate* + *-ion*. The sense of act of substantiating or proving is first recorded in 1861.

substantive *n.* Probably before 1378 *substantif*; borrowed from Old French *substantif* (feminine *substantive*), from Late Latin *substantivum*, as used in *nōmen substantivum* name or word of substance, neuter of Latin *substantivus* of substance or being, from *substantia* SUBSTANCE; for suffix see -IVE. —**adj.** About 1450, independent, self-sufficient, self-existent; borrowed from Middle French *substantif* (feminine *substantive*) expressing existence, from Latin *substantivus* of substance. The meaning in grammar “acting as a noun” is first recorded in 1509.

substitute *n.* 1413, person acting in place of another, deputy; in part perhaps a back formation from *substitution*, and in part borrowed from Middle French *substitut*, and directly from Latin *substitūtus*, past participle of *substituere* put in place of another, place under or next to (*sub-* under + *statuere* set up). —**adj.** Before 1425, borrowed from Latin *substitūtus*, past participle; see noun. —**v.** 1532, probably a verb use of *substitute*, *n.*, modeled on Latin *substitūtus*, past participle. —**substitution** *n.* Before 1393 *substitution* appointment of a deputy, delegation; borrowed from Old French *substitution*, and from Late Latin *substitutiōnem* (nominative *substitutiō*) a putting in place of another, from Latin *substitūt-*, past participle stem of *substituere* put in place of another; for suffix see -TION. An act of substituting, is first recorded in English in 1612.

subsume *v.* 1535, bring under, append; borrowed from New Latin *subsumere* (Latin *sub-* under + *sūmere* to take). The sense of bring under a larger classification is first recorded in 1812.

subtend *v.* 1570, borrowed from Latin *subtendere* (*sub-* under + *tendere* to stretch).

subter- a prefix meaning beneath, as in *subterposition*, or secretly, as in *subterfuge*. Borrowed from Latin *subter* beneath, secretly, related to *sub* under, beneath.

subterfuge *n.* 1573, borrowed from Middle French *subterfuge*, or directly from Late Latin *subterfugium* an evasion, from Latin *subterfugere* to evade, escape, flee by stealth (*subter-* beneath, secretly + *fugere* flee).

subterranean *adj.* 1603, formed from Latin *subterrāneus* underground (*sub-* under + *terra* earth) + English *-an*.

subtle *adj.* About 1375 *subtile* delicate, elusive, crafty; borrowed from Old French *subtil*, from Latin *subtilis* fine, thin, delicate; see SUBTLE. The sense of not dense, is first recorded in Middle English before 1393. —**subtlety** *n.* 1375 *subtilite* skill, cleverness, cunning; borrowed from Old French *subtilite* skill, cleverness, *sutelite* acuteness, from Latin *subtilitās* fineness, slenderness, acuteness, from *subtilis* subtle; for suffix see -ITY. *Subtile* is a form that developed in Middle English and remained as a parallel form to *subtle* into the 1600's, and in some instances (such as fine, delicate, thin, and acute, keen) into the 20th century.

subtitle *n.* 1825, subordinate or additional title; formed from English *sub-* + *title*. The sense of a caption on a motion-

picture screen is found in 1909. —**v.** provide with a subtitle. 1891, from the noun.

subtle *adj.* Before 1325 *sutile* clever, ingenious, crafty, also *sotil*; borrowed from Old French *soutil*, *sutil*, from Latin *subtilis* fine, thin, delicate, finely woven (*sub-* under + *-tilis*, from *tēla* web and *texere* to weave). The spelling *subtle* (with *b*) attests to confusion with *subtile* and influence of the Latin form. —**subtlety** *n.* About 1330 *sutelte* subtle quality; borrowed from Old French *sutilté*, *soutilté*, from Latin *subtilitās* fineness, slenderness, acuteness, from *subtilis* subtle; for suffix see *-TY*². —**subtly** *adv.* Before 1333, in a subtle manner; formed in Middle English from *sutile* + *-lich* *-ly*¹.

subtraction *n.* About 1400 *subtraction* withdrawal, removal; borrowed from Late Latin *subtractionem* (nominative *subtractio*) a drawing back, taking away, from *subtract-*, past participle stem of *subtrahere* take away, draw off (*sub-* from under + *trahere* to pull, draw); for suffix see *-TION*. The mathematical sense is first recorded about 1425. —**subtract** *v.* 1533, withdraw, remove, probably a back formation from *subtraction*, by influence of Latin *subtract-*, past participle stem of *subtrahere* take away. The mathematical sense is first recorded in 1557 from the use in English of *subtraction*.

subtrahend *n.* 1674, borrowed from Latin *subtrahendus numerus* number to be subtracted, gerundive form of *subtrahere* SUBTRACT.

suburb *n.* Before 1325 *suburbe* residential area outside a town or city; borrowed from Old French *suburbe*, from Latin *suburbium* an outlying part of a city (*sub-* below, near + *urbs*, genitive *urbis*, city). —**suburban** *adj.* Before 1625, borrowed from Latin *suburbānus* near a city (*sub-* + *urbānus* urban). —**suburbanite** *n.* 1890, formed from English *suburban* + *-ite*¹. —**suburbia** *n.* 1896, formed from English *suburb* + Latin *-ia* *-y*³; probably influenced by *utopia*.

subvention *n.* Probably before 1430 *subvencion* subsidy levied by the state; borrowed from Middle French *subvention*, or directly from Late Latin *subventionem* (nominative *subventio*) assistance, from Latin *subvent-*, past participle stem of *subvenire* come to one's aid (*sub-* up to + *venire* come); for suffix see *-TION*. The sense of money granted to support an institution, cause, or undertaking, is found in 1851.

subversion *n.* Before 1382 *subversioun* overthrow, destruction; borrowed from Old French *subversion*, from Late Latin *subversionem* (nominative *subversio*) an overthrow, ruin, destruction, from Latin *subvers-*, past participle stem of *subvertere* SUBVERT; for suffix see *-SION*. The sense of overthrow of a law, rule, system, etc., is found in Middle English in 1399. —**subversive** *adj.* 1644, probably formed from Latin *subvers-*, past participle stem of *subvertere* SUBVERT + English *-ive*; or possibly formed from English *subversion* + *-ive*. —**n.** 1887, from the adjective.

subvert *v.* About 1375 *subverten* to overthrow, ruin, destroy, undermine; borrowed from Latin *subvertere* (*sub-* under + *vertere* to turn).

subway *n.* 1825, underground passage; formed from English

sub- + *way*. The underground railway in a city is first recorded in 1893.

suc- a form of the prefix *sub-* before *c* in some words of Latin origin, as in *succeed*. Formed in Latin by assimilation of *b* to the following consonant (*c*).

succeed *v.* 1375 *succeden* come next after, take the place of another; borrowed from Old French *succeder*, and directly from Latin *succedere* come after, go near to (*suc-* up, near + *cedere* go). The sense of turn out well, have a favorable result, is first recorded in Middle English before 1475.

success *n.* 1537, result, outcome; borrowed from Latin *successus* (genitive *successus*) an advance, succession, happy outcome, from *succedere* come after, SUCCEED. The meaning of accomplishment of a desired end is first recorded before 1586.

succession *n.* Before 1325, act, right, or process of succeeding to an office, property, or rank; borrowed through Old French *succession*, and directly from Latin *successionem* (nominative *successio*) a following after, a coming into another's place, result, from *success-*, past participle stem of *succedere* SUCCEED; for suffix see *-SION*. The sense of a regular sequence is first recorded in Middle English about 1449. —**successive** *adj.* Before 1425, borrowed from Medieval Latin *successivus* coming one after another, from Latin *succedere* SUCCEED; for suffix see *-IVE*. —**successor** *n.* About 1300 *successour*, borrowed through Anglo-French *successor* and Old French *successour*, from Latin *successor* a follower, one who succeeds another, from *success-*, past participle stem of *succedere* SUCCEED; for suffix see *-OR*².

succinct *adj.* Probably before 1425 *succincte* girt, engirdled; borrowed from Middle French *succincte*, and probably directly from Latin *succinctus*, past participle of *succingere* tuck up (clothes for action), gird from below (*suc-* up + *cingere* to gird). The sense of compressed, expressed concisely, brief, is implied in *succinctly* (about 1537).

succor *n.* Probably before 1200 *sucurs*; borrowed through Anglo-French *succors* help, aid and Old French *sucurres*, *socorres*, *secors*, from Medieval Latin *succursus* help, assistance, from past participle of Latin *succurrere* run to help (*suc-* up to + *currere* to run). The final *-s* of *sucurs* was taken as a plural suffix and a new singular form *sucur* came into use about 1290. —**v.** About 1275 *sucuren*; borrowed from Old French *sucurre*, from Latin *succurrere* run to help.

succotash *n.* 1751 *suckatash*, borrowed from Algonquian (Narragansett) *misickqatash* ear of corn.

succulent *adj.* 1601, borrowed from French *succulent*, and directly from Latin *succulentus* having juice, from *succus*, *sūcus* juice. —**n.** 1825, plant with fleshy and juicy tissues, from the adjective.

succumb *v.* About 1489 *succumben* bring down, overwhelm; borrowed from Middle French *succomber*, and directly from Latin *succumbere* submit, sink down, lie under (*sub-* down + *cumbere* take a lying position, related to *cubare* lie down). The sense of sink under pressure, give way, yield, is first recorded in English in 1604.

such *adj.* Probably about 1175 *swich* of that kind, of the same kind; probably before 1200 *swuch*; developed from Old English *swylc* (about 725, in *Beowulf*), *swilc* (before 800), *swelc* (before 900); cognate with Old Frisian *sēlik*, *selk* such, Old Saxon *sulik*, Middle Dutch *sulc* (modern Dutch *zulk*), Old High German *sulih*, *solih* (modern German *solch*), Old Icelandic *slikr* (Swedish and Norwegian *slik*, Danish *slig*), and Gothic *swaleiks*; from a Proto-Germanic compound **swalikaz*, meaning “so formed” (*swa* SO + **likan* form, the source of Old-English *gelic* similar, LIKE¹).

Modern *such* came about by a series of changes in the word's pronunciation. Old English *swilc* and *swylc* developed a sporadic form *swulc* (from about 1000), and *swylc* and *swulc* became *swulch* in Middle English, which, by the absorption of *w* and loss of *l*, gave *such*. Compare EACH and WHICH for parallel development. —**pron.** Probably before 1200 *swuch*; developed from Old English *swylc* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); from the adjective.

suck *v.* Probably about 1150 *suken* to draw into the mouth (especially milk from the breast or udder); also *souken* (about 1280); developed from Old English (before 830) *sūcan*, corresponding to Latin *sūgere* to suck, from Indo-European **sūg-*, root and by a parallel Indo-European root **sūk-*, to Old English and Old Saxon *sūgan* to suck, Middle Dutch *sūghen* (modern Dutch *zuigen*), Old High German *sūgan* (modern German *saugen*), and Old Icelandic *sūga*. The verb is related to English SOAK which in Middle English was confused with *suck*. —**n.** About 1300 *souke*; from the verb. —**sucker** *n.* About 1384 *souker* young mammal before it is weaned; formed from Middle English *suken*, *souken* to suck + *-er*¹. The organ for holding fast is attested in 1681, and a shoot growing from a plant in 1577–82. The person who is easily deceived appears in 1836, and a lollipop in 1907. —**v.** 1661, to remove young shoots from; from the noun. The sense of hoodwink is first recorded in 1948. —**suckling** *n.* Before 1225 *suceling*; formed from Middle English *suken* to suck + *-ling*. Compare Middle Dutch *sōghelinc* (modern Dutch *zuigeling*), Middle High German *sūgelinc* (modern German *Säugling*).

suckle *v.* Before 1425 *suclen* to nurse at the breast or udder; perhaps a causative form of *suken* to SUCK; or a back formation from earlier *suckling*, as the suffix *-LE*³ does not fit with *suck* to make *suckle* semantically.

sucrose *n.* 1857, formed from French *sucre* SUGAR + English *-ose*².

suction *n.* 1626, act of sucking, borrowed from Late Latin *sūctionem* (nominative *sūctiō*), from Latin *sūct-*, past participle stem of *sūgere* to SUCK; for suffix see *-TION*.

sudden *adj.* Probably about 1300 *soden* happening unexpectedly; borrowed through Anglo-French *sodein*, *sudein*, from Old French *subdain* immediate, sudden; from Vulgar Latin **subitānus*, variant of Latin *subitāneus* sudden, from *subitus* appearing unexpectedly, sudden, from past participle of *subire* come or go up stealthily (*sub-* up to + *ire* come, go). —**n.** 1558 *upon the soden* in a sudden manner; 1596 *of a sudayn*; from

Middle English *soden* sudden. The phrase *all of a sudden* is first found in 1681.

suds *n. pl.* 1548 *suddes* dregs, leavings, muck, of uncertain origin; perhaps borrowed from Middle Dutch *sudse*, *sudde* (early modern Dutch *zudse*) marsh, bog, cognate with Old-English *soden*, past participle of *sēothan* to SEETHE. The meaning of soapy water is found in 1581. —**sudsy** *adj.* (1884)

sue *v.* Probably before 1200 *sewen* continue, persevere; borrowed through Anglo-French *suer*, *siwer* follow after, continue, from Old French *sivre*, *siivre*, later *suivre* pursue, follow after, from Vulgar Latin **sequere* follow, from Latin *sequi* follow. The sense of start a lawsuit against, is first recorded about 1300.

suede or **suède** *n.* 1884, borrowing of French *Suède* Sweden, in partial translation of French *gants de Suède* gloves of Sweden.

suet *n.* Before 1325 *swete*; later *suet* (1375); probably borrowed from Anglo-French **suet*, a diminutive formed to *suis*, the nominative of *sue*, *seu* tallow, grease, variant of Old French *sieu* tallow (modern French *suif*), from Latin *sēbum* tallow, grease.

suf- a form of the prefix *sub-* before *f* in some words of Latin origin, as in *suffix*, *suffuse*. Formed in Latin by assimilation of *b* to the following consonant (*f*).

suffer *v.* Probably before 1200 *suffren* to undergo or endure (pain, death, etc.); borrowed through Anglo-French *suffrir*, from Old French *sufrire*, *soffrire*, from Vulgar Latin **sufferire*, variant of Latin *sufferre* to bear, undergo, endure, carry or put under (*suf-* up, under + *ferre* to carry). The sense of allow, permit, tolerate, is first recorded about 1300. —**sufferance** *n.* Probably before 1300 *suffraunce* patient endurance, forbearance; borrowed through Anglo-French *suffrance*, *soffrance*, from Old French *sufiance*, from Late Latin *sufferentia* endurance, toleration, from Latin *sufferens*, present participle of *sufferre* to suffer; for suffix see *-ANCE*. The meaning of consent implied by lack of interference is recorded as early as 1303.

suffice *v.* Before 1325 *suffisen* to be enough; borrowed from Old French *suffis-*, stem of *suffire* be sufficient, from Latin *sufficere* supply, suffice (*suf-* up to + the root of *facere* to make). —**sufficiency** *n.* 1495, sufficient wealth; 1565, condition of being sufficient; borrowed from Latin *sufficiētia* adequacy, from *sufficiēns*, present participle of *sufficere* supply, SUFFICE; for suffix see *-ENCY*. —**sufficient** *adj.* 1322, legally satisfactory; later, enough (about 1380); borrowed through Old French *sufficient*, and directly from Latin *sufficiētem* (nominative *sufficiēns*), present participle of *sufficere* suffice; for suffix see *-ENT*.

suffix *n.* 1778, borrowed from New Latin *suffixum*, noun use of neuter of Latin *suffixus* fastened, past participle of *suffigere* fasten, fix on (*suf-* upon + *figere* fasten). —**v.** 1604, to fix or place under; borrowed from Latin *suffixus*, past participle of *suffigere*. The meaning of add as a suffix is first recorded in 1778; from the noun.

suffocate *v.* 1599, choke, stifle; probably a back formation from *suffocation*, modeled on Latin *suffocātus*, past participle of *suffocāre*, originally, to narrow up (*suf-* up + *faucēs*, pl., throat, narrow entrance); for suffix see *-ATE*¹. —**suffocation** *n.* Be-

fore 1400 *suffocacioun*, borrowed from Old French *suffocation*, and directly from Latin *suffocātiōnem* (nominative *suffocātiō*) a choking, stifling, from *suffocāre* suffocate; for suffix see -ATION.

suffragan *n.* Before 1387, bishop who assists another bishop; borrowed through Anglo-French and Old French *suffragan*, from Medieval Latin *suffraganeus* assisting, supporting, from Latin *suffrāgium* support, SUFFRAGE; for suffix see -AN.

suffrage *n.* Probably before 1200 *suffragie* prayers or pleas on behalf of another; later *suffrage* (before 1400); borrowed from Old French *suffrage*, and directly from Medieval Latin *suffrāgium*, from Latin *suffrāgium* support, vote, right of voting, from *suffrāgari* lend support, vote for someone (*suf-* under, near + *fragor* crash, din, shouts, as of approval, related to *frangere* to BREAK). English acquired the Latin meaning of a vote of approval by 1534, and the phrase *universal suffrage* (1798). The meaning of the right to vote is first found in the United States Constitution (1787). —**suffragette** *n.* (1906)

suffuse *v.* 1590 (implied in *suffused*); probably a back formation from earlier *suffusion*, and borrowed from Latin *suffusus*, past participle of *suffundere* pour upon, overspread, suffuse (*suf-* under + *fundere* pour). —**suffusion** *n.* Before 1398 *suffusioun*, borrowed from Latin *suffusiōnem* (nominative *suffusiō*) a pouring over, from *suffūs-*, past participle stem of *suffundere* suffuse; for suffix see -SION.

sug- a form of the prefix *sub-* before *g* in some words of Latin origin, as in *suggest*. Formed in Latin by assimilation of *b* to the following consonant (*g*).

sugar *n.* About 1325 *sucre*; later *sugure* (1381), *sugre* (1393); borrowed from Old French *sucre*, *sukere* sugar, from Medieval Latin *saccarum*, from Arabic *sukkar*, from Persian *shakar*, from Sanskrit *śárkarā* ground or candied sugar.

The sound represented by *g* in the spelling of *sugar* cannot be accounted for by any known Old French form though similar change is found in Middle English *flagon* and Old French *flacon*. The shift from a sound represented by *s* to *sh*, apparently resulted from an original initial long vowel sound *syū-* like that of the original vowel in *sure* and *assure*. —**v.** About 1385 *sugren*, to make pleasing; from the noun. The sense of add sugar is found before 1475.

suggest *v.* 1526, bring to mind (originally, something bad or evil), put forward the notion or opinion; back formation from *suggestion*, modeled on Latin *suggestus*, past participle of *suggerere* suggest, supply, bring up (*sug-* up + *gerere* bring, carry). —**suggestible** *adj.* (1890) —**suggestion** *n.* About 1340 *sugestyn* a prompting to evil; later *sugestyoun* act of prompting, proposal (before 1382); borrowed through Anglo-French and Old French *suggestioun*, and borrowed directly from Latin *suggestiōnem* (nominative *suggestiō*) an addition, intimation, suggestion, from *suggerere* suggest, supply; for suffix see -TION. —**suggestive** *adj.* (1631)

suicide¹ *n.* deliberate killing of oneself. 1651, borrowed from New Latin *suicidium* suicide (Latin *suī* of oneself, genitive of *sē* self + *-cidium* a killing; see -CIDE²). —**suicidal** *adj.* 1777, formed from English *suicide*¹ + *-al*¹.

suicide² *n.* person who kills himself deliberately. 1728, borrowed from New Latin *suicida* a suicide (Latin *suī* of oneself + *-cida* killer, *-cide*¹); see SUICIDE¹.

suit *n.* Probably before 1300 *sout* attendance at a court or the company attending; also, their livery or uniform, and *siute* (about 1300); borrowed through Anglo-French *siute*, *suite*, from Old French *suite*, *sieute* attendance, act of following, from Gallo-Romance **sequita*, feminine of **sequitus*, replacing Latin *secūtus*, past participle of *sequi* to attend, follow. The meaning of an application to a court for justice, lawsuit, appeared about 1412. The sense of a set of clothes to be worn together (before 1400), developed from court clothes that are a livery or uniform, and is related to a set of playing cards bearing the same symbol (1529). —**v.** Probably about 1450 *suften* do attendance at court, from the noun. The meaning of be agreeable or convenient to (before 1578) is probably from the sense of provide with a suit of clothes (1577, now found usually in *suit up*). —**suitable** *adj.* 1577, (implied in *suitably*) matching; later fitting, appropriate (1607). —**sutor** *n.* About 1290 *syutor* frequent visitor; later *suter* adherent, follower (before 1382); borrowed from Anglo-French *seutor*, *suitour*, *suter*, from Latin *secūtōrem* (nominative *secūtōr*) attendant, follower, from *secūt-*, past participle stem of *sequi* to attend, follow; for suffix see -OR². A man who is courting a woman is attested before 1586.

suite *n.* 1673, train of followers or attendants; borrowing of French *suite*, from Old French *suite*, *sieute* act of following, attendance, SUIT. The connected series of rooms (1716) is borrowed from French. A set of furniture (1622), and a set of instrumental compositions (1682), are first found as *suit*.

sulfate or **sulphate** *n.* 1790 *sulphat*, borrowed from French *sulphate*, from New Latin *sulphatum acidum*, from Latin *sulpur*, *sulphur* SULFUR; for suffix see -ATE².

sulfur or **sulphur** *n.* About 1380 *soulfre*; later *sulfur* (probably before 1425); borrowed through Old French *soufre* and Anglo-French *sulfre*, from Late Latin *sulfur*, from Latin *sulpur*, *sulphur*. —**sulfuric** or **sulphuric** *adj.* 1790 *sulphuric*; formed from English *sulphur* + *-ic*, after French *sulfurique*, from Late Latin *sulfur* + French *-ique* *-ic*. —**sulfurous** or **sulphurous** *adj.* 1530 *sulpherus* of sulfur; formed from English *sulphur* + *ous*, after Middle French *sulphureux*, or after Latin *sulphurōsus*.

sulk *v.* 1781, back formation from SULKY¹. —**n.** 1792, from the verb.

sulky¹ *adj.* sullen. 1744, possibly an alteration of earlier *sulke* sluggish (1636); probably developed from Old English *āsolcen* idle, lazy, slow, from past participle of *āseolcan* become sluggish, be weak or idle; for suffix see -Y¹. Old English *āseolcan* is related to *besylcan* be languid, and cognate with Middle High German *selken* to drip, drop, sink (from Proto-Germanic **selkanan*).

sulky² *n.* light carriage with two wheels. 1756, apparently a noun use of SULKY¹; so called because the carriage has room for only one person.

sullen *adj.* 1577, unsociable, gloomy, morose; earlier *sollen*

(1573), alteration of Middle English *soleyn* unique, singular (1369); borrowed from Anglo-French **solein*, **solain*, formed on the pattern of Old French *soltain*, *soutain* (Vulgar Latin **sōlitānus*) from Old French *soul*, *sol* single, *SOLE*² + *-ein*, *-ain* -an. About 1380 *soleyn* meant solitary, and by about 1399 averse to society, unfriendly, morose.

sully *v.* 1591, probably borrowed from Middle French *souiller*, from Old French *souillier* make dirty, *SOIL*¹.

sultan *n.* 1555, borrowed from Middle French *sultan* ruler of Turkey, from Arabic *sultān* ruler, power. —**sultanate** *n.* 1822 *sultanat* territory of a sultan; later, office of a sultan (1884); formed from English *sultan* + *-ate*³.

sultry *adj.* 1594, oppressively hot, close, and moist; developed from *sulter* to swelter (1581), alteration of *SWELTER*; for suffix see *-y*¹.

sum *n.* About 1300 *summe* quantity, amount; borrowed through Anglo-French and Old French *summe*, *somme*, from Latin *summa* total number whole, essence, gist, noun use of the feminine form of *summus* highest (earlier **supmos*), related to *super* OVER. The use in Latin of a word meaning “highest” to mean “sum” probably derived from the Roman practice of writing the sum of a column of figures at the top rather than the bottom; compare the English expression *the bottom line*. —**v.** Before 1325 *sumen* to count up, find the sum of; borrowed from Old French *summer*, *sommer*, from Late Latin *summāre* sum up, from Latin *summa* sum. The sense of summarize, epitomize, is found in Middle English before 1398.

sum- a form of the prefix *sub-* before *m* in some words of Latin origin, as in *summon*. Formed in Latin by assimilation of *b* to the following consonant (*m*).

sumac or **sumach** *n.* Before 1400 *sumac* preparation made from the dried leaves and shoots of the sumac; borrowed from Old French *sumac*, from Medieval Latin *sumach*, from Arabic *summāq*. The shrub itself was first called *sumac* in 1548.

summary *adj.* Probably before 1425; borrowed from Medieval Latin *summarius* of or pertaining to the sum or substance, from Latin *summa* whole, gist, SUM; for suffix see *-ARY*. The sense of done without delay, direct, prompt, is first found in 1713. —**n.** 1509, borrowed from Latin *summārium* an epitome, abstract, summary, from *summa* totality, gist, SUM; for suffix see *-ARY*. —**summarize** *v.* 1871, formed from English *summary* + *-ize*.

summation *n.* 1760, process of finding the sum of; borrowed from New Latin *summationem* (nominative *summatio*) an adding up, from Late Latin *summāre* to sum up, from Latin *summa* SUM; for suffix see *-ATION*. The meaning of a summing up is first recorded in English in 1836.

summer¹ *n.* warmest season of the year. Before 1121 *sumer*, developed from Old English (before 830) *sumor*, cognate with Old Frisian *sumur* summer, Old Saxon *sumar*, *somer* (modern Dutch *zomer*), Old High German *sumar* (modern German *Sommer*), and Old Icelandic *sumar* (Swedish *sommar*, Norwegian and Danish *sommer*), from Proto-Germanic **sumur-*

—**v.** 1440 *somoren*, from the noun. —**summertime** *n.* (about 1378)

summer² *n.* horizontal bearing beam. 1288, stone support; later, pack horse (probably before 1300); main beam (1324); borrowed through Anglo-French *sumer*, *somer*, Old French *somer*, *somier* main beam, originally pack horse, from Vulgar Latin **saumārius*, for Late Latin *sagmārius* pack horse, from *sagma* packsaddle; see *SUMPTER*.

summit *n.* Before 1400 *somet* highest point, peak; borrowed from Middle French *somete*, from Old French *sommette*, diminutive of *som*, *sum* highest part, top of a hill, from Latin *sum-mum*, noun use of neuter of *summus* highest, related to *super* OVER. —**adj.** 1955, from the noun.

summon *v.* Probably before 1200 *sumunen*; borrowed from Anglo-French and Old French *sumundre*, *somondre* summon, from Vulgar Latin **summonere* to call, cite, variant of Latin *summonere* hint to (*sum-* under + *monere* warn, advise). —**summons** *n.* Probably about 1280 *somnes*; later *somunce*, *somounz* (about 1300); borrowed from Anglo-French and Old French *sumunse*, *somounse*, noun use of feminine past participle of *somondre* to SUMMON.

sump *n.* Before 1450 *sompe* marsh, morass; earlier in the place name *Brunes Sumpe* (1241); borrowed from Middle Dutch *somp* or Middle Low German *sump*, from Proto-Germanic **sum-paz*, and cognate with Middle High German *sumpf* swamp (modern German *Sumpf*). The sense of a pit to collect water is found in English in 1653.

sumpter *n.* Probably before 1300 *sumter* driver of a pack horse; also, *sompterhors* (about 1450); borrowed from Old French *sommetier*, from Vulgar Latin **sagmārius* a pack horse driver, from Late Latin *sagmat-* a pack, burden, stem of *sagma* packsaddle, from Greek *ságma*, probably related to *sáttein* to pack, press, stuff; for suffix see *-ER*¹. The sense of a horse or mule for carrying loads or packs appeared about 1450.

sumptuary *adj.* 1600, borrowed from Latin *sūmptuārius* relating to expenses, from *sūmptus* expense; see *SUMPTUOUS*; for suffix see *-ARY*.

sumptuous *adj.* About 1410 *sumptous*; later *sumptuous* (1472–73); borrowed probably by influence of Middle French *sumptueux*, from Latin *sūmptuōsus* costly, expensive, from *sūmptus* (genitive *sūmptūs*) cost, expense, from *sūmere* spend, procure, take; for suffix see *-OUS*.

sun *n.* Before 1325 *sun*, developed from Old English *sunne* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *sunne*, *sonne* sun, Old Saxon *sunna*, Middle Dutch *sonne* (modern Dutch *zon*), Old High German *sunna* (modern German *Sonne*), Old Icelandic *sunna*, and Gothic *sunnō*, from Proto-Germanic **sunnōn*; possibly related to *SOUTH*. —**v.** 1519 (implied in *sunning*); from the noun. —**sunbeam** *n.* (about 1000) —**sunburn** *n.* (1652); *v.* 1530, back formation from *sunburnt* (about 1400 *sunne y-brent*). —**sunlight** *n.* (probably before 1200) —**sunny** *adj.* (before 1325) —**sunrise** *n.* (1440) —**sunset** *n.* (before 1393) —**sunshine** *n.* (about 1250)

sundae *n.* 1897, thought to be an alteration of SUNDAY; the reason for the name is uncertain; perhaps so called because the spelling was altered out of deference to religious people's feelings about the word *Sunday*.

Sunday *n.* About 1250 *sunedai*, developed from Old English (before 700) *Sunnandæg*, literally, day of the sun (*sunnan*, oblique case of *sunne* sun + *dæg* day) and corresponding to Old Frisian *sunmandei* Sunday, Old Saxon *sunundag*, Middle Dutch *sonnendach* (modern Dutch *zondag*), Old High German *sunniun tag* (modern German *Sonntag*), and Old Icelandic *sunudagr* (Norwegian and Danish *søndag*, Swedish *söndag*) all loan translations of Latin *diēs sōlis* day of the sun, which in turn was a loan translation of Greek *hēméra hēliou*.

sunder *v.* Probably before 1200 *sundren* separate, sever, split; developed from Old English *sundrian* (about 950), earlier *ās-yndrian*, *gesyndrian*, *āsundrian* (*ā-* intensive prefix, *ge-* perfective prefix + *sundor* separately, apart). Old English *sundor* is cognate with Old Frisian *sunder* apart, Old Saxon *sundar*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *zonder* without, Old High German *suntar* aside, apart (archaic German *sonder* without), Old Icelandic *sundr* (Danish *sønder*, Swedish *sönder*, Norwegian *sund*), from Proto-Germanic **sundēr*, and Gothic *sundrō*.

sundry *adj.* Probably before 1200 *sundri* distinct, separate, several; developed from Old English *syndrig* separate, special (before 899), related to *sundor* separately, apart; see **SUNDER**; for suffix see -Y¹. Old English *syndrig* corresponds to Middle Low German *sunderich* single, special, and Old High German *suntarig*. —**n.** About 1250 *sundri* various ones; from the adjective. The expression *all and sundry* is first recorded in 1389. The plural *sundries* sundry things, odds and ends, is found in 1755; formed from English *sundry*, *adj.* (taken as a noun) + -s¹.

sup¹ *v.* eat the evening meal. About 1300 *supen*, *soupen*; borrowed from Old French *super*, *soper*, *souper*, from *soupe* broth, *SOUP*¹.

sup² *v.* to sip. Probably before 1300 *soupen*; later *suppen* (before 1325); developed from Old English *sūpan* to sip, swallow (West Saxon, before 899), *suppan*, *sūpian* (Northumbrian). Old English *sūpan* is cognate with Middle Low German *sūpen* to sup, Middle Dutch *zūpen* (modern Dutch *zuipen* drink too much), Old High German *sūfan* (modern German *saufen* drink like an animal), and Old Icelandic *sūpa* to drink, from Proto-Germanic **sūpanan*.

sup- a form of the prefix *sub-* before *p* in words of Latin origin, as in *suppress*. Formed in Latin by assimilation of *b* to the following consonant (*p*).

super¹ *n.* 1857, shortened form of SUPERINTENDENT an overseer, especially on a sheep ranch or station in Australia.

super² *adj.* first-rate, excellent. 1837, of superlative quality (implied in *extra-super*, 1837); developed after **SUPER-**.

super- a prefix meaning: 1 over; above, as in *superimpose* = impose over or above. 2 besides; further, as in *superadd* = to add besides or further. 3 in high proportion; to excess; exceedingly, as in *superabundant* = abundant to excess. 4 surpassing, as in

supernatural = surpassing the natural. Borrowed from Latin *super-*, from adverb and preposition *super* above, over.

superable *adj.* 1629, borrowed from Latin *superābilis* that may be overcome, from *superāre* to overcome, from *super* over; for suffix see -ABLE. The word's use was probably influenced by, or perhaps a back formation of INSUPERABLE.

superannuate *v.* 1649, render old or obsolete; back formation from *superannuated* obsolete, out of date (before 1633), formed from Medieval Latin *superannuatus* (of cattle) more than a year old + English suffix -ed². Medieval Latin *superannuatus* is formed from Latin *super* beyond, over + *annus* year; for suffix see -ATE¹. The meaning of dismissal on account of age, cause to retire, is found in English in 1692. —**superannuation** *n.* 1658, condition of being obsolete; later, act of retiring (before 1704); formed from English *superannuate* + -ation.

superb *adj.* 1549, imposing, of magnificent proportions; borrowed from Latin *superbus* grand, proud, sumptuous, from *super* above, over.

supercilious *adj.* Before 1529 (implied in *superciliously*); borrowed from Latin *superciliōsus* haughty, arrogant, from *supercilium* haughty demeanor, pride; originally, eyebrow, as used to express haughtiness (*super-* above + **celōm* a cover, related to *cēlāre* to cover, hide); for suffix see -OUS.

superego *n.* 1924, formed from English *super-* + *ego*, as a translation of German *Über-Ich*.

supererogation *n.* 1526, the doing of more than duty requires; borrowed from Late Latin *supererogātiōnem* (nominative *supererogātiō*) a payment in addition, from *supererogāre* pay or do additionally, formed from Latin *super-* above, over + *erogāre* pay out (*ē-* out + *rogāre* ask, request); for suffix see -ATION.

superficial *adj.* 1392, of or relating to a surface, external; borrowed, perhaps by influence of Old French *superficiel*, from Latin *superficiālis* of or pertaining to the surface, from *superficiēs* surface (*super-* above, over + *faciēs* form, face); for suffix see -AL¹. The meaning of not deep or thorough, is first recorded in Middle English about 1456. —**superficiality** *n.* 1530, superficial condition or quality; formed from English *superficial* + -ity.

superfluous *adj.* Before 1398 *superfluous*; later *superfluous*; borrowed, probably by influence of Old French *superflueux*, from Latin *superfluus* overflowing, unnecessary, from *superfluere* to overflow (*super-* over + *fluere* to flow); for suffix see -OUS. —**superfluity** *n.* Before 1387 *superfluyte* excess, overflowing supply; borrowed from Old French *superfluite*, and directly from Late Latin *superfluitās* that which is superfluous, from Latin *superfluus* superfluous; for suffix see -ITY.

superintend *v.* About 1615, borrowed from Late Latin *superintendere* oversee (Latin *super-* above + *intendere* turn one's attention, direct), and probably a back formation of earlier *superintendent*. —**superintendent** *n.* 1554, bishop; 1560, minister who supervises churches within a district; borrowed from Medieval Latin *superintendentem* (nominative *superintendens*), from present participle of Late Latin *superintendere* to

superintend; for suffix see -ENT. The ecclesiastical sense is a loan translation of Greek *episkopos* overseer; see BISHOP. The general sense of a person who superintends is first recorded in 1588, and that of a janitor or custodian about 1935.

superior *adj.* Before 1393 *superiour*, borrowed from Old French *superior*, *superiour*, from Latin *superior* higher, comparative form of *superus* situated above, upper, from *super* above, over. —**n.** Probably before 1425, from the adjective. —**superiority** *n.* About 1475 *superioryte* superior rank, dignity, or status; probably formed in English from *superior* + *-ity*, and borrowed from Middle French *superiorité*, from Medieval Latin *superioritas*, from Latin *superior* superior; for suffix see -ITY.

superlative *adj.* About 1395 *superlatyf* of the highest degree or quality described; borrowed from Old French *superlatif* (feminine *superlative*), and probably directly from Late Latin *superlativus* exaggerated, superlative, from Latin *superlatus*, used as past participle of *superferre* carry over or beyond (*super-* beyond + *ferre* carry); for suffix see -IVE. The meaning of supreme is first recorded about 1408. —**n.** 1530, from the adjective.

superman *n.* 1903 Superman; loan translation of German *Übermensch*, literally, overman, coined by Nietzsche, in *Thus Spake Zarathustra* (1883–91); also translated into English as *overman* (1895).

supermarket *n.* 1933, formed from English *super-* + *market*.

supernal *adj.* 1447, heavenly, divine; borrowing of Middle French *supernal*, formed from Latin *supernus* situated above, celestial (from *super* above, over) + *-al* -al¹; formed to contrast with *infernal*.

supernatural *adj.* Probably before 1425 *supernaturel*; later *supernatural* (about 1443); borrowed from Medieval Latin *supernaturalis* above or beyond nature (Latin *super-* above + *nātūra* nature); for suffix see -AL¹.

supernumerary *adj.* 1605, borrowed from Late Latin *supernumerarius* excessive in number (of soldiers added to a full legion), from Latin *super numerum* beyond the number (*super-* beyond, over + *numerus*, accusative of *numerus* number); for suffix see -ARY. —**n.** 1639, from the adjective.

superpower *n.* 1922, superior or extraordinary power; formed from English *super-* + *power*. The nation having an extremely powerful or dominant position in world politics is first recorded in 1944.

superscript *n.* 1588, address or direction on a letter; borrowed from Middle French *superscript*, and directly from Latin *superscriptus*, past participle of *superscribere* write over or above something as a correction (*super-* above + *scribere* write). A number, letter, etc., written above something, is first recorded in 1901. —**adj.** 1882, from the noun.

supersede *v.* 1456 *supceden* to postpone, defer; Scottish, borrowed from Middle French *supceder*, later *superseder* desist, delay, defer, from Latin *supersedere* sit on top of, stay clear of, abstain from, forbear, refrain from (*super-* above + *sedere* sit).

The meaning of displace, replace, is first recorded in English in 1642.

supersonic *adj.* 1919, of or having to do with sound waves beyond the limit of human hearing; formed from English *super-* + Latin *sonus* sound + English *-ic*. The sense of exceeding the speed of sound as a measure of aircraft speed, is first recorded in 1945. —**n.** 1962, a supersonic aircraft; from the adjective. —**supersonics** *n.* 1928, formed from English *supersonic* + *-s*¹; see also -ICS.

superstition *n.* Probably before 1200 *supersticiun* a false or irrational religious belief or practice; borrowed from Middle French *superstition*, from Latin *superstitiōnem* (nominative *superstitiō*) excessive fear of the gods, perhaps originally, a state of religious exaltation; related to *superstes* (genitive *superstitis*), earlier **superstats*, standing over or above; also, standing by, surviving, from *superstare* stand on or over, survive (*super* above + *stare* stand); for suffix see -TION. —**superstitious** *adj.* About 1395 *supersticious*; borrowed, probably by influence of Old French *superstitieux*, from Latin *superstitiosus* full of superstition, from *superstitiō* superstition; for suffix see -OUS.

supervene *v.* 1647–48, come as something additional or extraneous; borrowed, perhaps by influence of French *survenir*, from Latin *supervenire* come on top of (*super-* upon, over + *venire* come). —**supervention** *n.* 1649, borrowed from Late Latin *superventiōnem* (nominative *superventiō*) a coming up, from Latin *supervent-*, past participle stem of *supervenire* supervene; for suffix see -TION.

supervise *v.* Probably before 1475 *supervisen* oversee, inspect (implied in *supervysinge*, verbal noun); possibly a back formation from *supervisor*, and probably borrowed from Medieval Latin *supervis-*, past participle stem of *supervidere* oversee, inspect (Latin *super-* over + *videre* see). —**supervision** *n.* 1623, probably formed from English *supervise* + *-ion*, on the model of Medieval Latin *supervisionem* (nominative *supervisiō*), from *supervis-*, past participle stem of *supervidere* supervise. —**supervisor** *n.* About 1454, borrowed from Medieval Latin *supervisor*, from *supervis-*, past participle stem of *supervidere* supervise; for suffix see -OR².

supine *adj.* About 1500, borrowed from Latin *supīnus* turned or thrown backward, inactive, indolent, related to *sub* under. —**n.** About 1450 *suppyn*, *supyn*, Latin verbal noun formed from the past participle stem; borrowed from Late Latin *supinum verbum* supine verb, noun use of neuter of *supīnus*, *adj.*, supine; in reference to either verbal noun, in *-um* or *-ū*, that was called *supinum*, perhaps because, although furnished with a noun case-ending, it rests or falls back on the verb.

supper *n.* About 1250 *sopere* the evening meal; later *supere*, *sopper* (before 1300); borrowed from Old French *super*, *soper* supper, noun use of *super*, *soper* to eat the evening meal; see SUP¹; for suffix see -ER³. —**suppertime** *n.* (before 1376)

supplant *v.* Before 1325 (implied in *supplanter*) *supplanten* to trip up, overthrow, defeat, dispossess; borrowed from Old French *supplanter* to trip up, overthrow, from Latin *supplantāre* trip up, overthrow (*sup-* under + *planta* sole of the foot). The

meaning of replace one thing with another, is first recorded in English in 1671, but the sense is found as early as 1608 in *supplantation*.

supple *adj.* About 1300 *souple* soft, not rigid; borrowed from Old French *souple*, *suple* pliant, flexible, from Gallo-Romance **supples*, from Latin *supplex* submissive, bending, thought to be an altered form of **supplicios* humbly pleading or appealing (*sup-* under + *plācare* appease). —**v.** Before 1349 *souplen* soften, cause to yield; from the adjective.

supplement *n.* About 1384, that which is added, addition; borrowed from Old French *supplement*, and directly from Latin *supplementum* something added to supply a deficiency, from *supplere* to SUPPLY; for suffix see -MENT. —**v.** 1829, furnish a supplement to; from the noun. —**supplemental** *adj.* (1605) —**supplementary** *adj.* (1667)

suppliant *n.* 1429 *suppliaunt* petitioner at law; borrowed from Middle French *suppliant*, originally, present participle of *supplier* to plead humbly, entreat, beg, pray, from Latin *supplicare* beg, beseech; see SUPPLICATE; for suffix see -ANT. The sense of a humble petitioner is first recorded in English in 1549–62. —**adj.** Before 1586, borrowed from Middle French *suppliant*, present participle of *supplier* to plead humbly. —**suppliance** *n.* 1611, formed from English *suppliant*, *adj.* + -ance.

supplicant *n.* 1597, borrowed from Latin *supplicantem* (nominative *supplicāns*), present participle of *supplicare* plead humbly; see SUPPLICATE; for suffix see -ANT. —**adj.** 1597, borrowed from Latin *supplicantem* (nominative *supplicāns*), present participle of *supplicare* to plead humbly.

supplicate *v.* 1417, probably a back formation from *supplication*, and borrowed from Latin *supplicatus*, past participle of *supplicare* plead humbly, beseech, beg, from *supplex* (genitive *supplicis*) submissive, bending, kneeling down; see SUPPLE; for suffix see -ATE¹. —**supplication** *n.* About 1380 *supplicacion* prayer; also, an entreaty, plea (before 1393); borrowed from Old French *supplication*, from Latin *supplicatōnem* (nominative *supplicatīō*), from *supplicare* plead humbly; see SUPPLE; for suffix see -ATION.

supply *v.* 1375 *supplien* to help, support, maintain; later, fill up, make up for (before 1398); borrowed from Old French *supplier*, *soupleier*, *supleer* fill up, make full, and directly from Latin *supplere* fill up, complete (*sup-* up + *plere* to fill). The meaning of furnish, provide, is first recorded in English about 1520. —**n.** 1423 *supplye* support, assistance; from the verb. The sense of an act of fulfilling a need or demand is first recorded in 1500–20. A quantity or amount of something supplied is first found in 1607.

support *v.* About 1384 *supporten* to put up with, tolerate; borrowed from Old French *supporter*, and probably directly from Latin *supportare* convey, carry, bring up (*sup-* up + *portare* carry). The meaning of sustain, supply with food or other necessities of life, is first recorded in Middle English before 1393, and that of hold up, prop up, probably before 1396. —**n.** About 1391, from the verb. —**supporter** *n.* (probably before 1425) —**supportive** *adj.* (1593)

suppose *v.* About 1303 *supposen* hold an opinion, assume, incline to think; borrowed from Old French *supposer* to assume (from Medieval Latin, to assume), probably a replacement of **suppondre* (by influence of Old French *poser* put or place), from Latin *supponere* put or place under (*sup-* under + *ponere* put, place). —**supposedly** *adv.* 1611, formed from earlier *supposed*, *adj.* + -ly¹. The adjective *supposed* (as in *The supposed beggar was really a prince*) is first recorded in 1582. —**supposition** *n.* 1410 *supposicioun* assumption, hypothesis; borrowed probably from Middle French, and directly from Late Latin *suppositiōnem* (nominative *suppositiō*), from Latin, act of putting under, from *supposit-*, past participle stem of *supponere* put under; for suffix see -TION. The sense of Late Latin *suppositiō* assumption, hypothesis, was influenced by Greek *hypóthesis* hypothesis.

suppository *n.* 1392, rectal suppository; borrowed perhaps by influence of Old French *suppositoire*, from Medieval Latin *suppositorium*, noun use of neuter of Late Latin *suppositōrius* placed underneath or up, from Latin *supposit-*, past participle stem of *supponere* put or place under; see SUPPOSE; for suffix see -ORY.

suppress *v.* Probably about 1400 *suppressen* be burdensome, oppress; borrowed from Latin *suppress-*, past participle stem of *supprimere* press down, stop, check, stifle (*sup-* down, under + *primere* push against, PRESS¹). The meaning of subdue (as a feeling, thought, or habit) is first recorded in English in 1526 and that of keep secret in 1533. —**suppression** *n.* 1528, borrowed perhaps from Middle French, and directly from Latin *suppressionem* (nominative *suppressiō*) a pressing down or keeping back, from *suppress-*, past participle stem of *supprimere* press down; for suffix see -SION.

suppurate *v.* Probably before 1425 *suppuraten*; borrowed from Latin *suppuratum*, past participle of *suppurare* form or discharge pus (*sup-* under + *pū-*, stem of *pūs* pus); for suffix see -ATE¹. —**suppuration** *n.* Probably about 1425 *suppuracioun* process or condition of suppurating; borrowed from Latin *suppuratōnem* (nominative *suppuratīō*) a suppurating, from *suppurare* SUPPURATE; for suffix see -ATION.

supra *adv.* 1463, borrowing of Latin *suprā*, *adv.*, above, before, beyond, old feminine ablative singular of *superus*, *adj.*, above, related to *super* above, over.

supra- a prefix meaning above, over, beyond, as in *supranational* = above or beyond national boundaries. Borrowed from Latin *suprā* above, before, beyond, related to *super* above, over.

suprarenal *adj.* 1828, formed in English from *supra-* above + *renal*, after New Latin *suprarenalis* (Latin *suprā* above + Late Latin *rēnalis* renal), in reference to the adrenal or suprarenal capsules or glands.

supreme *adj.* 1523, highest, loftiest, topmost; borrowed from Middle French *suprême*, and directly from Latin *supremus* highest, superlative of *superus* situated above, from *super* above, over. —**supremacy** *n.* (1547) —**Supreme Being** (1699) —**Supreme Court** (1709)

sur-¹ a prefix meaning over, above, beyond, in addition, found

particularly in words borrowed from older French (including some words from Anglo-French), such as *surcharge*, *surpass*, *surtax*, *survey*. The Old French forms were *sour-*, *sor-*, *sur-* (from Latin *super-* SUPER-).

sur-² a form of the prefix *sus-* before *r* in words of Latin origin, as in *surreptitious*, *surrogate*. Formed in Latin by assimilation of *s* to the following consonant (*r*).

surcease *v.* 1428 *surcesen*, borrowed through Anglo-French *surceser*, from Old French *sursis*, past participle of *surseoir* to refrain, delay, from Latin *supersedere*; see SUPERSEDE. The English spelling with *c* was influenced by the unrelated verb *cease*. —**n.** 1586, from the verb.

surcharge *v.* 1429 *surchargen* to subject to an additional tax, overtax; borrowed from Middle French *surcharger*, from Old French (*sur-* over, *sur-*¹ + *chargier* to load, CHARGE). —**n.** 1429, from the verb.

surcingle *n.* 1469 *sursengle* strap around a horse's body to keep a saddle or pack in place; borrowed from Middle French *surcengle*, from Old French (*sur-* over, *sur-*¹ + *cengle* a girdle, from Latin *cingulum*, *cingulus*, girth).

surd *adj.* 1551, (of numbers) irrational; borrowed from Latin *surdus* deaf, unheard, silent, dull, possibly related to *susurrus* a muttering, whispering. The sense in mathematics developed from the use of Latin *surdus* to translate Arabic (*jadhr*) *asamm* deaf (root), itself a loan translation of Greek *álogos*, literally, speechless, without reason. —**n.** 1557, from the adjective.

sure *adj.* About 1250, safe, secure; later, having certainty, certain (about 1330); borrowed from Old French *sur*, *seür* safe, secure, from Latin *sēcūrus* free from care, untroubled, heedless, safe. For development of pronunciation see SUGAR. —**adv.** Before 1325, assuredly, undoubtedly; from the adjective.

surety *n.* Probably about 1300 *surte* guarantee, assurance, security against loss, damage, etc.; borrowed from Old French *seürte*, from Latin *sēcūritātem* (nominative *sēcūritās*) freedom from care or danger, safety, security, from *sēcūrus* SECURE; for suffix see -TY².

surf *n.* 1685, probably an alteration (with possible influence of *surge*) of earlier *suffe* (1599); of uncertain origin. Both *surf* and *suffe* (or *suff*, 1687) were originally used especially in reference to the coast of India, which suggests an Indic origin for the words; also *suff(e)* may be a phonetic respelling of *sough*, originally a rushing sound. —**v.** 1917, ride on the crest of a wave; from the noun; earlier form *surf* or *foam* in 1831.

surface *n.* 1611, borrowed from French *surface* outermost boundary of anything, outside part (Old French *sur-* above, *sur-*¹ + *face* FACE), patterned on Latin *superficiēs* surface; see SUPERFICIAL. —**adj.** 1664, from the noun. —**v.** 1778, put a surface on, make smooth; from the noun. The meaning of bring to the surface is first recorded in 1885, and that of come to the surface, in 1898.

surfeit *n.* Before 1325 *surfait* too much, excess; borrowed from Old French *surfet*, *surfait* excess, noun use of past partici-

ple of *surfaire* overdo (*sur-* over, *sur-*¹ + *faire* do, from Latin *facere* make). —**v.** Probably before 1387 *surfeten* indulge to excess; from the noun. The sense of fill or supply to excess (as in *surfeited with office work*) is first recorded in 1592.

surge *n.* 1490 *sourge* fountain, stream; probably borrowed from Middle French *sourge-*, stem of *sourdre* to rise, swell, from Latin *surgere* to rise, contraction of *surgere* to rise (*sus-* up + *-rigere*, from *regere* to keep straight, guide). The meaning of a high, rolling swell of water (1530), is found earlier in the figurative sense of excited rising up, as of feelings (1520). —**v.** 1511, toss or ride on the waves (as at anchor); borrowed from Middle French *surgir* to rise, ride (as a ship) near the shore, from Catalan *sorgir* or Spanish *surgir*, from Latin *surgere* to rise; also borrowed, in part from Middle French *sourge-*, stem of *sourdre* and directly from Latin *surgere* to rise; see SURGE, *n.* The meaning of rise in great waves (1566 implied in *surging*), probably derived from the noun in English.

surgeon *n.* Probably about 1300 *sorgien* person who heals by manual operation; later *surgen* (before 1375), *surgeon* (before 1400); borrowed through Anglo-French *surgien*, variant of Old French *serurgien*, *cirurgien*, from *cirurgie* surgery, and directly from Latin *chīrūrgia*, from Greek *cheirourgia*, from *cheirourgós* working or doing by hand (*cheir* hand + *érgon* work). —**surgery** *n.* Probably about 1300 *sirgirie* the surgeon's art; later *surgerye* (about 1387–95); borrowed from Old French *surgerie*, *cirurgerie*, from *cirurgie* surgery (also borrowed into English); for suffix see -Y³. —**surgical** *adj.* 1770, pertaining to surgery, used in surgery; formed from English *surgeon* + *-ical*. The early form *cinurgiale* (probably before 1425) was borrowed from Middle French, from *cinurgie* surgery.

surly *adj.* 1566, lordly, majestic; later, imperious, haughty (about 1572); alteration of Middle English *sirly* lordly, imperious (before 1375), formed from *sir lord* + *-ly*². The sense of rude, gruff, is recorded in 1670.

surmise *v.* Probably about 1400 *surmysen* to charge, allege; borrowed from Old French *surmis* (feminine *surmise*), past participle of *surmettre* to accuse (*sur-* upon, *sur-*¹ + *mettre* put, from Latin *mittere* send). The meaning of infer, guess, is found in English in 1700, probably derived from the noun meaning. —**n.** 1419 *surmys* charge, accusation; borrowed from Anglo-French and Old French *surmise* accusation, from *surmettre* to accuse. The meaning of inference, guess, is first recorded in 1590.

surmount *v.* Before 1325 *surmonten* rise above, rule or prevail over; later *surmount* be superior to, exceed, transcend (about 1380); borrowed from Old French *surmonter* rise above, surmount (*sur-* over, *sur-*¹ + *monter* to go up).

surname *n.* Probably before 1300, a name, title, or epithet added to a person's name; formed in Middle English from *sur-*¹ above + *name*, modeled on Anglo-French *surmoun* surname, variant of Old French *surnom* (*sur-* over, *sur-*¹ + *nom* name). The sense of family name is found in Middle English in 1375.

surpass *v.* 1555, do better than, excel; borrowed from Middle

French *surpasser* go beyond, exceed, excel (Old French *sur-* beyond, *sur-*¹ + *passer* to go by, *PASS*¹).

surplice *n.* Probably before 1200 *surpliz*; borrowed from Old French *surpeliz*, from Medieval Latin *superpellicium* a surplice (Latin *super-* over + Medieval Latin *pellicium* fur garment, tunic of skins, from Latin *pellis* skin); so called because the surplice was formerly put on over fur garments worn by clergymen to keep warm.

surplus *n.* About 1385, remainder or excess; borrowed from Old French *surplus*, from Medieval Latin *superplus* excess, surplus (Latin *super-* over + *plūs* more). —**adj.** Before 1382 *soyrpluse* more than is needed, excess; from the noun.

surprise *n.* About 1457, sudden, unexpected attack or capture; differentiated in meaning from and replacing by the early 1600's, earlier *supprise* (about 1425). Middle English *supprise*, (borrowed from Middle French *suprise*, variant of *surprise*, *sourprise*) and Middle English *suprise* (borrowed from Middle French *surprise* a taking unawares) are both from the noun use of the past participle of Old French *surprendre* to overtake (*sur-* over, *sur-*¹ + *prendre* to take, from Latin *prēndere*, contracted form of *prehendere* to grasp, seize).

The meaning of something unexpected is first recorded in 1592, and that of a feeling caused by something unexpected in 1608. —**v.** About 1390 *surprisen* overcome, overpower, take hold of (replacing earlier *supprisen*, 1375); borrowed from Old French *surprise*, feminine past participle of *surprendre* to overtake. The meaning of come upon unexpectedly, take unawares, is first recorded in 1592, probably from the noun in English.

surrealism *n.* 1927 *surrealisme*; later *surrealism* (1931); borrowed from French *surréalisme* (*sur-* beyond, *sur-*¹ + *réalisme* realism). The term was coined about 1917, and adopted about 1924. —**surreal** *adj.* 1937, back formation from *surrealism*. —**surrealist** *adj.*, *n.* 1918 *surrealiste*; later *surrealist* (1925); borrowed from French *surréaliste*. —**surrealistic** *adj.* 1930, formed from English *surrealist*, *n.* + *-ic*.

surrender *v.* 1441 *surrendouren* give up (something) to another; borrowed from Old French *surrendre* give up (*sur-* over, *sur-*¹ + *rendre* give back). The spelling *surrender* is first recorded in 1473. —**n.** 1423 *surrendre* act of surrendering, borrowed from Old French *surrendre*, noun use of *surrendre* *v.*

surreptitious *adj.* 1443 *surrepticious* fraudulently obtained; borrowed, perhaps by influence of Middle French *surreptice*, from Latin *surrepticius*, from *surreptus*, past participle of *surripere* seize secretly (*sur-* from under + *-ripere*, from *rapere* to snatch); for suffix see *-IOUS*. The sense of acting by stealth, crafty, sly, is first recorded in 1615.

surrey *n.* 1895, from *Surrey cart* an English pleasure cart, named after *Surrey*, England where the cart was first made.

surrogate *n.* 1430 *surrogat* substitute, representative; later *surrogate* (1465); borrowed from Latin *surrogāt-*, past participle stem of *surrogāre* put in another's place, substitute (*sur-*² in the place of, under, + *rogāre* to ask, propose); for suffix see *-ATE*¹.

—**v.** 1533, borrowed from Latin *surrogāt-*, past participle stem of *surrogāre* substitute.

surround *v.* 1423 *surrounden* to flood, overflow; borrowed from Middle French *soronder*, *souronder* to overflow, abound, surpass, dominate, from Late Latin *superundāre* overflow (Latin *super-* over + *undāre* to flow in waves, from *unda* wave). The sense of shut in on all sides, enclose, encompass, is first recorded in 1616, influenced by the figurative meaning in French of dominate, and association with the similarity in sound of English *round*.

surtax *n.* 1881, borrowed from French *surtaxe* (Old French *sur-* over, *sur-*¹ + *taxe* tax).

surveillance *n.* 1802, borrowed from French *surveillance* oversight, a watch, from *surveiller* oversee, watch (*sur-* over, *sur-*¹ + *veiller* to watch, from Latin *vigilāre*, from *vigil* watchful); for suffix see *-ANCE*. —**surveil** or **surveille** *v.* 1960, back formation from *surveillance*.

survey *v.* About 1400 *servayen* examine in detail, appraise; later *surveyen* (1439); borrowed from Old French *surveoir*, *sourveoir*, from Medieval Latin *supervidere* oversee, SUPERVISE. The sense of determine the form, extent, and position of (land), is first recorded in 1550. —**n.** 1535, supervision, from the verb. The sense of an act of surveying is first recorded in 1548. —**surveyor** *n.* About 1417 *surveour* overseer, supervisor; borrowed from Middle French *surveieur*, from Old French *surveoir* to survey; for suffix see *-OR*². A person who surveys land is first recorded in 1551.

survive *v.* 1473 *surviven* live on, especially in the legal sense of a survivor; perhaps a back formation from earlier *survivor*, in the legal sense, and later (1591 or 1593) as a borrowing from Middle French *survivre*, *sourvivre*, from Latin *supervivere* live beyond, live longer than (*super-* over, beyond + *vivere* to live). —**survival** *n.* 1598, formed from English *survive* + *-al*². —**survivor** *n.* 1425 (in law) the surviving person of two or more with a joint interest; formed from English *survive* + *-or*², in place of Old French *survivant* in the same sense (1125).

sus- a form of the prefix *sub-* before *c*, *p*, or *t* in some words of Latin origin, as in *susceptible*, *suspend*, *sustain*. Formed in Latin from an early variant **sup-*; see *SUB*.

susceptible *adj.* 1605, capable of receiving or undergoing; borrowed from French *susceptible*, and directly from Late Latin *susceptibilis* capable, sustainable, susceptible, from Latin *susceptus*, past participle of *suscipere* sustain, support, acknowledge (*sus-* up + *-cipere*, from *capere* to take); for suffix see *-IBLE*. The meaning of easily influenced or affected is first recorded in 1646. —**susceptibility** *n.* 1644, quality or condition of being susceptible; borrowed from Medieval Latin *susceptibilitas*, from Late Latin *susceptibilis* susceptible; for suffix see *-ITY*.

suspect *adj.* Before 1325, regarded with mistrust; borrowed from Old French *suspect* suspicious, from Latin *suspectus* suspected, suspicious, past participle of *suspiciere* look up at, mistrust, suspect (*su-* up to + *specere* to look at). —**v.** Before 1450 *suspecten* believe guilty, false, etc., without proof; developed from the adjective in Middle English, and probably borrowed

from Middle French *suspecter*, or directly from Latin *suspectāre* mistrust, be suspicious of, frequentative form of *suspiciere* to suspect. —**n.** 1591, from the adjective.

suspend *v.* About 1300 *suspenden* to stop or debar temporarily; borrowed from Old French *suspendre*, or directly from Latin *suspendere* to hang, stop (*sus-* up + *pendere* cause to hang, weigh). The sense of hang, hang up, is first recorded in Middle English about 1440, and that of hold in suspension, keep (one's judgment, etc.) undetermined, in 1553. —**suspenders** *n.* pl. 1810, formed from *suspend* + *-er*¹ + plural suffix *-s*¹.

suspense *n.* 1402 *suspence* state of suspended action, abeyance; later, state of uncertainty (about 1450); borrowed through Anglo-French *suspens* (in *en suspens* in abeyance), from Old French *suspens* (feminine *suspense*) act of suspending, from Latin *suspēnsus*, past participle of *suspendere* Suspend.

suspension *n.* 1421, borrowed from Latin *suspēnsiōnem* (nominative *suspēnsiō*) the act or state of hanging up, a vaulting, from *suspēns-*, past participle stem of *suspendere* to hang; see Suspend; for suffix see *-iōn*. A mixture of particles that remain suspended without dissolving is first recorded in English in 1707.

suspicion *n.* 1375 *suspicioun* act of suspecting; alteration of earlier *suspicioun* (probably before 1300); borrowed through Anglo-French *suspicioun*, earlier *suspeziun*, from Old French *suspeçun*, *sospeçon* mistrust, suspicion, from Latin *suspēctiōnem* (nominative *suspēctiō*) mistrust, suspicion, fear, awe, from *suspect-*, past participle stem of *suspiciere* look up at; see Suspect; for suffix see *-iōn*. The modern spelling in English was influenced by Latin *suspiciōnem* (nominative *suspiciō*) suspicion, from *suspiciere* to suspect. —**suspicious** *adj.* 1340 *suspecious* open to, deserving of, or exciting suspicion; borrowed from Old French *suspēciōsus*, *suspiciōsus*, from Latin *suspiciōsus* full of suspicion, from *suspiciō* suspicion; for suffix see *-ōsus*.

sustain *v.* Probably before 1300 *sustenēn* keep up, keep going; about 1300 *susteynen*; borrowed from Old French *sustenir*, *soustenir* hold up, endure, from Latin *sustinēre* hold up, support, endure (*sus-* up + *-tinēre*, from *tenēre* to hold). —**sustenance** *n.* Probably before 1300 *sustenance* means of sustaining life; borrowed from Old French *sustenance*, *soustenance* endurance, a sustaining, from *soustenir*, *sostenir* sustain; for suffix see *-ance*.

sutler *n.* person who follows or camps near an army and sells provisions to the soldiers; later, one who establishes a store near an army post. 1590, borrowed from early modern Dutch *soeteler* (modern Dutch *zoetelaar*) small tradesman, sutler, from Middle Low German *suteler*, *sudeler* person who performs dirty tasks, from Middle High German *sudelen* to dirty, modern German *Sudler* bungler.

suture *n.* Probably before 1425, borrowed from Latin *sūtūra* a seam, from *sūt-*, past participle stem of *suere* to sew; for suffix see *-ure*. —**v.** 1777, from the noun.

svelte *adj.* About 1817 *svelt*; borrowing of French *svelte* slim, slender, from Italian *svelto* slim, slender; originally, pulled out, lengthened, from past participle of *svellere* to pluck or root out,

from Vulgar Latin **exvellere* a re-formation replacing Latin *ēvellere* pull out (*ē-* out + *vellere* to pluck, stretch).

swab *n.* 1659, a reduced form of earlier English *swabber* (1607, a mop for cleaning a ship's deck, etc.); borrowed from early modern Dutch **zwabber* a mop (compare Low German and West Frisian *swabber* mop), from obsolete early modern Dutch *zwabben* to mop, from Proto-Germanic **swab-*. —**v.** 1719, possibly from the noun.

swaddle *v.* 1491 *swadlen*, probably a back formation from earlier *swadling band* swaddling cloth or band (before 1325), or *swathelbonde* (about 1200), from *swathel-*, probably a frequentative form of Late Old English *swathian* to SWATHE; for suffix see *-LE*³. —**n.** 1538, from the verb.

swag *v.* 1530, probably borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Norwegian *svage*, *svaie* to sway, toss, and Old Icelandic *svęggia* to swing, sway; cognate with Old English *swingan* to SWING¹). —**n.** 1660, a lurching or swaying; from the verb. The meaning of ornamental festoon is found in 1794. The slang sense of booty, plunder, is first recorded in 1812. Earlier senses of *swag* (a bulky bag, 1303, and a big blustering fellow, 1588) are probably borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Norwegian dialect *svagg* big, strong person).

swagger *v.* 1590, in probably a frequentative form of *swag* to sway; for suffix see *-ER*⁴. —**n.** 1725, from the verb.

swain *n.* Before 1160 *swein* young man, attendant, follower; borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *sveinn* boy, servant, attendant, Danish *svend* servant, apprentice, Norwegian *svenn*, and Swedish *sven* apprentice). The Scandinavian words are from Proto-Germanic **swainaz*, and cognate with Old English *swān* shepherd, Old High German *swein* shepherd.

swale *n.* 1667, low, wet piece of land; special use of Scottish *swaill* low, hollow place (1584), or dialectal English (East Anglian) *swale*, *swell* shady place; developed from Middle English *swale* shade (1440); probably borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *swalr* cool, from Proto-Germanic **swalaz*, and *svala* to cool, Danish, Norwegian, and Swedish *sval* cool).

swallow¹ *v.* take in through the throat. Probably before 1200 *swelzen*, *swolegen*; later *swolowen* (about 1380), *swallow* (1500–20); developed from Old English *swelgan* (about 1000); cognate with Old Saxon *farswelgan* to swallow, Middle Dutch *swelghen* (modern Dutch *zwellen*), Old High German *swelahan*, *swēlgan* (modern German *schwelgen* to revel, feast), from Proto-Germanic **swelH-/swelz-*; and Old Icelandic *swelgja* to swallow (Norwegian *swelgje*, Danish *svælge*, Swedish *svälja*). The sense of consume, destroy, is first recorded in English before 1340. —**n.** Before 1338 *swelw* gulf, abyss; later *swalow* throat, gullet (before 1400); developed from late Old English *geswelg*, *swelw* gulf, abyss (before 1100); cognate with Middle Low German *swalch* throat, glutton, gluttony, Middle High German *swalch* gullet, gorge, abyss, and Old Icelandic *swelgr* whirlpool, devourer, swallower (Swedish *svalg* throat, Norwegian *swelg*, Danish *svælg*).

swallow² *n.* bird. Probably before 1300 *swalu*, and *swalewe*; developed from Old English (before 800) *swealwe*, from Proto-Germanic **swalwōn*; cognate with Old Saxon *swala* swallow, Middle Low German *swalewe*, *swalue*, Middle Dutch *swāluwe* (modern Dutch *zwaluw*), Old High German *swalawa*, *swalwa* (modern German *Schwalbe*), and Old Icelandic *svala* (Swedish *svala*, Norwegian and Danish *svale*).

swami *n.* 1773, an idol; later, a religious teacher (1901); borrowed from Hindi *swāmī* master (used as term of address), from Sanskrit *svāmī* (genitive *svāmīnas*) lord, master, from *svā-s* one's own.

swamp *n.* 1624, earlier in the compound *swamuwatyr* swamp water (before 1500); perhaps representing an Old English **swamp*, which would be cognate with Old Icelandic *svæppr* sponge, fungus (Swedish and Danish *svamp*), from Proto-Germanic **swampuz*; but traditionally compared with modern English *sump* as a variant of Middle English *sompe* morass, swamp (before 1450); probably borrowed from Middle Dutch *somp* or Middle Low German *sump* swamp; cognate with Middle High German *sumpf* swamp (modern German *Sumpf*). —**v.** 1772–84, fill with water, submerge; from the noun. The sense of overwhelm, sink as if in a swamp, is first recorded in 1818.

swan *n.* Old English *swan* (probably about 750), from Proto-Germanic **swanaz*; cognate with Middle Low German *swan* swan, Middle Dutch *swāne* (modern Dutch *zwaan*), Middle High German *swan* (modern German *Schwan*), and Old Icelandic *svanr* (Swedish *svan*, Danish and Norwegian *svane*).

swank *v.* 1809, to strut, of uncertain origin; perhaps related to Middle High German *swanken* to sway, totter (modern German *schwanken*), and Old High German *swingan* to SWING¹. —**adj.** 1913, from the verb. —**swanky** *adj.* (1842)

swap *v.* Probably before 1200 *swappen* to strike, strike the hands together; of unknown origin. The sense of exchange, barter, or trade, is first recorded in 1594; possibly so called from the practice of striking hands as a sign of agreement in bargaining. —**n.** About 1250 *swop* a blow, a striking; later *swappe* (about 1380). The meaning of an exchange, barter, or trade, is first recorded in 1625.

sward *n.* Probably before 1300 *sward* flesh or skin; about 1300, sod, turf; developed from Old English (before 800) *sweard* skin, rind; cognate with Old Frisian *sward* skin of the head, scalp, Middle Dutch *swaerde* skin, hide (modern Dutch *zwaard* bacon rind), Middle Low German *sward* hairy skin, scalp, Middle High German *sward* (modern German *Schwarte* rind), and Old Icelandic *svǫrdhr* (genitive *svardhar*) skin, walrus hide (Norwegian *svor*, *svord* rind, Swedish *svål* pigskin, turf), from Proto-Germanic **swardu-*.

swarm¹ *n.* group of bees or other insects. About 1350 *swarme*; developed from Old English (before 800) *swearm*; cognate with Old Saxon and Middle Low German *swarm* swarm, Middle Dutch *swarm*, *swerm* (modern Dutch *zwerm*), Old High German *swaram* (modern German *Schwarm*), and Old Icelandic *svarmr* tumult (Danish *sværm* swarm, Swedish *svärm*,

Norwegian *swerm*), from Proto-Germanic **swarmaz*. —**v.** Probably about 1380 *swarmen* to leave a hive to start another; from the noun.

swarm² *v.* to climb, shin (as in *swarm up a tree*). 1500's, perhaps originally a sailor's term; also found in obsolete *swarve* (1500's); both words of uncertain origin.

swart *adj.* dark, swarthy. Before 1121 *swarte*; developed from Old English *sweart* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *swart* black, Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *swart* (modern Dutch *zwart*), Old High German *swarz* (modern German *schwarz*), Old Icelandic *svart* (Norwegian and Swedish *svart*, Danish *sort* black), and Gothic *swarts* from Proto-Germanic **swartaz*.

swarthy *adj.* dark-colored or having a dark skin. 1581, alteration of earlier *swarty* (1572), formed from English *swart* + *-y*¹. A derivative form, *swarthy*, is found as early as 1577. It is not clear why the *t* of *swarty* changed to *th* beginning in the latter 1500's.

swash *n.* 1538, the fall of a heavy body or blow; possibly a formation on *wash* with *s-* added for emphasis, and reminiscent of *splash*, etc. The meaning of a body of splashing water appeared in 1671, and that of a dashing or splashing in 1847–54. —**v.** 1556 (implied in *swashing*); probably from the noun.

swashbuckler *n.* 1560, formed from English *swash*, *v.* + *buckler* shield; the original, literal sense may have been one who makes a noise by striking his own or his opponent's shield, a swordsman. —**swashbuckling** *adj.* Before 1693, formed from English *swashbuckler* + *-ing*².

swastika *n.* 1871, borrowed from Sanskrit *svastika-s*, from *svasti-s* well-being, luck; formed from *su-* well + *as-*, root of *asti* (he) is; so called because swastikas were thought in early times to bring good luck. The use of *swastika* in reference to the Nazi emblem is first recorded in English in 1932.

swat *v.* 1615, to sit down, squat; probably a dialectal variant of SQUAT. The sense of hit sharply (before 1796), may be of different derivation (possibly alteration of *swap* to strike, smite, probably before 1400). —**n.** Before 1800, sharp blow; probably from the verb.

SWAT or **S.W.A.T.** *n.* 1968, acronym formed from *S(pecial) W(eapons) a(n)d T(actics)* (squad or team) or *S(pecial) W(eapons) A(tack) T(eam)*.

swatch *n.* 1512 *swache* the countercheck of a tally (in Northumberland); later, a tally attached to cloth sent to be dyed (1612, in Yorkshire); 1647, a sample piece of cloth; of unknown origin.

swath *n.* About 1250 *swathe* track, trace; developed from Old English *swæth*, *swathu* (about 725, in *Beowulf*). The Old-English forms *swæth* (from Proto-Germanic **swathan*), and *swathu* (from Proto-Germanic **swathō*) are cognate with Old Frisian *swethe* limit, boundary, Middle Low German *swat*, *swāde* furrow, swath, Middle Dutch *swat* swath (modern Dutch *zwad*, *zwade*), Middle High German *swade* swath (modern

German *Schwaden*), and Old Icelandic *svadh* slippery place (Norwegian *sva* bare cliff, Swedish *svad* bare cliff, clearing). The meaning of a space covered by a single cut of a scythe is found probably about 1475, and that of a strip or lengthwise extent (of something), probably 1605.

swathe *v.* Probably before 1325 *swathen*; developed from Late Old English (1100's) *swathian* to swathe; cognate with Middle Low German *swede* bandage. —**n.** 1565, infant's swaddling bands; 1598, band of cloth, wrapping; re-formation; from the verb; also found in Late Old English *swathum* (about 1050).

sway *v.* About 1300 *swien*, *swēgen* go, glide, move; later *sweyen* sweep (probably about 1380); probably borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *sveigja* to bend, swing, give way, from Proto-Germanic **swaizjanan*, related to *svigna* give way, and probably cognate with Middle Low German *swāien* to sway, modern Dutch *zwaaien* to swing, wave). The sense of swing, wave, waver, is first recorded about 1500. —**n.** About 1175 *swēze* motion; later *sway* (before 1300); probably from the same Scandinavian source as the verb (compare Old Icelandic *svigi* a bending switch, *svig* a bend, Norwegian *svæg* switch). The meaning of controlling influence (as in *to be under the sway of a leader*) is found before 1510.

swear *v.* 1123 *sweren* to take an oath; developed from Old English *swerian* (about 725, in *Beowulf*, from Proto-Germanic **swarjanan*); cognate with Old Frisian *swera* to swear, Old Saxon *swerian*, Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *sweren* (modern Dutch *zweren*), Old High German *swerien*, *swerren* (modern German *schwören*), Old Icelandic *sverja* to swear (Swedish *svärja*, Norwegian *sverge*, Danish *sværge*), and Gothic *swaran* to swear, from Proto-Germanic **swar-*, found also in Old Icelandic *svar* answer, *svara* to answer, and Old English *andswaru* ANSWER.

sweat *v.* Probably before 1200 *sweten*; developed from Old English *swētan* perspire, work hard (before 899), from *swāt*, *n.*, sweat. —**n.** Probably before 1200 *swete* life blood; also, perspiration, dialectal (northern English) variant of *swote* (probably about 1150); developed from Old English *swāt* sweat (from Proto-Germanic **swaita-*), cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *swēt* sweat, Middle Dutch *sweet* (modern Dutch *zweet*), Old High German *swēiz* (modern German *Schweiss*), and Old Icelandic *svēiti* (Swedish *svett*, Norwegian and Danish *svet*). Change to the form *swete* was influenced by the verb *sweten* to sweat. —**sweater** *n.* Before 1529, one who works hard, toiler; formed from English *sweat*, *v.* + *-er*¹. The meaning of a woolen vest or jersey, originally worn in rowing, is first recorded in 1882, from earlier *sweaters* clothing worn to produce sweating and reduce weight (1828). —**sweaty** *adj.* About 1380 *swety* causing sweat; formed from *swete* sweat + *-y*¹. The sense of covered with sweat is first recorded in 1590.

sweep *v.* Probably before 1200 *swepen* to clear away with a broom; also move swiftly and strongly; of uncertain origin, but replacing *swope* sweep (about 1200), developed from Old English *swāpan* to sweep; see **SWOOP**. —**n.** About 1250 *swēp* stroke, force; from the verb. The sense of an act of sweeping is

first recorded in 1552, and that of scope, reach, compass in 1679.

sweepstakes *n.* 1773, prize won in a race or contest, from Middle English *swepestake* one who sweeps or wins all the stakes in a game (1495); formed from Middle English *swepen*, *v.*, sweep + *stake*², *n.*

sweet *adj.* About 1175 *swete*; developed from Old English (before 830) *swēte* pleasing to the senses, mind, or feelings (from Proto-Germanic **swōtijaz*); cognate with Old Frisian *swēt* sweet, Old Saxon *swōti*, *swōti*, Middle Low German *sote*, *sute*, Middle Dutch *soete* (modern Dutch *zoet*), Old High German *suozi* (modern German *süss*), and Old Icelandic *sætr* (Swedish *söt*, Norwegian *sot*, Danish *sød*). —**n.** Probably before 1200 *swete*; from the adjective. —**sweet corn** (1646) —**sweeten** *v.* 1552, formed from English *sweet*, *adj.* + *-en*¹. —**sweetheart** *n.* About 1290, as a term of address; 1576, loved one, lover. —**sweetmeats** *n. pl.* (about 1480) —**sweet tooth** Before 1393, Middle English *tooth* taste, liking; compare **TOOTHsome**.

swell *v.* Probably before 1200 *swellen*, developed from Old English (about 725, in *Beowulf*) *swellan* grow or make bigger (past tense *sweall*, past participle *swollen*); cognate with Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *swellen* to swell (modern Dutch *zwellen*), Old High German *swellan* (modern German *schwellen*), Old Icelandic *svella* swell (Swedish *svälla*, Norwegian *svelle*), from Proto-Germanic **swelanan*, and Gothic *ufswalleinōs* (plural) pride, arrogance. —**n.** Probably before 1200 *swel* swelling; from the verb. A rising or heaving of the sea in rolling waves is first recorded in 1606. —**adj.** 1810, fashionably dressed or equipped; from the noun. The sense of good, excellent, first occurs in 1897.

swelter *v.* About 1403 *swelteren* suffer from heat, sweat profusely; frequentative form of earlier *swelten* be faint, especially with heat (before 1390); developed from Old English *sweltan* to die (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Saxon *sweltan* to die, Middle Dutch *swelten* to faint, die, Old High German *swelzan* burn away, languish, Old Icelandic *svelta* to die, starve (Swedish *svälta* starve, Danish and Norwegian *sulte* to hunger), and Gothic *swiltan* to die; probably from Proto-Germanic **swel-* to burn slowly, found in Old English *swelan* to burn, Middle Low German *swelen* to smolder.

swerve *v.* Probably about 1200 *swerfen* go off, turn aside; later *swerven* (before 1338); developed in form from Old English *sweorfan* to rub, scour, file, but unaccounted for in sense development. Old English *sweorfan*, from Proto-Germanic **swerbanan*, is cognate with Old Frisian *swerwa* to creep, Old Saxon *swerban* to wipe, Middle Dutch *swerven* to rove, stray (modern Dutch *zwerfen*), Old High German *swerban* wipe, move back and forth, Old Icelandic *sverfa* to file, and Gothic *-swairban* to wipe. Middle Dutch *swerven* stray, suggests the sense of go off, turn aside, may have come from influence outside of English, though present in Middle English was unrecorded in Old English. —**n.** 1741, from the verb.

swift *adj.* Old English *swift* moving quickly (about 725, in

Beowulf), related to *swifan* move in a course, sweep; see SWIVEL. —**adv.** Probably about 1380; from the adjective. —**n.** Probably before 1481 *swyfte* something swift; from the adjective. Reference to a kind of bird noted for its swift flight is first found in 1668.

swig *n.* 1548, drink or liquor; later, big or hearty drink of liquor (1621–23); of unknown origin. —**v.** About 1654, from the noun.

swill *v.* About 1250, *swilen* to wash, stir, pour, drink; developed from Old English (before 800) *swilian*, *swillan* to wash, gargle, from Proto-Germanic **sweljanan*. The meaning of drink greedily is first recorded about 1530. —**n.** 1553, liquid kitchen refuse fed to pigs; from the verb.

swim *v.* About 1175 *swimmen*; developed from Old English *swimman* to move in or on the water, float (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *swimma* to swim, Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *swemmen* (modern Dutch *zwemmen*), Old High German *swimman* (modern German *schwimmen*), Old Icelandic *svimma* (Swedish *simma*, Norwegian and Danish *svømme* to swim), from Proto-Germanic **swemjanan*. The sense of reel, move unsteadily, is first recorded in 1678. —**n.** 1599, smooth gliding movement; later, act of swimming (1764); from the verb.

swindle *v.* 1782, to cheat, defraud, back formation from SWINDLER. —**n.** 1852, from the verb. —**swindler** *n.* 1774, person who cheats or defrauds; borrowed from German *Schwindler* giddy person, extravagant speculator, cheat, from *schwindeln* to be giddy, act extravagantly, swindle, from Old High German *swintilōn* be giddy, frequentative form of *swintan* to languish, disappear; cognate with Old English *swindan* to languish, disappear, and probably with Old English *swima* dizziness.

swine *n.* Before 1325 *suine*; later *swyne* (about 1375); also earlier *swein* (1128); developed from Old English (before 800) *swīn* pig, hog; cognate with Old Frisian, Old Saxon, and Middle Low German *swīn* swine, Middle Dutch *swijn* (modern Dutch *zwijn*), Old High German *swīn* (modern German *Schwein*), Old Icelandic *svīn* (Norwegian, Swedish, and Danish *svin*), and Gothic *swein*; from Proto-Germanic **swīnan*. —**swineherd** *n.* (before 1100)—**swinish** *adj.* Before 1200 *swinisse*, formed from Middle English *swine* swine + *-isse* -ish¹.

swing *v.* About 1175 *swingen* to beat, strike, move violently; developed from Old English (before 800) *swingan*; also earlier, to rush, fling oneself (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *swinga* to fling, Old Saxon *swingan* fling oneself, Middle Low German *swingen*, Old High German *swingan* to fling, beat, move rapidly (modern German *schwingen* to swing), from Proto-Germanic **swenzanan*. The meaning of suspend so as to turn freely is first recorded in English in 1528, and that of move freely back and forth, in 1545. —**n.** Before 1325, a stroke with a weapon; developed from Old English *geswing* stroke (as in *sweordgeswing* sword stroke); related to *swingan* to beat, strike. The meaning of an oscillating is found in 1589, from the verb. The meaning of an apparatus that swings is first recorded in 1687. A type of jazz music with

swinging rhythm, is first recorded in 1934, though the sense has been traced to 1888. —**swinger** *n.* 1543, person or thing that swings, formed from English *swing*, *v.* + *-er*¹. The sense of a person who is lively in an unrestrained way (1965), is found in the form *swinging*, *adj.* in 1958.

swipe *n.* Before 1807, possibly a dialectal variant of SWEEP, and in part, perhaps from obsolete English *swip* a stroke, blow (from Proto-Germanic **swip-*). —**v.** to strike with a sweeping blow. 1825; possibly a variant of *sweep*, *v.*, and in part a verb use of *swipe*, *n.*, perhaps influenced by or developing in part from obsolete *swip* to strike, move hastily, from Middle English *swippen*, from Old English **swippan*, **swipian* (compare Old English *swipu* a stick, whip); also perhaps connected to obsolete *swope* to sweep with broad movement, brandish, rush, dash, from Old English *swāpan*, or to obsolete *swaip* stroke, blow, or to obsolete *swape* oar, pole, etc., having a sweeping motion. The slang sense of to steal, pilfer, appeared in 1889, and is of uncertain connection, originally said to be theatrical slang, in reference to the practice of performers stealing jokes or appropriating stage routines from one another.

swirl *n.* About 1425 *swyrl* whirlpool, eddy; probably a formation similar in origin to dialectal Norwegian *svirla* and Dutch *zwirrelen* to whirl. The meaning of a whirling movement is first recorded in 1818. —**v.** 1513, to give a whirling motion to; from the noun. An earlier instance of the verb is recorded before 1398.

swish *v.* 1756, probably imitative of the sound made by a person, clothing, etc., brushing against or moving through something. —**n.** 1820, from the verb.

Swiss *n.* 1515, borrowed from Middle French *Suisse*, from Middle High German *Suīzer*, from *Suīz* Switzerland. —**adj.** 1530, borrowed from Middle French *Suisse*.

switch *n.* 1592, slender riding whip; probably borrowed from a Flemish or Low German word similar in formation to Hanoverian *swutsche*, variant of Low German *zwukse* long thin stick, switch. The meaning of a device for changing the direction of something or making or breaking a connection, is found in 1797. —**v.** About 1611, to beat or whip with or as with a switch; from the noun. The meaning of turn off or on is first recorded in 1853, and that of to shift, divert, in 1860.

swivel *n.* 1307–08 *swyvel* coupling device; possibly a frequentative form derived from *swif-*, stem of Old English *swifan* to move in a course, sweep, from Proto-Germanic **swīpanan*; for suffix see -LE³ (compare Old Icelandic *sveifla* set in circular motion). Old English *swifan* is cognate with Old Frisian *swīvia* wander, sway, Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *sweven* to float, hover (modern Dutch *zweven*), Old High German *swēben* (modern German *schweben*), Old High German *sweibōn* to sway, hover, and Old Icelandic *svífa* to wander, drift. —**v.** 1794, from the noun.

swizzle *n.* 1813, possibly a variant of *switchel* a drink of molasses and water (1790), of uncertain origin. —**v.** to drink habitually and to excess. 1843, from the noun.

swoon *v.* About 1250 *swounen*; earlier *iswozen* (probably before

1200); developed from Old English *geswōgen* in a faint (about 1000), past participle of **swōgan*, as in *āswōgan* to choke, of uncertain origin. —**n.** About 1250 in *sowne*; later in *swoun* (about 1303); alteration of a *swoun* in a faint (*a* in + *sowne*, *swoun* faint, from *swounen* to faint).

swoop *v.* 1566, move in a stately manner, variant of *swopen* to sweep (about 1175); developed from Old English (before 1000) *swāpan* to sweep, brandish, dash; cognate with Old Saxon *swēpan* to clean, sweep, Old High German *sweifen* to coil, wind (modern German *schweifen* to curve, rove, ramble), and Old Icelandic *sveipa* to sling, throw, wrap (Norwegian *sveipe*, Swedish *svepe*, Danish *svøbe*), from Proto-Germanic **swaipan*. The meaning of pounce upon or seize with a sweeping movement is first recorded in 1638. Development of the spelling with -oo- may have been influenced by Scottish and Northern English dialect *soop* to sweep (about 1480), borrowed from Old Icelandic *sōpa* to sweep. —**n.** 1605, rapid downward sweep, sudden descent or attack; from the verb. An earlier sense of a blow, stroke, is found in 1544–45; the source of this sense is unclear.

sword *n.* About 1250, developed from Old English *sweord* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *swerd* sword, Middle Dutch *swaert* (modern Dutch *zwaard*), Old High German *swert* (modern German *Schwert*), and Old Icelandic *sverdh* (Swedish *svärd*, Danish and Norwegian *sværd*), from Proto-Germanic **swerdan*; related to Old High German *sweran* to hurt, from Proto-Germanic **swer-* to cut. —**swordfish** *n.* (about 1400)

sy- a form of the prefix *syn-*¹ before *s* with a following consonant, or before *z* in words of Greek origin, as in *system*, *syzygy*.

sybarite *n.* 1598, inhabitant of Sybaris, an ancient Greek town in southern Italy known for its luxury; borrowed from Latin *Sybarita*, from Greek *Sybaritēs*, from *Sýbaris* Sybaris; for suffix see -ITE¹. The meaning of a person devoted to luxury and pleasure is first recorded in 1623. —**sybaritic** *adj.* (1619)

sycamore *n.* About 1350 *sicamour* a kind of fig tree; borrowed from Old French *sicamor*, from Latin *sýcomorus*, from Greek *sýkomoros* (*sýkon* fig + *móron* mulberry); so called because the tree has leaves resembling those of the mulberry. The use of *sycamore* in the sense of a maple tree of Europe and Asia appeared in 1588; application to a North American shade tree in 1814.

sycophant *n.* Before 1548, informer, talebearer, slanderer; borrowed from Middle French *sycophante*, and directly from Latin *sýcophanta*, from Greek *sýkophántēs*, originally, one who makes the insulting gesture of the “fig,” that is, sticking the thumb between two fingers (*sýkon* vulva, fig + *-phántēs* one who shows, from *phainēin* to show). The sense of a mean, servile flatterer, is first recorded in English in 1575. —**sycophancy** *n.* 1622, borrowed from Latin *sýcophantia*, from Greek *sýkophantía* conduct of a sycophant, from *sýkophántēs* informer; for suffix see -ANCY. —**sycophantic** *adj.* 1676, borrowed from Greek *sýkophantikós*, from *sýkophántēs* sycophant; for suffix see -IC.

syl- a form of the prefix *syn-*¹ before *l* in words of Greek origin, as in *sylogism*. Formed in Greek by assimilation of *n* before the following consonant (*l*).

syllable *n.* About 1380 *sillable* part of a word pronounced as a unit; borrowed through Anglo-French *sillable*, alteration with *l* of Old French *sillabe*, from Latin *syllaba*, from Greek *syllabē* a syllable, several sounds or letters taken together; originally a taking together (*syl-* together + *lab-*, stem of *lambánein* to take). The alteration with *l* in Anglo-French and English apparently developed on the analogy of such words as *participle* and *principle*. —**syllabary** *n.* 1586, borrowed from New Latin *syllabarium*, from Latin *syllaba* syllable; for suffix see -ARY. —**syllabic** *adj.* 1728, forming a syllable; borrowed through French *syllabique*, and directly from New Latin *syllabicus*, from Greek *syllabikós* of or pertaining to a syllable, from *syllabē* syllable; for suffix see -IC. —**syllabicate** *v.* 1775, back formation from earlier *syllabication* formation of syllables (1631); for suffix see -ATE¹. English *syllabication* was borrowed from Medieval Latin *syllabicationem* (nominative *syllabication*) formation of syllables, from *syllabicare* form into syllables, from Latin *syllaba* syllable; for suffix see -ATION. —**syllabify** *v.* 1864, back formation from earlier *syllabification* formation of syllables (1838); for suffix see -FY. English *syllabification* was formed from Latin *syllaba* syllable + English connective -i- + -fication.

syllabus *n.* 1656, brief outline of a treatise, course of study, etc.; borrowed from Late Latin *syllabus*, a misreading of Greek *sillybos* parchment label.

sylogism *n.* Before 1387 *silogisme*, borrowed from Old French *silogisme* a syllogism, from Latin *sylogismus*, from Greek *sylogismós* a syllogism, originally, inference, conclusion, from *sylogizesthai* bring together, premise, conclude (*syl-* together + *logizesthai* to reason, count, from *lógos* a reckoning, reason); for suffix see -ISM. —**sylogistic** *adj.* About 1449 *sillogistik*; borrowed from Latin *sylogisticus*, from Greek *sylogistikós* pertaining to syllogism, from *sylogizesthai* conclude; for suffix see -IC.

sylyph *n.* 1657, an imaginary spirit of the air; borrowed from New Latin *sylyphes*, pl., coined in the 1500's, and originally referring to any of a race of spirits inhabiting the air, described as having mortality but lacking a soul. The meaning of a slender, graceful girl with light, airy movement is first recorded in English in 1838.

sylvan *n.* 1565, a spirit of the woods; borrowed from Middle French *sylvain*, and directly from Latin *silvānus* pertaining to wood or forest, from *silva* a wood, forest, grove. —**adj.** 1580–83, from the noun.

sym- a form of the prefix *syn-*¹ before *b*, *m*, or *p* in words of Greek origin, as in *symbol*, *sympathy*. Formed in Greek by assimilation of *n* before the following consonant.

symbiosis *n.* 1877, New Latin, from Greek *syμβίōsis* a living together, from *syμβiōn* live together, from *syμβios* (one) living together (with another), partner (*sym-* together + *bios* life); for suffix see -OSIS. An earlier sense of communal or social life,

is found in 1622. —**symbiotic** adj. 1882, formed from English *symbiosis*, on the analogy of osmosis, osmotic, etc.

symbol *n.* About 1434 *simbal* creed, summary or religious belief; later *symbole* (1490); borrowed from Middle French *symbole*, and directly from Latin *symbolum* creed, token, mark, from Greek *symbolon* (*sym-* together + *bol-*, stem related to that of *bállein* to throw). The meaning of something that stands for something else, is first recorded in English in 1590.

—**symbolic** adj. 1656, shortened form of *symbolical* (1607), perhaps by influence of French *symbolique*; borrowed from Late Latin *symbolicus*, from Greek *symbolikós* of or belonging to a symbol, from *symbolon* symbol; for suffix see -IC. —**symbolism** *n.* (1654) —**symbolize** *v.* 1590, unite (elements or substances of similar qualities); formed from English *symbol* + -ize on the model of Middle French *symboliser* be alike, represent; from Latin *symbolum* symbol; for suffix see -IZE. The meaning of represent or stand for is first recorded in 1603.

symmetry *n.* 1563, mutual relation of parts, proportion; borrowed from Middle French *symmétrie*, or directly from Latin *symmetria*, from Greek *symmetría* agreement in dimensions, arrangement, from *symmetros* having a common measure, even, proportionate (*sym-* together + *métron* meter). The meaning of well-balanced arrangement of parts, harmony, is first recorded in 1599. —**symmetrical** adj. 1751, formed from English *symmetry* + -ical, on the analogy of *geometry*, *geometrical*.

sympathy *n.* 1579, agreement in qualities, conformity, concord; borrowed from Middle French *sympathie*, or directly from Late Latin *sympathia* community of feeling, sympathy, from Greek *sympátheia*, from *sympathēs* having a fellow feeling, affected by like feelings (*sym-* together + *páthos* feeling); for suffix see -Y³. The meaning of agreement in feelings or temperament is first recorded in English in 1596, and that of compassion, commiseration, in 1600. —**sympathetic** adj. 1644, acting by a real or supposed affinity; shortened form of *sympathetical* (1639, also implied in *sympathetically*, 1621); borrowed from New Latin *sympatheticus*, from Greek *sympathētikós* having sympathy, from *sympathēs* having a fellow feeling; patterned after *pathētikós* pathetic; for suffix see -IC, -ICAL. —**sympathize** *v.* 1597, borrowed from French *sympathiser*, from *sympathie* sympathy; from Latin *sympathia* sympathy; for suffix see -IZE.

symphony *n.* About 1300 *symphonie* any of various musical instruments; later *simphonia* harmony (before 1398); borrowed from Old French *symphonie*, and directly from Latin *symphōnia* a unison of sounds, harmony, from Greek *symphōnía* harmony, concert, from *symphōnos* harmonious (*sym-* together + *phōnē* voice, sound); for suffix see -Y³. The meaning of an elaborate orchestral composition appeared in 1789. —**symphonic** adj. 1856, involving similarity of sound; borrowed from French *symphonique*, or formed in English from *symphony* + -ic, on the analogy of *harmony*, *harmonic*. The meaning of having to do with or like a symphony is first recorded in 1864.

symposium *n.* Before 1586, account of a convivial party or gathering; borrowed from Latin *symposium* drinking party,

symposium, from Greek *sympósion* (*sym-* together + *pósis* a drinking, from *po-*, a stem related to that of Aeolic *pónēn* to drink, cognate with Latin *pōtāre* to drink). The sense of a meeting on some subject is first cited in 1784.

symptom *n.* 1541, indication or evidence of sickness; alteration (influenced by Middle French *symptome*, and Late Latin *symp̄tōma*) of Middle English *sinthoma* (before 1398); borrowed from Medieval Latin *sinthoma* symptom of a disease, from Late Latin *symp̄tōma*, from Greek *symp̄tōma* (genitive *symp̄tōmatos*) a happening, accident, disease, from a stem of *symp̄ptēin* to befall (*sym-* together + *p̄ptēin* to fall). The general sense of a sign, indication, is first recorded in English in 1611. —**symp-tomatic** adj. 1698, shortened form of *symptomatical* (1586); borrowed through French *sympptomatique*, and directly from Late Latin *symp̄tomaticus*, from Greek *symp̄tōmatikós*, from *symp̄tōma* symptom; for suffix see -IC.

syn⁻¹ a prefix occurring in words of Greek origin and especially in many modern scientific and technical terms, meaning: with, together, jointly, at the same time, alike, as in *synchronous*, *syntax*, *synthesis*; or completely, thoroughly, as in *syncope*. Borrowed from Greek *syn-*, from the preposition *syn*, earlier *xyn* with.

syn⁻² a combining form meaning synthetic, added to nouns, as in *synjet*, *synoil*, *synfuel*. 1971, abstracted in English from SYNTHETIC.

synagogue *n.* About 1175 *sinagoge* a Jewish house of worship; also, assembly or congregation of Jews; later *synagogue* (about 1300); borrowed from Old French *sinagoge*, from Late Latin *synagōga* congregation of Jews, from Greek *synagōgē* place of assembly, synagogue; literally, meeting, assembly, from *synagein* to gather, assemble (*syn-* together, *syn⁻¹* + *agein* bring, lead).

synapse *n.* 1899, borrowed from Greek *synapsis* conjunction, from *synáptēin* to clasp (*syn-* together, *syn⁻¹* + *háptēin* to fasten). Related to APSE.

sync or **synch** *n.* 1929, shortened form of SYNCHRONIZATION. The sense of be in agreement, coincide, found in *in sync* is first recorded in 1961. —**v.** 1945, shortened form of SYNCHRONIZE.

synchronic adj. 1833, synchronous, simultaneous; shortened form of *synchronical* (1652, formed from Late Latin *synchronus* simultaneous + English -ical). The sense of dealing with a language only as it occurs at a given time, as opposed to historical or diachronic, is first recorded in English in 1922, and was probably a reborrowing into English from French *synchronique* (before 1913).

synchronism *n.* 1588, borrowed from New Latin *synchronismus*, from Greek *synchronismós*, from *synchronos* SYNCHRONOUS; for suffix see -ISM.

synchronize *v.* About 1624, to occur at the same time; borrowed from Greek *synchronízein* be of the same time, from *synchronos* happening at the same time, SYNCHRONOUS; for suffix see -IZE. The sense of make synchronous, is first recorded in

1806. —**synchronization** *n.* 1828, formed from English *synchronize* + *-ation*.

synchronous *adj.* 1669, borrowed from Late Latin *synchronus* simultaneous, from Greek *sýchronos* happening at the same time (*syn-* together, *syn-*¹ + *chrónos* time); for suffix see *-OUS*.

syncopate *v.* 1605, shorten (a word) by omitting sounds from the middle; probably a back formation from *syncopation*, on the model of Medieval Latin *syncopatus*, past participle of *syncopare* to shorten, from Late Latin *syncopē* *SYNCOPE*; for suffix see *-ATE*¹. The meaning in music is first recorded in 1667, implied in *syncopated*, from use in *syncopation*. —**syncopation** *n.* About 1532, contraction of a word; 1597, shifting of accents in music; borrowed from Medieval Latin *syncopationem* (nominative *syncopatio*) a shortening or contraction, from *syncopare* shorten; for suffix see *-ATION*.

syncope *n.* 1530 *syncopa*, later *syncope* (1579), alteration (influenced by Greek *synkopē*) of Middle English *sincopene* (1464); borrowed from Late Latin *syncopē* contraction of a word, accusative of *syncopē*, from Greek *synkopē* contraction of a word; originally, a cutting off, from *synkóptein* to cut up (*syn-* together, thoroughly + *kóptein* to cut).

syncretism *n.* 1618, borrowed from French *syncretisme* (1611), or directly from New Latin *syncretismus* (1615), from Greek *synkrētismós* union of communities, from *synkrēteîn* to combine against a common enemy; for suffix see *-ISM*. The merging of two or more inflectional categories, such as of a declension, is first recorded in 1909. —**syncretize** *v.* 1675, borrowed from New Latin *syncretizare*, from Greek *synkrēteîn* to combine; for suffix see *-IZE*.

syndic *n.* 1601, civil magistrate, especially in Geneva; borrowed from French *syndic* chief representative and directly from Late Latin *syndicus* representative of a group or town, from Greek *syndikos* public advocate (*syn-* together, *syn-*¹ + *dikē* judgment, usage). The representative of a university or other corporation is first found in English in 1607.

syndicalism *n.* 1907, borrowed from French *syndicalisme*, from *syndical* of a labor union, from *syndic* chief representative, *SYNDIC*; for suffix see *-ISM*.

syndicate *n.* 1624, council or body of representatives; borrowed from French *syndicat*, from *syndic* representative of a corporation, *SYNDIC*; for suffix see *-ATE*¹. The sense of a combination of persons or companies to carry out some commercial undertaking first occurs in 1865. —*v.* 1610, to judge, censure; borrowed from Medieval Latin *syndicatus*, past participle of *syndicare* to judge, censure, from Late Latin *syndicus* chief delegate, *SYNDIC*. The sense of control or manage by a syndicate is first recorded in English in 1882, and those of combine into a syndicate and publish simultaneously in a number of periodicals, both in 1889.

syndrome *n.* 1541, borrowed from New Latin, from Greek *syndromē* concurrence of symptoms, concourse, from *syndromos*, literally, running together (*syn-* with, *syn-*¹ + *drōmos*

running, course). The sense of behavior pattern, attitude, is first recorded in 1955.

synecdoche *n.* 1483, alteration (influenced by Late Latin *synecdochē*) of Middle English *synodoches* (before 1397); borrowed from Medieval Latin *synodochē*, an alteration of Late Latin *synecdochē*, from Greek *synekdochē*, from *synekdechēsthai* supply a thought or word, take with something else (*syn-* with, *syn-*¹ + *ek-* out + *dechēsthai* to receive, related to *dokēn* seem good).

synergism *n.* 1764, theological doctrine that the human will cooperates with divine grace in regeneration; borrowed from New Latin *synergismus*, from Greek *synergós* working together; see *SYNERGY*; for suffix see *-ISM*. The sense of the combined activity of two drugs or other substances is first recorded in 1910, probably suggested by the use of this sense in *synergistic* (1876), or in *synergy* (1847). The sense of interactive or interdependent, is first recorded in 1925. —**synergistic** *adj.* 1818, of or pertaining to synergism; formed from English *synergist* + *-ic*.

synergy *n.* 1660, cooperation; borrowed from New Latin *synergia*, from Greek *synergiā* joint work, assistance, help, from *synergós* working together, related to *synergeîn* work together, help another in work (*syn-* together, *syn-*¹ + *érgon* work); for suffix see *-Y*³. The sense of the combined action of a group of bodily organs, mental faculties, drugs, etc., is first recorded in English in 1847.

synod *n.* Before 1121 *sinoth*; later *synod* (before 1382); borrowed from Late Latin *synodus*, from Greek *synodos* assembly, meeting, conjunction of planets (*syn-* together, *syn-*¹ + *hodós* a going, a way). —**synodic** *adj.* 1640, made by or proceeding from a synod; borrowed from Late Latin *synodicus*, from Greek *synodikós* of a meeting or conjunction, from *synodos* *SYNOD*; for suffix see *-IC*.

synonym *n.* Probably before 1425 *sinonymes*, pl., a word having the same sense as another; borrowed from Middle French *synonyme*, and directly from Latin *synonymum*, from Greek *synōnymon*, noun use of neuter of *synōnymos* having the same name as, synonymous (*syn-* together, same + *ónyma*, dialectal form of *ónoma* name). The Anglicized singular is rarely found before the late 1700's. —**synonymous** *adj.* 1610, borrowed from Medieval Latin *synonymus*, from Greek *synōnymos*; for suffix see *-OUS*. —**synonymy** *n.* 1657, borrowed from French *synonymie*, and directly from Late Latin *synōnymia*, from Greek *synōnymíā* likeness of name or meaning, from *synōnymos* synonymous; for suffix see *-Y*³. An earlier sense "synonym" appeared in 1609.

synopsis *n.* 1611, condensed statement, summary, digest; borrowed from Late Latin *synopsis* a synopsis, from Greek *synopsis* general view, from a stem of *synorân* to see altogether, all at once (*syn-* together, *syn-*¹ + *horân* to see, view). —**synoptic** *adj.* 1763, borrowed from New Latin *synopticus*, from Greek *synoptikós* seeing the whole together, from *synopsis* synopsis; for suffix see *-IC*.

syntax *n.* 1605, orderly arrangement of parts or elements;

borrowed from French *syntaxe*, and directly from Late Latin *syntaxis*, from Greek *syntaxis* a putting together or in order, arrangement, syntax, from stem of *syntássein* put in order (*syn*-together, *syn*-¹ + *tássein* arrange). The grammatical sense is first recorded in English in 1613. —**syntactic** adj. 1807, belonging or relating to grammatical syntax; borrowed from New Latin *syntacticus*, from Greek *syntaktikós* a joining together or in order, from *syntássein* put in order; for suffix see -IC.

synthesis *n.* 1611, deductive reasoning from causes or principles to effects or particular instances; borrowed from Latin *synthesis* collection, set, composition (of a medication), from Greek *synthesis* composition, from *syntithénai* put together, combine (*syn*-together, *syn*-¹ + *tithénai* put, place). The sense of a combination of parts or elements into a whole is first recorded in 1733, and occurs in Middle English (about 1450) with the spelling *sintecis*. —**synthesize** *v.* 1830; formed from English *synthesis* + *-ize*. —**synthetic** adj. 1697, deductive; borrowed through French *synthétique*, and directly from New Latin *syntheticus*, from Greek *synthetikós* skilled in putting together, from *synthetós* put together, combined, from *syntithénai* to combine; for suffix see -IC. The sense of made artificially by chemical synthesis is first recorded in 1874. —**n.** 1934, from the adjective.

syphilis *n.* 1718, New Latin, originally the title of a poem (*Syphilis, sive Morbus Gallicus* Syphilis, or the French Disease), telling of the shepherd Syphilus, supposedly the first sufferer from the disease. —**syphilitic** adj. 1786, borrowed from New Latin *syphiliticus*, from *syphilis* syphilis; for suffix see -IC. —**n.** 1181, from the adjective.

syringe *n.* Before 1398 *suringa* a catheter or a tube for irrigating wounds, etc.; later *siringe* (probably before 1425), *syringe* (before 1475); borrowed from Late Latin *sýringa* from Greek

sýringa, accusative of *sýrinx* tube, hole, channel, shepherd's pipe. The sense of a hypodermic syringe is known in English before 1889. —**v.** 1610, from the noun.

syrinx *n.* 1606, a musical instrument known before 1387 in English; borrowed from Late Latin *sýrinx*, from Greek *sýrinx* shepherd's pipe. The vocal organ of birds is first recorded in English in 1872.

syrup *n.* Before 1398 *suripe*, *sinupe*, *syrop* thick, sweet liquid; borrowed from Old French *sirop*, possibly also through Italian *siropo*, from Arabic *sharāb* a drink, beverage, syrup. —**syrupy** adj. 1707, formed from English *syrup* + *-y*¹.

system *n.* 1619, the whole creation, the universe; borrowed from Late Latin *systema* an arrangement, system, from Greek *systema* organized whole, body (*sy*-together + *stā*-, root of *histānai* cause to stand). The meaning of a set of correlated principles, facts, ideas, etc., is first recorded in English before 1656. —**systematic** adj. Before 1680, according to a system; borrowed from French *systematique*, and directly from Late Latin *systematicus*, from Greek *systematikós* combined in one whole, systematic, from *systema* (genitive *systematos*) system; for suffix see -IC. —**systematize** *v.* 1764, borrowed from French *systematiser*, or formed from Late Latin *systema* (genitive *systematis*) system + English *-ize*. —**systemic** adj. 1803, belonging to, supplying, or affecting the body as a whole; formed from English *system* + *-ic*.

systole *n.* 1578, borrowed from Greek *systolē* contraction (*sy*-together + *stol*-, stem related to that of *stēlein* to put, send). Compare DIASTOLE.

syzygy *n.* 1656, borrowed from Late Latin *syzygia*, from Greek *syzygiā* yoke, pair, union of two, conjunction, from *syzygein* to yoke together (*sy*-together + *zygōn* YOKE); for suffix see -Y³.

T

-t¹ a suffix found in the past tense and the past participle of some verbs, as in *kept*, *thought*, *built*, *meant*, *dreamt*, *lost*, *sent*. The past tense form of the ending of such verbs in Old English was (in first and third persons singular) *-te*, a form of *-de* assimilated to a preceding voiceless consonant (see -ED¹). The past participle of these verbs in Old English had the ending *-t*, an assimilated form of *-d* (see -ED²). In Middle English the corresponding endings were *-te* in the past tense and *-t* in the participle.

-t² a variant form of the suffix *-th¹* (in *depth*, *length*, *strength*, etc.), often used after *h*, as in *height* (Middle English *hihthe*), *sleight* (Middle English *sleahthe*), but also in forms like *theft* (Old English *thēofth*), *drought* (Middle English *drouth*), and others.

tab¹ *n.* small flap, strap, loop, or piece. 1607, possibly a dialectal word of uncertain origin. —**v.** 1872 (implied in *tabbed*); from the noun.

tab² *n.* account, bill or check. 1889, probably shortened form of *tabulation* or *tablet* a sheet for writing on.

tab³ *n.* pill. Before 1961, shortened form of *tablet*.

tabard *n.* 1253 *thabardo*; later *tabard* (probably before 1300); borrowed from early Spanish *tabardo* and Old French *tabart*, of unknown origin.

Tabasco *n.* 1876, *tabasco* kind of peppery sauce; named after *Tabasco*, a state in Mexico, perhaps because it was first encountered there by American and European travelers.

tabby *n.* 1638, borrowed from French *tabis* a rich, watered silk, from Middle French *atabis*, from Arabic *ʿattābīya*, from *ʿAttābiy*, a section of Baghdad where such cloth was first made. In the sense of a striped cat, is first found in 1774, shortened from *tabby cat* (1695). —**adj.** 1638, from the noun.

tabernacle *n.* About 1250, portable sanctuary carried by the Israelites in the wilderness; borrowing of Old French *tabernacle*, and directly from Latin *tabernaculum* tent, especially a tent of an augur (for taking observations), diminutive of *taberna* hut, cabin, booth. The sense of a house of worship, is first recorded in 1711.

table *n.* About 1175, board, slab, plate, tablet; borrowed from Old French *table*, and developed from Old English (about 1000) *tabele*; earlier *tabule* (before 899). Both the Old French and the Old English words were borrowed from Latin *tabula* a board, plank, table, small flat slab or piece usually intended to receive an inscription. The meaning of piece of furniture having a flat top on legs is first recorded, probably before 1300, as is the sense of an arrangement of numbers or other items for convenience of reference or calculation. —**v.** About 1450 *tablen* enter in a table or list; later, provide with meals (1457–58); from the noun. The parliamentary meaning of postpone action is first recorded in 1849. —**tablecloth** *n.* (1467).

tableau *n.* 1699, borrowing of French *tableau* picture, painting, diminutive of Old French *table* slab, writing tablet; see **TABLE**.

tablet *n.* About 1300, slab or flat surface for an inscription; borrowed from Old French *tablete*, diminutive of *table* slab; see **TABLE**; for suffix see **-ET**. The meaning of a lozenge, pill, is first recorded in English in 1582, that of a pad of writing paper in 1880.

tabloid *n.* 1884 *Tabloid*, trademark for compressed or concentrated chemicals and drugs; formed from English *tablet* + **-oid**. The term was soon (by 1898) applied figuratively to a compressed form or dose of anything; as in *tabloid journalism* (1901) and a newspaper typifying tabloid (condensed) journalism by having short news articles, etc., in 1918.

taboo or **tabu** *adj.* 1777, (among the Polynesians) consecrated, inviolable, forbidden, unclean, or cursed; borrowed from Tongan (usually rendered *taboo*), the Polynesian language of the island country of Tonga, in the South Pacific. Use of the word as a noun and verb are English innovations; in the Polynesian languages the word is generally used only as an

adjective. —**n.** 1777, the act of setting a person or thing apart as sacred, unclean, or cursed; from the adjective in English. —**v.** 1777, to ban, forbid; from the adjective in English.

tabor or **tabour** *n.* Probably before 1300 *tabour*, borrowing of Old French *tabour*, *tabur*, probably from Persian *tabūr* drum. Related to **TAMBOURINE**.

tabular *adj.* 1656, having the form of a slab or tablet; borrowed from Latin *tabulāris* of a slab or tablet, from *tabula* slab; for suffix see **-AR**. The meaning of entered in a table or list is first recorded in 1710.

tabulate *v.* 1734, formed from Latin *tabula* **TABLE** + English **-ate**¹. An earlier sense of lay a board, plank, floor, is first recorded in 1656. —**tabulation** *n.* 1837, formed from English *tabulate* + **-ation**. An earlier sense of the making of a floor is first recorded in 1658 as a borrowing of Latin *tabulatiōnem* (nominative *tabulatiō*) a flooring over, from *tabula* board + **-atiōnem** **-ation**.

tachometer *n.* 1810, formed from Greek *táchos* speed + English **-meter**.

tachyon *n.* 1967, formed from Greek *tachy-*, stem of *tachys* swift + English **-on**.

tacit *adj.* 1604, borrowed through French *tacite*, and directly from Latin *tacitus* that is passed over in silence, done without words, assumed, silent, from past participle of *tacēre* be silent.

taciturn *adj.* 1771, probably a back formation from *taciturnity*, formed on the model of Latin *taciturnus* disposed to be silent, from *tacitus* silent; see **TACIT**. —**taciturnity** *n.* Before 1500, borrowed from Middle French *taciturnité*, and probably directly from Latin *taciturnitatem* (nominative *taciturnitās*) a being or keeping silent, from *taciturnus* taciturn; for suffix see **-ITY**.

tack *n.* 1296–97 *tacke* clasp, hook, fastener; later *tak* (about 1390); borrowed from Old North French *taque* nail, pin, peg, probably from a Germanic source (compare Middle Dutch *tacke* twig, spike, Low German *takk* tine, pointed thing, modern German *Zacke* spike, prong). The meaning of a rope to hold the corner of a sail in place is first recorded in 1481–90. —**v.** Probably about 1200 (possibly as *tac(k)en*) attach, fasten; ultimately, probably borrowed from the same Germanic source as the noun. The meaning of sail into the wind is first recorded in 1557.

tackle *n.* About 1250 *takel* apparatus, gear; earlier as a surname (1179); borrowed from Middle Dutch or Middle Low German *takel* the rigging of a ship, perhaps related to Middle Dutch *taken* grasp, seize, **TAKE**; for suffix see **-LE**¹. —**v.** About 1340 *takilen* entangle, involve; from the noun. The meaning of lay hold of, attack, is first recorded in 1828, and that of try to deal with (a task or problem), in 1847.

tacky¹ *adj.* sticky. 1788, formed from English *tack*, in the sense of an act of attaching lightly or temporarily (1705) + **-y**¹.

tacky² *adj.* in poor taste, cheap. 1862, shabby, seedy, adjective use of *tackey* small or inferior horse (1800), of uncertain origin. The sense of in poor taste is first recorded in 1883.

tact *n.* 1651, sense of touch or feeling; borrowed from Latin *tactus* (genitive *tactūs*) touch, feeling, handling, sense of touch, from *tag-* a root of *tangere* to touch. The meaning of a sense of discernment, diplomacy, is first recorded in English in 1804–06; borrowing of French *tact*, from Latin *tactus*. The word is found in Middle English as *tactthe* (about 1200).

tactics *n.* 1626, art or science of deploying military or naval forces in battle; possibly in part a back formation from earlier *tactical* + *-s*, modeled on, and in part borrowed from New Latin *tactica* the art of deploying forces in war, neuter plural, from Greek *taktikē téchnē* art of arrangement, noun use of feminine of *taktikós* of or pertaining to arrangement especially tactics in war, adjective to *táxis* order, verbal noun of *tássein* arrange; for suffix see *-ICS*. —**tactical** *adj.* 1570, of or pertaining to military tactics; formed from Greek *taktikós* of tactics + English *-al*. —**tactician** *n.* 1798, person skilled in tactics; borrowed from French *tacticien*, from *tactique* tactics, from Greek *taktikē téchnē* art of arrangement; for suffix see *-IAN*.

tactile *adj.* 1615, that can be felt by touch, tangible; borrowed from French *tactile*, and directly from Latin *tactilis* tangible, that may be touched, from *tag-*, root of *tangere* to touch.

tad *n.* 1877, a young or small child, probably a shortened form of *TADPOLE*. The extended meaning of a small amount (as in *a tad of salt, feeling a tad better*) is first recorded in 1915.

tadpole *n.* Probably before 1475 *taddepol* (*tadde* *TOAD* + *pol* head; see *POLL*).

taffeta *n.* 1345–49 *taffata* stiff silk cloth with a smooth, glossy surface; later *taffeta* (1393–94); borrowed from Old French *taffetas*, from Italian *taffetà*, ultimately from Persian *tāfiāh* silk or linen cloth, noun use of *tāfiāh*, past participle of *tāfiān* to shine, twist, spin.

taffrail *n.* 1814, rail around a ship's stern; alteration of *tafferel* upper panel on the stern of a sailing ship, often ornamented (1704); earlier, a carved panel (1622–23); borrowed from Dutch *taferel* panel for painting or carving, formed by dissimilation of *l . . l* to *r . . l*, in **tafeleel*, diminutive of *tafel* table, from Latin *tabula* slab, board. Dutch *taferel* developed from the practice of ornamenting the high, and generally flattened sterns of sailing ships. The spelling *-rail* in English is by association with *rail*, *n.*

taffy *n.* 1817, perhaps originally a dialectal term for *toffee*; of uncertain origin (perhaps associated with *tafia* 1777, a rumlike alcoholic liquor, the candy presumably arising from the syrupy mixture skimmed off the liquor during distillation).

tag *n.* small hanging piece. Before 1400 *tagge* small hanging piece of cloth; as a surname (1195); perhaps borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Norwegian *tagg* point, prong, barb, and Swedish *tagg* prickle, thorn); cognate with Middle Low German *tagge*, *tacke* branch, twig, spike, and Middle Dutch *tacke* (modern Dutch *tak*); see *TACK*. The meaning of a label is first recorded in 1835. —**v.** 1436 *tagen* furnish with a tag (implied in *tagging*); from the noun.

tag² *n.* children's game. 1738, perhaps variant of Scottish *tig*

touch, tap (1721); probably an alteration of Middle English *tek* touch, tap; see *TICK²* sound. —**v.** 1878, from the noun.

taiga *n.* 1888, swampy evergreen forest land, borrowing of Russian *taigá*, of Mongolian origin.

tail *n.* Probably before 1200 *taile* animal's tail; developed from Old English (before 800) *tægl*, *tægél*; cognate with Middle Low German *tagel* end of a rope, Old High German *zagal* animal's tail (dialectal German *Zagel*), Old Icelandic *tagl* horse's tail, Gothic *tagl* hair, from Proto-Germanic **taglā-*. —**v.** 1523, to attach to the tail or hind end; from the noun. The sense of follow as a detective or spy is first recorded in 1907. —**adj.** 1673, from the noun.

taylor *n.* About 1300; borrowed through Anglo-French *tailleur*, variant of Old French *tailleur* a cutter, tailor, from *tailleur* to cut, from Late Latin *tāliāre* to split, from Latin *tālea* a slender stick, rod, staff, a cutting, twig; for suffix see *-OR²*. —**v.** 1662 (implied in *tailoring*), to do tailor's work; 1856, to make by tailor's work; from the noun. The sense of adjust or alter is first recorded in 1942.

taint *v.* 1591, to touch or tinge with something undesirable; a fusion of Middle English *teynten* to convict, prove guilty (about 1350), and early modern English *taynt* to color, dye, tinge (before 1533). The verb *teynten* was borrowed from Old French *ataint*, past participle of *ataindre* to touch upon, seize. The verb *taynt* was borrowed from Anglo-French *teinter* to color, dye, from Old French *teint*, past participle of *teindre*, *tindre* to dye, color, from Latin *tingere* to TINGE. —**n.** 1601, a stain or spot; a fusion of Middle English *taynte* a blow, hit (about 1400), and early modern English *tainte* color, dye, tinge (1567). Middle English *taynte* was borrowed from Middle French *ateinte*, *atainte* one who is blemished, noun use of feminine past participle of *ataindre* to touch upon, seize. Early modern English *tainte* was borrowed from Middle French *teint* color, dye, noun use of Old French *teint*, past participle of *teindre*.

take *v.* Probably before 1200 *taken*, developed from Old English *tacan* (before 1000); borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *taka* take, grasp, lay hold, past tense *tók*, past participle *tekinn*). Old Icelandic *taka* is cognate with Middle Low German *tacken* to take, Middle Dutch *taken*, and Gothic *tēkan* to touch, from Proto-Germanic **tākanan*. In Middle English, this verb gradually replaced *nimen* to take; see *NUMB*.

The basic senses are to lay hold of (about 1000, in Old English), to accept or receive (as in *take my advice*, about 1200); from these developed to absorb (as in *take a high polish*, before 1325); to choose, select (as in *take the shortest way*, about 1275); to make, obtain (as in *take a bath*, 1375); to become affected by (as in *take cold*, before 1325). —**n.** 1511, a lease of land; from the verb. The sense of the amount taken (as in *a great take of fish*), is first recorded in 1654. —**takeoff** *n.* (1826, something that detracts; 1846, parody; 1869, act of leaping into the air; 1904, act of becoming airborne)

talc *n.* 1582 *talke*; later *talc* (1601); borrowed from Middle

French *talc*, probably from Spanish *talco*, and Medieval Latin *talcum* talc; both from Arabic *ṭalq*, from Persian *talk* talc.

talcum *n.* 1558, borrowed from Medieval Latin *talcum* any of various shiny minerals, from Arabic *ṭalq*; see TALC.

tale *n.* Probably about 1150 *tale* story, account, counting; developed from Old English *talū* (about 950); cognate with Old Frisian *tale* number, speech, Old Saxon *tala* number, Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *tāle* speech, narrative (modern Dutch *taal*), Old High German *zala* number, Middle High German *zal* number, story (modern German *Zahl* number, *Erzählung* story), Old Icelandic *tala* speech, narrative, number (Swedish and Icelandic *tal*), from Proto-Germanic **talō*, and Gothic *talzjan* to teach. Related to TALK and TELL.

talent *n.* Probably before 1300, inclination, disposition, will, desire; borrowed from Old French *talent*, from Medieval Latin *talentum* inclination, leaning, will, desire, from Latin *talentum* balance, weight, sum of money, from Greek *tálanon*, balance, weight, sum. The ancient unit of weight or money is found in Middle English before 1382, borrowed directly from Latin *talentum*. The meaning of a special natural ability, aptitude, is first found about 1430, and developed from a figurative use of the word in the sense of money, value, taken from the parable of the talents in the Bible.

talesman *n.* 1679, formed from Middle English *tales* writ ordering bystanders to serve (1495) + *man*. Middle English *tales* was borrowed through Anglo-French from Latin *tālēs*, in *tālēs dē circumstantibus* such (or similar) persons from those standing about, used in the writ. Latin *tālēs* is a noun use of the plural of *tālīs* such.

talisman *n.* 1638, borrowed from French *talisman* (perhaps earlier in Spanish *talismán*), in part from Arabic *ṭīlsam*, both the Arabic and the French from Late Greek *télesma* talisman, religious rite, payment; earlier consecration ceremony, payment; originally, completion, from *teleîn* perform (religious rites), pay (tax), fulfill, from *tēlos* completion, end, tax.

talk *v.* Probably before 1200 *talken*; related to Middle English *tale* story, account, tale; probably a diminutive or frequentative form from the stem *tal-* (compare *tale*) with *-k* suffix (as in *stalk*), ultimately from the same Germanic source as *tale*, and replacing *tale*, *v.* (before 1225 *talen* to talk, developed from Old English *talian*). A possible cognate may be East Frisian *talken* to talk, chatter, whisper. —*n.* Probably about 1380 *talke* speech, discourse; from the noun. —**talkative** *adj.* Before 1425, tending to talk; formed from Middle English *talken* to talk + *-ative*.

tall *adj.* About 1385 *talle* quick, prompt; probably before 1400, brave, valiant, seemly, proper; later, attractive, handsome (about 1450); probably developed from Old English (about 1000) *getæl* prompt, active; cognate with Old Saxon *gital* quick, prompt, Old High German *gizal*, and Gothic *untals* disobedient, related to *talzjan* teach. The sense of being of more than average height is first recorded in 1530. Compare STOUT for sense development.

tallow *n.* Before 1382 *talowȝ*, a later form of *talwȝ* (before

1325; in a surname *Talghmongere*, 1294); cognate with Middle Low German *talȝ*, *talch* tallow, and Middle Dutch *talch* (modern Dutch *talk*), from Proto-Germanic **talga-*.

tally *n.* 1440 *taly*, *talye* stick marked with notches to indicate amount owed or paid, (but found as early as 1166 in Anglo-Latin *talli-*); borrowed through Anglo-French *tallie*, from Medieval Latin *tallia*, from Latin *tālea* a cutting, rod, stick. The meaning of a thing that matches another, counterpart, is first recorded in 1651, traditionally reputed to be from the early practice of splitting a tally lengthwise, the debtor and creditor each retaining one of the halves. —*v.* Probably about 1200 *talien* keep an account; probably borrowed from Medieval Latin *talliare* to tax, from *tallia* tally. The sense of correspond, match (1705) is probably from the noun.

tallyho *interj.* 1772 *tallio*; also, a roistering character, Sir Toby Tallyho (1756); alterations of French *taiaut* cry used in deer hunting (1662), from Old French *taho*, *tielau*. An earlier form is found in Middle English *taylia* (probably before 1300); borrowed from Old French.

talon *n.* claw. Probably before 1400 *taloun* dragon's claw; as a surname *talun* (1180); probably originally borrowed from Old French *talon* heel or hinder part of the foot of a beast, from Medieval Latin *talonem* heel, from Latin *tālus* ankle, TALUS¹.

talus¹ *n.* anklebone. 1693, borrowed from Latin *tālus* ankle, anklebone, knucklebone, from earlier **taxlos*; compare Latin *taxillus* a small die, a cube.

talus² *n.* slope. 1645, slope, especially of a military earthwork; borrowing of French *talus*, from Old French *talū* slope, from Gallo-Romance **talūtum*, alteration of Latin *talūtium* a slope or outcrop of rock debris, possibly of Celtic origin (compare Welsh, Breton, and Cornish *tal* forehead, brow, and Middle Irish *taul*, *tul*). The sense of a sloping mass of rocky fragments that has fallen from a cliff is first recorded in English in 1830.

tamale *n.* 1691 *tamales*, borrowed from American Spanish *tamales*, plural of *tamal*, from Nahuatl *tamal*, *tamalli* a food made of Indian corn and meat.

tamarack *n.* 1805, probably of Algonquian origin (compare the synonym *hackmatack*, 1792, from an Algonquian source, such as Abnaki *akemantak* a kind of supple wood used for making snowshoes).

tamarind *n.* 1313, fruit of the tamarind; borrowed from Old French *tamarinde*, *tamarandi*, from Arabic *ṭamr hindī*, literally, date of India. Reference to the tree itself is first found in English in 1614.

tambourine *n.* 1782, apparently a transferred use of earlier *tamburin* a small drum (1579); borrowed from French *tambourin*, diminutive of *tambour* drum. French *tambour* is an alteration (influenced by Arabic *ṭunbūr* lute; also, a drum) of Old French *tabour* TABOR.

tame *adj.* Probably about 1200 *tom* not wild, domesticated, found in Old English *tom* (about 1000); also, about 1250 *tame*; developed from Old English *tam* (before 899); cognate with

Old Frisian, Old Saxon, Middle Low German, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *tam* tame, Old High German *zam* (modern German *zähm*), and Old Icelandic *tamr*, from Proto-Germanic **tamaz*, found in Gothic *tamjan* to tame. —**v.** Probably before 1200 *temen*; developed from Old English *temian* make tame (about 1000), and *tamian* become or grow tame, from *temman* (before 899); cognates with Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *temmen*, Old High German *zemen* (modern German *zähmen*), Old Icelandic *temja*, and Gothic *gataujan*, from Proto-Germanic **tamjanan*. The new form found in Middle English *tamen* (probably before 1300) developed from the adjective in Middle English and gradually replaced older *temen* in the 1300's.

tam-o'-shanter *n.* 1840–50, from *Tam o' Shanter* (Tom of Shanter), name of the hero of a poem by Robert Burns, written in 1790.

tamp *v.* 1819, to fill (a hole containing an explosive) with dirt or clay before blasting; perhaps a back formation from *tampin*, variant of *TAMPION*, taken as *tamping*, present participle or verbal noun.

tamper *v.* 1567 *temper* to meddle or interfere with; later *tamper* (1610); both figurative uses of *tamper* to work in clay, etc., so as to mix it thoroughly (1573); for suffix see -ER¹. Before about 1600 the word was generally spelled *temper*, and probably originated as a variant of *TEMPER*, *v.* *Tamper* may have represented a dialectal or workman's pronunciation, which at length became established as a differentiation from *temper*. Compare *MEDDLE* for a similar sense development.

tampion *n.* 1430 *tampioun* piece of cloth; later *tampyne* plug, bung (about 1460), *tampyon* wooden plug for a gun (1485); borrowed from Middle French *tampon*, variant of Old French *tapon* piece of cloth to stop a hole, from Frankish **tappo* stopper, plug, related to Old High German *zapho* and Old English *tæppa* stopper, *TAP*².

tampon *n.* 1848; borrowed from French *tampon*, from Middle French *tampon* plug; see *TAMPION*. —**v.** 1860, from the noun.

tan *v.* Before 1400 *tannen* make a hide into leather; developed from Old English *tannian*, implied in *getanned*, past participle (about 1000); borrowed from Medieval Latin *tannare* tan, dye a tawny color, from *tannum* crushed oak bark used in tanning, probably from a Celtic source (compare Breton *tann* oak tree). The meaning of make brown by exposure to the sun is first recorded in 1530. —**n.** 1604 (implied in *tan-mill*), oak bark used in tanning; borrowed from French *tan*, from Old French, from Medieval Latin *tannum*. The word is also found in Middle English as *tanne* (1392, implied in *tannedust*), borrowed from Old French *tan* or Medieval Latin *tannum*. —**adj.** 1630, from the noun. —**tannery** *n.* 1736, formed from English *tanner* one who tans (Old English *tannere*, before 975) + -Y³.

tanager *n.* 1844; borrowed from New Latin *tanagra* (1758), alteration of Portuguese *tangara*, from Tupi (Brazil) *tangara*. Earlier in English the bird was called a *tangara* (1614), borrowed from Portuguese *tangara*.

tandem *n.* 1785, carriage pulled by horses harnessed one

behind the other, a punning use of Latin *tandem* at length (of time), from *tam* so + demonstrative suffix -*dem*. —**adv.** 1795, from the noun. —**adj.** 1801, from the noun.

tang *n.* Before 1350 *tange* a serpent's tongue, thought to be the stinging organ; later, sharp extension of a metal blade (1440); borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *tangi* spit of land, pointed metal tool, perhaps related to Old Icelandic *tunga* TONGUE). The sense of a sharp taste is first recorded in Middle English in 1440, and that of a suggestion, trace, in 1593. —**tangy** *adj.* 1875, formed from English *tang* + -Y¹.

tangent *adj.* 1594, borrowed from Latin *tangentem* (nominative *tangēns*), present participle of *tangere* to touch; for suffix see -ENT. —**n.** 1594, revived in New Latin *tangentem*, from Latin, present participle of *tangere* to touch. —**tangential** *adj.* 1630, of or pertaining to a tangent; formed from English *tangent*, *n.* + -IAL. The sense of slightly connected with a subject is first recorded in 1825, and that of wandering off suddenly, digressive, in 1867 (in adjective use 1787).

tangerine *n.* 1842, abstracted from *tangerine orange* (1841), meaning an orange of or from *Tangier*, a seaport in northern Morocco. The adjective *tangerine* (1710) was probably modeled on Spanish *Tangerino* of or from *Tangier*; for suffix see -INE¹.

tangible *adj.* 1589, capable of being touched; borrowed from Middle French *tangible*, and directly from Late Latin *tangibilis* that may be touched, from Latin *tangere* to touch; for suffix see -IBLE. The sense of material (as a *tangible reward*), is first recorded in 1620, and that of able to be realized or dealt with (as *tangible ideas*), in 1709.

tangle *v.* Before 1340 *tangilen*, variant (with added nasalization of *g* to *ng*) of *tagilen* to involve in a difficult situation, entangle; probably from a Scandinavian source (compare dialectal Swedish *taggla* to disorder). The meaning of twist in a confused mass is first recorded in 1530. —**n.** 1615, from the verb.

tango *n.* 1913, borrowed from Argentine Spanish *tango*, originally, a dance to the sound of drums; of African origin, probably from a Niger-Congo language (compare Ibibio *tanigu* to dance); used earlier in English to refer to a Spanish flamenco dance (1896). —**v.** 1913, from the noun.

tank *n.* About 1616, (in India) pool or lake for irrigation or drinking water; borrowed from Gujarati *tānkh* cistern, Marathi *tānken*, or *tānkā*, perhaps from Sanskrit *taḍāga-m* pond, lake, pool. In later use, in the sense of a container for large quantities of liquid (1690), the word was probably borrowed also from Portuguese *tanque* reservoir (itself perhaps reinforced by association with Gujarati *tānkh*), from *estancar* hold back a current of water, from Vulgar Latin **stancāre* STANCH¹. This later use of *tank* was associated with *tankard* by sound and meaning. The use of *tank* in the military sense originated in 1915 as a code name, partly because it resembled a large water tank and partly to conceal its true nature. —**tanker** *n.* 1900, ship for carrying oil or other liquid cargo, for earlier *tank steamer* and *tank vessel* (before 1889).

tankard *n.* About 1384, large tublike vessel; earlier as a sur-

name *Tankart* (1202); corresponding to Middle Dutch *tanckaert*, of the same meaning but both of unknown origin. The meaning of a large drinking vessel is first recorded in 1485.

tannin *n.* 1802, borrowed from French *tannin*, *tanin*, from *tan* crushed oak bark containing tannin (see *TAN*); for suffix see -IN². —**tannic acid** 1836, Anglicized borrowing of French *acide tannique*, from *tannin*, *tanin* tannin; for suffix see -IC.

tansy *n.* Before 1250 *tanessie*; later *tansy* (1373); borrowed from Old French *tanessie*, *tanase*, from Gallo-Romance **tanacēta*, from Late Latin *tanacētum* wormwood.

tantalize *v.* 1597, to subject to a torture or teasing like that inflicted on Tantalus; formed from Latin *Tantalus*, a character in Greek mythology (from Greek *Tāntalos*) + English *-ize*. Tantalus, son of Zeus, was punished for betraying the god's secrets by standing in a river up to his chin, under branches of fruit which withdrew from his reach when he tried to eat or drink.

tantalum *n.* 1809, New Latin, formed from Latin *Tantalus* (see *TANTALIZE*) + New Latin *-um*, variant of *-ium*; so called because this element cannot absorb acid even when immersed in it.

tantamount *adj.* 1641, from the obsolete noun *tantamount* something equivalent (1637); developed from *tant amount* be equivalent (1628); borrowed from Anglo-French *tant amunter* amount to as much, from Old French *tant* as much + *amouter* amount to, go up.

tantrum *n.* 1748, of unknown origin.

Taoism *n.* 1838, borrowed from Chinese *tao* way, path; for suffix see -ISM.

tap¹ *v.* strike lightly. Probably before 1200 *tepen*; later *tappen* (before 1450); probably borrowed from Old French *taper* tap, rap, strike, possibly from: 1) a northern Gallo-Romance stem **tapp-*, with the meaning of strike, hit, especially with something flat, as the palm of the hand, perhaps ultimately imitative of the sound of tapping or slapping; 2) a Germanic source (compare Middle Low German *tappen*, *tapen* grope, fumble); 3) Scandinavian (compare Old Icelandic *tapsa* tap). —**n.** 1340 *teppe*, later *tape*, *tappe* (probably about 1390); possibly from the verb in Middle English, but also perhaps influenced by Old Frisian *tap* slap.

tap² *n.* stopper, faucet. 1340 *teppe*, later *tappe* (about 1390); developed from Old English (about 1050) *tæppa*; cognate with Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *tappe* tap (modern Dutch *tap*), Old High German *zapho* (modern German *Zapfen*), and Old Icelandic *tappi* (Norwegian and Swedish *tapp*, Danish *tap*), from Proto-Germanic **tappōn*. —**v.** Before 1325 *tepen* draw (liquid) from a tap; later *tappen* (1402); developed from Old English (about 1050) *tæppian* provide with a tap, from *tæppa* tap², *n.* Old English *tæppian* is cognate with Middle Low German, Middle Dutch, and modern Dutch *tappen* to tap, Middle High German and modern German *zapfen*. The sense of make use of, is first recorded in English in 1575.

tape *n.* Probably before 1300 *tape*, developed from Old English *tæppe* narrow strip of cloth used for tying, measuring, etc. (about 1000). Development of a lengthened vowel in Middle English is unexplained, but may be by mistaken analogy with *taper*. Old English *tæppe* is probably cognate with Old Frisian *tapia* and Middle Low German *tapen* to pull, pluck, tear, of unknown origin. —**v.** 1609, from the noun. The meaning of record on magnetic tape appeared in 1950, shortened from **tape-record** *v.* 1950, back formation from tape recorder (1892, device for recording data on ticker tape; 1932, device for recording sound on magnetic tape) and tape recording (1940).

taper *n.* Probably before 1200 *taper* candle; developed from Old English *tapur*, *taper* (before 1000); earlier *tapor* (before 899); of uncertain origin, though possibly a dissimilated form (with *t. . p* for *p. . p*) of **papur*, borrowed from Latin *papyrus* PAPYRUS, which in Medieval Latin and some Romance forms has the sense of the wick of a candle, for which the pith of the papyrus was used. The sense of a gradual decrease in size, force, capacity, is first recorded in 1793. —**adj.** Before 1450, from the noun. —**v.** 1589, to rise up like a flame or spire, from the noun. The meaning of become gradually smaller toward one end is first recorded in 1610, implied in *tapering*.

tapestry *n.* 1397 *tapiestre*; and *tapstry* (probably about 1400); alteration of *tapicery* heavy fabric with pictures or designs woven into it (1388); borrowed from Middle French *tapisserie* tapestry, from *tapisser* to cover with heavy fabric, from *tapis*, *tapiz* heavy fabric, from Byzantine Greek *tapētion* (pronounced as if spelled *tapition*), from Classical Greek *tapētion*, diminutive of *tápēs* (genitive *tápētos*) tapestry, heavy fabric, probably from an Iranian source (compare Persian *tāftan*, *tābīdan* to turn, twist); see *TAFFETA*. The figurative use is first recorded in 1581. —**v.** 1630, to cover, hang, or adorn with tapestry; from the noun. The meaning of portray in tapestry is first found in 1814.

tapioca *n.* 1648 *tipioja*, *tipiaca*; later *tipioca* (1707), *tapioca* (1792); borrowed from Portuguese or Spanish *tapioca*, from Tupi (Brazil) *tipioca*.

tapir *n.* 1774, perhaps borrowed through French *tapir*, ultimately from Tupi (Brazil) *tapira*.

tar¹ *n.* black sticky substance. About 1250 *ter*; later *tar* (before 1382); developed from Old English (before 700) *teornu*, *teru*; cognate with Old Frisian *tera* tar, Middle Low German *tere* (modern German *Teer*), Middle Dutch *tar*, *terre* (modern Dutch *teer*), and Old Icelandic *tjara* (Swedish *tjära*, Danish and Norwegian *tjære*); probably from Proto-Germanic **teruō*, related to **trewan*, the source of *TREE*. —**v.** About 1250 *terren*, later *tarren* (about 1400); from the noun.

tar² *n.* sailor. 1676, special use of *tar*¹, or possibly a shortened form of *tarpaulin* (1647, nickname for a sailor).

tarantella *n.* 1782, borrowing of Italian *tarantella*, from *Taranto* Taranto, a city in southern Italy, from Greek *Tārās* (genitive *Tārantos*), Latin *Tarentum*. The dance in Italian folklore was associated with the tarantula and its bite which was supposed

to cause tarantism (an impulse to dance or move about feverishly). The dance was considered a cure for tarantism.

tarantula *n.* 1561, borrowed from Medieval Latin *tarantula*, from Italian *tarantola*, from *Taranto* Taranto, a city in southern Italy, near which such spiders are found. See TARENTELLA.

tardy *adj.* 1530 *take tardy* to overtake, alteration of Middle English *tardive* slow (1483); borrowed from Middle French *tardif* (feminine *tardive*), from Vulgar Latin **tardivus*, from Latin *tardus* slow, sluggish, dull, stupid; for suffix see -Y¹. The earliest recorded sense in English is slow in motion or action; that of behind time, late, is first recorded in 1667.

tare¹ *n.* kind of fodder plant, vetch. Probably before 1300, perhaps cognate with Middle Dutch *tarwe* wheat (from Proto-Germanic **tanwō*).

tare² *n.* the difference between gross and net weight. 1486, borrowed from Middle French *tāre* wastage in goods, deficiency, imperfection, from Italian *tara* (also found in Medieval Latin *tara* deduction), from Arabic *ṭarāḥ*, literally, thing deducted or rejected.

target *n.* Probably before 1300 *target* shield, diminutive of *targe* shield (1297), borrowed from Old French *targe* light shield; for suffix see -ET. Old French *targe* derives from Frankish **targa* shield, cognate with Old High German *zarga* edging, border (modern German *Zarge*), and Old Icelandic *targa* shield, from Proto-Germanic **tarǵō*. The meaning of an object to be aimed at in shooting practice, is first recorded in English in 1757. —*v.* 1611, to shield; from the noun. The meaning of make a target of is first recorded in 1837.

tariff *n.* 1591, an arithmetic table; 1592 *tariffa* list of duties on imports or exports; borrowing of Italian *tariffa* (in Medieval Latin *tarifa* list of prices, book of rates), from Arabic *ta'rif* information, notification, inventory of fees to be paid. The spelling *tariff* is first recorded about 1700.

tarn *n.* Probably about 1380 *terne* lake; later *tarne* (probably about 1425); borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *tjörn* inland sea, pool, Swedish *tjörn* tarn, and Norwegian *tjern*). Old Icelandic *tjörn* comes from Proto-Germanic **ternō*, perhaps originally a water hole.

tarnish *v.* Probably before 1439 *ternysshen*; later *tarnish* (1598); borrowed from Middle French *terniss-*, stem of Old French *ternir* dull the luster or brightness of, make dim, probably from the adjective *terne* dull, dark; for suffix see -ISH². Old French *ternir* derives from a Frankish source cognate with Old High German *tarnan*, *tarnjan* to conceal, hide, modern German *tarnen*, Old Saxon *derman*, and Old English *dyman*; from a Germanic adjective represented by Old High German *tarni*, Old Saxon *dermi*, and Old English *dyrne*, *dierne* hidden, secret, obscure, from Proto-Germanic **darnijaz*. —*n.* 1713, from the verb.

taro *n.* 1779, borrowed from Polynesian (compare Tahitian and Maori *taro*). The corresponding Hawaiian form is *kalo*.

tarpaulin *n.* 1605 *tarpauling*, probably formed from English

*tar*¹ + *pall*¹ heavy cloth covering + *-ing*¹ (as in *netting*, *grating*, etc.); probably so called because the canvas is sometimes coated in tar to make it waterproof. The present spelling *tarpaulin* is first found in 1719, but similar spellings are recorded: *Tarpawlin* (1647) as the nickname of a sailor, and *tarpalin* (1652).

tarry *v.* Probably before 1300 *taryen* delay, retard, prolong; of uncertain origin.

tarsus *n.* 1676, New Latin, from Greek *tarsós* ankle, sole of the foot, rim of the eyelid; originally, flat surface, especially for drying. An earlier borrowing of the Greek word is found in Middle English as *tharsum* (probably about 1425). —**tarsal** *adj.* 1817, borrowed from New Latin *tarsalis* of or pertaining to the tarsus, from Latin *tarsus* tarsus; for suffix see -AL¹.

tart¹ *adj.* having a sharp taste. About 1387, developed from Old English *teart* painful, sharp, severe (about 1000).

tart² *n.* small pie. Before 1399, borrowed from Old French *tarte*, possibly an alteration of *torte*, from Late Latin *torta* round loaf of bread. Old French *tarte* was perhaps influenced by Medieval Latin *tarta* a cake, tart, and later in Middle English by *tart* having a sour taste associated with fruit often used in tarts. The meaning of prostitute is found in 1887, from use of endearment (1864).

tartan *n.* 1454 *tartyn*; probably borrowed from Middle French *tiretaine* strong coarse fabric, from Old French *tiret* kind of cloth, from *tire* silk cloth, from Medieval Latin *tyrius* cloth from Tyre. The spelling *tartan* was influenced by Middle English *tartaryn* rich silk cloth (1343), borrowed from Old French *tartarin* Tartar cloth, from *Tartare* Tartar, group inhabiting Central Asia.

tartar *n.* 1392 *tartre*; borrowed from Old French *tartre*, from Medieval Latin *tartarum*, from Late Greek *tártaron* tartar encrusting the sides of casks. The encrustation on the teeth is first recorded in 1806. —**tartaric** *adj.* 1790, formed from English *tartar* + *-ic*.

task *n.* Before 1325, piece of work imposed as a duty; later, impost, tax (about 1400); borrowed from Old North French *tasque* (in Old French *tasche*) duty, tax, from Vulgar Latin **tasca* a duty, assessment, alteration (by transposition of the sound *ks* associated with *x* to *sk* written *sc*) of **taxa*, from Latin *taxāre* to evaluate, estimate, assess; see TAX.

tassel *n.* Probably about 1300 *tassel* mantle fastener; borrowed from Old French *tassel* a fastening, clasp, from Vulgar Latin **tassellus* (in Italian *tassello* collar of a cloak, a square), alteration of Latin *taxillus* small die or cube, a diminutive form from *tālus* knucklebone used in a game, ankle; see TALUS¹. The form of the Vulgar Latin word was influenced by Latin *tessella* small cube. A hanging bunch of small cords is first recorded in English about 1390.

taste *v.* Probably before 1300 *tasten* try the flavor of, taste; borrowed from Old French *taster* to feel, taste, from Vulgar Latin **tastāre*, apparently alteration of **taxitāre*, *taxtāre*, a frequentative form of Latin *taxāre* evaluate, handle; see TAX. —*n.*

Before 1325 *tast* touch, touching, taste, tasting; borrowed from Old French *tast* touching, touch, from *taster* to feel, taste. The sense of aesthetic judgment, a sense of what is appropriate, harmonious or beautiful, is first recorded in 1671.

tat *v.* 1882, back formation from *tatting* making of knotted lace (1842), of uncertain origin.

tatter *n.* Before 1400 *tatrys*, pl. (implied earlier in *tatrid* wearing ragged clothes, about 1340); borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *tǫturr* rag, modern Icelandic *tötur*, plural *tötrar* rags); cognate with Old English *tættec*, *tætteca* rag, tatter, Old High German *zotta* tuft of hair, modern German *Zotte*, *Zottel* tuft of hair, modern Dutch *tod*, *todde* rag, and East Frisian *todde* bundle, pack). —**v.** About 1380 *tateren* (implied in *tatering*); from the noun.

tattle *v.* 1481 *tatelen* to stammer, prattle; probably borrowed from Middle Dutch *tatelen* to stutter, a parallel or variant form of Middle Dutch, Middle Low German, and East Frisian *tateren* to chatter, babble; possibly of imitative origin. The meaning of tell tales or secrets is first recorded in English in 1581. —**n.** Before 1529, idle or foolish talk, gossip; from the verb. —**tattleale** *n.* 1888, formed from English *tattle* + *tale*, patterned on *telltale* (before 1548).

tattoo¹ *n.* signal. 1688, signal calling soldiers or sailors to quarters at night, assimilated variant (by alteration of *tap-* to *tat-*) of *tap-too* (1644); borrowed from Dutch *taptoe* (*tap* faucet of a cask, *TAP*² + *toe* shut; so called because the police used to visit taverns in the evening to shut off the taps of casks). —**v.** 1780, from the noun.

tattoo² *v.* mark the skin with pigments. 1769 *tattow*, borrowed from a Polynesian source (compare Tahitian and Samoan *tatau*, and Marquesan *tatu*). The spelling *tattoo* is first recorded in English in 1774. —**n.** 1777, from the verb.

tatty *adj.* 1513, (of hair) tangled or matted, Scottish, probably related to Old English *tættec* a rag, **TATTER**. The sense of tattered, ragged, shabby, is first recorded in 1933.

taunt *v.* 1438 *tanten* to mock, jeer (implied in *tantingly*); possibly borrowed from Middle French *tanter*, *tenter* to try, tempt, provoke, variant of *tempter* to try, **TEMPT**. —**n.** Before 1529 *taunte*, of uncertain origin; possibly from the verb.

taupe *n.* Before 1889, a mole; later, the dark, brownish gray color of moleskin (1911); borrowed from French *taupe* the color; originally, a mole, from Latin *talpa* a mole.

taut *adj.* Before 1625 *taught* tightly drawn; later *tau't* (1727–41); found in Middle English as *tohte* (about 1250); later *tozte* (about 1300); possibly developed from *tog-*, past participle stem of Old English *tēon* to pull, drag.

tautology *n.* 1579, borrowed from Late Latin *tautologia* repetition of the same thing, from Greek *tāutologiā*, from *tāutológos* repeating what has been said (*tāutó* the same + *-lógos* saying, related to *légein* to say); for suffix see **-LOGY**. —**tautological** *adj.* 1620, formed from English *tautology* + *-ical*.

tavern *n.* About 1290 *taverne* wine shop; later, public house,

inn (about 1440); borrowed from Old French *taverne*, from Latin *taberna* shop, inn, tavern; originally, hut, shed, dissimilated (by loss of first *r*) from **traberna*, from *trabs* (genitive *trabis*) beam, timber.

tawdry *adj.* 1676, adjective use of earlier *tawdry* silk necktie for women (1612), shortened form of *tawdry lace* (1548), an alteration of *Saint Audrey's lace* a necktie or ribbon sold at an annual fair commemorating St. Audrey (1530). Association with St. Audrey is traced to the story that she died of a throat tumor, a punishment she considered retribution for her youthful fondness for showy necklaces.

tawny *adj.* Probably before 1387 *tauny*; borrowed through Anglo-French *tauné*, associated with the brownish-yellow of tanned leather, Old French *tané*, past participle of *taner* to tan hides, from Medieval Latin *tannare* to **TAN**.

tax *v.* About 1300 *taxen* to assess, put a tax on; borrowed from Old French *taxer*, and directly from Latin *taxāre* evaluate, estimate, assess, handle, probably a frequentative form of *tangere* to touch; see **TANGENT**. The sense of burden, put a strain on, is found in Middle English before 1327. —**n.** Before 1327, assessment, levy; from the verb. —**taxable** *adj.* 1474, borrowed from Anglo-French, from Old French *taxer* to tax + *-able* *-able*. —**taxation** *n.* About 1325 *taxacioun* fixing of a tax, borrowed through Anglo-French *taxacioun*, Old French *taxation*, from Medieval Latin *taxationem* (nominative *taxatio*), from Latin, and borrowed directly into English from Latin *taxātiōnem* (nominative *taxātiō*) evaluation, from *taxāre* evaluate; for suffix see **-ATION**.

taxi *n.* 1907, probably a shortened form of **TAXICAB**. —**v.** 1911, (of an airplane) to travel slowly as before taking off; from the noun, perhaps in allusion to the way a taxi driver slowly cruises when looking for fares. The meaning of travel in a taxi is first recorded in 1918.

taxicab *n.* 1907, automobile for hire, probably contraction of *taximeter cab* a cab with an automatic meter (*taximeter*) to record the distance and fare. *Taximeter* (1898) was borrowed from French *taximètre*, alteration of earlier *taxamètre*, from German *Taxameter* (from Medieval Latin *taxa* tax, from *taxare* to **TAX** + German *-meter* *-meter*). An earlier English form *taxameter* (1894); borrowed directly from German *Taxameter*, a meter used in horsedrawn cabs.

taxidermy *n.* 1820, formed in English from Greek *táxis* arrangement, from *tássein* arrange + *dérma* skin; for suffix see **-Y**³. —**taxidermist** *n.* (1828)

taxonomy *n.* 1828, borrowed from French *taxonomie*, from Greek *táxis* arrangement; see **TAXIDERMY** + *-nomía* method, from *-nómos* managing, from *némein* manage.

tea *n.* 1655 *tay* (but found earlier as *chaa*, 1598, from the Portuguese *chá*); borrowed through Malay *teh*, and directly from Chinese (Amoy dialect) *t'e*, in Mandarin *ch'a*. English *tea* derives from the same Amoy form as French *thé*, Spanish *té*, Italian *tè*, Dutch *thee*, German *Tee*, and Norwegian and Swedish *te*. Such forms as Portuguese *chá*, Russian *chai*, Persian *chā*,

modern Greek *tsai*, Arabic *šāy*, and Turkish *çay* were borrowed from the Mandarin Chinese form.

teach *v.* Probably before 1200 *teachen*; developed from Old English *tēcan* to show, teach (before 899), from Proto-Germanic **taikijanan*; related to Old English *tācen*, *tācn* sign, mark, TOKEN. The Old English past tense and past participle *tæht(e)* developed into early Middle English *tahte*, *taghte* with a short vowel, and eventually into *taught*. — **teacher** *n.* Probably before 1300 *techere* person who teaches; formed from Middle English *techen*, *teachen* to teach + *-ere* *-er*¹. An earlier sense, that which shows or points out, indicator, index finger, is recorded about 1290.

teak *n.* 1698, borrowed from Portuguese *teca*, from Malayalam *tēkka*, corresponding to Tamil *tēkku*, Telugu *tēku*, Kanarese *tēgu*.

teal *n.* Probably about 1300 *tele*; cognate with Middle Dutch *tēling*, *teiling* teal (modern Dutch *taling*), and Middle Low German *tēlink*.

team *n.* Old English *tēam* set of draft animals yoked together (about 825); cognate with Old Frisian *tām* bridle, Old Saxon *tōm*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *toom* bridle, rein, Old High German *zoum* (modern German *Zaum*), and Old Icelandic *taumr* bridle, rein, rope (Swedish *töm*), from Proto-Germanic **taumaz*, probably from **tauzmaz* action of drawing or pulling, from the series **tauH-/tuH-/tu3-* to draw, pull, represented by Old English *togian* to pull, drag, TOW¹.

The meaning of a number of people working or acting together (1529), was also known in Old English in the sense of a group of people acting together to bring suit (before 800, and in verb use before 700). Other early senses include offspring or line of descendants (902; related to TEEM¹), and a chain or other apparatus to harness oxen or horses to a plow or other farm equipment (1350). — *v.* 1552, from the noun; other senses (bear offspring, and vouch to warranty) were also from the noun in Old English and Middle English. — **teamster** *n.* 1779, person who drives a team of horses, especially in the handling of freight; formed from English *team*, *n.* + *-ster*. The meaning transferred from wagon to truck driver as early as 1907.

tear¹ *n.* drop of water from the eye. Probably before 1200, found in Old English *tēar*; developed from earlier *tēahor*, *tæhher* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *tār* tear, Old High German *zahor* (literary German *Zähre*), Old Icelandic *tār* (Swedish *tår*, Danish *tåre*), and Gothic *tagr*, from Proto-Germanic **tāHr-/ta3r,-*. — *v.* Before 1425 *teren* to shed tears; from the noun. A rare Old English verb *tæherian* (about 950) did not survive into Middle English.

tear² *v.* pull apart. Probably before 1200 *teren*; found in Old English *teran* (about 1000); earlier *teoran* (before 850); cognate with Old Saxon *terian* consume, destroy, Middle Low German, Middle Dutch, and modern Dutch *teren*, Old High German *zeran* (modern German *zehren*, *zerren*), and Gothic *-talran* in *distalran* destroy.

The Old English past tense *tær* survived as *tare* to the

1600's, when it was replaced by English *tore*, with *o* from the past participle *toren*, *torn*. — *n.* 1611, from the verb.

tease *v.* About 1290 *tesien* separate the fibers of, shred or card (wool or flax); later *tesen* (before 1325); developed from Old English *tēsan* pluck, pull apart (about 1000); cognate with Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *tēsen* to pluck, and Old High German *zeisan* to pluck wool, from Proto-Germanic **taisijanan*. The sense of vex or worry, annoy (1619), is comparable to sense development in *heckle*. — *n.* 1693, act of teasing; from the verb. The sense of one who teases (1852) is found earlier in *teaser*, *n.* (1659).

teasel *n.* About 1265 *tesel*, developed from Old English (about 1000) *tāsel*, probably from *tēsan* to pluck, TEASE; and cognate with Old High German *zeisala*, *zeisila*, Middle High German *zeisel* teasel, from Proto-Germanic **taisilō*. — *v.* raise a nap on cloth with teasels. 1543, from the noun, probably further associated with *tease*, *v.*

teat *n.* About 1250 *teten*, pl., borrowed from Old French *tete*, *tette* teat, from Proto-Germanic **titta* (the source of Middle Low German *titte* teat, Old English *titt*, Middle High German *zitze*, modern German *Zitze*, and modern Dutch *tit*).

technetium *n.* 1947, New Latin, formed from Greek *technētōs* artificial (from *technāsthai* produce by art, from *téchnē* art, skill) + New Latin *-ium*.

technical *adj.* 1617, skilled in a particular art or subject; formed in English probably from Greek *technikós* of art, from *téchnē* art, skill, craft; for suffix see -AL¹. It is also possible that in some instances *technical* is an extended form of older *technic*, *adj.* (1612). The meaning of having to do with an art, science, discipline, or profession, especially the mechanical arts, is first recorded in English in 1727–41. — **technicality** *n.* 1814, technical point, detail, term, or expression; formed from English *technical* + *-ity*.

technician *n.* 1833, formed in English from *technic* technical (1612, from Greek *technikós*; see TECHNICAL) + *-ian*.

technicolor *n.* 1946, transferred use of earlier trademark *Technicolor*, a special process of making colored motion pictures (1917); formed from *techni(cal)* + *color*. — **adj.** Before 1940, from the trademark. — **technicolored** *adj.* 1947, formed from *technicolor* + *-ed*².

technique *n.* 1817, borrowing of French *technique* manner of artistic expression, noun use of adjective *technique* of art, technical, from Greek *technikós*; see TECHNICAL.

techno- a combining form meaning 1) art, craft, skill, especially mechanical or industrial crafts and systems, as in *technology*. 2) technical or technology, as in *technocracy* = government by technical experts. Borrowed from Greek *techno-*, combining form of *téchnē* art, skill, craft, method, system.

technocracy *n.* 1919, coined as the name for a new system of government; formed from English *techno-* + *-cracy*.

technology *n.* 1615, treatise on the arts; borrowed from Greek *technología* systematic treatment of an art, craft or tech-

nique; originally referring to grammar (*techno-* + *-logia* -logy). The sense of science of the mechanical and industrial arts, practical arts collectively, is first recorded in 1859. —**technological** *adj.* 1627, of technical terminology; formed from English *technology* + *-ical*. The meaning “of or relating to technology” appeared in 1800.

tectonic *adj.* 1656, of or relating to building; borrowed from Late Latin *tectonicus*, from Greek *tektonikós* pertaining to building, from *tékton* (genitive *téktonos*) builder, carpenter, related to *tékhnē* art, craft; for suffix see *-ic*. The sense in geology (1894), probably from *tectonics*. —**tectonics** *n.* pl. 1850, building or the constructive arts in general, from *tectonic*; for suffix see *-ics*.

teddy bear 1906, from *Teddy*, nickname of President Theodore Roosevelt, famous as a big-game hunter. Roosevelt was shown sparing the life of a bear cub in an editorial cartoon as a spoof on the President in the role of an ardent conservationist.

Te Deum Latin hymn of praise. 1131 *Tē Deum laudamus*; later *Tē Deum* (before 1200); borrowing of Late Latin *Tē Deum laudamus* Thee God we praise, the first words of the hymn.

tedious *adj.* Before 1410 *tedyouse*; borrowed from Late Latin *taediōsus* wearisome, irksome, tedious, from Latin *taedium* **TE-DIUM**; for suffix see *-ous*.

tedium *n.* 1662, borrowed from Latin *taedium* weariness, disgust, related to *taedet* it is wearisome, and *taedēre* to weary.

tee *n.* 1721, back formation from *teaz* (1673), taken as a plural (compare *pea*, *pease*); originally a Scottish word, of uncertain origin. —**v.** 1673, from *teaz*, *n.*; later with the spelling *tee* (1737, also after the noun).

teem¹ *v.* abound, swarm. Probably before 1200 *temen* give birth to, produce; developed from Old English (about 1000), found in Old Mercian *tēman*, in Old West Saxon *tieman* (from Proto-Germanic **taumijanan*), from *tēam* offspring; see **TEAM**. The meaning of be fertile, abound, swarm (as in *streams teeming with fish*), is first recorded in 1593.

teem² *v.* to flow copiously. Before 1325 *temen* to empty a vessel; later, to discharge, pour out (1482); borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *tēma* to empty, from *tōmr* empty, cognate with Old English *tōm* empty). The sense of flow copiously (as in *teeming rain*) is first recorded in 1828.

-teen a combining form meaning ten more than, used in forming the cardinal numbers from thirteen to nineteen, as in *sixteen* = *ten more than six*. Old English *-tēne*, *-tīene* (from Proto-Germanic **teHuniz*), an inflected form of *tēn*, *tien* **TEN**. —**teenth** combining form of ordinal numerals, from *thirteenth* to *nineteenth*, formed from *-teen* + *-th*². Middle English *-tēthe*, alteration (influenced by *ten*) of earlier *-tethe*, developed from Old English (West Saxon) *-tēoþa*, *-tēoþe*, corresponding to Anglian *teogoþa* tenth; see **TITHE**.

teen-age *adj.* 1921, formed from English *-teen*, as a separate word + *age*, *n.* —**teen-aged** *adj.* 1952, formed from English

teen-age + *-ed*². —**teen-ager** *n.* 1941, formed from *teen-age* + *-er*¹.

teens *n.* pl. 1673, formed from English *-teen*, as a separate word + *-s*¹.

teeny *adj.* 1825, alteration of **TINY**.

teepee *n.* See **TEPEE**.

teeter *v.* 1843, to seesaw; 1844, move unsteadily; alteration of *titter* move unsteadily, totter; developed from Middle English *titeren* (about 1385), probably borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *titra* to shake, shiver, totter); cognate with Old High German *zittarōn* to tremble, modern German *zittern*. —**teeter-totter** *n.* (1905)

teetotal *adj.* 1834, possibly formed from English *total* (*abstinence*), with repetition of the initial *t* of *total*; or based on *teetotally*, *adv.*, entirely, wholly (1832), reduplicated form of *totally*, *adv.*

Two explanations for *teetotal* are given: *teetotal* was supposedly coined or first used in 1833 by Richard Turner of Preston, England, in a speech advocating total abstinence from alcoholic liquor; or *teetotal* was introduced in a New York temperance society in 1827, as an indication (with “T”) after the signature of one taking the pledge of total abstinence. —**teetotaler** *n.* 1834, formed from English *teetotal* + *-er*¹.

Teflon *n.* Trademark. plastic resin used as a coating to prevent friction or sticking. 1945, formed from *te(tra-)* + *fl(uor-)*, from the chemical name *polytetrafluoroethylene* + *-on*, arbitrary ending, as in *rayon*.

tegument *n.* About 1440, borrowed from Latin *tegumentum* a cover or covering, from *tegere* to cover; for suffix see *-ment*.

tektite *n.* 1909, formed from Greek *tēktios* molten (from *tēkein* to melt) + English *-ite*¹.

tele- a combining form meaning: 1) far, far off, operating over a long distance, as in *telephone*; 2) television, as in *telecast*, *telethon*. Borrowed from Greek *tēle-*, combining form of *tēle* far off, afar, at or to a distance (related to *tēleos*, genitive *tēlos* end, goal, result).

telecast *n.* 1937, formed from *tele-* television + (*broad*)*cast*. —**v.** 1940, from the noun.

telegram *n.* 1852, formed from English *tele(graph)* + *-gram*.

telegraph *n.* 1794, a semaphore apparatus; borrowed from French *télégraphe*, from *télé-* far (from Greek *tēle-*) + *-graphie*. The term was first applied in English to an experimental electric telegraph in 1797; a practical telegraph was developed in the 1830's by Samuel Morse. —**telegraphic** *adj.* 1794, in reference to the semaphore apparatus; formed from English *telegraph* + *-ic*. —**telegraphy** *n.* 1795, formed from English *tele-* + *-graphy*.

telemeter *n.* Before 1889, device for measuring (heat, radiation, pressure, etc.) and transmitting the information to a distant receiving station; earlier, a rangefinder used in surveying and artillery (1860, *telometer*); borrowed from French *télé-*

mètre (tél- far + *mètre* -meter) and formed from English *tele-*, *telo-* + *-meter*. —**telemetry** *n.* Before 1885, formed from English *tele-* + *-metry*.

teleology *n.* 1740, borrowed from New Latin *teleologia*, from Greek *télos* (genitive of *télos* end, goal, result) + *-logiā* -logy.

telepathy *n.* 1882, coined from English *tele-* far + *-pathy* feeling. —**telepathic** *adj.* 1884, formed from English *telepathy* + *-ic*.

telephone *n.* 1844, instrument similar to a foghorn for conveying signals from a ship; probably borrowed from French *téléphone* (about 1830), from *télé-* tele- + *-phone* sound, -phone; later in English, a kind of megaphone or loudspeaker (1849), and the modern instrument developed by Bell (1876). —**v.** 1877, talk or communicate by Bell's telephone; from the noun.

telephoto *adj.* 1898, in *tele-photo lens*; shortened form of *telephotographic* (1892); formed on earlier *telephotograph* (not recorded before 1900, but probably known by 1892, and found earlier in the meaning of a photograph transmitted over a distance, 1881).

Teleprompter *n.* 1951, trademark for a device that shows a prepared speech line for line to a speaker being televised; formed from *tele(vision) prompter*.

telescope *n.* 1648 *telescopio*; later *telescope* (1656); borrowing of Italian *telescopio* (used by Galileo in 1611) and New Latin *telescopium* (used by Kepler in 1613); both from Greek *tēleskōpos* far-seeing (*tēle-* far + *-skōpos* seeing, from *skopein* to watch). —**v.** 1867, to force together one inside another, like the sliding tubes of some telescopes; from the noun. —**telescopic** *adj.* 1705, formed from English *telescope* + *-ic*.

teletype *n.* 1904, trademark for a communications system of typewriters connected electronically; shortened form of *teletypewriter* (1904), formed from English *tele-* + *typewriter*. —**v.** 1904 (implied in *teletyping*); from the noun.

televisé *v.* 1927, back formation from TELEVISION.

television *n.* 1907, viewing of a distant object or scene by means of an apparatus (not yet perfected) which electrically transmits and reproduces it; borrowed from French *télévision*, or formed from English *tele-* far + *vision*. The modern electronic television was developed in the 1920's and 1930's.

Telex *n.* 1932, a communications system of teletypewriters; formed from English *tele(type)* + *ex(change)*.

tell *v.* Before 1121 *tellen*; found in Old English *tellan* (before 899); cognate with Old Frisian *talja*, *tella*, Old Saxon *telljan* tell, Middle Dutch, modern Dutch, Middle Low German, and modern Low German *tellan* count, reckon, Old High German *zellen* tell (modern German *zählen* reckon, count), and Old Icelandic *telja* tell, count (Swedish *tälja*, Danish *tælle* count, reckon), from Proto-Germanic **taljanan*. Related to TALE. The sense of recognize, distinguish, know (as in *tell one thing from another*), is first recorded about 1370. —**teller** *n.* Probably before 1300 *tellere* person who tells; formed from

tellen to tell + *-ere* -er¹. The meaning of a person who keeps accounts is first recorded in 1475. —**telling** *adj.* 1852, having effect or force, striking. —**telltale** *n.* (before 1548). —**adj.** (before 1577).

tellurium *n.* 1800, New Latin, from Latin *tellūs* (genitive *tellūris*) earth + New Latin *-ium*; coined probably in contrast to *uranium* (from Greek *ouranós* heaven). Latin *tellūs* is the word for the earth as a planet.

temblor *n.* 1876, borrowed through American Spanish *temblor* earthquake, from Spanish *temblor*, literally, a trembling, from *temblar* to tremble, from Vulgar Latin **tremulāre* to TREMBLE.

temerity *n.* Before 1387 *temerite*, borrowed from Middle French *témérité*, or directly from Latin *temeritatem* (nominative *temeritās*) blind chance, accident, rashness, from *temere* by chance, blindly, casually, rashly; for suffix see -ITY.

temp *n.* 1932, American English, shortened form of TEMPORARY. —**v.** 1973, work as a temp, from the noun.

temper *v.* About 1200 *tempren* to moderate, regulate; developed from Old English *temprian* (about 1000); borrowed from Latin *temperāre* to mix correctly, moderate, regulate, from *tempus* time, season, proper time or season. The sense of bring a substance, such as clay, paint (later steel), to a proper condition by mixing (before 1300), and may have been influenced by Old French *temprer* to temper, from Latin *temperāre*. —**n.** Before 1387 *tempre* balance, due proportion; from the verb. The sense of characteristic state of mind, is first recorded in 1595, that of calm state of mind, in 1603, and an angry state of mind in 1828.

tempera *n.* 1832, borrowing of Italian *tempera*, from *temperare* to mix colors, temper, from Latin *temperāre* to mix, TEMPER.

temperament *n.* Before 1398, proportioned mixture of elements; borrowed from Latin *temperamentum* proper mixture, from *temperāre* to mix, TEMPER; for suffix see -MENT. In medieval times *temperament* a combination of qualities, as hot or cold, moist or dry, that in a certain proportion determine the nature of an organism (1471), was extended in medieval to refer to the combination of the four humors (sanguine, choleric, phlegmatic, and melancholic), and reference is still found in such allusions as a *phlegmatic temperament*. The meaning of a person's characteristic disposition (as in a *poetic temperament*) is found in 1821. —**temperamental** *adj.* 1646, of or relating to temperament; formed from English *temperament* + *-al*¹. The meaning of subject to moods and whims, is first recorded in 1907.

temperance *n.* About 1340, borrowed through Anglo-French *temperance*, from Latin *temperantia* moderation, from *temperans*, present participle of *temperāre* to moderate, TEMPER; for suffix see -ANCE. Latin *temperantia* was used by Cicero to translate Greek *sōphrosynē* moderation. In early modern English, *temperance* was used to render Latin *continentia* CONTINENCE or *abstinentia* ABSTINENCE, specifically in eating and drinking alcohol, and by the early 1800's it referred to total

abstinence from alcoholic drink; hence often used attributively in *temperance movement* (1855), etc.

temperate *adj.* About 1310 *tempret* of mild temperature; later *temperat* (about 1380); borrowed from Latin *temperātus* restrained, regulated, from past participle of *temperāre* to moderate, regulate, TEMPER; for suffix see -ATE¹. The sense of restrained, moderate (applied to persons, their conduct, etc.), is found in Middle English before 1382.

temperature *n.* About 1450, a tempered or temperate condition (as of the weather); borrowed from Latin *temperātūra* a tempering, moderation, from *temperātus*, past participle of *temperāre* to moderate, TEMPER; for suffix see -URE. The sense of the degree of heat or cold is first recorded in 1670.

tempest *n.* About 1275 *tempeste* violent storm; borrowed from Old French *tempeste*, from Vulgar Latin **tempesta*, variant of Latin *tempestās* (genitive *tempestātis*) storm, weather, season; also, commotion, disturbance; related to *tempus* time, season. The sense of a violent commotion is first recorded in Middle English before 1333. —**tempestuous** *adj.* About 1385, borrowed, perhaps by influence of Middle French *tempêteux*, from Late Latin *tempestuosus* stormy, turbulent, from *tempestās* tempest (perhaps influenced in formation by *tumultuosus* tumultuous); for suffix see -OUS.

temple *n.* 1677 *templet* horizontal piece under a girder or beam; probably borrowed from French *templet* weaver's stretcher, diminutive of *temple*, of similar meaning, from Latin *templum* plank, rafter, building for worship, TEMPLE¹; for suffix see -ET. The meaning of a pattern or gauge for shaping a piece of work (1819) is found in the form *temple* (1688). Alteration to *template* (1844), probably influenced by PLATE, was not influenced by pronunciation, until recently.

temple¹ *n.* building for worship. Old English *temple* (before 899); also *templ* and *tempel* (before 830); borrowed from Latin *templum* piece of ground consecrated for the taking of auspices, building for worship. Though said to be reinforced by Old French *temple*, the word has a continuous history from Old to Middle English.

temple² *n.* side of the forehead, usually found as a plural in early use. About 1340 *tempils*; later *temples* (about 1430); borrowed from Old French *temple* side of the forehead, from Vulgar Latin **tempula*, feminine singular, alteration of Latin *tempora*, plural of *tempus* (genitive *temporis*) side of the forehead, probably originally the thin stretch or span of skin at the side of the forehead and possibly associated with *tempus* span, as of time.

tempo *n.* 1724, time or rate of movement in music; borrowing of Italian *tempo*, literally, time, from Latin *tempus* (genitive *temporis*) time. The sense of rate of motion or activity (as in the *fast tempo of modern life*) is first recorded in 1898.

temporal¹ *adj.* of time, temporary. About 1340 *temporalle* worldly, secular; later *temporale* of time, temporary (about 1375); borrowed from Old French *temporal*, and directly from

Latin *temporalis* of time, temporary, from *tempus* (genitive *temporis*) time, season, proper time or season; for suffix see -AL¹.

temporal² *adj.* of or situated at the sides of the forehead. 1597, borrowed from Late Latin *temporalis* of the temples, from Latin *tempora* the temples, from *tempus* (genitive *temporis*) side of the forehead; for suffix see -AL¹.

temporary *adj.* 1547, borrowed from Latin *temporarius* of seasonal character, lasting a short time, from *tempus* (genitive *temporis*) time, season; for suffix see -ARY.

temporize *v.* 1579, to fit one's acts to the time or occasion, evade immediate action; borrowed from Middle French *temporiser* to pass one's time, wait one's time, from Medieval Latin *temporizare* pass time, perhaps through Vulgar Latin **temporāre* to delay, from Latin *tempus* (genitive *temporis*) time; for suffix see -IZE.

tempt *v.* Probably before 1200 *tempten* try to attract, allure, entice; borrowed from Old French *tempter*, and directly from Latin *temptāre* to feel, try out, attempt to influence, test. Old French *tenter* was not adopted in English, but the noun *tentation* is found in early modern English as a borrowing from Old French. —**temptation** *n.* Probably before 1200 *temptaciun*; borrowed from Old French *temptation* enticement, allurements, attraction, from Latin *temptātiōnem* (nominative *temptātiō*) trial, feeling, from *temptāre* to feel, try, test; for suffix see -ATION.

ten *adj.* 1311 *tenn*; developed from Old English *tēn* (Mercian), *tien* (West Saxon, about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *tiān* ten, Old Saxon *tehan*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *tien*, Middle Low German *tein*, Old High German *zehan* (modern German *zehn*), Old Icelandic *tiū* (Danish and Norwegian *ti*, Swedish *tio*), and Gothic *talhun*. —**tenfold** *adj.*, *adv.* Probably before 1200; developed from Old English *tiēnfeald* (*tiēn* ten + *-feald* -fold). —**tenth** *adj.*, *n.* Before 1150 *tenthe*, formed from Middle English *ten* ten + *-the* -th², replacing Old English *tēoþa*, *teogotha*; see TITHE.

tenable *adj.* 1579, borrowed from Middle French, from Old French *tenir* to hold, from Latin *tenēre* hold, keep; for suffix see -ABLE. The sense of capable of being maintained against objection is first recorded in 1711.

tenacious *adj.* 1607, holding fast, clinging, cohesive, tough; formed as an adjective to *tenacity* from English *tenac(ity)* + *-ous*. The sense of persistent, stubborn, is recorded in 1656. —**tenacity** *n.* Probably before 1425 *tenacite* persistence, obstinacy; borrowed from Middle French *ténacité*, and directly from Latin *tenācitas* the act or fact of holding fast, from *tenāx* (genitive *tenācis*) tough, holding fast, from *tenēre* to hold; for suffix see -ITY.

tenant *n.* Before 1325 *tenaun* person who holds lands by title or by lease; later *tenant* (about 1340); borrowed from Anglo-French *tenaunt* and Old French *tenant*, noun use of present participle of *tenir* to hold, from Latin *tenēre* hold, keep; for suffix see -ANT. —**v.** 1634, from the noun. —**tenancy** *n.* 1423, property held by a tenant; formed from English *tenant* + *-cy*, probably by influence of Old French *tenance* and Medieval

Latin *tenantia* state or condition of being a tenant. The meaning of a holding or possession of lands is first recorded in 1590.

tend¹ *v.* incline. About 1330 *tenden* to move toward, incline; earlier *tenen* (probably before 1300); borrowed from Old French *tendre* stretch, hold forth, offer, from Latin *tendere* to aim, stretch, extend.

tend² *v.* attend to. Probably before 1200 *tenden*, shortened earlier variant of *atenden*, *attenden* ATTEND.

tendency *n.* 1628, borrowed from Medieval Latin *tendentia* inclination, leaning, from Latin *tendēns*, present participle of *tendere* to stretch, aim; for suffix see -ENCY. —**tendential** *adj.* 1889, having a tendency, tendentious; formed from Medieval Latin *tendentia* tendency + English -al¹. —**tendentious** *adj.* 1900, having a particular tendency, tending to take sides; formed from Medieval Latin *tendentia* tendency + English -ous, by influence of German *tendenziös*.

tender¹ *adj.* soft. Probably before 1200 *tendre* soft, delicate; borrowed from Old French *tendre*, earlier *tenre*, from Latin *tenerem* (nominative *tener*) soft, delicate, of tender age. The meaning of kind, affectionate, loving, is first recorded in Middle English before 1325.

tender² *v.* to offer formally. 1542–43 *tendre*, borrowing of Middle French *tendre* to offer, hold forth, from Latin *tendere* to stretch, extend. The retention of the ending of the Middle French infinitive is unusual; compare BATTER¹, RENDER. —**n.** 1542–43 *tendre*; from the verb.

tender³ *n.* person or thing that tends another. About 1470, probably formed from Middle English *tenden* attend to, TEND² + -er¹. The meaning of a small boat used to attend a larger one is first recorded in 1675.

tenderloin *n.* 1828, tender part of the loin of beef or pork; formed from *tender¹*, *adj.* + *loin*. The slang meaning of a police district (originally in New York City) noted for vice (1887) is said to have been so named because of the graft available.

tendon *n.* 1543, borrowed from Medieval Latin *tendonem* (nominative *tendo*), alteration (influenced by Latin *tendere* to stretch) of Late Latin *tenōn*, from Greek *tēnōn* (genitive *tēnōntos*) tendon, sinew, from *telnein* to stretch.

tendril *n.* 1538, borrowed from Middle French *tendrillon* bud, shoot, cartilage, diminutive of *tendron* cartilage, from Old French *tendre* soft, TENDER¹.

tenebrous *adj.* Probably before 1475, full of darkness, dark; borrowed from Middle French *tenebreus*, from Latin *tenebrōsus*, from *tenebrae* darkness; for suffix see -OUS.

tenement *n.* About 1303, a holding of immovable property such as land or buildings; borrowed from Anglo-French and Old French *tenement*, from Medieval Latin *tenementum* a holding, fief, from Latin *tenēre* to hold; for suffix see -MENT. The meaning of a dwelling place, residence, is found probably before 1400. The term *tenement house* an apartment building usually in a poor section of a city, is first recorded in 1858.

tenet *n.* 1413, doctrine, principle; probably from Medieval Latin use (to introduce a statement of doctrine) of Latin *tenet* he holds, third person singular present indicative of *tenēre* to hold.

tennis *n.* 1345–46 *tenyes* the game of tennis, of uncertain origin (not recorded in the modern spelling until the 1500's); possibly borrowed through Anglo-French *tenetz* hold! receive! take!, from Old French *tenez* (imperative of *tenir* to hold, receive, take), used as a call from the server to his opponent, though no mention of this call has been found in French (in Old French the game itself was *la paulme*, *la paume*, literally, the palm, because it was played by striking the ball with the palm of the hand). The server's call in some Latin sources of the 1500's is given as *accipe* and *excipe* accept! take!, which suggests *tenez* an equivalent in Old French.

tenon *n.* Probably about 1380 *tenoun*, borrowed from Middle French *tenon* a tenon, from Old French *tenir* to hold. —**v.** 1596, fasten securely; from the noun. The meaning of fix with a tenon and mortise is found in 1649.

tenor *n.* Probably before 1300 *tenour* general meaning, purport, drift; borrowed from Old French *tenour* substance, sense, from Latin *tenōrem* (nominative *tenor*) contents, course, originally a holding on, from *tenēre* to hold; for suffix see -OR¹. The meaning of the general tendency, course, direction, is first recorded in Middle English before 1398. The sense in music (probably 1388), is so called because the melody was carried or held by the tenor's part.

tense¹ *adj.* stretched tight. 1670, borrowed from Latin *tēnsus*, past participle of *tendere* to stretch. The sense of in a state of nervous tension, is first recorded in 1821. —**v.** 1676, from the adjective. The sense of make or become nervous (often in *tense up*) is first recorded in 1946.

tense² *n.* form of a verb showing time of an action or state. Before 1333 *tens* time, also tense of a verb; borrowed from Old French *tens* time, from Latin *tempus*; see TEMPORAL¹ of time.

tensile *adj.* 1626, that can be stretched, ductile; borrowed from New Latin *tensilis* capable of being stretched, from Latin *tēnsus*, past participle of *tendere* to stretch. The meaning of pertaining to tension is first recorded in English in 1841.

tension *n.* 1533, a stretched condition; borrowed through Middle French *tension*, or directly from Latin *tēnsiōnem* (nominative *tēnsiō*) a stretching (in Medieval Latin, a struggle, contest), from *tēnsus*, past participle of *tendere* to stretch; for suffix see -SION. The sense of nervous strain is first recorded in English before 1763. The meaning of electromotive force (as in *high-tension wires*) is first recorded in English in 1802.

tensor *n.* 1704, New Latin, from Latin *tēnsus*, past participle of *tendere* to stretch; for suffix see -OR².

tent *n.* Probably before 1300, portable shelter of skins or cloth stretched over poles; borrowed from Old French *tente*, from Medieval Latin *tenta* a tent, noun use of feminine singular of Latin *tentus* stretched, variant past participle of *tendere* to

stretch. Also compare Latin *tentorium* tent; see TENTER. —**v.** 1553, to pitch a tent; from the noun.

tentacle *n.* 1762, borrowed from New Latin *tentaculum* feeler (Latin *tentāre* to feel, try + *-culum* diminutive suffix).

tentative *adj.* 1588 (implied in *tentatively*); borrowed from Medieval Latin *tentativus* trying, testing, from Latin *tentātus*, past participle of *tentāre*, variant of *temptāre* to feel, try, test; for suffix see *-IVE*.

tenter *n.* About 1300 *teyntur* frame; later *tentour* tent (before 1325); of uncertain origin, probably connected with Latin *tentorium* tent made of stretched skins, from *tentus*, variant past participle of *tendere* to stretch. The compound *tenterhook* (before 1480) one of the hooks that holds cloth on a tenter is found in the figurative phrase *on tenterhooks* in painful suspense in 1748. —**v.** 1437 *teynteren*; from the noun.

tenuous *adj.* 1597, formed from Latin *tenuis* thin + English *-ous*. The sense of having slight importance, not substantial, is found before 1817. —**tenuity** *n.* Probably before 1425 *tenuite*, borrowed from Middle French *ténuité*, or directly from Latin *tenuitās* thinness, from *tenuis* thin; for suffix see *-ITY*.

tenure *n.* 1414, holding of a tenement; borrowed from Anglo-French and Middle French *tenure* a tenure, estate in land, from Old French *tenir* to hold; for suffix see *-URE*. The sense of the condition or fact of holding a status, position, or occupation (as in *a tenure of office*, *a lifetime tenure*) is first recorded in 1599.

teepee or **teepee** *n.* 1743 *ti pee*, borrowed from Siouan (Dakota) *tipi* dwelling.

tepid *adj.* Before 1400, borrowed from Latin *tepidus* lukewarm, from *tepēre* be warm.

tequila *n.* 1849, borrowing of American Spanish *tequila*, from *Tequila*, name of a district in central Mexico noted for the superiority of its tequila.

tera- a combining form meaning one trillion, as in *teracycle* (1964), *terawatt* (1969), *terahertz* (1969). Adapted from Greek *téras* (genitive *téras*) marvel, monster.

terbium *n.* 1843, New Latin, from (Yt) *terby*, town in Sweden where the mineral gadolinite (which contains terbium) was found + *-ium*.

tercet *n.* 1598 *terset*, borrowed from Italian *terzetto*, diminutive of *terzo* third, from Latin *tertius* THIRD; for suffix see *-ET*. The spelling *tercet* was influenced by French *tercet*, from Italian *terzetto*.

tergiversate *v.* 1654, probably a back formation from *tergiversation*, modeled on Latin *tergiversātus*, past participle of *tergiversāre* turn one's back, evade; for suffix see *-ATE*¹. —**tergiversation** *n.* 1570, borrowed from Latin *tergiversātiōnem* (nominative *tergiversātiō*) a shifting, evasion, from *tergiversāre* turn one's back on, evade (*tergum* the back + *versāre* to spin); for suffix see *-ATION*.

term *n.* Probably before 1200 *terme* limit in time, set or appointed time or period; later, period of time a law court or

school is in session (1454); borrowed from Old French *terme* limit of time or place, from Latin *terminus* end, boundary line, related to *termin* boundary, end. The meaning of a word or phrase used in a limited or precise sense is first recorded in about 1378; borrowed from Medieval Latin *terminus* word, expression, from Late Latin *terminus*, from Latin, end, boundary line. The plural terms limited conditions, stipulations, is first recorded before 1333. —**v.** 1549, to name, call, designate (found in *termining*); from the noun. An earlier sense of terminate (about 1410); was borrowed from Middle French *terminer* terminate, limit, from Old French *terme* limit.

termagant *n.* 1500–20, violent, overbearing person; found in Middle English *Termagaunt*, name of a fictitious Moslem deity appearing in medieval morality plays as a violent, overbearing personage (about 1303); earlier *Tervagant* (probably before 1200); borrowed from Old French *Tervagan*, *Tervagant*, of uncertain origin. —**adj.** 1596, violent, overbearing; from the noun.

terminal *adj.* 1459, relating to or marking a boundary, limit, or end; borrowed from Latin *terminālis* pertaining to a boundary or end, final, from *terminus* end, boundary line; for suffix see *-AL*¹. The sense of situated at or forming the end of something (as in *a terminal bud*) is first recorded in 1805, and that of concluding, final (as in *a terminal payment*) in 1827. The meaning of fatal, approaching death (as in *a terminal case*) is first recorded in 1891. —**n.** 1831, final syllable, letter, or word; from the adjective. The sense of an end point, such as a screw or post, for making an electrical connection, is first recorded in 1838; that of an end point of a railroad line in 1888, and a device for communicating with a computer, in 1954.

terminate *v.* Probably before 1425, to bring or come to an end; borrowed from Latin *terminātus*, past participle of *termināre* to limit, end; for suffix see *-ATE*¹. —**termination** *n.* 1395 *terminacioun* determination, decision; borrowed from Old French, and directly from Latin *terminātiōnem* (nominative *terminātiō*) a fixing of bounds, bounding, determining, from *termināre* to limit, end, from *terminus* end, boundary line; for suffix see *-ATION*.

terminology *n.* 1801, borrowed from German *Terminologie* (Medieval Latin *terminus* word, expression + German *-ologie* *-ology*).

terminus *n.* Before 1617, goal, end, final point; borrowing of Latin *terminus* end, boundary line. The meaning of either end of a transportation line is found in 1836.

termite *n.* 1849, new singular formed in English by back formation from the earlier plural *termites* (1781); borrowed from New Latin *termites*, plural of *termes* (genitive *termitis*), a special use of Late Latin *termes* woodworm, alteration (influenced by Latin *terere* to rub, wear, erode) Latin *tarmes*.

tern *n.* 1678, borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *therna* tern, Norwegian *terne*, and Swedish *tärna*).

terrace *n.* 1515, gallery, portico, balcony; later, flat, raised place for walking (1575); borrowed from Middle French *ter-*

race, from Old French *terrace*, *terrasse* platform (built on or supported by a mound of earth), from Vulgar Latin **terrācea*, from Latin *terra* earth, land. —**v.** 1615, from the noun.

terra cotta 1722, borrowing of Italian *terra cotta* (*terra* earth, from Latin; and *cotta* baked; literally, cooked, from Latin *cocta*, feminine past participle of *coquere* to COOK).

terra firma 1605, New Latin *terra firma* the part of the Italian mainland ruled by Venice (from Latin *terra* earth, land; and *firma* firm, feminine of *firmus* FIRM¹, adj.).

terrain *n.* 1727, ground for training horses; later, any tract of land or ground (1766); borrowed from French *terrain* piece of earth, ground, land, from Old French, from Vulgar Latin **terrānum*, alteration of Latin *terrēnum* land, ground, from neuter of *terrēnus* of the earth, earthly, from *terra* earth, land.

terrapin *n.* 1672 *terrapine*, *tarapine*; earlier *torope* (1613); borrowed from an Algonquian source (compare Abnaki *turepé*, and Delaware *turpa* turtle).

terrarium *n.* 1890, small enclosure for land animals, vivarium; New Latin, formed from Latin *terra* land + *-arium* -ary; patterned on *aquarium*, with which it was contrasted.

terrestrial *adj.* Before 1387 *terrestrialle*, formed from Latin *terrestris* earthly (from *terra* earth) + English -*al*¹.

terrible *adj.* Before 1387, causing terror, frightful, dreadful; borrowed from Old French *terrible*, from Latin *terribilis* frightful, from *terrēre* fill with fear; for suffix see -IBLE. The meaning of very bad, awful, is first recorded in 1596. —**terribly** *adv.* 1526, formed from English *terrible* + -*ly*¹. The sense of extremely is first recorded in 1833.

terrier *n.* About 1410; earlier in the surname *Terrier* (1166); borrowed from Old or Middle French *chien terrier* terrier dog, from Medieval Latin *terrarius* of earth, from Latin *terra* earth; so called because the terrier pursues its quarry (foxes, badgers, etc.) into their burrows.

terrific *adj.* 1667, causing terror, frightening; borrowed from Latin *terrificus* causing terror or fear, from *terrēre* fill with fear; for suffix see -FIC. The sense of very great or severe (as in a *terrific headache*) is first recorded in 1809, and as a generalized term of approval (as in a *terrific dancer*), in 1930.

terrify *v.* 1575, fill with terror, frighten very much; borrowed from Latin *terrificāre* to frighten, from *terrificus* causing terror; see TERRIFIC; for suffix see -FY.

territory *n.* Before 1398 *territorie* land under the jurisdiction of a town, state, or ruler; borrowed from Latin *territōrium* land around a town, domain, district, from *terra* earth, land, patterned after words such as *dormitōrium* dormitory. The sense of any tract of land, district, region, is first recorded in English in 1610. —**territorial** *adj.* 1625, of or pertaining to a particular territory; borrowed from Late Latin *territōriālis* of or belonging to a territory, from Latin *territōrium* TERRITORY; for suffix see -AL¹.

terror *n.* About 1375 *terroure* great fear; borrowed from Old

French *terreur*, from Latin *terror* great fear, dread, from *terrēre* fill with fear, frighten, terrify; for suffix see -OR¹. —**terrorism** *n.* 1795, government by intimidation in the Reign of Terror (1793–94) during the French Revolution; borrowing of French *terrorisme* (Latin *terror* terror + French -*isme* -ism). The sense of systematic use of terror as a policy is first recorded in English in 1798. —**terrorist** *n.* 1795, person connected with the Reign of Terror during the French Revolution; borrowing of French *terroriste* (Latin *terror* terror + French -*iste* -ist). The sense of one who furthers a cause by the use of terror is first recorded in English in 1866, in connection with the activities of extreme radical groups in Russia. —**terrorize** *v.* 1823, to coerce or deter by terror; borrowed from French *terroriser* (Latin *terror* terror + French -*iser* -ize), or formed from English *terror* + -ize.

terry *n.* 1784, of uncertain origin; possibly alteration of French *tiré* drawn, from past participle of *tirer* draw out. Compare German *gezogener Sammet* drawn velvet.

terse *adj.* 1599, clean-cut, burnished, neat, (implied in *tersely*); borrowed from French *ters* clean, and directly from Latin *tersus* wiped off, clean, neat, from past participle of *tergere* to rub, polish, wipe. The sense of concise and pithy in style or language, is first recorded in 1777 as a specific application of (now obsolete) polished, refined, cultured, especially in language (1621).

tertiary *adj.* 1656, borrowed from Latin *tertiarius* of or pertaining to a third, from *tertius* third; for suffix see -ARY.

tesla *n.* 1960, unit of magnetic flux density, in allusion to Nikola Tesla, a Croatian-born American engineer.

tessellate *v.* 1791, back formation from earlier *tessellated*, *adj.*, made in a checkered pattern (1695); and possibly borrowed directly from Latin *tessellātus* made of small square stones or tiles, from *tessella* small square stone or tile, diminutive of *tessera* a cube or square of stone or wood, tile, often used in a mosaic; perhaps from Greek *téssera*, neuter of *tésseres*, Ionic variant of *téssares* FOUR (so called from its four corners); for suffix see -ATE¹. —**adj.** 1826, possibly a shortened form of *tessellated*, *adj.*, modeled on Latin *tessellātus*.

test *n.* About 1395 *teste* small vessel used in assaying precious metals; borrowed from Old French *test*, from Latin *testum* earthen pot, related to *testa* piece of burned clay, earthen pot, shell, and *texere* to weave. The sense of that by which the correctness or genuineness of something may be determined, means of trial or examination, is first recorded in 1594. —**v.** 1603, to assay (gold or silver); from the noun. The sense of try, examine, put to a test, is first recorded in 1748.

testament *n.* About 1290, last will disposing of property; borrowed from Latin *testāmentum* a will, publication of a will, from *testārī* make a will, be witness to, from *testis* witness; for suffix see -MENT.

Late Latin *testāmentum* a covenant, is a loan translation of Greek *diathēkē*, used in this sense in the account of the Last Supper and thus associated with the notion of a last will or testament. As the name of either of the two main divisions of

the Bible (Old Testament and New Testament), the word is found in Middle English (before 1325), translated from Late Latin *vetus testāmentum* old testament, and *novum testāmentum* new testament, themselves loan translations from Greek *palaiā diathēkē* and *kainē diathēkē*.

testate *adj.* About 1430, borrowed from Latin *testātus*, past participle of *testārī* make a will, be witness to, declare; see TESTAMENT; for suffix see -ATE¹. —**testator** *n.* Before 1400 *testatour*, borrowed from Anglo-French, from Latin *testātor* one who makes a will, from *testat-*, past participle stem of *testārī* make a will; for suffix see -OR².

tester¹ *n.* one who tests or proves something. 1661, formed from English *test*, *v.* + -er¹.

tester² *n.* a canopy over a bed. About 1380, borrowed from Medieval Latin *testerium*, from *testera* head stall, from Late Latin *testa* (*capitis*) skull, from Latin, earthenware, pot.

testicle *n.* Probably before 1425, alteration of earlier *testicule* (1392); borrowed from Latin *testiculus*, diminutive of *testis* testicle; see TESTIS.

testify *v.* About 1387 *testifyen* give evidence, bear witness; borrowed from Latin *testificārī* bear witness, formed from a lost adjective **testificus* making a witness (*testis* witness + the root of *facere* to make); for suffix see -FY.

testimony *n.* Before 1382 *testymonye* the Ten Commandments, a borrowing representing Late Latin *testimōnium* in the Vulgate, and Greek *tò martýrion* in the Septuagint, of Hebrew *ʿēdūtā* attestation, testimony, from *ʿēd* witness.

The meaning of evidence, statement of a witness, is first recorded in Middle English (probably before 1425); borrowed from Old French *testimonie*, and directly from Latin *testimōnium* evidence, proof, testimony (*testis* witness + -*mōnium*, suffix signifying action, state, condition); for suffix in English see -Y². —**testimonial** *adj.* About 1422, of or serving as testimony, in *lettres testimoniales* credentials; borrowed from Middle French *testimonial*, in *lettres testimoniaulx*, and directly from Latin *testimōniālis*, in *litterae testimōniālēs*, from *testimōnium* evidence, proof; for suffix see -AL¹. It is also probable that the adjective was, in part, derived from noun use in English. —**n.** Before 1387, evidence, testimony; borrowed from Late Latin *testimōniālis*, *adj.*, testimonial. The meaning of a certificate of character or qualifications, letter of recommendation, is first recorded in English in 1571.

testis *n.*, pl. **testes** 1704, borrowed from Latin *testis* testicle, a special application of *testis* witness; presumably because it bears witness to male virility; compare a similar use of Greek *paras-tátēs*, literally, one that stands by, and French *témoins*, literally, witnesses.

testosterone *n.* 1935, formed from English *testis* + connecting -o- + *ster(ol)* + -one.

testy *adj.* 1510 *testie*; alteration (with substitution of -ie -y¹) for Middle English *testif* headstrong (about 1385); borrowed from Anglo-French *testif*, from Old French *teste* head + -if -ive; see -IVE. Old French *teste* is from Late Latin *testa* skull, in Latin,

pot, shell. The sense of easily irritated, impatient, is first recorded in English in 1526.

tetanus *n.* 1392, borrowed from Latin *tetanus*, from Greek *tétanos* muscular spasm; literally, a stretching, tension, from *teínein* to stretch; so called because the disease is characterized by violent spasms and stiffness of the muscles.

tether *n.* 1376–77, probably borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *tjōðhr* tether, Norwegian *tjor*, and Swedish *tjuder*); cognate with Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *tūder* tether, (modern Dutch *tuier*, and Old High German *zeotar* pole of a cart, from Proto-Germanic **teudrān*). —*v.* About 1450 *teduren*; implied in *horsthethering* (before 1382); from the noun.

tetr- a variant form of *tetra-* in some instances before a vowel, as in *tetroxide*.

tetra- a combining form meaning four, as in *tetrameter* (1612), *tetravalent* (1868). Borrowed from Greek *tetra-*, combining form of *téttares*, *téssares* four.

tetragrammaton *n.* the Hebrew divine name transliterated as YHWH; vocalized as Jehovah or Yahweh. Probably before 1400 *tetragrammaton*; borrowed from Greek (*tō*) *tetragrāmmaton*, literally, (the word) of four letters (*tetra-* four + *grāmma*, genitive *grāmματος* letter, something written).

tetrahedron *n.* 1570, borrowed from Late Greek *tetráedron*, originally, neuter of *tetráedros*, *adj.*, four-sided (*tetra-* four + *hédra* seat, base).

tetralogy *n.* 1656, borrowed from Greek *tetralogíā* group of four dramas (*tetra-* four + -*logíā* -logy).

tetrameter *n.* 1612, borrowed from Latin *tetrametrus*, from Greek *tetrámetron* verse of four measures, originally, neuter of *tetrámetros*, *adj.*, having four measures (*tetra-* four + *métron* measure). —*adj.* 1770, from the noun.

tetrarch *n.* Old English (before 1150) *tetrache* ruler of one of four divisions of a kingdom or province; borrowed from Late Latin *tetrarcha*, from Latin *tetrarchēs*, from Greek *tetrárchēs* leader of four companies, tetrarch (*tetra-* four + *árchein* to rule).

tetrarchy *n.* Probably before 1425, borrowed from Late Latin *tetrarchia*, from Latin, form Greek *tetrarchía*, from *tetrárchēs* TETRARCH.

text *n.* 1369, the wording of anything written; borrowed from Old French *texte*, from Medieval Latin *textus* the Scriptures, text, treatise, (in Late Latin, written account, content, characters used in a document), from Latin *textus* (genitive *textūs*) style or texture of a work; originally, thing woven, from *texere* to weave. —**textual** *adj.* About 1390 *textuel* well-read, of or conforming to the text; borrowed from Anglo-French *textuel*, from Medieval Latin *textualis* of or pertaining to a text, from *textus* the Scriptures, text, treatise; for suffix see -AL¹. The spelling *textual* (about 1470), was an alteration to conform to the Medieval Latin.

textile *n.* 1626, borrowed from Latin *textilis* woven fabric,

cloth, noun use of *textilis* woven, from *texere* to weave. —**adj.** woven. 1656, borrowed from Latin *textilis* woven, from the verb in Latin.

texture *n.* Probably about 1425, network, structure; borrowed from Middle French, and directly from Latin *textūra* web, texture, structure, from *text-*, a stem of *texere* to weave; for suffix see *-URE*. The sense of constitution, nature, or quality (as in *the texture of a fable*) is first recorded in 1611.

th is a spelling found chiefly in words of Old English or Old Icelandic origin and sometimes in words borrowed from Greek. The digraph *th* became common during the Middle English period, replacing the Old English and Old Icelandic letters thorn (*þ*) and edh (*ð*), to represent both the voiceless consonant found in *thing* (Old English *þing*) and the voiced consonant found in *heathen* (Old English *hæðen*). The letter *edh* went out of use in the 1200's. The thorn continued to be used, but was more and more restricted to pronouns and demonstratives, such as *þat*, *þe*, *þey*, *þis*, (*that*, *the*, *they*, *this*), other words being spelled with *th*. With the advent of printing, using continental type which had no thorn, *th* came into general use in all positions, though for a long time *y* was sometimes used to approximate the thorn's shape, resulting in spellings such as *ye* for *the*. See also *CH*, *SH*, *WH*.

-th¹ a suffix forming nouns from verbs, as in *bath*, *growth*, *stealth*, or from adjectives (rarely from other nouns), as in *depth*, *length*, *strength*, *truth*. Old English *-thu*, *-tho*, *-th*, cognate with Gothic *-itha*, Old High German *-ida*, Old Icelandic *-th*. This suffix has a variant *-t*, as in *height* (Middle English *hihthe*) and *theft* (Old English *thēofth*); see *-T²*.

-th² a suffix forming ordinal numerals, as in *fourth*, *tenth*, *twelfth*. *Sixth* = *number six in order or position*. Old English *-tha*; cognate with Gothic *-da*, *-ta*, Old High German *-do*, *-to*, Old Icelandic *-di*, *-ti*. See also the variant *-ETH¹*, and compare *fifth* a re-formation with *-th*, on analogy with *fourth*, *seventh* and *ninth*.

-th³ a variant form of the archaic suffix *-eth²* forming the third person singular of the present tense, as in *doth*, *hath*. See *-ES²* and *-S²*.

thalamus *n.* 1753, the receptacle of a flower; New Latin, special use of Latin *thalamus* inner chamber, from Greek *thálamōs* inner chamber, bedroom. The sense of part of the forebrain is first recorded in English in 1756, but is found earlier in Latin plural form in 1704.

thallium *n.* 1861, New Latin, from Greek *thallós* green shoot + New Latin *-ium*; so called because its spectrum is marked by a green band.

thallophyte *n.* 1854, borrowed from New Latin *Thallophyta* former division of the plant kingdom, from Greek *thallós* green shoot + *phytón* plant.

than *conj.* Old English *than* (before 735), developed from *thane*, *thænne*, *thonne* THEN. It is not clear how the conjunction (*than*) used in comparisons developed from the adverb (*then*) showing time, but *than* after a comparative ("bigger

than") is a pre-English development, existing early in West Germanic: Old Frisian *than*, Old Saxon *thanna*, *thane*, Middle Dutch *danne*, *dan*, and Old High German *thanna*, *thane*, *danne*. The semantic development may have been directly from the demonstrative sense of *then*, thus: "John is smarter than Tom" = "John is smarter; then (= after that) Tom." It could also derive from the relative or conjunctive use of Old English *thonne* when, when as, thus: "When as (whereas) Tom is smart, John is more (so)." For a long time the English adverb and conjunction were treated as one word; they did not become fully differentiated in form until about 1700.

thanatology *n.* 1842, formed from Greek *thánatos* death + English *-logy* study of.

thane *n.* 1124 *thæin* servant, retainer; later *thein* (probably before 1200), *thane* (about 1200); developed from Old English *thegn* military follower (about 725, in *Beowulf*), *thegen* (before 800); cognates with Old Saxon *thegan* man, boy, Old High German *thegan* warrior, hero, boy, servant (modern German *Degen* warrior, soldier), and Old Icelandic *thegn* freeman, *thane*, from Proto-Germanic **theznás*.

The specific sense of a man who ranked between an earl and a freeman is found in Middle English about 1470. The spelling *thane* was Scottish; the regular modern representation of Old English *thegn*, *thegen* would have been *thain* (compare *rain* from Old English *regn*).

thank *v.* Probably about 1175 *thanken* express gratitude to; developed from Old English *thancian* (about 725, in *Beowulf*), from *thanc*, *thonc* thought, good will, gratitude; cognate with Old Frisian *thank*, *thonc* gratitude, Old Saxon *thank*, Middle Dutch *danc* (modern Dutch *dank*), Old High German *thank*, *dank* (modern German *Dank*), Gothic *thanks* thought, from Proto-Germanic *thankaz*, and Old Icelandic *thökk* (Danish *tak*, Norwegian *takke*, Swedish *tack*), related to the root of English THINK. —**thankful** *adj.* 1375, deserving thanks, feeling gratitude; developed from Old English *thancfule*, *thoncfule* grateful, content (before 900), formed from *thanc* gratitude, good will + *-full* *-ful*. —**thanks** *n. pl.* Before 1250 *thonkes*; plural of *thank*, *thonc*. —**thanksgiving** *n.* (1533, giving of thanks; 1632, = Thanksgiving Day) —**Thanksgiving Day** (1674)

that *pron.* Old English *thæt* (about 725, in *Beowulf*), neuter singular of the demonstrative pronoun and adjective *sē* (masculine), *sēo* (feminine); see THE¹ and the plural THOSE. Old English *thæt* is cognate with Old Frisian *thet*, neuter demonstrative pronoun, Old Saxon *that*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *dat*, Old High German *daz* (modern German *das*), Old Icelandic *that*, and Gothic *thata*. —**adj.** Probably about 1200, from the pronoun. —**conj.** Old English *thæt*, before 899; from the pronoun in Old English. —**adv.** About 1450, from the adjective.

thatch *v.* About 1378 *thechen*; later *thacchen* (before 1398); developed from Old English *theccan* to cover (about 725, in *Beowulf*), related to *thæc* roof, thatching material, from Proto-Germanic **thakan*. Cognates of the verb and noun in Germanic are found in Old Frisian *thekka* to cover, *thek* roof, Old

Saxon *thekkian* to cover, Middle Dutch *decken* to cover (modern Dutch *dekken*), *dak* roof (modern Dutch *dak*), Old High German *decchen* to cover (modern German *decken*), *dah* roof (modern German *Dach*), and Old Icelandic *thekja* to cover (from Proto-Germanic **thakjanan*), *thak* roof. The Middle English spelling *thacchen* (with *a*), was probably influenced by earlier *thacken* (about 1350), developed from Old English *thacian* (before 1100), from *thæc* roof, thatching material. —**n.** Before 1325 *thach*; probably an alteration (influenced by Old English *theccan*, pronounced *thēchən*) of Middle English *thak* thatching material; developed from Old English *thæc*.

thaw *v.* Before 1325 *thowen*, *thouen*; developed from Old English *thawian* (about 1000); cognate with Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *douwen* to thaw (modern Dutch *dooien*), Old High German *douwen*, *dōan*, *dewen* (modern German *tauen*), from Proto-Germanic **thawōjanan*, and with Old Icelandic *theyja* (Swedish *töa*, Norwegian and Danish *tø*). —**n.** About 1400 *thawe*; from the verb.

the¹ *definite article.* Old English (about 950) *thē*, developed from adjective use of *thē*, nominative masculine form of the demonstrative pronoun and adjective, and replacing earlier *sē* (masculine), *sēo* (feminine), *thæt* (neuter). The *s*-forms were superseded by forms in *th-*, influenced by the neuter *thæt* (the source of *that*), and by such oblique cases as *thæs*, genitive singular masculine and neuter. Old English *sē*, *sēo* is cognate with Old Frisian *thi*, masculine demonstrative pronoun and adjective, Old Saxon *se*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *de*, Old High German and modern German *der*, Old Icelandic *sá*, Gothic *sa*.

the² *adv.* by how much . . . by that much, as in *the more the merrier*, *the sooner the better*. Old English *thē* (before 899), variant of *thȳ*, originally, instrumental case of the neuter demonstrative *thæt* THAT.

the- the form of *theo-* before a vowel, as in *theism*, *monotheism*, *pantheist*.

theater *n.* About 1380 *theatre* (in ancient Greece and Rome) an open-air place for viewing plays and other spectacles; borrowed from Old French *theatre*, and directly from Latin *theātrum*, from Greek *theātron* theater, from *theāsthai* to behold, from *thēā* a view. The meaning of a building where plays are shown (1577) was transferred to that of plays, writing, production, the stage, in 1668. The sense of a place of action, something representing a theater, appeared in 1581. —**theatrical** *adj.* 1558, of or connected with the theater; formed from Middle French *theatrical* or Late Latin *theātricus* of or pertaining to the theater + English *-al*¹. Late Latin *theātricus* is borrowed from Greek *theātrikós* of or pertaining to the theater, from *theātron* theater. —**n.** 1657–83, dramatic performance; from the adjective.

thee *pron.* 1382, developed from Old English *the*, *thē* (before 830), dative singular of *thū* THOU.

theft *n.* About 1250 *theft*, *thefte*; developed from Old English (about 695) *thēofth* (*thēof* thief + *-th* *-th¹*); cognate with Old

Frisian *thiūfthe*, *thiūfte* theft, Old Saxon *thiubda*, and Old Icelandic *thýfth*, *thýft*, from Proto-Germanic **theubithō*.

their *adj.* Probably about 1200 *thezre*; later *theyr* (about 1303); borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *theirra*, *theira*, genitive plural of *their* THEY). —**theirs** *pron.* Before 1325 *thairs*; from *their*, *adj.*

theism *n.* 1678, formed from Greek *theós* god + English *-ism*. —**theistic** *adj.* 1780, of or pertaining to theists or theism; formed from earlier (1662) *theist* believer in theism (Greek *theós* god + English *-ist*) + *-ic*.

them *pron.* Probably about 1200 *thezzm*; later *them* (probably before 1300); borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *heim*, dative plural of *their* THEY). —**them-****selves** *pron. pl.* 1502, alteration (influenced by *selves*, plural of *self*) of Middle English *tham-self*, *thaim-self* (before 1325).

theme *n.* Before 1325 *teme* topic, subject; later *theme* (before 1387); borrowed from Old French *tesme* (with silent *s*), and directly from Latin *thema* a subject, thesis, from Greek *théma* a proposition, subject, deposit; literally, something set down, from *the-* root of *tithénai* put down, place. Application to music is first recorded in 1674. —**thematic** *adj.* 1697, borrowed from Greek *thematikós* of or connected with a theme, from *théma* (genitive *thématos*) theme; for suffix see *-ic*.

then *adv.* Probably about 1200 *thenne* at that time; developed from Old English *thanne*, *thænne*, *thonne* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *thenne*, *thanne* then, Old Saxon *thanna*, *than*, Middle Dutch *danne*, *dan* (modern Dutch *dan*), Old High German *danne*, *denne* (modern German *dann*), Old Icelandic *thā*, and Gothic *than*. Compare the related form *THAN*. —**n.** Before 1325 *than*, from the adverb. —**adj.** 1584, from the adverb.

thence *adv.* About 1300 *thannes*; later *thenne* (before 1325); formed from *thanne*, *thenne* thence + adverbial genitive *-es*, *-s*; see *-s³*. Middle English *thanne*, *thenne* developed from Old English *thanone*, *thanon* (about 725, in *Beowulf*), cognate with Old Frisian *thana* thence, Old Saxon *thanana*, *thanān*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *dan*, Old High German *thanana*, *thanān*, *danān* (modern German *dannen*), from early West Germanic **thanana*, and Old Icelandic *thanān*; all formed by the addition of suffixes to the demonstrative stem *tha-* found in English *THAT* and its cognates. The spelling *thence* (with *c*) functioned to preserve the voiceless sound represented by *s*. Compare *HENCE*. —**thenceforth** *adv.* (about 1380) —**thenceforward** *adv.* (1457)

theo- a combining form meaning god, gods, or God, as in *theocentric* = centered or centering in God (1886), *theocracy*, *theology*. Borrowed from Greek *theo-*, combining form of *theós* god; see *THEOLOGY*.

theocracy *n.* Before 1652, borrowed from Greek *theokratía* the rule of God (*theós* god + *krátos* a rule, regime, strength); for suffix see *-CRACY* and *-CY*. An earlier spelling *theocracy* is found in 1622. —**theocratic** *adj.* 1741, formed in English from *theocracy* on the pattern of such pairs as *democracy*, *democratic*.

theology *n.* Before 1376 *teologie*; later *theologie* (before 1387); borrowed from Old French *theologie* philosophical treatment of Christian doctrine, from Latin *theologia*, from Greek *theologia* an account of the gods, or of God, from *theologos* one discoursing on the gods (*theos* god + *-logos* treating of; see -LOGY). The sense of a system of religious beliefs (as in *Calvinist theology*) is first recorded in 1669. —**theologian** *n.* 1483, borrowed from Middle French *théologien*, from *théologie*; for suffix see -AN. —**theological** *adj.* Before 1450 *theologicall* of or pertaining to the word of God, Biblical, Scriptural; formed from Late Latin *theologicus* of or pertaining to theology (Latin *theologia* + *-icus* -ic) + English *-al*¹. The sense of pertaining to or dealing with theology is first recorded in English in 1603.

theorem *n.* 1551, borrowed from Middle French *théorème*, and directly from Late Latin *theōrēma*, and from Greek *theōrēma* spectacle, speculation, theorem, from *theōrein* to consider; see THEORY.

theoretical *adj.* 1616, contemplative, formed from Late Latin *theōrēticus* of or pertaining to theory + English *-al*¹. Late Latin *theōrēticus* was borrowed from Greek *theōrētikós* contemplative, pertaining to theory, from *theōrētós* that may be seen or considered, from *theōrein* to consider, look at; see THEORY. The meaning of having to do with theory is found in English before 1652. —**theoretician** *n.* 1886, formed from Late Latin *theōrēticus* theoretical + English *-ian*.

theory *n.* 1592, conception, mental scheme; borrowed from Late Latin *theōria*, from Greek *theōriā* contemplation, speculation, a looking at, thing looked at, from *theōrein* to consider, speculate, look at, from *theōrós* spectator. (*thēa* a view + *-horós* seeing, related to *horân* to see); for suffix see -Y³. The sense of the principles or methods of a science or art rather than its practice is first recorded in 1613, and that of an explanation based on observation and reasoning in 1638. —**theorist** *n.* 1594, formed from English *theory* + *-ist*. —**theorize** *v.* 1638, formed from English *theory* + *-ize*.

theosophy *n.* 1650, knowledge about God and nature obtained through mystical study; borrowed from Medieval Latin *theosophia*, from Late Greek *theosophiā* wisdom concerning God or things divine, from Greek *theosophos* one wise about God (*theos* god + *sophós* wise, learned); for suffix see -Y³. *Theosophy* is also the name of a modern philosophical system founded in 1875, which combines the teachings of Hinduism and Buddhism.

therapeutic *adj.* 1646, probably a shortened form of *therapeutical* (1605); modeled on New Latin *therapeuticus* curing, healing, from Greek *therapeutikós*, from *therapeutēs* one ministering, from *therapeîn* to cure, treat, related to *therápōn* (genitive *therápontos*) attendant; for suffix see -IC, -ICAL.

therapy *n.* 1846, borrowed from New Latin *therapia*, from Greek *therapēia* curing, healing, from *therapeûein* to cure, treat; for suffix see -Y³. —**therapist** *n.* 1886, formed from English *therapy* + *-ist*.

there *adv.* Probably before 1200 *ther*, *thare*; developed from Old English *thær* in or at that place (before 800); cognate with

Old Frisian *thēr* there, Old Saxon *thār*, Middle Dutch *daer* (modern Dutch *daar*), Old High German *dār* (modern German *da*, *darin*, *daraus*), from Proto-Germanic **thēr*, and Old Icelandic *thar* (Danish and Norwegian *der*, Swedish *där*), Gothic *thar*. Related to Old English *thæt* THAT. —**n. 1588, from the adverb. —**thereabouts** *adv.* About 1400; also *thereabout*, developed from Old English *thær onbutan* (before 925). —**thereafter** *adv.* Old English *thær æfter* (before 899). —**thereby** *adv.* Old English *thærbig* (before 899). —**therefore** *adv.* About 1175 *therefor* (Middle English *ther* there + *fore* for). —**therein** *adv.* Old English *thærin* (before 1000). —**thereupon** *adv.* About 1175, on that; before 1325, after that, then. —**therewith** *adv.* Old English *thæ* (before 899).**

therm- the form of *thermo-* before a vowel, as in *thermanesthesia*.

thermal *adj.* 1756, of or having to do with hot springs; borrowed from French *thermal*, formed from Greek *thérme* heat + French *-al* -al¹. The sense of having to do with heat is recorded in English in 1837.

thermo- a combining form meaning heat, temperature, as in *thermometer*, *thermoplastic*. Borrowed from Greek *thermo-*, combining form of *thérmos* hot, *thérme* heat.

thermometer *n.* 1633, borrowed from French *thermomètre* (1624), formed from Greek *thérmos* hot + *métron* measure. An earlier form appeared in Latin *thermoscopium* (1617).

thermoplastic *adj.* 1883, formed from English *thermo-* + *plastic*, *adj.* —**n.** 1929, from the adjective.

thermos *n.* 1907 *thermos flask*, a trademark patented in 1904; borrowed from Greek *thérmos* hot.

thermostat *n.* 1831, formed from English *thermo-* + *-stat*.

thesaurus *n.* 1823, a treasury, storehouse; borrowed from Latin *thesaurus* treasury, treasure, from Greek *thēsaurós* a treasure, treasury, storehouse, chest. The sense of a dictionary or encyclopedia filled with information is first recorded in 1840, but the sense was known earlier in English *thesaurarie* (1592); and in Latin title (1565).

these *pron.* About 1175 *thes*; probably before 1200 *these*; developed from Old English *thās*, variant of *thās*, plural of *thes*, *thēos*, *this* THIS. The Old English form *thās* remained *thas* in northern Middle English, but by regular phonetic development became *thos* in Midland and South, resulting in modern *those*, which came to be used as the plural of *that*. Old English *thās*, in turn, became Middle English *thes*, remaining in the South as plural of *this*. The two forms became differentiated in use after 1250–1300. The ending *-e* was apparently patterned in Middle English on the plural forms of adjectives (*alle* for *all*, *sume* for *sum*, etc.).

thesis *n.* Before 1398, unaccented (weak) syllable or note; borrowed from Latin *thesis* unaccented syllable in poetry; later, the stressed part of a metrical foot, from Greek *thésis* a proposition, the downbeat (in music); originally, any setting down or placing, from a root of *tithénai* to place, put, set. The sense of a

proposition or statement to be proved is first recorded in English in 1579, and that of a dissertation written by a candidate for a university degree, in 1653.

Thespian or **thespian** *adj.* 1675, formed from Greek *Thēspis* Thespis + English *-an*. Thespis was a Greek poet of the 500's B.C., the traditional father of Greek tragedy. —**n.** 1827, from the adjective.

thews *n. pl.* 1566, bodily powers or parts indicating strength, good physique, from Middle English *theweas*, *theauwes* good qualities, virtues (probably before 1200); developed from Old English *thēawes* customs, manners, personal qualities, plural of *thēaw* habit, custom (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Saxon *thau* usage, habit, custom, and Old High German *thau* discipline, from Proto-Germanic **thawaz*. The sense of muscles, muscular development, was associated with *sineus*.

they *pron.* Probably before 1200 *thei*; borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *their*, originally masculine plural demonstrative pronoun corresponding to *that*, neuter singular; see **THAT**). The Scandinavian form gradually replaced Old English *hī*, *hīe*, plural of *hē*, *hēo*, *hit*; see **HE**, **SHE**, **IT**.

thick *adj.* Probably before 1200 *thikke*, *thicke*; developed from Old English *thicce* not thin, dense (before 899); cognate with Old Frisian *thikke* numerous, Old Saxon *thikke* thick, Middle Dutch *dicke* (modern Dutch *dik*), Old High German *dicki* (modern German *dick*), Old Icelandic *thykker* (Swedish *tjock*, Danish *tyk*, and Norwegian *tykk*), from Proto-Germanic **theku-*, **thekwī-*. —**adv.** Before 1175 *thicke*; developed from Old English *thicce* (before 971), from the adjective in Old English. —**n.** About 1250 *thikke*, from the adjective. —**thicken** *v.* Before 1398 *thickenen* make thick; formed from Middle English *thicke* thick, *adj.* + *-enen* *-en*¹. —**thickset** *adj.* About 1370, set close together; later, stocky (1724).

thicket *n.* 1530, developed from Old English *thiccet* (before 1000), formed from *thicce* **THICK** + *-et*, a denominative suffix. No record of a Middle English **thicket* has been found, suggesting a revival in the early 1500's after several centuries of obsolescence.

thief *n.* 1124 *thef*; later *thief* (probably before 1200); developed from Old English (688–695) *thēof*; cognate with Old Frisian *thiāf* thief, Old Saxon *thiof*, Middle Low German, Middle Dutch, and modern Dutch *dief*, Old High German *diob* (modern German *Dieb*), Old Icelandic *thjöfr* (Danish and Norwegian *tyv*, Swedish *tjuv*), and Gothic *thiufs*, from Proto-Germanic **theubaz*. —**thievish** *adj.* About 1450 (implied in *thievishly*); formed from Middle English *thef* thief + *-ish*¹.

thieve *v.* 1530 (implied in *thieving*); developed from Old English (about 920) *thēofian*, from *thēof* **THIEF**. The verb is rare in Old English, after which it does not appear until the 1600's. —**thievery** *n.* 1568, act of stealing, theft; probably formed from English *thieve*, *v.* + *-ery*.

thigh *n.* Probably before 1200 *thih*, developed from Old English (before 800) *thēoh*, *thēh*; cognate with Old Frisian

thiāch thigh, Old Saxon *thioch*, Middle Dutch *die* (modern Dutch *dij*), Old High German *dioh*, Middle High German *diech*, and Old Icelandic *thjō* upper thigh, buttock, from Proto-Germanic **theuHaz*.

thimble *n.* 1440 *thymbyl* covering for the finger, alteration (with *b*) of Old English (about 1000) *thymel* sheath or covering for the thumb, from *thūma* **THUMB**; for suffix see *-LE*¹. For the development of the *b* after *m*, see **BRAMBLE** and **HUMBLE**.

thin *adj.* Probably before 1200 *thunne*; later *thynne* (before 1225), *thin* (about 1250); developed from Old English (849) *thynne* narrow, lean, scanty; cognate with Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *dunne* thin (modern Dutch *dun*), Old High German *dunni* (modern German *dünn*), Old Icelandic *thunnr* (Swedish *tunn*, Norwegian *tynn*, Danish *tynd*), from Proto-Germanic **thunnuz*, **thunw-*, and with Gothic *ufthanjan* to stretch. —**adv.** About 1250 *thunne*, from the adjective. —**v.** About 1340 *thynnen*; developed from Old English (about 900) *thynnian*; from the adjective in Old English.

thine *pron.* Before 1175 *thine*; developed from Old English (before 830) *thīn*, possessive pronoun; originally, genitive of *thū* **THOU**. Old English *thīn* is cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *thīn* thine, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *dijn*, Old High German *đin* (modern German *dein*), Old Icelandic *thīn* (Danish, Norwegian, and Swedish *din*), and Gothic *theina* (genitive), *theins* (possessive pronoun), from Proto-Germanic **thīnaz*.

thing *n.* Old English (685–86) *thing* meeting, assembly; later, entity, being, matter (before 899); also, act, deed, event (about 1000); cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *thing* assembly, action, matter, thing, Middle Dutch *dinc* lawsuit, matter, thing (modern Dutch *ding* thing), Old High German *ding* assembly, lawsuit, thing (modern German *Ding* matter, affair, thing), Old Icelandic *thing* assembly, meeting, parliament, council (Norwegian *ting* assembly, being, creature, thing, Swedish *ting* court session, thing, and Danish *ting* court, law court, thing), from Proto-Germanic **thenzān*. The meaning of personal possessions, often in the plural (perhaps from Old Icelandic *things* objects, articles, valuables), is first recorded in Middle English about 1300.

think *v.* Probably about 1175 *thenken*, *thenchen*; developed from Old English (about 725, in *Beowulf*) *thencan* conceive in the mind, think (past tense *thōhte*, past participle *gethōht*), probably originally meaning “cause to appear to oneself,” and thus a causative of *thyncan* to seem or appear. Old English *thencan* is cognate with Old Frisian *thanka*, *thenka*, *thenza* to think, Old Saxon *thenkian*, Middle Dutch, modern Dutch, Old High German, and modern German *denken*, Old Icelandic *thekeja* to perceive, know (Norwegian *tenke*, Swedish *tänka*, Danish *tænke* to think), and Gothic *thankjan* consider, meditate, think, from Proto-Germanic **thankijanan*.

Compare archaic **METHINKS**, which is a relic of a different word *think*. Because of close semantic relationship and a sharing of forms (*thought* and *think*), these two different words, now both spelled *think*, became thoroughly confused in early modern English, which has led to the complete submersion of

the form *think* to seem, to appear. —**n.** 1834, act of continued thinking, meditation; from the verb. —**thinker** *n.* (1440)

third *adj.*, *n.* Probably about 1175 *therdde*, alteration (by metathesis of *i* and *r*) of earlier *thridde* (before 1121); developed from Old English *thridda* (about 750), from *thrēo* THREE. Old English *thridda* is cognate with Old Frisian *thredda* third, Old Saxon *thriddio*, Middle Low German, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *derde*, Old High German *dritto* (modern German *dritte*), Old Icelandic *thridhi* (Danish, Norwegian, and Swedish *trejde*), and Gothic *thridja*, from Proto-Germanic **thridjās*. —**third degree** 1900, figurative use of *Third Degree* of master mason in Freemasonry (1772); with reference to the interrogation ceremony performed in conferring this degree (1838). —**third world** the underdeveloped countries of the world (1963, translation of French *tiers monde*).

thirst *n.* Probably before 1200 *thirst*; developed from Old English (about 1000) *thurst*; cognate with Old Saxon *thurst* thirst, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *dorst*, Old High German *durst* (modern German *Durst*), Old Icelandic *thorsti* (Swedish *törst*, Norwegian and Danish *tørst*), and Gothic *thaurstei*, from Proto-Germanic **thurs-*. The change from Old English *thurst* to Middle English *thirst* was probably influenced by the verb. —**v.** Probably about 1200 *thirsten*; developed from Old English *thyrstan* (before 899); from the noun in Old English. Old English *thyrstan* is cognate with Old Saxon *thurs-tian* to thirst, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *dorsten*, Old High German *dursten* (modern German *dürsten*), and Old Icelandic *thyrsta* (Swedish *törsta*, Norwegian and Danish *tørste*). —**thirsty** *adj.* 1388 *thirsti*; developed from Old English *thyrstig*, *thurstig* (before 899), from *thurst*, *n.* + *-ig -y¹*.

thirteen *adj.* Before 1398 *thyrten*, alteration (by metathesis of *r* and *i*) of *thritene* (probably about 1200); developed from Old English (before 900) Mercian *threotēne*, West Saxon *threotēne* (*thrēo* three + *-tēne*, *-tēne* -teen); cognate with Old Frisian *thritten* thirteen, Old Saxon *thritein*, *thritein*, Middle Low German *dertēn*, *druttēn*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *dertien*, Old High German *drizehan* (modern German *dreizehn*), and Old Icelandic *threttān* (Norwegian and Danish *tretten*, Swedish *tretton*).

thirty *adj.* Probably before 1350 *thurtty*; later *thyrty* (1413); alteration (by metathesis of *r* and *i*) of *thritti*, developed from Old English (about 725, in *Beowulf*) *thritig* (*thri*, *thrēo* three + *-tig* group of ten, *-TY¹*); cognate with Old Frisian *thritig* thirty, Old Saxon *thritig*, Middle Dutch *dertich* (modern Dutch *dertig*), Old High German *drizzug* (modern German *dreissig*), Old Icelandic *thrijätigi*, *thrijätü* (Swedish *trettio*, Norwegian *tretti*, Danish *trediv*), and Gothic (accusative) *thrins* tigus.

this *pron.* Old English (probably 670) *this*, neuter demonstrative pronoun and adjective (masculine *thes*, feminine *thēos*). In Middle English, the various case and gender forms were gradually eliminated so that by the 1400's, *this* was the only singular form, with the plural *THESE*, representing Old English *thās*, the relationship with *THOSE*, representing Old English *thās*, now passing to a plural of *that*. Old English *this* is cognate with Old Frisian *this*, Old Saxon *these*, Middle Dutch *dese* (modern

Dutch *deze*), Old High German *dese*, *desēr* (modern German *dieser*), and Old Icelandic *thessi*; all probably derived from a Germanic pronoun formed by combining the simple demonstratives represented by Old English *thæt* THAT and *sē* THE¹. The earlier pronominal base **tha* of *the*, *that*, etc., combined with added *-s* (earlier *-se*, *-si*) which is probably identical with Old English *se* the, but has also been identified with Old English *sēo* imperative of *see*, v., behold. —**adj.** Old English (before 899), from the pronoun. —**adv.** About 1375, from the pronoun.

thistle *n.* About 1325 *thystle*; developed from Old English *thistel* (about 700); cognate with Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *distel*, Old High German *distil* (modern German *Distel*), and Old Icelandic *thistill* (Norwegian and Swedish *tistel*, Danish *tidse*), from Proto-Germanic **thistuka*.

thither *adv.* Before 1325 *tethir*, *thither*, alteration of earlier *thider* (probably before 1200); found in Old English *thider* (about 725, in *Beowulf*), an alteration (by influence of its opposite *hider* HITHER) of earlier *thæder* to that place. Related to Old English *thæt* THAT, THIS. Old English *thæder* is cognate with Old Icelandic *thadhra* there (from Proto-Germanic **thadrá-*). For the change of *d* to *th* see GATHER. —**adj.** 1830, from the adverb.

thole *n.* 1440 *tholle* peg; developed from Old English *tholl* thole (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *dolle* thole (modern Dutch *dol*), and Old Icelandic *thollr* tree, peg (Norwegian *tolle* peg), from Proto-Germanic **thulnaz*.

—**thon** a combining form, variant of *-ATHON*, as in *telethon*.

thong *n.* Probably before 1200 *thong*, *thwong*, found in Old English *thwong* (about 950), *thwang* (about 1000) thong; cognate with Old High German *dwang* rein, bridle (from Proto-Germanic **thwanzaz*), and Old Icelandic *thvengr* thong.

thorax *n.* 1392, borrowing of Latin *thōrāx*, from Greek *thōrāx* (genitive *thōrākos*) breastplate, chest. —**thoracic** *adj.* 1656, borrowed from Medieval Latin *thoracicus* of or pertaining to the chest, from Greek *thorākeikós*, from *thōrāx* THORAX; for suffix see *-IC*.

thorium *n.* 1832, New Latin, formed from *Thor*, ancient Scandinavian god of thunder and war (Old Icelandic *thōrr*, see THUNDER) + New Latin *-ium*.

thorn *n.* Old English *thorn* sharp point on a stem or branch (about 750); earlier, thorny tree or plant (about 700, implied in *hæguthorn* hawthorn); cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *thorn* thorn, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *doorn*, Old High German *dorn* (modern German *Dorn*), Old Icelandic *thorn* (Swedish, Norwegian, and Danish *torn*), and Gothic *thaurnus*, from Proto-Germanic **thurnuz*. —**thorny** *adj.* Probably before 1200 *thorni*; developed from Old English *thornig* (about 1000), from *thorn* thorn + *-ig -y¹*.

thorough *adj.* 1300 *thoro* fully done or carried out, complete; later *thoruz* (before 1420); adjective use of Old English (about 1000) *thuruh*, *adv.*, from end to end, from side to side, stressed

variant of *thurh*, adv., prep., THROUGH. —**thoroughfare** *n.* About 1385 *thurghfare*; formed from Middle English *thurh*, *thuruh* through + *fare* course, way, journey.

those *pron.* Probably before 1300 *thoos*; before 1325 *thos* (Midland and Southern England), with Northern variant *thas*; developed from Old English *thās*, plural of *thes*, *thēos*, *this* THIS. Middle English *thos* replaced an earlier form *tho*, which developed from Old English *thā*, nominative plural of *sē*, *sēa*, *thæt* THE¹; see also THESE.

thou *pron.* you. Probably before 1200, developed from Old English *thū* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *thu* thou, Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *du*, Old High German *dū*, *du* (modern German *du*), Old Icelandic *thú* (Danish and Swedish *du*), and Gothic *thū*, from Proto-Germanic **thū*/*thu*.

Thou and its cases *thee*, *thine*, *thy* were used in ordinary speech in Old English; however, in Middle English they were gradually superseded by the plural *ye*, *you*, *your*, *yours* in addressing a superior and, later, an equal, though they were long retained in addressing an inferior. In recent times, except for special uses (as among Quakers), *thou* and its cases have become archaic.

though *conj.* Probably about 1200 *thohh*; later *though* (about 1378); in part developed from Old English *thēah*, *thāh* (before 899), and in part borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *thō* though). Cognates of the Old English and Old Icelandic forms are found in Old Frisian *thāch* but, yet, still, though, Old Saxon *thoh*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *doch*, Old High German *doh* (modern German *doch*), and Gothic *thauh* in that case, from Proto-Germanic **thauH*. —**adv.** Probably about 1200 *thohh*; developed from Old English (971) *thēah*, *thāh*; from the conjunction in Old English.

thought *n.* Probably before 1200 *thought* or *thoht*; developed from Old English (before 839) *thōht*, *gethōht*, from the stem of *thencan* to conceive of in the mind, consider; see THINK. Cognates of the Old English forms are found in Old Saxon *githāht* thinking, belief, Dutch *gedachte* thought, Old High German *gidāht* (modern German *Bedacht* thoughtfulness, consideration), Old Icelandic *thōtti*, *thōttr* thought, and Gothic *thūhtus* thought. —**thoughtful** *adj.* Probably about 1200 *thohtfull* given to thought, contemplative; formed from Middle English *thoht* thought + *-full* -ful. The sense of considerate, kindly, is first recorded in 1851.

thousand *n.* Probably before 1300, developed from Old English *thūsend* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *thūsend* thousand, Old Saxon *thūsundig*, Middle Dutch *dūsent* (modern Dutch *duizend*), Old High German *thūsunt*, *dūsunt* (modern German *Tausend*), Old Icelandic *thūsund* (Norwegian and Swedish *tusen*, Danish *tusind*, *tusinde*), and Gothic *thūsundi*; see HUNDRED. —**thousandth** *adj.* 1552, formed from English *thousand* + *-th*².

thrall *n.* Probably before 1200 *thralle* person in bondage, slave; developed from Old English *thræl* (about 950); borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *thræll* slave, servant, Danish *træl*, Norwegian *trell*, Swedish *träl*). Old Ice-

landic *thræll* (from Proto-Germanic **thraHilaz*) is probably cognate with Old High German *dregil*, *drigil* servant, apparently in the sense of "runner," Gothic *thragjan* to run, from Proto-Germanic **thrazjanan*. The meaning of condition of a slave, bondage, servitude, thrallhood, is found in Middle English before 1325. —**thralldom** or **thralldom** *n.* Probably before 1200 *thralldome*; formed from Middle English *thralle* thrall + *-dom*.

thrash *v.* 1588, to separate grains from wheat, etc., by beating; variant of *threshen* to THRESH. The sense of beat, with or as if with a stick, is first recorded before 1625. —**n.** 1669, threshing implement, flail; later, a thrashing or beating (1840); from the verb.

thread *n.* About 1200 *threade*; later *threde* (about 1380); developed from Old English (before 800) *thræd* fine cord, especially when twisted; related to *thrāwan* to twist; see THROW, and cognate with Old Saxon *thrād* wire, thread, Middle Dutch *draet* (modern Dutch *draad*), Old High German *drāt* (modern German *Draht*), and Old Icelandic *thrādr* (Danish, Norwegian, and Swedish *tråd*), from Proto-Germanic **threǵdūs*. —**v.** About 1350 *threden*, from *threde* thread. —**threadbare** *adj.* (before 1376 *thred-bare*).

threat *n.* Old English *thrēat* crowd, troop, oppression, menace (about 725, in *Beowulf*), related to *thrēotan* to trouble, weary (from Proto-Germanic **threutanan*). These Old English words are cognate with Old High German *driozan* to vex, trouble, Middle High German *drōz* annoyance, *verdriezen* annoy (modern German *verdrissen*), Old Icelandic *thrust* struggle, labor, trouble, *thrjōta* to fail, lack, and Gothic *usthriutan* to trouble, threaten. —**threaten** *v.* Probably before 1200 *threatenen*; developed from Old English *thrēatnian* to press, urge, force (about 1000); formed from *thrēat* + *-nian* -en¹.

three *adj.* 1123 *thre*, developed from Old English (before 830) *thrēo*, feminine and neuter, (masculine *thri*, *thrie*) from Proto-Germanic **thrijiz*, and cognate with Old Frisian *thrē*, *thriā*, *thriū*, Old Saxon *thria*, *thriu*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *drie*, Old High German *dri*, *drīo*, *driu* (modern German *drei*), Old Icelandic *thri*, *thriar*, *thriū* (Danish, Swedish, and Norwegian *tre*), and Gothic *thrija*. —**threefold** *adj.* About 1000, comprising three parts, kinds, etc.; later, three times as great or as many (about 1200); adv. (about 1020). —**three-score** *adj.*, *n.* (about 1388) —**threeosome** *n.* (1375)

threnody *n.* 1634, borrowed from Greek *thrēnōidiā* (*thrēnos* dirge, lament + *ōidē* ode); for suffix see -y³.

thresh *v.* Probably about 1200 *thresshen*, developed from Old English *threscan*, *therscan* to beat, sift grain by trampling or beating (about 750), related to *thrāwan* to twist, turn; see THROW. Old English *threscan*, *therscan* is cognate with Middle Dutch *derscen*, *dorscen* to thresh (modern Dutch *dorsen*), Old High German *dreskan* (modern German *dreschen*), Old Icelandic *thriskja* (Danish *tærskje*, Norwegian *treske*, and Swedish *tröska*), and Gothic *thriskan*, from Proto-Germanic **threskanan*.

threshold *n.* Before 1376 *thresshewold*; found in the Old En-

glish compound *threscold*, *thærscolwold* doorsill, point of entering (before 899). The first element of the compound is related to Old English *threscan*, *therscan* to THRESH, perhaps originally to tread, trample; the second element has not been identified. The Old English forms for threshold, doorsill are cognate with Old Icelandic *threskjöldr* threshold (Swedish *tröskel*, Norwegian *terskel*, Danish *tærskel*).

thrice *adv.* Probably before 1200 *thries* (*thrie* thrice + *-es*, genitive singular ending used adverbially; see -s³). Middle English *thrie* developed from Old English (about 950) *thriga*, *thriwa* thrice, from *thrie* THREE. Old English *thriga*, *thriwa* is cognate with Old Frisian *thria* thrice, and Old Saxon *thriio*, *thriwo*.

The final -s in *thries* was voiceless (not pronounced as z), and so about 1600 it began to be spelled -ce, as in *hence*, *pence*, *ice*, *mice*, to represent this pronunciation.

thrift *n.* Probably before 1300, prosperity, savings, profit; from *thrive* to THRIVE; probably influenced by Old Icelandic *thrift*, variant of *thrif* prosperity, from *thrifask* to thrive. The sense of a habit of saving, economy, is first recorded in 1553. Compare SPENDTHRIFT. —**thrifty** *adj.* About 1385 *thrifti* respectable, thriving, successful, fortunate; formed from *thrift* + *-i* -y¹. The sense of economical, frugal, saving, appeared in 1526.

thrill *v.* Before 1325 *thrillen* to pierce, penetrate; alteration (by metathesis of *i* and *r*) of *thirlen*, earlier *thurlen* (probably before 1200); developed from Old English (before 1000) *thýrlan*, from *thýrel* (earlier **thýrhl*) hole, from *thurh* THROUGH. The meaning of give a shivering, exciting feeling, is first recorded in 1592. —**n.** Before 1680, a shivering, exciting feeling; from the verb.

thrive *v.* Probably about 1200 *thrifenn* to flourish, prosper; later *thrive* (probably before 1300); borrowed from a Scandinavian source; compare Old Icelandic *thrifask* to thrive; originally, grasp to oneself (Swedish *trivas* thrive, Danish and Norwegian *trives*), probably derived from Old Icelandic *thriða* to clutch, grip, grasp (Norwegian *trive* to grab, seize, and Swedish *treva* to grope, grab); of unknown origin.

throat *n.* Old English (before 700) *throthe* (implied in Old English *throtholla* throat boll, the Adam's apple, larynx), related to *thriutan* to swell, possibly with reference to the external appearance of the throat; cognate with Old High German *drozza* throat (modern German *Drossel*), and Old Icelandic *throtti* a swelling, *thriutna* to swell, from Proto-Germanic **thrut-*. —**throaty** *adj.* About 1645, guttural, hoarse; formed from English *throat* + *-y*¹.

throb *v.* Before 1376 *throbben* beat rapidly or strongly (implied in *throbbant* throbbing); of uncertain origin (possibly imitative in the sense of representing the pulsation of arteries, veins, and heart). —**n.** 1579, from the verb.

throe *n.* Probably before 1200 *throwe* violent spasm, pain; of uncertain origin; possibly from the verb *throwen* (Old English *thraūwan*) twist, turn, writhe; see THROW; or an altered form (influenced by *throwen* to suffer) of *thraue*, developed from Old English *threā* (genitive *thraue*) affliction, pang, evil, threat,

related to *throwian* to suffer. Old English *threā* (from Proto-Germanic **thrawō*) is cognate with Middle Low German *draue*, *drouwe* threat, Old High German *draua*, *drōa*, Old Icelandic *threā* longing. The spelling *throe* is first recorded in 1615. The sense (usually *throes*) of a violent convulsion or struggle (as in *the throes of a revolution*) is first recorded in 1698.

thrombosis *n.* 1706, New Latin, from Greek *thrōmbōsis* a clumping or curdling, from *thrōmbōsthai* become curdled or clotted, from *thrōmbos* clot, curd, lump; for suffix see -OSIS. The sense was known somewhat earlier in *thrombus* a clot (1693, New Latin, from Greek *thrōmbos*).

throne *n.* Probably before 1200 *trone*; later *throne* (about 1300); borrowed from Old French *trone*, from Latin *thronus*, from Greek *thrōnos* seat, chair, throne.

throng *n.* Probably before 1300 *thronge* crowd, crowding, pressure; also *thrang*; probably a shortened form of Old English (993) *gethrang*, related to *thringan* to push, crowd, press. Old English *gethrang* (from Proto-Germanic **thranzān*) is cognate with Middle Dutch *dranc* throng, pressure, crowd (modern Dutch *drang*), Middle High German *gedranc*, *dranc* (modern German *Drang*), Old Icelandic *throng* throng, crowd, Gothic *threihan* to crowd, press (from Proto-Germanic **thren-Hanan*). —**v.** Before 1325 *thringen* to press, compress, squeeze; probably from the noun. The sense of to crowd, go in a crowd, is first recorded probably before 1542.

throstle *n.* Old English (before 800) *throstle*; cognate with Old Saxon *throsla* thrush, Old High German *drōschala*, Middle High German (Bavarian) *drōschel* (modern German *Drossel*); see THRUSH. Old English *throstle* developed from Proto-Germanic **thrustalō*, altered from **thurstaz*.

throttle *v.* Before 1387 *throtelen*; probably formed from Middle English *throthe* THROAT + *-LE*³. —**n.** 1824, in *throttle-valve*, from the sense of the throat (before 1547); probably formed from Middle English *throthe* throat + *-LE*¹.

through *prep., adv.* Before 1375 *throu*, alteration (by metathesis of *r* and *u*) of earlier *thurh* (about 1175); developed from Old English *thurh* (about 750), later also *thuruh* (about 1000); cognate with Old Frisian *thruich* through, Old Saxon *thurh*, *thuru*, Middle Dutch *dore* (modern Dutch *door*), Old High German *durh*, *duruh* (from Proto-West-Germanic **thurH*) and Gothic *thairh*; not found in Scandinavian.

Old English *thuruh* developed into modern English *thorough* and became differentiated, being used chiefly as an adjective while *through* is used as the preposition and (less exclusively) as the adverb. Similar formation is found in *burh* which became *borough* and *furh*, *furrow*. —**throughout** *adv., prep.* About 1066 *thurhūt*; found in *thurh ut* through out (about 1000).

throw *v.* Probably before 1200 *thrauwēn* to twist, turn; later *throwen* to cast, hurl (probably before 1300); developed from Old English *thraūwan* to twist, turn, writhe (about 1000); cognate with Old Saxon *thraūan* to twist, turn, Middle Dutch *draeyēn* (modern Dutch *draaien*), and Old High German *drāen*

(modern German *drehen*), from Proto-Germanic **thrē-*. The word is not found in Scandinavian and Gothic.

The sense of put by force (as in *throw into prison*) is first recorded in 1560, and the meaning of lose deliberately, let win, in 1868. —**n.** 1530, from the verb.

thrum *v.* 1592, from the noun, or of imitative origin similar to that of the noun. —**n.** Before 1553, of imitative origin.

thrush *n.* About 1250 *thrusche*, developed from Old English (about 1000) *thyrsc*, related to *throstle* THROSTLE. Old English *thyrsc* (from Proto-Germanic **thruskjōn*) is cognate with Old High German *drōsca(la)*, from Proto-Germanic **thrau(d)-sk-*.

thrust *v.* Probably before 1200 *thrusten* push with force; borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *thrýsta* to thrust, force, from Proto-Germanic **thrustjanan*). —**n.** 1513, act of pressing, pressure; from the verb. The sense of act of pushing with force is found in 1580–83, and that of propulsive force (as by a jet engine) in 1870.

thud *v.* Probably before 1200 *thudden* to strike, thrust; developed from Old English *thyddan* (before 899), earlier **thud-janan*. The sense of hit with a dull sound, is found in 1796 (implied in *thudding*). —**n.** 1535 *thude* a loud sound, Scottish, from the verb. The sense of a dull sound, is first recorded in 1825.

thug *n.* 1810, member of a gang of robbers and murderers in India who strangled their victims; borrowed from Hindi *thag*, perhaps from Sanskrit *sthaga-s* cunning, fraudulent, possibly from *stthagayati* (he) covers, conceals. The sense of ruffian or cutthroat is first recorded in 1839.

thulium *n.* 1879, New Latin, from Latin *Thūlē* Thule (from Greek *Thoulē*) the part of the world that the ancient Greeks and Romans regarded as farthest north + New Latin *-ium*.

thumb *n.* 1137 *thumb*, developed from Old English (before 800) *thūma* thumb; cognate with Old Frisian *thūma*, *tūma* thumb, Old Saxon *thūmo*, Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *dūme* (modern Dutch *duim*), Old High German *thūmo* (modern German *Daumen*), and Old Icelandic *thumall* thumb of a glove (Danish and Norwegian *tommel*, Swedish *tumme*), from Proto-Germanic **thūman-* the stout or thick (finger). For a note on the spelling with *b*, see under LIMB¹, *n.* —**v.** 1593, to play (a musical instrument) with or as with the thumbs; from the noun. The meaning of go through (as in *thumb through a book*) is found in 1930, though a related sense of soil or wear, by handling, especially a book, is found as in 1644–47.

thump *v.* About 1537 (implied in *thumper*); probably imitative of the sound made by hitting with a heavy object. —**n.** 1552, from the verb.

thunder *n.* About 1250 *thunder*; earlier *thunre* (probably before 1200); developed from Old English *thunor* (before 899); earlier *thuner* (before 800); cognate with Old Frisian *thuner* thunder, Old Saxon *thunar*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *donder*, Old High German *donar* (modern German *Donner*), and Old Icelandic *Thorr* god of thunder (earlier poetic form *Thunnarr*),

from Proto-Germanic **thunraz*. The intrusive *d* in English *thunder* also appears in Dutch *donder*; compare also Old Icelandic *Thundr* (genitive *Thundar*) one of the names of the god Odin. —**v.** Before 1338 *thundren*, developed from Old English *thunrian* (before 899); from the noun. —**thunderbolt** *n.* About 1440, formed from Middle English *thunder* + *bolt* arrow, projectile. —**thunderclap** *n.* (about 1390)

Thursday *n.* Before 1250 *thursdei*, developed from Old English *Thurresdæg* (about 1000), perhaps a contraction (influenced by Old Icelandic *Thörsdagr* Thursday) of *Thunresdæg*; literally, Thor's day (*Thunre*, genitive of *Thunor* Thor, from *thunor* THUNDER + *dæg* DAY). Old English *Thunresdæg* corresponds to Old Frisian *Thunresdei* Thursday, Middle Dutch *Donresdach* (modern Dutch *Donderdag*), Middle Low German *Donersdach*, and Old High German *Donares Tag* (modern German *Donnerstag*). The Germanic compounds are loan translations of Latin *Jovis diēs*, day of Jove or Jupiter.

thus *adv.* Old English *thus* in this way (about 725, in *Beowulf*), related to *thæt* THAT. Old English *thus* is cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *thus* and Middle Dutch *dus*, *dos* (modern Dutch *dus*).

thwart *adv.*, *prep.* across, crosswise. Probably before 1200 *thwert-* (as in *thwertover* athwart over); later *thwart* (about 1200); borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *thvert* across; originally neuter of *thverr*, adj., transverse, cross). Old Icelandic *thverr* is cognate with Old English *thweorh* transverse, perverse, angry, cross, Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *duers*, *duars* (modern Dutch *duars*), Old High German *duerah*, *twerh* (modern German *zwerch-*), Gothic *thwairhs* angry, from Proto-Germanic **thwerHaz*, altered (by influence of **thwer-* to turn) from **therH-*. —**v.** About 1250 *thwerten* run counter to, oppose, hinder; from *thwert-* across. —**adj.** Probably about 1200 *thwert*, about 1250 *thwart*; from the adverb. —**n.** 1611, act of thwarting, hindrance; from the verb. The seat across a canoe (1736), is probably from the adjective.

thy *adj.* Probably before 1200 *thi*, reduced form of *thin* THINE, used before consonants, except *h*.

thyme *n.* Before 1398 *thyme*; earlier as a surname *Thymme* (1266); borrowed from Old French *thym* the plant, and directly from Latin *thymum*, from Greek *thýmon* possibly first used as incense, from *thýein* burn as a sacrifice.

thymus *n.* 1693, New Latin, from Greek *thýmos* a warty excrescence; probably so called because it was likened to a bunch of thyme.

thyroid *adj.* 1693, *thyroides*, in translation from French; later *thyroid* (1726–41); borrowed from Greek *thyreoeidēs* shield-shaped, from *thyreós* oblong, door-shaped shield, from *thyra* door + *-eidēs* in the form of, -oid. —**n.** 1840, principal cartilage of the larynx; 1849–52, thyroid gland; from the adjective.

ti *n.* 1839 *te*, seventh note of the musical scale; about 1845 *tj*; replacement of earlier *si*, to avoid confusion with *so*, *sol*.

tiara *n.* 1555, headdress of the Persian kings, also worn by men of rank; borrowed from Latin *tiāra*, from Greek *tiārā*, *tiārās*. The form *tiar* is found in 1513.

tibia *n.* 1726–41, borrowed from Latin *tibia* shinbone; earlier, pipe or flute.

tic *n.* 1822, (often shortened form of *tic douloureux*, 1800; a severe facial neuralgia; literally, painful twitch); borrowed from French *tic* a twitching disease of horses (1611); of unknown origin.

tick¹ *n.* tiny parasitic animal. About 1310 *tik*, perhaps developed from Old English **tica* or **tica*, recorded in Old English as *ticia* tick (before 850); cognate with Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *tēke* tick (modern Dutch *teek*), Middle High German *zeche* (modern German *Zecke*).

tick² *n.* sound made by a clock or watch. 1440 *tek* light touch or tap; later *tick* (1580); probably cognate with Dutch *tik* light touch or tap, Middle High German *zic*, and dialectal Norwegian *tikka* touch lightly. The meaning of a sound made by a clock is found possibly in *tick-tack* (1549). —**v.** 1546, to touch lightly, tap; from the noun.

tick³ *n.* cloth covering of a mattress or pillow. 1342 *tyke*, probably borrowed from Middle Dutch *tike*, *tēke* (cognate with Old High German *ziahha* tick, pillowcase, modern German *Ziehe*), a West Germanic borrowing from Latin *thēca* case, from Greek *thēkē* a case, box, cover, sheath. —**ticking** *n.* 1649, cloth covering for mattresses and pillows.

ticket *n.* 1528, short note or document; borrowed from Middle French *etiquet* label, note, from Old French *estiquette* label, note, especially one affixed to a gate or wall as a public notice, from *estiquer* to affix, stick, from Frankish **stikēan*, cognate with Old English *stician* to pierce, *STICK*².

The card or piece of paper that gives its holder a right or privilege (1673), probably developed from the meaning of a certificate, license, permit (1529). —**v.** 1611, from the noun.

tickle *v.* Before 1338 *tikellen*; of uncertain origin, possibly a frequentative form of *tick*² to touch lightly (with *-LE*³). —**n.** 1801, from the verb. —**ticklish** *adj.* 1581, (figurative) sensitive, touchy; later, delicate, critical, risky (1591); formed from English *tickle*, *v.* + *-ish*¹. The sense of easily tickled is first recorded in 1598.

tick-tack-toe *n.* 1884, probably an extension *tick-tack* a form of backgammon (1558, possibly borrowed from Middle French *trictrac*).

tidbit *n.* About 1640, probably formed from dialectal *tid* fond, solicitous, tender + *bit* morsel.

tide *n.* Before 1121 *tide* a season of the year; developed from Old English *tīd* point or portion of time, due time (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Saxon *tīd* time, Middle Low German *tīt*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *tijt* time (modern Dutch *tij* tide of the sea), Old High German *zīt* time (modern German *Zeit*), and Old Icelandic *tīdh* (Danish, Swedish, and Norwegian *tīd*), from Proto-Germanic **tīdis*. The

meaning of rise and fall of the sea (1340) is probably a borrowing from Middle Low German, perhaps coalescing with the earlier sense of fixed time. —**v.** 1593 (implied in *tiding*), to flow or surge as the tide does; from the noun. —**tidal** *adj.* 1807, formed from English *tide*, *n.* + *-al*¹.

tiding *n.* Usually **tidings** *pl.* Probably before 1200 *tidinge*, developed from Late Old English *tīdung* event, occurrence, piece of news (1069); perhaps in part a verbal noun of Old English *tīdan* to happen, or borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *tīdhendi*, *pl.*, events, news, from *tīdh*, *adj.*, occurring, from *tīdh* time).

tidy *adj.* About 1250 *tidi* in good condition, fair, healthy; originally, in season, timely, opportune, excellent (*tide* season, time + *-y*¹). The sense of neat and in order is first recorded in 1706. —**v.** 1821, from the adjective.

tie *n.* About 1300 *tie* cord, rope, band; earlier *teg* (probably before 1200); developed from Old English *tēag* (about 750); cognate with Old Icelandic *taug* rope, from Proto-Germanic **tauzō*. The sense of equality in points, votes, etc. between two or more competitors or sides, is found in 1680. The sense of a necktie or cravat is first recorded in 1761. —**v.** Probably before 1200 *teien* fasten, unite; developed from Old English *tīgan*, *tīegan* (about 1000), from *tēag*, *n.*

tier *n.* Probably before 1450 *tir*, *tire*; borrowed from Middle French *tire*, from Old French *tire* rank, sequence, order, from *tirer* to draw, draw out.

tiff *n.* 1727, outburst of temper; later, small quarrel (1754); of uncertain origin. —**v.** 1727, probably from the noun.

tiger *n.* Probably before 1300 *tigre*, developed from Old English *tīgras*, *pl.* (before 1000), and in part borrowed from Old French *tigre*; both from Latin *tigris* tiger, from Greek *tigris*, possibly from an Iranian source.

tight *adj.* Probably before 1400 *tyght* dense, solid; earlier *tigt* (about 1325); borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *thēttir* watertight, close in texture, solid, Norwegian *tett*, Danish *tæt*, Swedish *tät* tight, close, compact). Old Icelandic *thēttir* is presumably (through earlier **thēttir*, from Proto-Germanic **thenHtuiz*), the source of Middle English *thight* close, dense, and it is probable that *tight* and *thight* (about 1375) were confused. However, both English words seem to have developed the specific sense of watertight independently by the early 1500's, and maintained their separate use into the 1800's, so that *tight* cannot truly be said to be the variant of *thight*. Old Icelandic *thēttir* is cognate with Old English *-thīht* in *metethīht* stout from eating, and Middle High German *dīhte* dense, thick (modern German *dicht*).

The meaning of not letting water, etc., out or in, is first recorded in English in 1507, that of fixed firmly in place, in 1513, and drawn or stretched, in 1576. The sense of fitting closely appeared in 1779. —**adv.** 1680, from the adjective. —**tighten** *v.* 1727, formed from English *tight* + *-en*¹.

tilde *n.* 1864, borrowed from Spanish, alteration of Catalan *tíle* (later *títlla*), from Latin *titulus* inscription, heading, **TITLE**.

tile *n.* Before 1325 *tile*, developed as a contracted form of earlier *tigel*, from Old English (before 800) *tigele*; borrowed from Latin *tēgula* *tile*, from *tegere* *roof, cover*. Other Germanic borrowings from the Latin are found in Old Saxon *tiegla* *tile*, Middle Dutch *tiegel* (modern Dutch *tegel*), Old High German *ziagala*, *ziagal* (modern German *Ziegel*), and Old Icelandic *tigl* (Danish and Norwegian *tegl*, Swedish *tegel*). —**v.** About 1375 *tilen*; from the noun.

till¹ *prep.* until. About 1200, developed from Old English (before 800) Northumbrian *til*; borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic, Danish and Norwegian *til* to, until, Swedish *till*; cognate with Old Frisian *til* to, until). These words are common prepositions in Scandinavian, taking the place of *to* as used in English, and probably originally accusative of a lost noun (Proto-Germanic **tilan*), except as found in Icelandic *tili*, *tíli* *scope*, the noun used to express aim, direction, purpose, as seen in Old Icelandic *aldrtíli* *end of life, death*; compare TILL². —**conj.** 1137 *til*, from the preposition, in Old English.

till² *v.* cultivate (land), plow. 1137 *tilen*, developed from Old English (before 850) *tilian* *cultivate, tend, work at*; originally, strive after, related to *till* *fixed point, goal*, and *til* *good, suitable*; see TILL¹. Old English *tilian* is cognate with Old Frisian *tilia* *to get, cultivate*, Old Saxon *tilian* *to obtain*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *telen* *to breed, raise, cultivate*, Old High German *zil* *goal* (modern German *Ziel*), Old High German *zilon*, *zilen* *to strive* (modern German *zielen* *to aim, strive*), from Proto-Germanic **tilōjanan*, and Gothic *gatils* *suitable*; compare TILL¹.

till³ *n.* drawer for money, cashbox. Before 1450, borrowed from Anglo-French *tylle* *compartment*, Old French *tille* *compartment or shelter on a ship*, probably from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *thilja* *plank, floorboard*; from Proto-Germanic **theljon*).

tiller *n.* Before 1325 *tilier* *stock of a crossbow*; borrowed from Old French *telier* *stock of a crossbow*; originally, weaver's beam, from Medieval Latin *telarium*, from Latin *tēla* *web, loom*. The bar to turn the rudder of a boat (before 1625) is a development in English.

tilt *v.* Probably about 1350 *tulten*; probably about 1380 *tylten* *to push over, fall over*; developed from Old English **tyltan* for **tieltan*, from *tealt* *unsteady*, from Proto-Germanic **taltaz*. Old English *tealt*, and its corresponding verb *tealtian* *be unsteady*, are cognate with Middle Dutch *touteren* *to tremble*, and dialectal Norwegian *tylta* *walk softly*.

The meaning of lean, tip, slope (1594) is from the sense of the verb "push or fall over." —**n.** Before 1510, place for holding jousts; from the verb, in the sense of push over, overthrow. The sense of a sloping position appeared in 1562.

timber *n.* Old English (before 750) *timber* *building, structure*; later, building material, trees suitable for building (before 899); cognate with Old Frisian *timber* *building*, Old Saxon *timbar*, Middle Dutch *timmer* *building, wood* (modern Dutch *timmer* *timber*), Old High German *zimbar* *dwelling, room, wood* (modern German *Zimmer* *room*), and Old Icelandic *timbr*

timber (Swedish *timmer*, Norwegian and Danish *tømmer*), from Proto-Germanic **temran*. —**v.** Probably before 1200 *timbrēn* *to build, construct*; developed from Old English (before 750) *timbran*, *timbrian*, derived from *timber*, *n.*, and cognate with Old Frisian *timbria* *to build*, Old Saxon *timbrian*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *timmeren*, Old High German *zimbarōn* (modern German *zimmern* *to frame*), Old Icelandic *timbra* (Swedish *timra*, Danish and Norwegian *tømre*), and Gothic *timrjan*.

timbre *n.* 1849, borrowing of French *timbre* *quality of a sound*; earlier, sound of a bell, from Old French, bell without a clapper; originally, a drum, probably through Medieval Greek **timbanon*, from Greek *týmpanon* *kettledrum*.

time *n.* 1154, developed from Old English *tīma* (before 899), related to *tīd* *time*; see TIDE. Old English *tīma* is cognate with Old Icelandic *tīmi* *time, proper time, good time* (Swedish *timme*, Norwegian and Danish *time* *hour*), from Proto-Germanic **tīmōn*.

Some extended meanings are original to Old English, such as that of an occasion (as in *This time we will succeed*, before 899), and the right time (as in *time to eat*, before 899); other meanings are developments in Middle English, such as that of leisure (as in *have time to read*, about 1220), or the plural times multiplied by (about 1380). —**v.** About 1250 *timen* *fare well*; later, arrange the time for an event (probably about 1390). The sense of measure or note the time, rate, or duration of, is first recorded in 1670. —**timely** *adj.* 1382, formed from Middle English *time* + *-ly*².

timid *adj.* 1549, borrowed from Middle French *timide* *easily frightened, shy*, and directly from Latin *timidus* *fearful*, from *timēre* *to fear*. —**timidity** *n.* 1598, quality of being timid; borrowed from Latin *timiditas* *fearfulness*, from *timidus* *fearful, timid*; for suffix see -ITY.

timorous *adj.* Probably before 1425, borrowed from Middle French *timoureux*, from Medieval Latin *timorosus* *fearful*, from Latin *timor* *fear*, from *timēre* *to fear*; for suffix see -OUS.

timpani *n. pl.* 1876 (1740 *timpano*, singular), borrowing of Italian *timpani* *drums*, from Latin *tympanum* *drum*; see TYMPANUM. —**timpanist** *n.* 1939, formed from English *timpani* + *-ist*.

tin *n.* Old English (before 899); cognate with Middle Low German, Middle Dutch, and modern Dutch *tin* *tin*, Old High German *zin* (modern German *Zinn*), and Old Icelandic *tin* (Danish *tin*, Norwegian *tinn*, Swedish *tenn*), from Proto-Germanic **tinan*. —**v.** Before 1398 *tinnen*, from the noun. —**tin foil** *n.* (1467–68) —**tinny** *adj.* (1552, of tin; 1884, in-substantial). —**Tin Pan Alley**, 1908, musicians, songwriters, and their publishers as a group; 1909, district frequented by musicians, songwriters, and their publishers; formed from *tin pan* *tinny piano* (1882) + *alley*.

tincture *n.* 1400, pigment, dye; borrowed from Latin *tinctura* *act of dyeing or tingeing*, from *tinctus* *dye*, past participle of *tingere* *to tinge*; for suffix see -URE. The solution of medicine

in a mixture of alcohol is recorded before 1648. —**v.** 1616, to dye, color, tinge; from the noun.

tinder *n.* Probably before 1200, developed from Old English (before 800) *tynder*, *tyndre*, related to or derived from Old English *tendan* to kindle, and cognate with Middle Low German *tunder* *tinder*, Dutch *tondel*, *tonder*, Old High German *zuntra* (modern German *Zunder*), Old Icelandic *tundr* (Danish and Norwegian *tønder*, Swedish *tunder*), Gothic *tundnan* to catch fire, and *tandjan* to kindle.

tine *n.* About 1350 *tyne*, a reduced form (with loss of *d*) of Old English (before 800) *tind*; cognate with Middle Low German *tind* *tine*, Middle High German *zinke*, *zint* point, spike, *tine* (modern German *Zinke*), Old Icelandic *tindr* *tine* (Danish and Norwegian *tind*, Swedish *tinne*), and probably with Old High German *zinna* pinnacle (modern German *Zinne*), of unknown origin.

tinge *v.* 1471 *tingen* to dye, color; borrowed from Latin *tingere* to dye, color, moisten. —**n.** 1752, from the verb.

tingle *v.* Before 1382 *tinglen* have a ringing sensation at hearing something; later, to have a stinging or thrilling feeling (before 1398); variant of *tinkelen* TINKLE. —**n.** Before 1700, a tinkling sound; later, a tingling sensation or action (1848); from the verb.

tinker *n.* About 1378 *tynkere*; as a surname *Tynker* (1252); of uncertain origin. —**v.** 1592 (implied in *tinkering*), to mend, especially in a clumsy way; from the noun. The sense of keep busy in a useless way is found in 1658.

tinkle *v.* Before 1382 *tinklen* to ring, jingle; possibly a frequentative form of *tinken* to ring, jingle (also before 1382), perhaps of imitative origin; for suffix see -LE³. —**n.** 1682, a tinkling sound; from the verb.

tinsel *n.* About 1448 *tyneseyle* shining metallic thread; borrowed from Middle French *estincelle*, *estencele* spark, spangle; see STENCIL. —**v.** 1594, from the noun. —**adj.** 1595, from the noun, in attributive use (1502) of made to sparkle by interweaving metallic thread or overlaying a thin coating of gold or silver.

tint *n.* 1717, alteration of *tinct* (1602); borrowed from Latin *tinctus* (genitive *tinctūs*) a dyeing, from *tingere* to dye; influenced by Italian *tinta* tint, hue, from Latin *tinctus*. Compare TINCTURE. —**v.** 1791, from the noun.

tintinnabulation *n.* 1845, formed from Latin *tintinnābulum* bell + English -ation; probably influenced by *tintinnabulary* (1787), *tintinnabulatory* (1827), etc., and *tintinnabulum* a small bell (before 1398). Latin *tintinnābulum* derives from the verb *tintinnāre* to ring, jingle, a reduplicated form of *tinnire* to ring.

tiny *adj.* 1598 *tynie*, 1599 *tiny*, formed from Middle English *tyne* very small (before 1400) + -ie, -y¹.

-tion a suffix forming nouns from verbs, and meaning act or process of ____ing, as in *addition*; condition or state of being ____ed, as in *exhaustion*; result of ____ing, as in *reflection*. Found especially in the form -ATION; see also -SION.

English -tion was borrowed from Latin -*tiōnem* (accusative of noun suffix -*tiō*, a compound fusing abstract noun stem -*ti-* and -*iō*, accusative -*iōnem*, a suffix forming nouns of condition and action).

Often -tion is a spelling replacement of Middle English -*tioun*, borrowed from Old French -*tion*, -*cion*, from Latin -*tiōnem* (nominative -*tiō*), and forms words modeled on derivatives from Latin and French (*protect*, *protection* and *opt*, *option*).

tip¹ *v.* to slope, overturn. Probably about 1380 *typen* to overthrow, overturn, of uncertain origin (possibly from a Scandinavian source, and then later perhaps a special use of *tip²* end, point, top, suggested by use with up, over, etc.). The sense of to slope, tilt, is found in 1624. —**n.** 1673, the upsetting of a bowling pin; from the verb. The sense of an act of sloping or tilting appeared in 1849. —**tipsy** *adj.* 1577, probably formed from English *tip* + -sy, as in *drowsy*.

tip² *n.* end, point, top. Probably before 1200 *tippe*; cognate with, and perhaps derived from, Middle Low German, Middle Dutch (modern Dutch) *tip* utmost point, extremity, tip, also cognate with Middle High German *zipf* (modern German *Zipfel*); ultimately probably from the same root as Old English *tæppa* stopper, TAP². —**v.** put a tip on. About 1395 *tippen*; from the noun. —**tiptoe** *n.* (about 1390); *adv.* (1592); *adj.* (1593) on tiptoe; from the noun; *v.* 1632 (implied in *tiptoed*); from the noun.

tip³ *v.* give a small present of money to. 1610, to give, hand, pass, originally thieves' cant; perhaps from TIP⁴ to tap. The meaning of give a gratuity to is first found in 1706–07. The sense of give confidential information 1883, implied in *tippling*, is probably from the noun. —**n.** 1755, small present of money; from the verb. The sense of a piece of confidential information, helpful hint, is first recorded in 1845.

tip⁴ *n.* light, sharp blow or tap. About 1450 *tippe*; possibly cognate with, or even derived from, Low German *tippen* to poke, touch lightly, related to Middle Low German *tip* end, point, TIP². —**v.** to hit lightly and sharply, tap. 1567, from the noun.

tipple *v.* 1531 (implied in *tippling*, verbal noun) sell alcoholic liquor by retail, of uncertain origin (possibly of Scandinavian origin; compare Norwegian *tippe* to drip, tinkle); or a back formation from earlier *tippler*. The meaning of drink (alcoholic liquor) often or too much is found in 1560. —**n.** an alcoholic liquor. 1581, from the verb. —**tippler** *n.* 1396 *tipeler* seller of alcoholic liquors; of uncertain origin.

tirade *n.* 1801, borrowing of French *tirade* speech, volley, shot, continuation, drawing out; formed from *tirer* draw out, endure, suffer, probably from a shortened form of Old French *martirer*, *martirier* endure martyrdom + -ade. The Old French forms developed from *martyrie*, *martyre* martyrdom, suffering, from Late Latin *martyrium* martyrdom, witness, testimony, from Greek *martýrion*, from *mártyr* MARTYR.

tire¹ *v.* to weary. Before 1460 *tyren*, developed from Old English *tēorian* (about 1000), in Kentish *tiorian* (before 800), of unknown origin.

tire² *n.* band around a wheel. 1485 *tyre* iron rim of a carriage wheel, probably from earlier *tire* equipment, dress, covering (about 1300); shortened form of ATTIRE. In the 1600's and 1700's the standard British and American spelling was *tire*. But since the beginning of the 1800's the spelling *tyre* has been revived to become standard in Great Britain. —*v.* furnish with a tire. Before 1899, from the noun.

tissue *n.* About 1385 *tyssew* band or belt of rich material; borrowed from Old French *tissu* a ribbon, headband, belt of woven material, noun use of *tissu* woven, interlaced, past participle of *tistre* to weave, from Latin *texere* weave. The sense in biology of the masses of cells forming the "fabric" or parts of animals or plants is first recorded in 1831.

tit¹ *n.* small bird. 1706, shortened form of TITMOUSE.

tit² *n.* nipple, teat. Old English *titt* (about 950); see TEAT.

tit³ *n.* See TIT FOR TAT.

Titan *n.* 1727–41 (in 1667, ancestor of the Titans), borrowed from Latin *Tiān*, from Greek *Tiān* member of a mythological race of giants. The sense of a person or thing of enormous size, strength, or intellect, is first found in 1828. —**titanic** *adj.* 1656, of or belonging to the sun; 1709, of or like the Titans, gigantic, colossal; borrowed from Greek *Tiānikós* of the Titans, from *Tiān* Titan; for suffix see -IC.

titanium *n.* 1796, New Latin, formed from Latin *Tiān* TITAN + New Latin *-ium*, on the analogy of *uranium* in German.

tit for tat blow for blow, like for like. 1556, possibly an alteration of *tip for tap* blow for blow (*tip*⁴ tap, *tap*¹ touch lightly).

tithe *n.* Before 1338 *tithe* tax of one tenth of a yearly produce paid to support the church; earlier *tigthe* (about 1250), *tigethe* (probably before 1200); developed from Old English (about 737) Anglian *teogotha* tenth (earlier **tegūnthōn*), West Saxon (854) *tēotha* (from Proto-Germanic **teHūnthōn*). Old English *teogotha* is cognate with Old Frisian *tegotha* tenth, Old Saxon *tegotho*, Middle Low German *tegede*, Old High German *zehanto* (modern German *zehnte*), Old Icelandic *tiundi*, and Gothic *talhunda*, from Proto-Germanic **teHundōn*. —*v.* Probably before 1200 *tithen* put or pay a tithe on; developed from Old English (854) *tēothian*, from *tēotha* tenth.

titillate *v.* 1620, back formation from English *titillation*, modeled on Latin *titillāus*, past participle of *titillāre* to tickle; for suffix see -ATE¹. —**titillation** *n.* About 1425 *titilacion*; borrowed from Latin *titillatiōnem* (nominative *titillatiō*) a tickling, from *titillāre* tickle; for suffix see -ATION.

title *n.* About 1303 *tytyl* inscription, heading; in part a borrowing of Old French *title*, and in part developed from Old English *titul* (about 950); both borrowed from Latin *titulus* inscription, heading. The name of a book, play, etc., is first recorded about 1340, title deeds (probably about 1421), and a name showing a person's rank, occupation, etc. (as Dr., Esq.), (1590). —*v.* Before 1325 *titlen* give a title to, entitle; from the noun.

titmouse *n.* About 1325 *titmose*, formed probably from *tit* (as found in *titling*, 1386, expressing something small, and in Old Icelandic *tittr* titmouse) + Middle English *mose* titmouse (about 1250). Middle English *mose* developed from Old English *māse* (before 800), and was later influenced in spelling by *mouse*. Old English *māse* is cognate with Middle Dutch *mēse* titmouse (modern Dutch *mees*), Old High German *meisa* (modern German *Meise*), and Old Icelandic *meisingr*. Old High German *meisa* is from Proto-Germanic **maisōn*, built on an adjective **maisa-* little, tiny, whence Norwegian dialect *meis* a thin, weak person.

titter *v.* Before 1619, giggle; probably of imitative origin. —*n.* 1728, from the verb.

titile *n.* About 1384 *titil* small stroke or point in writing very little bit (said to be a rendering of *apex* in the Late Latin sense of accent mark over a vowel); borrowed (perhaps by influence of Provençal *titule* the dot over *i*) from Latin *titulus* inscription, heading.

titular *adj.* 1591, formed perhaps by influence of Middle French *titulaire*, from Latin *titulus* TITLE + English *-ar*.

tizzy *n.* 1935, of uncertain origin (perhaps related to *tizzy* a sixpence piece, 1804, as in "A man reads at a tizzy what he had not read when priced at twelve times the humble tanner," with a play on words for the sense "little" in amount of money and time).

to *prep., adv.* Old English *tō* in the direction of, for the purpose of, furthermore, until (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *tō*, *adv.*, *to*, *te*, *ti*, *prep.*; Old Saxon *tō*, *adv.*, *te*, *prep.*; Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *toe*, *adv.*, *te*, *prep.*; Old High German *zuo*, *adv.*, *za*, *zi*, *ze*, *prep.* (modern German *zu*).

In early Old English the preposition (go to London) leveled with the adverb (the door slammed to) into one form. But Old English *tō*, adverb, where it retained its stress (hungry and thirsty too) came to be written *too* (see TOO).

Beside the simple infinitive ending *-an* (Middle English *-en*), Old English had a dative form, which in Middle English blended with the infinitive. This dative form was preceded by the preposition *tō*, expressing motion, direction, inclination, purpose, etc., as in "he came to help (i.e. to the help of) his friends." This sense of the preposition weakened and *tō* became a link expressing any prepositional relation between an infinitive and a preceding verb, adjective, or noun (wants to go, nice to see, a book to read). Use of the infinitive with *to* further increased with loss of inflectional endings in and the resulting need to distinguish the infinitive. The simple infinitive (without *to*) survives only in auxiliary verbs like *shall*, *may*, *can*, and after certain verbs (*make*, *let*, *hear*, *feel*, etc.).

Although in Middle English *to* was fairly commonly used in combination with verbs, nouns, adjectives, and adverbs in the sense of motion, direction, or addition to (as in *to-cast* add, *to-hear* listen to, *to-tach* attach, *to-against* against), the surviving uses of *to* in compounds are found in *to-do*, *together*, and in expressions of time *today*, *tonight*, and *tomorrow*.

toad *n.* Probably before 1300 *tode*; earlier *tadde* (probably

before 1200); developed from Old English (about 1000) *tādige*, *tādie*, of unknown origin.

toadstool *n.* Before 1398 *tadstole* mushroom; apparently a fanciful name formed from Middle English *tadde* TOAD + *stole* STOOL.

toady *n.* 1826, apparently shortened from *toad-eater* (1742), with the same meaning; originally referring to the assistant of a charlatan, employed to eat poisonous toads to enable his master to display his skill in expelling the poison (1629); for suffix see -y². —*v.* act like a toady. 1827, from the noun.

toast¹ *v.* to brown by heat. Before 1398 *tosten*, borrowed from Old French *toster* to roast or grill, from Vulgar Latin **tostāre*, frequentative form of Latin *torrere* to parch. —*n.* About 1400 *tost*, from *tosten* to toast.

toast² *n.* a call to drink to someone's health. Perhaps before 1684, but first attested in 1700, a beautiful or popular woman whose health is proposed and drunk. Origin of the term has been explained as referring to an incident at Bath, England in the time of Charles II, when a beauty of the time was found standing in a bath and admirers drank to her health from the water, one however, declining the water but desiring the *toast* (an allusion to TOAST¹, from the fact that spiced toast was used to flavor drinks). By 1746 the word was applied to any person whose health is proposed and drunk. —*v.* Before 1700 *tost*, (1701 *toast*) to propose a toast, drink to someone's health; probably from the noun.

tobacco *n.* 1597, alteration of earlier *tobaco* (1588), borrowing of Spanish *tabaco*, in part from an Arawakan (probably Taino) language of the Caribbean, meaning a roll of tobacco leaves or a kind of pipe for smoking tobacco. However, while it is a fact that the tobacco plant and the custom of smoking its leaves (already observed by Columbus in 1492) did originate in the New World, Spanish *tabaco* (also known in Italian *tabacco*, Spanish *atabaca*, *tabaca*, and similar words, about 1410 as the names of medicinal herbs), also came from Arabic *ṭabbāq* or *ṭubbāq*, attested since the 800's A.D. as the names of various herbs. It is possible, therefore, that the Spaniards transferred the European plant name to the American plant, just as *corn*, *turkey*, *robin*, and other European (English) names were applied to different plants and animals in North America. —**tobacconist** *n.* 1599, person addicted to tobacco; formed from English *tobacco* + inserted -n- (perhaps suggested by such words as *Platonist*, 1549) + -ist. The meaning of dealer in tobacco is first found in 1657.

toboggan *n.* Before 1820 *tobogin*; borrowed from Canadian French *tabagane*, *tobagan* (in French, *tobogan*), from Algonquian (probably Micmac) *tobākun* a sled. —*v.* 1846, from the noun.

tocsin *n.* 1586 *tocksaine*, borrowed from Middle French *to-quassen* an alarm bell, the ringing of an alarm bell, from Old Provençal *tocasenh*, formed from *tocar* to strike (from Vulgar Latin **toccāre* strike a bell) + *senh* bell, bell note (from Late Latin *signum* bell, ringing of a bell, in Latin, mark or signal). The spelling *tocsin* appeared in English in 1794, adopted from modern French.

today *adv.* Probably about 1200 *to dai*; developed from Old English (before 899) *tō dæge* on (the) day (*tō* at, on; see TO + *dæge*, dative of *dæg* DAY); written as two words until the 1500's, after which it was written *to-day* until the present century. —*n.* 1535, this day; from the adverb.

toddle *v.* About 1600 *todde*, Scottish and Northern British English, of uncertain origin (not originally related to *toddle*, which does not appear in this sense before 1821, perhaps as a back formation from *toddler*; but possibly related to *totter*, 1534 in *tottering*). An earlier sense of to toy, play, is found in 1500–20. —*n.* 1825, from the verb. —**toddler** *n.* 1793, formed from English *toddle*, *v.* + -er¹.

toddy *n.* 1620, alteration of earlier *taddy* (1611) and *tarrie* (1609–10) beverage made from fermented palm sap; borrowed from Hindi *tārī* palm sap, from *tār* palm tree, from Sanskrit *tāla-*. The sense of a beverage made of alcoholic liquor with hot water, sugar, and spices, is first recorded in 1786.

to-do *n.* 1570–76, formed from the verb phrase *to do*, Old English *tō dōn* proper or necessary to be done (*tō*, prep., see TO + *dōn* DO¹ act). Compare ADO.

toe *n.* Probably before 1300 *to*, developed from Old English (before 900) *tā*, in plural *tān*, contraction of **tāhe*, in Mercian *tāhae* (before 800); cognate with Middle Low German *tē* toe (Old Low German **tēha*), Middle Dutch *tee* (modern Dutch *teen*), Old High German *zēha* (modern German *Zehe*), and Old Icelandic *tā* (Danish, Norwegian, and Swedish *tå*), from Proto-Germanic **taiHwō* (probably formerly meaning “finger” as well). —*v.* 1607–08, to furnish with a toe or toes (as in *toeing a stocking*); from the noun. The meaning of touch or reach with the toes (as in *toe a line*) is found in 1833. —**toenail** *n.* (1841)

toffee *n.* Before 1825 *tuffy*, *toughy*, southern British English variant of TAFFY. The spelling *toffee* is first recorded in 1862.

tog *n.* 1708, any outer garment, shortened form of *togman* or *togeman* cloak or loose coat (1567), an obsolete thieves' cant word; formed in English from French *togue* cloak, from Latin *toga* TOGA + -man, a cant suffix; also probably influenced by Middle English *toge* a toga (before 1400), a cant word for coat. The plural *togs* clothes, is first recorded in 1779. —*v.* 1793, probably from the noun, though perhaps influenced by *toged* (1604).

toga *n.* 1600, borrowing of Latin *toga* cloak or mantle, related to *tegere* to cover. The sense of a mantle of office is first recorded in 1855.

together *adv.* Before 1160 *togedere*, developed from Old English (707) *tōgædere* (*tō*, see TO + *gædere* together, *adv.*, an apparent variant of the adverb *geador* together, related to *gaderian* to GATHER). Old English *geador* is cognate with Old Frisian *gader*, *gadur* together, Middle Low German *tōgader*, and Middle High German *gater*. For the change of *d* to *th*, see GATHER. —**adj.** 1966, self-assured, free of emotional difficulties, from the adverb.

toggle *n.* 1769–76 *toggel*, of uncertain origin, perhaps a fre-

quantitative form of *tog* tug + *-le*³, earlier confined to nautical use. —**toggle bolt** (1794).

toil¹ *n.* hard work, labor. Probably before 1300 *toyle* turmoil, contention, dispute; borrowed from Anglo-French *toil*, from *toiler* agitate, stir up, entangle, variant of Old French *toeillier* drag about, make dirty, from Latin *tudiculāre* crush with a small hammer, from *tudicula* instrument for crushing, from the root *tud-* of *tundere* to pound. The sense of hard work, labor (1594) is from the verb. —**v.** Probably before 1300 *toilen* to drag, struggle (implied in *toiling*); borrowed from Anglo-French *toiler* agitate, stir up. The sense of work hard is recorded before 1376. —**toilsome** *adj.* 1581, laborious, tiring; formed from English *toil*¹, *n.* + *-some*¹.

toil² *n.* net, snare. Before 1529, borrowed from Middle French *toile* hunting net, cloth, web, from Old French *teile*, from Latin *tēla* web, related to *texere* to weave. The word is now used largely in the plural (as *caught in the toils of the law*), a form known as early as 1530.

toilet *n.* 1540, cover or bag for clothes; borrowed from Middle French *toilette* a cloth, bag for clothes, diminutive of *toile* cloth, net, **TOIL**²; for suffix see *-ET*.

The act or process of dressing is first recorded in 1681, and the dressing room in 1819; the lavatory or porcelain plumbing fixture appeared in 1895. —**adj.** 1721, from the noun. —**toiletry** *n.* 1892, formed from English *toilet*, *n.* + *-ry*.

token *n.* About 1250, developed from Old English *tācen* sign, symbol, evidence (about 725, in *Beowulf*), related to *tācan* show, explain, teach. Old English *tācen* is cognate with Old Frisian *tēken* token, Old Saxon *tēkan*, Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *tēken* (modern Dutch *teken*), Old High German *zeihhan* (modern German *Zeichen*), Old Icelandic *teiken* (Swedish *tecken*, Norwegian and Danish *tegn*), and Gothic *taiken* sign, wonder, miracle, from Proto-Germanic **taikanan*. The sense of a coinlike piece of stamped metal is first recorded in 1598. —**adj.** nominal. 1915, from the noun. —**tokenism** *n.* 1962, formed from *token*, *n.* + *-ism*.

tolerable *adj.* Probably about 1425, borrowed from Middle French *tolerable*, and directly from Latin *tolerābilis* that may be endured, from *tolerāre* to tolerate; for suffix see *-ABLE*.

tolerance *n.* Before 1420 *tolleraunce* endurance, fortitude; borrowed from Middle French *tolérance*, and directly from Latin *tolerantia* endurance, from *tolerāns*, present participle of *tolerāre* to bear, endure, tolerate; for suffix see *-ANCE*. The act of indulging, allowing, forbearance, is first recorded in English in 1765, and an allowable amount of variation, in 1868. —**tolerant** *adj.* 1784, formed in English as an adjective to the noun *tolerance*, and borrowed from French *tolérant*, present participle of *tolérer* tolerate, from Latin *tolerāre* tolerate; for suffix see *-ANT*.

tolerate *v.* 1531, to endure, bear; 1533, to allow, permit; either a back formation from *toleration*, or formed by influence of earlier *tolerable* or *tolerance* on the model of Latin *tolerātus*, past participle of *tolerāre* to bear, endure; related to *tollere* to bear, lift up, raise; for suffix see *-ATE*¹. —**toleration** *n.* 1517–18, per-

mission granted by authority, license; borrowed from Middle French *tolération*, and directly from Latin *toleratiōnem* (nominative *toleratiō*), from *tolerāre* tolerate; for suffix see *-ATION*. The sense of an act of allowing, forbearance, appeared in 1582.

toil¹ *n.* tax or fee. Old English (about 1000, perhaps 963) *toll*, variant of *toln* (1023); early borrowing from Late Latin *tolōnium*, from Latin *telōnium*, *telōnēum* tollhouse, from Greek *telōnelon* tollhouse, from *telōnēs* tax collector, from *tēlos* tax. Other early Germanic borrowings from the Late Latin include Old Frisian *tolen*, *tolene* toll, Old Saxon *tolna*, Old High German *zol*, and Old Icelandic *tollr*. —**v.** collect tolls from. Before 1350 (implied in *tolling*), from the noun. —**tollbooth** *n.* (before 1400).

toll² *v.* to sound with single strokes. 1452 *tollen* to ring a bell by pulling a rope; possibly special use of *tollen* to draw, lure (probably before 1200), variant of *tillen*; developed from Old English *-tyllan* in *betyllan* to lure, decoy, and *fortyllan* draw away, seduce. —**n.** 1452, probably from the verb.

tom *n.* 1762, in allusion to the nickname *Tōm* for Thomas, used in Middle English as a type name for a common man, and about 1303 applied to a male kitten; possibly influenced later by the name of a male cat (“Tom the Cat”) the hero of a popular work “The Life and Adventures of a Cat,” published in 1760. —**tomboy** *n.* Before 1553, rude, boisterous boy; formed from English *Tom* + *boy*. In 1579 the word was applied to a bold or immodest woman, and by 1592 to a girl who behaves like a spirited, boisterous boy. —**tomcat** *n.* 1809, formed from English *tom* + *cat*; probably influenced by *Tōm the Cat* (see *tom*, *n.*). —**tomfool** *n.* 1650, buffoon, clown; later, silly or stupid person; originally, *Tōm Fool*, personification of a mentally deficient man, from Middle English *Thome Fole* (1338–39); formed from *Thome* *Tom* + *fole* **FOOL**. —**tomfoolery** *n.* 1812, formed from English *tomfool* + *-ery*.

tomahawk *n.* 1612 *tamahaac*, also *tomahack*; later *Tōmahawke* (1648); borrowed from Algonquian (probably Powhatan) *tamahack* a striking instrument. —**v.** 1711, from the noun.

tomato *n.* 1753, alteration of earlier *tomate* (1604); borrowed from Spanish, and perhaps from Portuguese, *tomate*, from Nahuatl *tomatl* a tomato. The spelling *tomato* was probably influenced by earlier *potato* (1565).

tomb *n.* Probably before 1200 *tumbe*, later *tomb* (before 1325); borrowed from Anglo-French *tumbe*, and directly from its variant Old French *tombe*, from Late Latin *tumba*, from Greek *týmbos* burial mound, grave, tomb. With the shift in spelling to *tomb*, the *b* became silent in English. —**v.** Probably about 1300 *tomben*; from the noun.

tome *n.* 1519, single volume of a literary work; later, book (1573); borrowing of Middle French *tome*, from Latin *tomus* section of a book, tome, from Greek *tómos* volume, section of a book; originally, section, piece cut off, from *témnein* to cut.

tommyrot *n.* 1884, formed from earlier *tommy* a simpleton (1829), diminutive of *Tōm* (as in **TOMFOOL**) + *rot*, *n.*

tomorrow *adv.* About 1250 to *morwe*, developed from Old

English (about 897) *tō morgenne* on (the) morrow (*tō* at, on; see TO + *morgenne*, *morgne*, dative of *morgen* morning); written as two words until the 1500's, after which it was written *to-morrow* until this century. —**n.** About 1390, from the adverb.

tom-tom *n.* 1693, drum (originally used in India); borrowed from Hindi *tam-tam*, probably of imitative origin similar to Singhalese *tamaṭ tama*, and Malay *tong-tong*.

—**atomy** a combining form meaning: 1 surgical incision, as in *tracheotomy*, *lobotomy*. 2 a cutting or casting off, as in *autotomy* = a casting off of part of the body. Borrowed from Greek *-tomía* a cutting, from *-tómōs* person cutting, related to *tómos* piece cut off; see TOME.

ton *n.* Probably before 1300 *tonne* unit for measuring the carrying capacity of a ship; originally, space occupied by a tun or cask of wine, and the same word as TUN. *Tōn* and *tun* were not differentiated until about 1688. The measure of weight is first recorded in 1485. The spelling *ton* (1538) became established in the 1700's. —**tonnage** *n.* 1422 *tonage* tax or duty levied on wine imported in tuns; borrowed from Middle French *tonnage* weight of goods, carrying capacity in tuns, from Old French *tonne* cask, tun; for suffix see -AGE. Later senses of the English word are derived from English *ton* + -age.

tone *n.* Before 1300 *ton* musical sound or note; later *tonne* (before 1325); borrowing of Old French *ton*, and perhaps borrowed directly from Latin *tonus* a sound, tone, accent, stretching (in Medieval Latin, a term particular to music), from Greek *tónos* vocal pitch, raising of voice, accent, key in music; originally, a stretching, taut string, related to *teínein* to stretch.

The sense of manner of speaking is recorded before 1610, that of degree of firmness normal to healthy tissues, in 1669. The spelling *tone* appeared in Middle English before 1400. —**v.** Before 1300 *tonen* to sound with the proper tone; from the noun. The sense of impart a tone to is first recorded in 1811. —**tonal** *adj.* 1776, formed from English *tone* + -al, perhaps on the model of Medieval Latin *tonalis* of or pertaining to tone, from Latin *tonus* tone. —**tonality** *n.* 1838, formed from English *tonal* + -ity.

tongs *n. pl.* About 1250 *tonges*, plural of *tonge*; developed from Old English (before 800) *tange*, *tang* tongs (from Proto-Germanic **tanǵō*); cognate with Old Frisian *tange* tongs, Middle Dutch *tanghe* (modern Dutch *tang*), Old High German *zanga* (modern German *Zange*), and Old Icelandic *ṭung* (Danish and Norwegian *tang*, Swedish *tång*).

tongue *n.* Probably before 1300 *tong*; developed from Old English *tunge* organ of speech, speech, language (before 899); cognate with Old Frisian *tunge* tongue, Old Saxon *tunga*, Middle Dutch *tonghe* (modern Dutch *tong*), Old High German *zunga* (modern German *Zunge*), Old Icelandic *tunga* (Swedish *tunga*, Norwegian and Danish *tunge*), Gothic *ṭungō* (from Proto-Germanic **tanǵōn*). —**v.** About 1388 *tongen* to reproach, scold; earlier *tuingen* (about 1300); from the noun.

tonic *adj.* 1649, relating to or characterized by muscular tension; borrowed from Greek *tonikós* of stretching, from *tónos*

a stretching; for suffix see -IC. The meaning of maintaining the healthy firmness, of normal tissues, is first recorded in 1684, and having the property of restoring to health in 1756. The musical sense is first recorded in 1760. —**n.** 1799, tonic medicine; from the adjective.

tonight *adv.* Before 1325 *to night* on this very night; developed from Old English (about 1000) *tōniht* tomorrow night (*tō* at, on; see TO + *niht*, dative of *niht* NIGHT); written as two words until the 1700's, after which it was written *to-night* until the present century. —**n.** Before 1325 *to night*; from the adverb.

tonsil *n.* 1601, borrowed from Latin *tōnsillae*, pl., tonsils. —**tonsillectomy** *n.* 1899, formed from English *tonsil* + -ectomy. —**tonsillitis** *n.* 1801, formed from English *tonsil* + -itis.

tonsorial *adj.* 1813, formed from Latin *tōnsōrius* of or pertaining to shearing or shaving (from *tōnsor* a shaver or barber, from *tōnsus*, past participle of *tōndēre* to shear, shave) + English -al.

tonsure *n.* Before 1387, borrowed from Old French *tonsure*, and directly from Latin *tōnsūra* a shearing, clipping, from *tōnsus*, past participle of *tōndēre* to shear, shave; for suffix see -URE. The part of a priest's or monk's head left bare by shaving the hair (before 1439) is found earlier in Anglo-French (1351, probably from Medieval Latin *tonsura*). —**v.** shave the head of. 1793, from the noun.

too *adv.* About 1175 *to* in addition, moreover; developed as a stressed variant of *to* from Old English *tō* in the direction of, furthermore; see TO. The spelling *too* is first recorded in 1590.

tool *n.* Before 1225 *tool*; earlier *tol* (probably before 1200); developed from Old English *tōl* instrument, implement (before 899), from Proto-Germanic **tōlan*, and cognate with Old Icelandic *tōl* tool; all derived from a Germanic verb stem represented by Old English *taufian* prepare, Old Saxon *tōgian*, Middle Low German, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *touwen*, Old High German *zouwen*, Old Icelandic *tæja*, *týja* to help, and Gothic *taujan* to do, make, from Proto-Germanic **taujanān*. —**v.** 1812 to drive a vehicle; from the noun. The meaning of work or shape with a tool is first recorded in 1815, and equip (a factory) with the machine tools necessary to make a certain product, in 1927.

toot *v.* About 1510, perhaps originally imitative, but found also in Middle Low German and modern Low German *tuten* blow a horn, which may be the source in English.

tooth *n.* Probably before 1200 *toth*; later *tooth* (about 1385); developed from Old English (before 800) *tōth*, plural *tēth*; cognate with Old Frisian *tōth* tooth, plural *tēth*, Old Saxon and Middle Low German *tand*, Middle Low German plural *tene* (modern Low German *Tähne*), Middle Dutch *tant*, *tand* (modern Dutch *tand*), Old High German *zand*, plural *zeni* (modern German *Zahn*, plural *Zähne*), Old Icelandic *ṭonn* (Norwegian *tann*, Danish and Swedish *tand*), plural *tenn*, *tennr*, and Gothic *ṭunthus*, from Proto-Germanic **tanth-/tunth-*. The meaning of something like a tooth, as the projecting parts of a comb or saw, is first recorded in 1523. —**teethe** *v.* About 1410 *tethen*, from Middle English *teth*, plural of *toth* tooth. —**toothache** *n.*

(about 1378) —**toothed** adj. Probably before 1300 *tothed*; formed from Middle English *toth* tooth + *-ed*².

top¹ *n.* highest point. Old English *top* summit, crest, tuft, as of hair or feathers (about 1000); cognate with Old Frisian *topp* tuft, Middle Low German, Middle Dutch, and modern Dutch *top* summit, crest, Old High German *zopf* summit, crest, tuft (modern German *Zopf* pigtail, plait), and Old Icelandic *toppr* (Swedish and Norwegian *topp*, Danish *top*), from Proto-Germanic **tuppaz*. —**adj.** 1593, from the noun. —**v.** Probably before 1300 *toppen* remove the top of; from the noun. The meaning of put a top on is first recorded in 1581, and that of be higher or greater than, in 1582.

top² *n.* toy that spins on a point. Late Old English *top* (about 1060), probably a special use of *top* highest point, **TOP¹**.

topaz *n.* About 1250 *topace*, borrowed from Old French *topace*, *topaze*, from Latin *topazus*, from Greek *tópazos*, *topázion*.

topiary *adj.* 1592, borrowed from Latin *topiárius* of or pertaining to ornamental gardening, from *topia* ornamental gardening, from Greek *tópiā*, plural of *tópion*, originally, a field, diminutive of *tópos* place; for suffix see *-ARY*. —**n.** 1908, from the adjective.

topic *n.* 1634, argument suitable for debate, singular form of earlier *Tópics* (before 1568), the name of a work by Aristotle on logical and rhetorical generalities or commonplaces (passages that serve as the basis of argument); borrowed from Latin *Topica*, from Greek (*Tā*) *Topiká*, literally, matters concerning *tópoi* commonplaces, neuter plural of *topikós* commonplace, of a place, from *tópos* place; for suffix see *-IC*. The meaning of a matter treated in speech or writing, subject, theme, is first recorded in English in 1720. —**topical** *adj.* 1588, of or pertaining to a place; formed from English *topic* + *-al*¹. The meaning of pertaining to a subject or theme is first attested in 1856.

topography *n.* Probably before 1425, borrowed from Late Latin *topographia*, from Greek *topographiā* a description of a place, from *topográphos* describing a place, as a noun meaning one who is skilled in topography (*tópos* place + *gráphein* to write); for suffix see *-Y*³. —**topographic** *adj.* 1632, shortened form of earlier *topographical* (1570, formed from Greek *topographikós*, from *topographiā* topography + English *-al*¹), perhaps modeled on French *topographique*; for suffix see *-IC*, *-ICAL*.

topple *v.* 1590, tumble down; earlier, to tumble or roll about (1542); frequentative form of **TOP¹**, *v.*; for suffix see *-LE*³.

topsy-turvy *adv.* 1528 *topsy-tervy* in utter confusion; 1530 *topsy-tirvy* upside down; probably formed from *tops* (plural of **TOP¹** highest point) + obsolete *terve*, *tirve* turn upside down, *topple* over, from Middle English *terven* (about 1400), from Proto-Germanic **terbanan*. —**adj.** 1618, from the adverb.

toque *n.* 1505 *towk* small cap worn in various countries; borrowed from Middle French *toque*, from Spanish *toca* woman's headdress, possibly from Arabic **tāqa*, from Old Persian *tāq* veil, shawl.

torah *n.* 1577, Mosaic law; borrowing of Hebrew *tōrah*, literally, instruction, law, from *hōrah* he taught, showed.

torch *n.* About 1250 *torche* burning stick, firebrand; borrowed from Old French *torche*, originally, twisted thing; hence, torch formed of twisted tow dipped in wax, probably from Vulgar Latin **torca*, alteration of Latin *torqua*, variant of *torquēs* collar of twisted metal, from *torquēre* to twist. —**v.** 1819 (implied in *torched*), to illuminate with a torch; from the noun. The meaning of set fire to (1931). —**torch-bearer** *n.* 1538; in the sense of a leader of a cause (1847). —**torchlight** *n.* (about 1425)

toreador *n.* 1618, borrowing of earlier Spanish *toreador* (now *torero*), from *torear* to fight in a bullfight, from *toro* bull, from Latin *taurus*.

torment *n.* Probably before 1300 *tourment* torture, pain, distress; borrowing of Old French *tourment*, *torment*, from Latin *tormentum* twisted sling, rack, related to *torquēre* to twist; for suffix see *-MENT*. —**v.** About 1300 *tormenten* inflict torture upon, distress, vex; borrowed from Old French *tourmenter*, *tormenter* torment, from *tourment*, *torment*, *n.* —**tormentor** *n.* About 1300, borrowed from Old French *tormenteur*, from *tormenter* to torment + *-eur* *-or*².

tornado *n.* 1556 *ternado* violent thunderstorm; borrowed probably as an imperfect alteration of Spanish *tronada* thunderstorm, from *tronar* to thunder, from Latin *tonāre* to thunder. The forms *turnado*, *tournado* and *tornado* (from 1625) were influenced by Spanish *torrar* to twist, turn, from Latin *torāre* to turn, which account for metathesis of *o* and *r* of original Spanish *tronada*. The meaning of an extremely violent whirlwind is first recorded in 1626.

torpedo *n.* About 1520, the electric ray (a fish); borrowing of Latin *torpēdō*, originally, numbness (from the effect of the ray's electric discharges), from *torpēre* be numb. The sense of an explosive device used to blow up enemy ships is first recorded in 1776. —**v.** 1873, from the noun.

torpid *adj.* 1613, borrowed (by influence of earlier *torpor*) from Latin *torpidus* benumbed, from *torpēre* be numb or stiff. —**torpidity** *n.* 1614, formed from English *torpid* + *-ity*.

torpor *n.* 1607, borrowed from Latin *torpor* numbness, from *torpēre* be numb.

torque *n.* 1884, force causing rotation or torsion; borrowed from Latin *torquēre* to twist. —**v.** 1954 (implied in *torquing*); from the noun.

torrent *n.* 1601, borrowed from French *torrent*, and directly from Latin *torrentem* (nominative *torrens*) rushing stream; originally, roaring, boiling, burning, parching, present participle of *torrere* to parch; for suffix see *-ENT*. The sense of any onrush (as of words or feelings) is first recorded in English in 1647. —**torrential** *adj.* 1849, like a torrent, rushing; formed perhaps by influence of French *torrentiel*, from English *torrent* + *-ial*.

torrid *adj.* 1586 *torrid zone* region of the earth between the tropics; borrowed from Latin *torrida zōna*, from feminine of

torridus dried with heat, scorching hot, from *torrere* to parch. Use of *torrid* in the sense of very hot, scorching, is first recorded in 1611.

torsion *n.* Probably before 1425 *torcion*, *torcioun* wringing pain in the bowels; borrowed from Middle French *torsion*, from Late Latin *torsionem* (nominative *torsio*) a wringing or griping, variant of Latin *tortionem* (nominative *tortio*) torture, torment, from *tortus*, past participle of *torquere* to twist; for suffix see *-SION*. The sense of the action or process of twisting as by opposing forces is first recorded in 1543.

torso *n.* 1797, borrowing of Italian *torso* trunk of a statue; originally, stalk, stump, from Vulgar Latin **tursus*, from Latin *thyrsus* stalk, stem, from Greek *thyrsos*.

tort *n.* About 1250, injury, wrong; borrowing of Old French *tort*, from Medieval Latin *tortum* injustice, noun use of the neuter of *tortus* wrung, twisted, past participle of Latin *torquere* turn, turn awry, twist, wring, distort. The legal sense of an injury or wrong is first recorded in 1586.

torte *n.* 1555, borrowed from German *Torte*; also probably borrowed from Middle French *torte*; both ultimately from Late Latin *torta* flat cake; also, round loaf of bread; probably related to *TART*².

tortilla *n.* 1699 *tartillo*; later in the spelling *tortilla* (1828); borrowing of American Spanish *tortilla*, in Spanish, a tart, diminutive of *torta* cake, from Late Latin *torta* flat cake; also, round loaf of bread.

tortoise *n.* 1552 *tortoyse*, alteration (perhaps influenced by the ending of *porpoise*) of Middle English *tortuse* (1495), probably a variant of earlier *tortue* (1440); borrowed from Medieval Latin *tortuca*, alteration (by loss of *-ar-* before the last syllable) of Late Latin *tartarūchus* of the underworld; see *TURTLE*¹. The Medieval Latin spelling may have been influenced by Latin *tortus* twisted, because of the shape of the tortoise's feet.

tortuous *adj.* full of twists, turns, or bends. About 1390, borrowed from Anglo-French *tortuous*, from Latin *tortuosus* full of twists, winding, tortuous, from *tortus* (genitive *tortus*) a twisting, winding, from *tort-*, stem of *torquere* to twist, wind, wring, distort; for suffix see *-OUS*.

torture *n.* Probably before 1425, severe pain or suffering; borrowed from Middle French *torture* infliction of great pain, great pain, agony, from Late Latin *tortura* a twisting, writhing, torture, torment, from Latin *tort-*, stem of *torquere* to twist, turn, wind, wring, distort; for suffix see *-URE*. —*v.* 1588, cause severe pain to, torment; from the noun, perhaps influenced by Middle French *torturer* to torture. —**torturous** *adj.* About 1495, causing torture, tormenting; borrowed from Anglo-French *torturous*, Old French *tortureus*, formed from Latin *tortura* torture + Old French *-eus* -ous.

Tory *n.* 1566 *tory* an outlaw; specifically, a robber; borrowed from *tōnighe* plunderer; originally, pursuer or searcher, from Old Irish *tōirighim* I pursue, related to *tōracht* pursuit.

In British history *Tory* became prominent about 1646 as a derogatory term for Irish Catholics dispossessed of their land

since 1641, or the Irish shippers excluded from the colonial trade and farmers affected by the ban on Irish cattle in England. Some dispossessed Irishmen turned to outlawry, and by 1679–80 *Tory* referred to supporters of the Catholic Duke of York (later James II) in his succession to the throne of England. From 1689 *Tory* became the name of a newly-formed British political party, because the party's membership at first consisted mainly of the Yorkist Tories of 1679–80. Compare *WHIG*.

In American history (from 1769) *Tory* referred to colonists who remained loyal to George III of England. Compare *WHIG*.

toss *v.* Before 1450 *tossen* pitch or throw about; of uncertain origin, possibly borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare dialectal Swedish and Norwegian *tossa* to strew, spread). —*n.* 1634, act of tossing; from the verb.

tot *n.* little child. 1725, a Scottish word of uncertain origin; perhaps a shortened form of *TOTTER*, or by some associated with Icelandic *tottr* (Danish *tot*) nickname of a dwarf.

total *adj.* About 1390, borrowing of Old French *total*, and probably directly from Medieval Latin *totalis* entire, total (as in *summa totalis* sum total), from Latin *tōtus* all, whole, entire; for suffix see *-AL*¹. —*n.* whole amount, sum. 1557, from the adjective. —*v.* 1716, from the noun. The sense of destroy totally, is first recorded in 1954. —**totality** *n.* 1598, borrowed from Middle French *totalité*, and directly from Medieval Latin *totalitas*, from *totalis* total; for suffix see *-ITY*.

totalitarian *adj.* 1926, of or having to do with a government which suppresses all opposition; formed from English *total* + (author)itarian.

tote *v.* 1677 *toat*, of uncertain origin; possibly borrowed from a West African language (compare Kikongo *tota* pick up, and Kimbundu *tuta* carry, load, related to Swahili *tuta* pile up, carry). —*n.* 1884, from the verb. —**tote bag** (1900)

totem *n.* 1760–76, borrowed from Algonquian (probably Ojibwa) *ototeman* his sibling kin; 1609 *acoutem* among the Indians of Nova Scotia (presumably the Micmacs). —**totem pole** 1808, referred to in a description of west coast Canadian Indians.

totter *v.* About 1200 *toteren* swing to and fro; of uncertain origin; possibly borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare dialectal Norwegian *totra* to quiver, shake, dialectal Swedish *tuttra*). The meaning of stand or walk with shaky, unsteady steps, is first recorded in 1602. —*n.* Before 1387, board suspended between two ropes, swing; from the verb. The sense of the act of tottering is found in 1747.

toucan *n.* 1568, borrowed from Middle French *toucan*, and perhaps directly from Spanish *tucán*, from Tupi (Brazil) *tuká*, *tukána*.

touch *v.* Probably before 1300 *touchen*, borrowed from Old French *touchier* to touch, hit, knock, from Vulgar Latin **toccāre* to knock, strike (as a bell); perhaps of imitative origin. —*n.* About 1300, borrowed from Old French *touche* a touching,

blow, hit, from *touchier* to touch, hit. —**touched** adj. 1340, stirred emotionally; formed from Middle English *touchen* touch + *-ed*². —**touching** adj. 1601, affecting the emotions; formed from English *touch*, v. + *-ing*². —**prep.** About 1395, concerning, about; formed (on the model of Old French *touchant*) from the present participle of Middle English *touchen* to touch. —**touchy** adj. 1605, too sensitive; formed from English *touch*, n. + *-y*¹.

touché *interj.* 1904, exclamation acknowledging a hit in fencing; borrowed from French *touché*, past participle of *toucher*, from Old French *touchier* to hit, TOUCH. The sense of an exclamation acknowledging a valid point, justified accusation, etc., is first recorded in 1907.

tough *adj.* Probably before 1200 *toge*; later *toghe* (probably before 1325); developed from Old English (about 700) *tōh* strong and firm in texture (from Proto-Germanic **tanHuz*); cognate with Middle Low German *tā*, *teie* tough, Middle Dutch *taey* (modern Dutch *taai*), Old High German *zāhi* (modern German *zäh*), and Old Icelandic *tā* trodden ground or path. See ROUGH for spelling change. The figurative sense of hard to influence, firm, persistent, is first recorded about 1400, and that of hard, trying, laborious, in 1619. —**n.** 1866, from the adjective. —**toughen** v. 1582, formed from English *tough*, *adj.* + *-en*¹.

toupee *n.* 1727, respelled borrowing of French *toupet* tuft of hair, forelock, diminutive formed from Old French *toupe* tuft, from Frankish **top* (compare Middle Low German *top* and Old High German *zopf* crest, tuft, summit); see TOP¹ highest point.

tour *n.* About 1300, a turn, revolution; borrowed from Old French *tour*, *tourn* a turn, trick, round, circuit, circumference, from *torner*, *tourner* to turn, from Latin *turnāre* to polish, round off, fashion, turn on a lathe. The sense of a traveling around, journey, is first recorded in 1643. —**v.** 1746, to travel around, make the rounds of; from the noun. —**tourism** *n.* (1811) —**tourist** *n.* (1780)

tournament *n.* Probably before 1200 *turnement* medieval contest between groups of knights on horseback; borrowed from Old French *torneiment* a tournament (in Medieval Latin *turnamentum*), from *torneier* to joust, tilt; see TOURNEY; for suffix see -MENT.

tourney *v.* Probably before 1300 *tourneyen* take part in a tournament; borrowed from Old French *torneier* to joust, tilt, tourney; literally, turn around, from Vulgar Latin **turnizāre*, from Latin *turnāre* to TURN. —**n.** Probably before 1300, borrowed from Old French *tornei*, from *torneier* to tourney.

touriquet *n.* 1695, borrowing of French *touriquet* surgical tourniquet, turnstile (with diminutive suffix), from *torner* to turn, from Old French *tourner*, *torner* TURN.

tousle *v.* About 1440 *touselen*, frequentative form of *-tousen* handle or push about roughly (about 1300), as in *totousen*, *betousen*; for suffix see -LE³. Middle English *-tousen* is cognate with East Frisian *tūsen* to pull about, treat roughly, Old High German *-zūsōn* in *zirzūsōn* pull to pieces (modern German

zausen pull about, tousle), from Proto-Germanic **tūs-*. —**n.** 1788, a struggle, tussle; from the verb. The sense of a disordered mass is first recorded in 1880.

tout *v.* Before 1700 to act as a lookout, spy on; developed from Middle English *tuten* to peep, peer (before 1400), probably related to Old English (before 899) *tōtian* to stick out, peep, peer. The sense of look out for, try to get (jobs, votes, etc.), is first recorded in 1731, and that of praise highly in 1920. —**n.** 1718, thieves' lookout; from the verb, and a person who solicits customers, etc. (1853).

tow¹ *v.* pull by a rope, chain, etc. About 1300 *togen*; later *towen* (probably about 1350); developed from Old English (about 1000) *togian* to drag, pull; cognate with Old Frisian *togia* to draw, tug, drag, Middle Low German *togen*, Old High German *zogōn*, Old Icelandic *toga* to draw, pull, from Proto-Germanic **tuzōjanan*; related to Old English *tēon* to draw, Old Saxon *tiohan*, Old High German *ziohan* (modern German *ziehen*), and Gothic *tiuhan*, from Proto-Germanic **teuHanan*. The Middle English spelling with *-og-* quickly shifted to *-ow-* on the model of shifting as found in *bow*² where Old English *o* in *-og-* became *ō* and *g* became *w*. —**n.** 1600, rope used for towing; later, act of towing (1622); from the verb. —**towage** *n.* 1562, formed from *tow*, v. + *-age*. The Medieval Latin form *towagium* (1286), found in Middle English *towage* (before 1327), may have been formed from Old English *togian* or Old Icelandic *toga*.

tow² *n.* coarse, broken fibers of flax, hemp, etc. Probably before 1387, developed from Old English *tōw-* spinning (as in *tōwlic* fit for spinning); perhaps cognate with Old Icelandic *tō* unworked fiber, tuft of wool for spinning, and Gothic *tauī* work, doing, *taujan* to do, make. —**adj.** 1601, from the noun. —**towhead** *n.* (1830)

toward *prep.* Probably before 1200 *toward*; earlier *toweward* (1114); found in Old English (before 899) *tōweard* in the direction of, prepositional use of *tōweard*, *adj.*, coming, approaching (*tō* TO + *-weard* -WARD), and perhaps a shortening both in Middle English and Old English of the synonymous *towards*, developed from Old English *tōweardes* (before 899); formed from *tōweard*, *adj.* + *-es*, *-s* adverbial genitive ending. —**adj.** About 1350 *toward* impending, about to happen, promising, hopeful; earlier *touward* (about 1290); developed from Old English *tōweard* coming to or toward, about to come, future (*tō* to + *-weard* tending or leading to, found in the modern adjective and adverb suffix *-ward*).

towel *n.* About 1250 *towaille* piece of cloth for wiping or drying something; borrowed from Old French *toaille*, from Frankish **thwahlja* (compare Old High German *duahila*, *dwehila* towel, Middle Dutch *dwāle*, *dwele*, modern Dutch *dwaal* altar cloth, and Old Saxon *thwahlila*, *twahila* towel from Proto-Germanic **thwaHlijan*). —**v.** 1836–39, to rub or dry with a towel, from the noun.

tower *n.* Before 1121 *tur* high structure; developed from Old English *torr* (about 899); borrowed from Latin *turris* high structure. The word was also separately borrowed in the Middle English as *tour* (before 1300), from Old French *tur*, *tour*,

from Latin *turris*. The form *tower* (first recorded in 1526) is probably the result of a blend of Middle English *tur* and *tour*, with replacement of *ou* by *ow* in *tour* (first found in 1382). —**v.** 1582, (but found earlier as the past participle *towered*, before 1400, either implying a verb or formed from *tower*, *n.* + *-ed*²); from the noun.

town *n.* About 1330 *toun*, developed from Old English (601–04) *tūn* enclosure, enclosed land with its buildings; later, village (about 700); cognate with Old Frisian, Old Saxon, and Middle Low German *tūn* enclosure, fence, hedge, Middle Dutch *taun* (modern Dutch *tuin* garden), Old High German *zūn* (modern German *Zaun*), Old Icelandic *tūn*, from Proto-Germanic **tūnaz*, *tūnan*, borrowed very early from Celtic **dūnom* (compare Old Irish *dūn* fortress); see DOWN³. The sense in English of an inhabited place larger than a village is first recorded after the Norman Conquest, and corresponds to the French *ville* town, city, from Latin *villa* farm, country house. —**township** *n.* 1414 *tounshiþe*, developed from Old English *tūnscepe* (before 899) inhabitants or population of a town (*tūn* village + *-scepe* -ship). —**townsman** *n.* 1433, developed from Old English (962–63) *tūnesman* villager (*tūn* village + *-es*, genitive suffix + *man* person).

toxic *adj.* 1664, borrowed from French *toxique*, and directly from Late Latin *toxicus* poisoned, from Latin *toxicum* poison, from Greek *toxikōn* (*phármakon*) (poison) for use on arrows, from *toxikōn*, neuter of *toxikós* pertaining to arrows or archery, and thus to a bow, from *tóxon* bow; for suffix see -IC.

toxin *n.* 1886, formed from Latin *toxicum* poison; see TOXIC + English *-in*².

toy *n.* About 1303 *toye* amorous playing, sport; later *toy* a piece of fun or entertainment (before 1500); a thing of little value, trifle (1530); and a thing for a child to play with, plaything (before 1586). The origin of the word is uncertain, and possibly the thing to play with, plaything, represents a different word from that of the earlier meanings, and was borrowed from Dutch *tuig* tools, apparatus, stuff, trash, *speeltuig* play-tool, plaything, toy, cognate with German *Zeug* stuff, gear, *Spielzeug* plaything, toy, and Danish *toi* stuff, gear, *legetoi* playthings, toys. —**v.** Before 1529, act idly or without seriousness, trifle, play; from the noun.

trace¹ *v.* follow by means of marks, tracks, or signs. 1381 *tracen* traverse, pass over, tread; borrowed from Old French *trasser*, *tracier* delineate, score, trace, follow, pursue, from Vulgar Latin **tractiāre* delineate, score, trace, from Latin *tractus* (genitive *tractūs*) track, course; literally, a drawing out, from *trac-*, stem of *trahere* to pull, draw.

The sense of draw, draw an outline of, is first recorded about 1393, that of follow the tracks or traces of (about 1450) and follow the course or development of in 1654. —**n.** Probably before 1300, path, course, track; borrowed from Old French *trace*, from *tracier* to trace. The plural *traces* indications, is first recorded about 1400. —**tracer** *n.* 1552, person who tracks or investigates; formed from English *trace*¹ + *-er*¹.

trace² *n.* either of the two straps, ropes, or chains by which an animal pulls a vehicle. About 1400 *trays*, new singular (1404,

plural *trasys*), developed from earlier collective plural *trays* (about 1330); borrowed from Old French *traiz*, plural of *trait* strap for harnessing, act of drawing, from Latin *tractus* (genitive *tractūs*) a drawing, track, from *trac-*, stem of *trahere* to pull, draw.

tracery *n.* 1669, formed from English *trace*¹, *v.* + *-ery*.

trachea *n.* 1392, borrowing of Medieval Latin *trachea*, as in *trachea arteria*, from Late Latin *trāchiā*, from Greek *trācheia*, in *trācheia artēriā* windpipe; literally, rough artery (so called from the rings of cartilage forming the trachea), from feminine of *trāchys* rough; see ARTERY for Greek association with windpipe.

trachoma *n.* 1693, New Latin, from Greek *trāchōma* roughness, from *trāchys* rough.

track *n.* Before 1470, footprint, mark left by anything; borrowed from Middle French *trac*, of uncertain origin; possibly from a Germanic source (compare Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *trek*, *treck*, and modern Dutch *trek* a drawing, pull, haul, trek). The line of metal rails for trains is first recorded in 1805. —**v.** 1565, follow the track of; from the noun.

tract¹ *n.* area. 1441, period or lapse of time; borrowed from Latin *tractus* (genitive *tractūs*) track, course, space, duration; literally, a drawing out or pulling, from *trac-*, stem of *trahere* to pull, draw. The sense of a stretch of land or water, extent, region, area, is first recorded in English in 1553.

tract² *n.* little book on a religious or political subject. Before 1398 *tracte*, probably a shortened form of Latin *tractatus* (genitive *tractātūs*) a handling, treatise, treatment, from *tractāre* to handle, TREAT.

tractable *adj.* Probably before 1425, borrowed from Latin *tractabilis* that may be touched, handled, or managed, from *tractāre* to handle, manage; see TREAT; for suffix see -ABLE.

traction *n.* 1615, a drawing or pulling (as by a device); borrowed from Medieval Latin *tractionem* (nominative *tractio*) a drawing, from Latin *trac-*, stem of *trahere* to pull, draw; for suffix see -TION. The sense of the rolling friction of a vehicle appears in 1825.

tractor *n.* 1856, something that pulls; earlier, a quack device, consisting of two metal rods for relieving pain of rheumatism (1798); borrowed from Medieval Latin *tractor*, from Latin *trac-*, stem of *trahere* to pull, draw; for suffix see -OR². The sense of an engine or vehicle for pulling wagons or plows, or for excavating, grading, etc., is first recorded in 1901, the earlier term being *traction engine* (1859); the sense of a powerful truck for pulling a freight trailer is found in 1926.

trade *n.* About 1375, path, track, course of action; borrowed from Middle Dutch or Middle Low German *trade* track, course (probably originally, of a trading ship); cognate with Old Saxon *trada* footstep, track, Old High German *trata* track, way, passage, and Old English *treðan* to tread.

The sense of one's habitual business (1546) developed from the meaning of way, course, or manner of life; and the sense of

buying and selling, commerce, traffic, is first recorded in 1555. —**v.** 1548, to tread, traverse, go through; from the noun. The sense of engage in trade, buy and sell, is first recorded in 1570. —**trade wind** (1650; *trade* in the obsolete sense of habitual or regular course)

tradition *n.* About 1382 *tradicion* a belief, practice, or custom handed down; borrowed from Old French *tradicion*, and directly from Latin *trāditiōnem* (nominative *trāditiō*) delivery, surrender, a handing down, from *trādi-*, stem of *trādere* deliver, hand over (*trāns-* over + *dare* give); for suffix see -TION. —**traditional** *adj.* 1594, observant or bound by tradition; formed from English *tradition* + *-al*¹. The sense of handed down by or derived from tradition is recorded before 1600.

traduce *v.* Before 1533, to alter, change over, transport, also, to translate; borrowed from Latin *trādūcere* change over, convert; originally, lead along or across, transfer (*trāns-* across + *dūcere* lead). The sense of defame, slander (1586–87) was probably borrowed from Latin *trādūcere* in the sense of to scorn or disgrace. —**traducer** *n.* slanderer. 1614, formed from English *traduce* + *-er*¹.

traffic *n.* 1505 *traffikke* trade, commerce; borrowed from Middle French *traffique*, *traffique*; later *traffic*, from Italian *traffico*, from *trafficare* carry on trade, of uncertain origin; perhaps from a Vulgar Latin **trānsfricāre* to rub across (Latin *trāns-* across + *fricāre* to rub) with the original sense of the Italian verb being that of to touch repeatedly, handle. The meaning of people or vehicles coming and going along a way of travel is first recorded in English before 1825. —**v.** 1542, carry on trade; borrowed from Middle French *traffiquer*, from Italian *trafficare*.

tragedy *n.* About 1375 *tragedie* a play or other serious literary work having an unhappy ending; borrowed from Old French *tragedie*, from Latin *tragoedia* a tragedy, from Greek *tragōidīa* a dramatic poem or play in formal language and having an unhappy resolution; literally, goat song (*trāgos* goat; see TRAGIC + *ōidē* song, ODE); for suffix see -Y². The connection with a goat, may be that the actors or singers in Greek tragedies were originally dressed in goatskins to represent satyrs, and thereby became actors in satyric drama from which tragedy was later developed.

The sense of an unhappy event, calamity, or disaster, is found in 1509. —**tragedian** *n.* About 1380, writer of tragedies; borrowed from Old French *tragedian*, from *tragedie* tragedy; for suffix see -IAN. The sense of a tragic actor is first recorded in 1592.

tragic *adj.* 1545, calamitous, disastrous, fatal; shortened form of earlier *tragic* (1489); modeled on Latin *tragicus*, from Greek *tragikós* of or pertaining to tragedy; literally, of or pertaining to a goat, and probably to a satyr impersonated by a goat singer or satyric actor, goatish, from *trāgos* goat; for suffix see -IC, -ICAL. The sense of pertaining to tragedy as a part of drama, is first recorded in English in 1563.

tragicomedy *n.* 1579–80, borrowed from Middle French *tragicomédie*, from Italian *tragicommedia*, from Latin *tragicomœdia*, contraction of *tragicomœdia* (*tragicus* TRAGIC + *comœdia* COMEDY). —**tragicomic** *adj.* 1683, shortened form

of *tragicomical* (1567, formed from *tragi-* + *comical*); for suffix see -IC, -ICAL.

trail *v.* About 1303 *traillen* to drag or be drawn along behind; borrowed from Old French *trailler* to tow, from Vulgar Latin **trāgulāre* to drag, from Latin *trāgula* dragnet, probably related to *trahere* to pull, draw. The meaning of follow the trail or track of is first recorded in 1590. —**n. Probably before 1325, something that trails; from the verb. The sense of a track or smell left by a person or animal is first recorded in 1590. —**trailer** *n.* 1590, person that follows a trail, tracker; formed from English *trail*, *v.* + *-er*¹. The vehicle pulled by another is first recorded in 1890.**

train *n.* Before 1338 *trayne* a drawing out, delay; later *trayn* trailing part, retinue, procession (about 1440); borrowed from Old French *train* (feminine *traine*), from *trainer* to pull, draw, from Vulgar Latin **trāgināre*, extended from **trāgere* to pull, back formation from *tractus*, past participle of Latin *trahere* to pull, draw. The sense of a connected line of railroad cars or wagons moving together is first recorded before 1824. —**v.** 1375 *traynen* to draw along, allure; borrowed from Old French *trainer* to pull, draw. The sense of instruct, discipline, teach, is first recorded in 1542, probably developed from the meaning of draw by persuasion, induce (1526), and to manipulate in order to bring to a desired form (about 1440). —**training** *n.* 1440, a drawing out, trailing; formed from Middle English *traynen* draw along + *-ing*¹. The sense of instruction, discipline, education, is first recorded in 1548.

traipse *v.* 1593 (implied in *trapesing*), of uncertain origin. The dialectal forms *trapass*, *traipass* suggests dialectal French *trapasser*, *trepasser* pass over or beyond (Old French *trespasser* TRESPASS), though the senses do not fit exactly.

trait *n.* About 1477, shot, missiles; later, a stroke, short line (1589); borrowed from Middle French *trait*, from Latin *tractus* (genitive *tractūs*) draft, drawing, drawing out; later, line drawn, feature, from *trac-*, stem of *trahere* to pull, draw. The sense of a particular feature of mind, distinguishing quality, is first recorded in English in 1752; this sense developed from the meaning of a line, streak, feature, found in earlier English, French, and Latin.

traitor *n.* Before 1300 *traitur* person who betrays a trust, betrayer; borrowed from Old French *traitor*, *traitur*, from Latin *trādītōrem* (nominative *trādītōr*) a betrayer; literally, one who delivers, from *trādi-*, stem of *trādere* deliver, surrender; for suffix see -OR². Earlier Middle English *treitre* (probably before 1200) was borrowed from Old French *traître*, from Latin *trādītōr*. —**traitorous** *adj.* About 1380 *traytrous*, borrowed from Old French *traitreux* (*traître* traitor + *-eux* -ous).

trajectory *n.* 1696, borrowed from New Latin *trajectory*, from feminine of *trajektorius* of or pertaining to throwing across, from Latin *trāiectus* thrown over or across, past participle of *trāicere* throw across (Latin *trā-*, variant of *trāns-* across + *-icere*, combining form of *jacere* to throw); for suffix see -ORY.

In Middle English this word is found probably before 1425 as *traictorie* a funnel, borrowed from Middle French *trajectoire*

end of a funnel, and directly from Medieval Latin *trajectorium* a funnel (from Latin *trājectus*, past participle + *-ōrium* -ory).

tram *n.* 1500–20, beam or shaft of a barrow or sledge; also, a barrow or truck body (1516–17); Scottish, borrowed probably from Middle Flemish *tram* beam, handle of a barrow, bar, rung; cognate with Middle Low German *trame*, modern Low German *Traam*, and Middle Dutch *trame*, of similar meaning, but of unknown origin. The sense of a track for a barrow, tramway, is first recorded in 1826 and that of a streetcar (1860) implied in *tramway*.

trammel *n.* 1397 *trameyle* a net to catch fish; borrowed from Middle French *tramail*, from Late Latin *trimaculum*, *trēmaculum*, perhaps meaning a net made of three layers of different-sized meshes (Latin *tri-*, *trēs* three + *macula* a mesh). —*v.* 1536, to bind up (a corpse); from the noun. The sense of catch or entangle is first found in 1605, and that of to hinder, restrain, in 1727.

tramp *v.* About 1395 *trampen* walk heavily, stamp; borrowed from Middle Low German *trampen* to stamp; cognate with Middle High German *trumpfen* to run, dialectal Norwegian *trumpa* to knock, push, and Gothic *anatripan* to tread or press upon, perhaps related to the same source as English TRAP. —*n.* 1664, person who wanders about, vagabond; from the verb. The sense of a long, steady walk, is first recorded in 1760.

trample *v.* Before 1382 *trampelen* to walk heavily; frequentative form of TRAMP; for suffix see -LE³. The transitive sense of tread heavily on, crush, is first recorded in 1530. —*n.* 1604, from the verb.

trampoline *n.* 1798 *trampolin*, 1799 *trampoline*; borrowed from Spanish *trampolín* springboard, and from Italian *trampolino*, from *trampoli* stilts, from a Germanic source (compare Low German *trampeln* trample, and Middle Low German *trampen* walk heavily, TRAMP).

trance *n.* About 1385 *traunce* state of extreme dread or suspense; later, a dazed, unconscious, or insensible condition (about 1395); borrowed from Old French *transe* fear of coming evil; originally, passage from life to death, from *transir* be numb with fear; originally, die, pass on, from Latin *transire* cross over.

tranquil *adj.* Before 1450 *tranquill*, probably a back formation from earlier *tranquility*, modeled on Latin *tranquillus* quiet, tranquil; also possibly borrowed from Middle French *tranquille*. The Latin word may derive from *trans-* over, beyond (here meaning exceedingly) + a root related to *quiēs* rest, QUIET. —**tranquility** or **tranquillity** *n.* About 1380 *tranquillite*, borrowed from Old French *tranquillité*, from Latin *tranquillitatem* (nominative *tranquillitas*) tranquillity, from *tranquillus* tranquil; for suffix see -ITY. —**tranquelize** *v.* 1623, formed from English *tranquil* + *-ize*. —**tranquilizer** *n.* 1800, formed from English *tranquelize* + *-er*¹. The sense of a sedative is first recorded in 1824.

trans- a prefix meaning: 1 across, over, through, as in *transatlantic* = across the Atlantic Ocean (1779). 2 beyond, on the other side of, as in *transcend* = to go beyond. 3 to go into a different place, condition, or thing, as in *transform* = to form into

another condition. 4 (in chemistry) having certain atoms on the opposite side of a plane: a *trans-isomeric compound*. Borrowed from Latin *trans-* (also reduced to *trā-*, as in *trādere* hand over, *trādūcere* lead across), from *trans*, prep., across, over, beyond, probably originally the present participle of a verb (**trāre* to cross); see THROUGH.

transact *v.* 1584–85, probably a back formation from *transactio*, modeled on Latin *transactus*, past participle of *transigere* drive or carry through, accomplish (*trans-* through + *agere* to drive). —**transaction** *n.* About 1460, (in Roman and civil law) adjustment of a dispute; borrowed from Middle French *transaction*, and directly from Latin *transactiōnem* (nominative *transactiō*) an agreement, accomplishment, from *transigere* accomplish; for suffix see -TION. The sense of a piece of business is first recorded in 1647.

transcend *v.* About 1340 *transcenden*; borrowed from Old French *transcendre*, and directly from Latin *transcendere* climb over or beyond, surmount (*trans-* beyond + *scandere* to climb). —**transcendence** *n.* 1601, formed in English as a noun to *transcendent*, possibly on the model of Late Latin *transcendentia* character of being transcendent, elevation, loftiness, from Latin *transcendēns* present participle of *transcendere*; for suffix see -ENCE. —**transcendent** *adj.* About 1450, borrowed from Latin *transcendentem* (nominative *transcendēns*) surmounting, rising above, present participle; for suffix see -ENT. —**transcendental** *adj.* 1668, transcending the bounds of any category; borrowed from Medieval Latin *transcendentalis* in the same meaning, from Latin *transcendēns* present participle of *transcendere*; for suffix see -AL¹. —**transcendentalism** *n.* (1803)

transcribe *v.* 1552, borrowed from Latin *transcribere* to copy, write again in another place, write over, transfer (*trans-* over + *scribere* write). —**transcript** *n.* 1467, a written copy; borrowed from Medieval Latin *transcriptum* a copy, noun use of Latin *transcriptus* transcribed, copied, neuter past participle of *transcribere* transcribe. —**transcription** *n.* 1598, act or process of transcribing; borrowed from Middle French *transcription*, and directly from Latin *transcriptiōnem* (nominative *transcriptiō*), from *transcriptus*, past participle of *transcribere* transcribe; for suffix see -TION. The sense in biology of the process by which a nucleic acid is synthesized on a template is first recorded in 1961.

transducer *n.* 1924, device which converts energy from one form to another, formed from Latin *transducere* lead across, transfer (*trans-* across + *ducere* to lead) + English suffix *-er*¹. —**transduce** *v.* 1949, back formation from earlier *transducer*.

transept *n.* 1538 *transsept*, borrowed from New Latin *transeptum*; later, in the 1700's, reborrowed from French *transept*; both the New Latin and modern French words were formed from Latin *trans-* across + *saeptum* fence, partition, enclosure; see SEPTUM.

transfer *v.* About 1380 *transferren* move from one place to another, convey, transmit; borrowed from Latin *transfere* bear across, carry over, transfer, translate (*trans-* across + *ferre* to carry). —*n.* 1674, (in law) conveyance of property; from the

verb. The general sense (as in *the transfer of authority*) is first recorded in 1785. —**transference** *n.* 1681, procedure for transferring a legal action; probably formed from English *transfer* + *-ence*, modeled on New Latin *transfere* *transference*, from Latin *transfere* present participle of *transfere* to transfer; for suffix see *-ENCE*. The meaning in psychoanalysis is first recorded in 1911, as a loan translation of German *Übertragung*.

transfigure *v.* Before 1325 *transfigure*, borrowed from Old French *transfigurer*, and directly from Latin *transfigurare* change the shape of (*trans-* across + *figura* FIGURE). —**transfiguration** *n.* About 1375, the change in the appearance of Christ before his disciples, John, Peter, and James; borrowed from Old French *transfiguration*, and directly from Latin *transfiguratio* (nominative *transfiguratio*) a change in form, from *transfigurare* transfigure; for suffix see *-ATION*. The sense (as in *the mythical transfiguration of men into animals*) is first recorded in English before 1548.

transfix *v.* 1590, pierce through, impale; borrowed from Middle French *transfixer*, and directly from Latin *transfixus* impaled, past participle of *transfigere* to impale, pierce through (*trans-* through + *figere* to fix, fasten). The sense of make motionless or helpless (as with amazement, terror, or grief) is first recorded in 1649.

transform *v.* About 1340 *transformen* change the form of; borrowed from Old French *transformer*, and directly from Latin *transformare* change the shape or form of (*trans-* across + *formare* to FORM). The meaning in mathematics is first recorded in 1743. —*n.* 1853 (in mathematics) the result of transforming; from the verb. —**transformation** *n.* 1410 *transformatioun* act of transforming; borrowed from Old French *transformation*, and directly from Late Latin *transformatiōem* (nominative *transformatiō*) a change of shape, from *transformare* transform; for suffix see *-ATION*. —**transformer** *n.* 1601, person who transforms; formed from English *transform* + *-er*¹. The device to reduce electric currents is first recorded in 1883 as a translation of French *transformateur*.

transfuse *v.* Probably before 1425 *transfusen*, borrowed from Latin *transfusus*, past participle of *transfundere* pour from one container to another (*trans-* across + *fundere* to pour). —**transfusion** *n.* 1578, act of pouring a liquid from one container into another; borrowed from Middle French *transfusion*, and directly from Latin *transfusiōem* (nominative *transfusiō*) a pouring from one container to another, from *transfusus*, past participle of *transfundere*; for suffix see *-SION*. The sense of a transfer of blood from one individual into the veins of another is first recorded in English in 1643.

transgress *v.* About 1475 *transgressen* break a law or command; borrowed from Middle French *transgresser*, and probably a back formation from *transgression*, modeled on Latin *transgressus*, past participle of *transgredi* go beyond (*trans-* across + *gradi* to walk, go). —**transgression** *n.* About 1415 *transgrescion* violation of law, duty, or command, disobedience, trespass; borrowed from Middle French *transgression*, from Late Latin *transgressiōem* (nominative *transgressiō*) a transgression of the

law, from Latin *a* going over, from *transgressus*, past participle of *transgredi* go beyond; for suffix see *-SION*.

transient *adj.* 1612, borrowed from Latin *transiens* (accusative *transientem*) passing over or away, present participle of *transire* cross over, pass away (*trans-* across + *ire* go); for suffix see *-ENT*. —*n.* 1652, from the adjective. The sense of a transient guest or boarder is first recorded in 1748. —**transience** *n.* 1745, formed from English *transient* + *-ence*, possibly as a shortened form of *transiency* (1652, formed from English *transient* + *-ency*).

transistor *n.* 1948, formed from English *tran(sfer)* + *(re)sistor*; so called because it transfers an electrical current across a resistor. —**transistorize** *v.* (1953)

transit *n.* 1440 *transite*; borrowed from Latin *transitus* (genitive *transitus*) passage, transition, a going over, from *transi-*, stem of *transire* cross over, go across; see *TRANSIENT*. —*v.* 1440 *transiten*; borrowed from Latin *transitus*, past participle of *transire*. —**transition** *n.* About 1450 *transicion* a change or passing from one condition, place, etc. to another; borrowed from Latin *transitiōem* (nominative *transitiō*) a passing over or away, from *transi-*, stem of *transire* go or cross over; for suffix see *-TION*. —**transitional** *adj.* About 1810, formed from English *transition* + *-al*¹. —**transitive** *adj.* 1560, passing away, transient; later, of verbs taking a direct object (1571, also *transitory*, 1560); borrowed from Middle French *transitif* (feminine *transitive*), and directly from Late Latin *transitivus* passing over (also of verbs), from Latin *transitus*, past participle of *transire* cross over; for suffix see *-IVE*. —**transitory** *adj.* About 1380 *transitorie* lasting only a short time; borrowed from Old French *transitoire*, from Late Latin *transitoriū* passing, transient, from Latin, allowing passage through, from *transitus*, past participle of *transire* go or cross over; for suffix see *-ORY*.

translate *v.* Before 1325 *translaten* to change from one language to another; borrowed from Old French *translater*, but probably at first from Latin *translatus*, a form serving as past participle to *transfere* to bring over, carry over; see *TRANSFER*; for suffix see *-ATE*¹. —**translation** *n.* About 1340 *translacioun*, borrowed from Old French *translation*, and directly from Latin *translatiōem* (nominative *translatiō*) translation, from *translatus*, a form serving as past participle to *transfere*; for suffix see *-ATION*.

transliterate *v.* 1861, formed from English *trans-* across + Latin *littera* letter + English suffix *-ate*¹. —**transliteration** *n.* (1861).

translucent *adj.* 1596, formed in English as an adjective to earlier *translucence*, on the model of Latin *translucens* (nominative *translucens*) shining through, present participle of *translucere* shine through (*trans-* through + *lucere* to shine); for suffix see *-ENT*. —**translucence** *n.* Probably before 1425, formed in English as if from Latin **translucencia*, from *translucens* present participle of *translucere* shine through; for suffix see *-ENCE*.

transmigration *n.* 1297, migration; borrowed from Old French *transmigration*, and directly from Late Latin *transmigrā-*

tiōnem change of country, from Latin *trāsmigrāre* to migrate (*trāns-* over + *migrāre* to migrate).

transmission *n.* 1611, borrowed from Old French *transmission*, and directly from Latin *trāsmissiōnem* (nominative *trāsmissiō*) a sending over or across, passage, from *trāsmisus*, past participle of *trāsmittere* send over or across; for suffix see *-SION*. The part of a motor vehicle that regulates power from the engine to the axle is first recorded in 1894.

transmit *v.* Probably before 1400 *transmitten* convey, transfer; borrowed from Latin *trāsmittere* send across, transfer, pass on (*trāns-* across + *mittere* send). —**transmitter** *n.* 1727, one that transmits; formed from English *transmit* + *-er*¹. The telegraphic or telephonic transmitting apparatus is first recorded in 1844, and an apparatus for transmitting radio signals in 1934.

transmute *v.* 1392 *transmuten*, perhaps in part a back formation from *transmutation*, but also borrowed from Latin *trāsmūtāre* change from one condition to another (*trāns-* thoroughly + *mūtāre* to change). —**transmutation** *n.* About 1380, borrowed from Old French *transmutation*, and directly from Late Latin *trāsmūtatiōnem* (nominative *trāsmūtatiō*) a change, shift, from Latin *trāsmūtāre* transmute; for suffix see *-ATION*.

transom *n.* 1388 *transeyn* crossbeam spanning an opening, lintel; later *trausom* (1462); probably alteration (by dissimilation of medial *-tr-*) of Latin *trānstrum* crossbeam, especially one spanning an opening (*trāns* across + *-trum* instrumental suffix). Related to *TRESTLE*. The small window over a door or other window is first recorded in 1844.

transparent *adj.* Probably before 1425, borrowed from Middle French *transparent*, and directly from Medieval Latin *transparentem* (nominative *transparentes*) present participle of *transparere* show light through (Latin *trāns-* through + *pārere* come in sight, appear); for suffix see *-ENT*. The figurative sense of easily seen through is first recorded in 1592. —**transparency** *n.* 1615, borrowed from Medieval Latin *transparentia* transparent, from *transparentes* present participle of *transparere*; for suffix see *-ENCY*.

transpire *v.* 1597, pass off in the form of a vapor or liquid; back formation from earlier *transpiration*, and borrowed from Middle French *transpirer*, from Latin *trāns-* through + *spīrāre* breathe. The sense of take place, happen (1755) is probably from a misunderstanding of leak out, become known (1741–42). —**transpiration** *n.* Probably before 1425 *transpiracioun* a passing out, exhalation; borrowed from Middle French *transpiration* (*transpirer* transpire + *-ation*).

transplant *v.* About 1440, borrowed from Middle French *transplanter*, and directly from Late Latin *trānsplantāre* plant again in a different place (Latin *trāns-* across + *plantāre* to plant). The sense of convey or remove (people, a colony, etc.) from one place to another is first recorded in 1555, and that of transfer an organ or portion of tissue from one person or animal to another, in 1786. —**n. 1756, a transplanted seedling; from the verb. —**transplantation** *n.* 1601, probably borrowed from French *transplantation*, from *transplanter* transplant**

+ *-ation* *-ation*, and a formation in English of *transplant* + *-ation*.

transport *v.* About 1380 *transporten* carry or convey from one place to another; borrowed from Middle French *transporter* carry or convey across, and directly from Latin *trānsportāre* (*trāns-* across + *portāre* carry). The sense of carry away by strong feeling is first recorded in English in 1509. —**n. 1456, a transfer of property; from the verb. The means of transportation or conveyance is first recorded in 1694. —**transportation** *n.* 1540, act or process of transporting; borrowed from Middle French *transportation*, and formed from English *transport*, *v.* + *-ation*. The sense of a means of conveyance is first recorded in 1853. —**transporter** *n.* 1535, one who transports; later, a heavy vehicle used to transport large pieces of machinery (1944); formed from English *transport*, *v.* + *-er*¹.**

transpose *v.* About 1392 *transposen* transform, transmute, convert; borrowed from Old French *transposer* transpose (*trans-* across + *poser* to put, place). The sense of change the position or order of, interchange, is first recorded in English in 1538, and the specific sense in algebra in 1810, while in music to put into a different key is found in 1609. —**transposition** *n.* 1538, borrowed from Middle French *transposition*, and directly from Medieval Latin *transpositionem* (nominative *transpositio*) act of transposing, from Latin *trānspositus*, past participle of *trānsponere* place over (*trāns-* over + *pōnere* put, place); for suffix see *-TION*.

transubstantiation *n.* Before 1398, changing of one substance into another, probably especially in the religious sense of the Eucharist; borrowed from Old French *transsubstantiation*, and directly from Medieval Latin *transsubstantiationem* (nominative *transsubstantiatio*) particularly in the religious sense, from *transsubstantiare* to change from one substance into another (Latin *trāns-* + *substantia* substance); for suffix see *-ATION*.

transverse *adj.* 1621, lying across, placed crosswise; borrowed from Middle French *transverse*, and directly from Latin *trānsversus* turned or directed across, past participle of *trānsvertere* turn across (*trāns-* across + *vertere* to turn). —**n. Before 1633, from the adjective.**

transvestite *n.* 1922, borrowed from German *Transvestit* (Latin *trāns-* across + *vestire* to clothe); for suffix see *-ITE*¹. Compare *TRAVESTY*.

trap *n.* About 1200 *trapp* snare, pitfall; developed from Old English *træppe* snare, trap (before 1000); cognate with Middle Dutch *trappe* trap, snare; also, stair, step, tread, from Proto-Germanic **trap-*. The sense of a deceitful practice, trickery, or fraud is first recorded in 1681. —**v. Before 1393 *trappen* to catch in a trap, ensnare; from the noun. —**trap door** (about 1385) —**trappings** *n.* pl. Before 1398 *trappinge*, sing., ornamental covering for a horse; later *trappings*, pl., ornaments, dress, embellishments, (1596); formed from Middle English *trappe* cloth for a horse (alteration of French *drap* cloth, drape) + *-ings*, plural of *-ing*¹. —**traps** *n.* pl. 1925, drums, cymbals, bells, gongs, etc., from *trap drummer* (1903) street musician who plays a drum and usually several other instruments at once;**

from *traps* belongings (1813), as a shortened form of *trappings* ornaments, belongings.

trapeze *n.* 1861, borrowing of French *trapèze*, from Late Latin *trapezium* **TRAPEZIUM**; probably originally applied to a kind of trapeze in which the ropes formed a trapezium with the crossbar and the roof.

trapezium *n.* 1570, borrowed from Late Latin *trapezium*, from Greek *trapézion* irregular quadrilateral; originally, small table, diminutive of *trápeza* table (*tra-* four + *péza* foot, edge).

trapezoid *n.* 1706, a trapezium; borrowed from New Latin *trapezoides*, from Late Greek, special use of Greek *trapezoeidēs* trapezium-shaped, from *trápeza* table + *-oeidēs* -oid. The sense of a four-sided plane figure having only two sides parallel is first recorded in English in 1795.

trash *n.* About 1518, worthless stuff, rubbish; perhaps borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare dialectal Norwegian *trask* lumber, trash, Old Icelandic *tros* rubbish, fallen leaves and twigs, and Swedish *trasa* rag), of unknown origin. —**v.** 1859, from the noun. The sense of destroy, vandalize (1970), was extended to criticize severely in 1975. —**trashy** *adj.* Before 1620, formed from English *trash*, *n.* + *-y*¹.

trauma *n.* 1693, physical wound; borrowed from Greek *trauma* wound. The sense of an unpleasant experience which causes an abnormal mental stress, psychic wound (1894, implied in *traumata*, *pl.* and in use of *traumatic* in psychology 1889). —**traumatic** *adj.* 1656, of or caused by a trauma; borrowed from French *traumatique*, and directly from Late Latin *traumaticus* of or pertaining to a wound, from Greek *traumatikós*, from *trauma* (genitive *traumatós*) wound; for suffix see *-ic*.

travail *n.* About 1275, toil, labor, trouble; borrowed from Old French *travail* suffering or painful effort, trouble, from *travailler* to toil, labor; originally, to trouble, torture, from Vulgar Latin **tripaliare* to torture, from **tripalium* (attested as Late Latin *trépaliū*) instrument of torture, probably from Latin *tripalis* having three stakes (*tria*, *trēs* three + *pālus* stake). —**v.** About 1275 *travaillen* to toil, labor, trouble; borrowed from Old French *travailler*. Related to **TRAVEL**.

travel *v.* 1375 *travelen* to journey; the sense found earlier (1300) in *travaillen*, the form developing from a shift of stress in *travaillen*, originally meaning to toil, labor; see **TRAVAIL**. The semantic development of *travel* may have come from an original meaning “to go on a difficult journey” or may have referred to the hardships and difficulties of early travel. —**n.** About 1375, action of traveling; perhaps from the verb, or developed, as the verb did, from a specialized sense and form of *travail*. —**traveled** *adj.* 1413, experienced in travel, from *travel*, *v.* + *-ed*². —**traveler** *n.* 1375, possibly formed from *travel* + *-er*¹, or from earlier *travaillen* + *-er*¹, *-our* and then leveled in form to *traveler*.

traverse *v.* Before 1325 *traversen* pass across, over, or through; borrowed from Middle French *traverser* to cross, thwart, from Vulgar Latin **trāversāre*, from Latin *trāversāre* to cross, throw across, from Latin *trāversus* turned across, **TRANSVERSE**.

—**n.** 1347 *travers* act of crossing, something put across, borrowed from Old French, in part from 1) *travers* passage, a lying across, transverse, from Latin *trāversum*, neuter of *trāversus* transverse, lying across; and in part from 2) *traverse* crosspiece, crossroad, from Latin *trāversa*, feminine of *trāversus* transverse, lying across. —**adj.** 1415, borrowed from Middle French *travers*, from Latin *trāversus* transverse.

travesty *n.* 1674, developed from adjective meaning dressed so as to be made ridiculous, parodied, burlesqued (about 1662); borrowed from French *travesti* dressed in disguise, past participle of *travestir* to disguise (Latin *trā-*, *trāns-* over + *vestire* to clothe); for suffix see *-y*³. Compare **TRANSVESTITE**. —**v.** 1673, borrowed from French *travesti*, past participle of *travestir*.

trawl *v.* 1561, borrowed from Dutch *tragelen*, from Middle Dutch *traghelen* to drag, from *traghel* dragnet, probably from Latin *trāgula* dragnet. —**n.** 1630, action of trawling; later, a dragnet (1759); from the verb. —**trawler** *n.* 1630, person (and a ship) that trawls (implied in *trawler boat*, 1599); formed from English *trawl* + *-er*¹.

tray *n.* 1270 *trey*; later *tray* (1350); developed from Old English *træg*, *trīg* flat container with a low rim (from Proto-Germanic **traujan*), related to *trēow* wood, **TREE**, so that the primary sense may have been “wooden (vessel).” Old English *træg*, *trīg* is probably cognate with Old Swedish *trø* corn measure.

treachery *n.* Probably before 1200 *tricherie* deceit, treason; later *trecherie* (about 1300); borrowed from Old French *trecherie*, *tricherie* deceit, cheating, from *trechier*, *trichier* to cheat, deceive; see **TRICK**; for suffix see *-ERY*. —**treacherous** *adj.* Before 1338 *trichereous* characterized by treachery; borrowed from Old French *trecheros*, *tricheros* deceitfulness, from *trecheur*, *tricheur* a deceiver, cheat, from *trechier*, *tricher* to cheat; for suffix see *-OUS*.

treacle *n.* 1340 *triacle* medicinal compound, an antidote for poison; borrowed from Old French *triacle* antidote, from Latin *thēriaca*, from Greek *thēriakē* (*antídotos*) antidote for poisonous wild animals, as reptiles, from feminine of *thēriakós* of a wild animal, from *thērion* wild animal, diminutive of *thēr* (genitive *thērós*) wild animal. The sense of molasses is first recorded in 1694, and that of something too sweet or sentimental, in 1771. Connection between “molasses” and the “medicinal compound” comes from the use of molasses as a laxative.

tread *v.* Probably about 1200 *treden* to step, step heavily on; developed from Old English *tredan* (about 725, in *Beowulf*), from Proto-Germanic **tredanan*; cognate with Old Frisian *treda* to tread, Old Saxon *tredan*, Old High German *tretan* (modern German *treten*), and related to Old Icelandic *trodha* (Swedish *tråda*, *tråda*, Danish *træde*, and Norwegian *trå*), and Gothic *trudan*, from Proto-Germanic **trudan*. —**n.** Probably before 1200 *tred* mark made in treading, footprint; presumably from the verb.

treadle *n.* About 1410 *tredel*; literally, step, stair; found in Old English (about 1000), from *tredan* to **TREAD**; for suffix see *-LE*¹. —**v.** 1891, from the noun.

treason *n.* Probably before 1200 *treison* the action of betray-

ing, treachery; borrowed through Anglo-French *treson*, from Old French *trahison* (influenced by the verb *trahir* betray), from Latin *trāditiōnem* (nominative *trāditiō*) a handing over, delivery, surrender.

treasure *n.* 1137 *tresor* wealth or riches stored up; borrowed from Old French *tresor* treasury, treasure, from Latin *thēsauros* treasure, from Greek *thēsauros* treasure. The spelling *treasure* began to appear in English about 1530. —**v.** Before 1382 *tresoren* to hoard, store up, preserve in the memory; from *tresor*, *n.* —**treasurer** *n.* About 1290 *tresurer*; borrowed through Anglo-French *tresorer*, from Old French *tresorier*, from *tresor* treasure; for suffix see -ER¹. —**treasury** *n.* About 1300 *tresorie* place where valuables are kept; borrowed from Old French *tresorie*, from *tresor* treasure; for suffix see -Y³. The government department that controls public finances is first recorded in Middle English about 1383.

treat *v.* About 1300 *treten* negotiate, bargain, deal with; borrowed from Old French *traitier*, from Latin *tractāre* manage, handle, deal with; originally, drag about, frequentative form of *trahere* to pull, draw. The sense of deal with in speech or writing (about 1325) is used in medicine in 1781. —**n.** 1375 *trete* act of negotiating; from the verb. The sense of a treating with food and drink (1651) was extended to anything that gives pleasure by 1770. —**treatment** *n.* About 1560, act or way of treating; formed from English *treat*, *v.* + -ment. The sense in medicine is first recorded in 1744.

treatise *n.* Before 1325 *treteice*, borrowed from Anglo-French *treteiz*, contracted from **treteiz*, from Gallo-Romance **tractātiū*, from Latin *tractāre* to deal with.

treaty *n.* Before 1382 *tretee* treatment, discussion; borrowed from Old French *traitié*, *traitié* assembly, agreement, treaty, from Latin *tractātus* (genitive *tractātūs*) discussion, handling, from *tractāre* to handle, manage; for suffix see -Y³. The sense of a signed contract between two or more nations is first recorded in 1430–31, found in the sense of an agreement arrived at by negotiation (1427).

treble *adj.* Probably before 1300, three times, triple; borrowed from Old French *treble*, from Latin *tripulus* TRIPLE. —**v.** Before 1325 *treblen*; borrowed from Old French *trebler*, from *treble*, *adj.* —**n.** Before 1338, highest part in music, soprano; borrowed from Old French *treble*, *n.* and *adj.* In early contrapuntal music the chief melody was given to the tenor, and the voice parts added above were the alto and the treble (third part).

tree *n.* Before 1250 *tre*; later *tree* (before 1325); developed from Old English (before 830) *trēo*, *trēow* tree; cognate with Old Frisian *trē* tree, Old Saxon *trio*, *tree*, Old Icelandic *trē* (Swedish *trä* wood, *träd* tree, Danish *træ*, and Norwegian *tre*), and Gothic *triu* tree, wood, from Proto-Germanic **trewan*. —**v.** 1575, take or cause to take refuge in a tree; from the noun.

trefoil *n.* 1384 *trefoyle*, borrowed through Anglo-French *trifol*, from Old French *trefeuil*, from Latin *trifolium* three-leaved plant (*tri-* three + *folium* leaf).

trek *v.* 1850, to travel or migrate by ox wagon, borrowed from Afrikaans *trek*, from Dutch *trekken* to march, journey; origi-

nally, to draw, pull, from Middle Dutch *trecken*; cognate with Middle Low German *trecken* and Old High German *trechan* to pull. —**n.** 1849, a journey by ox wagon or a stage of such a journey, earlier a migrating Boer (1835); borrowed from Afrikaans *trek*, from Dutch *trek* a drawing, pull, haul, march, from *trekken* to journey.

trellis *n.* 1380 *trellis*, borrowed from Old French *trellis*, from Vulgar Latin **trilicius*, from Latin *trilicis*, genitive of *trilix* having three threads, triple-twilled, in reference to the number of threads of the warp gathered together in weaving (*tri-* three + *licium* thread). The sense of a lattice used to support growing vines (1513) apparently developed from French *treillis* applying to things woven of iron wire, gold, etc., from Old French *trelliz* applying to stout woven fabric, from an early confusion with the prefix *tres-* from Latin *trāns-*. —**v.** Probably before 1400 *trelesen*; from the noun.

tremble *v.* About 1303 *tremlen* shake from fear, cold, etc., later *tremblen* (reinforced by the spelling in Old French, about 1380); borrowed from Old French *trembler* tremble, fear, from Vulgar Latin **tremulāre*, from Latin *tremulus* trembling, tremulous, from *tremere* to tremble. —**n.** 1609, from the verb. —**trembly** *adj.* 1848, formed from English *tremble*, *v.* or *n.* + -y¹.

tremendous *adj.* 1632 *tremenduous* awful, dreadful, terrible; later in the spelling *tremendous* (1657–83); borrowed from Latin *tremendus* fearful, terrible; literally, to be trembled at, a gerundive form of *tremere* to TREMBLE; for suffix see -OUS. The sense of extraordinarily great or good, immense (1812), parallels semantic changes found in *terrific*, *terribly*, *awfully*, etc.

tremolo *n.* 1801, borrowing of Italian *tremolo*, from Latin *tremulus* trembling; see TREMULOUS.

tremor *n.* About 1385 *tremor*, *tremour* terror; borrowed from Old French *tremor*, *tremour*, and directly from Latin *tremōrem* (nominative *tremor*) a trembling, terror, from *tremere* to TREMBLE. The sense of an involuntary shaking is first recorded in English in 1615.

tremulous *adj.* 1611, borrowed from Latin *tremulus* shaking, quivering, from *tremere* to TREMBLE; for suffix see -OUS.

trench *n.* About 1395 *trench* track cut through a wood; later, long and narrow ditch (1489); borrowed from Old French *trenche* a slice, ditch, from *trenchier* to cut, possibly from Vulgar Latin **trincāre*, from Latin *truncāre* to cut or lop off. The trench used for military protection is first recorded in English about 1500. —**v.** 1483 *trenchen* to cut, borrowed from Middle French *trenchier*, from Old French. Some senses of the English verb derive from the noun.

trenchant *adj.* Before 1325 *trenchant* (implied in *trenchantliche* trenchantly) sharp, incisive; borrowed from Old French *trenchant* cutting, sharp, present participle of *trenchier* to cut; for suffix see -ANT. —**trenchancy** *n.* 1866; formed from English *trenchant* + -cy.

trencher *n.* About 1308 *trenchur* wooden platter on which to cut meat; also *trencheour* knife (before 1338); borrowed from

Anglo-French *trenchour*, from Old French *trenchoir* a trencher; literally, a cutting place, from *trenchier* to cut.

trend *v.* 1598, (of rivers, coasts, etc.) to run or bend in a certain direction; developed from Middle English *trenden* roll about, turn, revolve (probably before 1300), found in Old English (before 1000), *trendan* from Proto-Germanic **trandijanan*.

The sense of have a general tendency (said of events, opinions, etc.) is first recorded in 1863. —**n.** About 1630, a rounded bend or circuit of a stream; from the verb. The sense of a general direction of a river, coast, etc., is first recorded in 1777, and that of a general course or tendency (of action, thought, etc.), in 1884. —**trendy** *adj.* (1962)

trepidation *n.* 1607–12, borrowed from French *trepidation*, and directly from Latin *trepidatiōnem* (nominative *trepidatiō*) agitation, alarm, trembling, from *trepidare* to tremble, hurry, from *trepidus* alarmed, scared; for suffix see -ATION.

trespass *v.* About 1303 *trespassen* transgress, offend, sin; borrowed from Old French *trespasser* pass beyond or across (*tres-* beyond, from Latin *trāns-* + *passer* go by, pass¹). The meaning of enter unlawfully (about 1455) is from forest laws of the Scottish Parliament. —**n.** About 1300 *trespas* transgression, offense, sin; borrowed from Old French *trespas* a passing across, transgression, from *trespasser* pass beyond or across. Trespassing onto land is from the same source as the verb.

tress *n.* About 1300 *tresse* lock, curl, or braid of hair; borrowed from Old French *tresse*, *tresce* (also compare Italian *treccia*), perhaps from Vulgar Latin **trichia* braid, rope, from Greek *trichia* rope, from *thrīx* (genitive *trichós*) hair. —**tressed** *adj.* Probably before 1300; formed from Middle English *tresse* + -ed².

trestle *n.* About 1330 *trestle*, borrowed from Old French *trestel* crossbeam, alteration (probably by influence of *tres-* beyond) of possible **trastel*, from Latin **trānstellum*, diminutive of Latin *trānstrum* beam, crossbar.

trey *n.* 1390 *trey*, card, die, or domino with three spots; borrowed from Old French *treie* three (in games of dice), from Latin *tria* (neuter) THREE.

tri- a combining form meaning: 1 having three, as in *triangle* = (a plane figure) having three angles. 2 once every three, lasting for three, as in *trimonthly* = occurring every three months. 3 containing three atoms, radicals, or other constituents of the substance specified, as in *trioxide*, *trisulfate*. Borrowed from Latin or Greek *tri-*, combining forms of Latin *trēs* (neuter *tria*) or Greek *trēs* (neuter *tría*) three.

triad *n.* 1546, borrowed from Late Latin *trias* (genitive *triadis*), from Greek *triás* (genitive *triádos*), from *trēs* three.

triage *n.* 1727–41, borrowing of French *triage* a picking out, sorting, from Old French *trier* to pick, cull; see TRY. In World War I *triage* was adopted for the sorting of wounded soldiers into three groups according to the severity of their injuries.

trial *n.* 1436 *triall* act or process of testing; borrowed from Anglo-French *trial*, from *trier* to TRY; for suffix see -AL². The

sense of the examining and deciding of a case in a court of law (1577) was extended to any ordeal by 1595.

triangle *n.* 1392, borrowed from Old French *triangle*, and directly from Latin *triangulum* triangle, from neuter of *triangulus* three-cornered (*tri-* three + *angulus* corner, angle). —**triangular** *adj.* Before 1400, borrowed from Late Latin *triangulāris* pertaining to a triangle, from Latin *triangulum* triangle; for suffix see -AR.

tribe *n.* About 1250 *tribu* one of the twelve divisions of the ancient Hebrews; later *tribe* (about 1380); borrowed from Old French *tribu*, from Latin *tribus* one of three ethnic divisions of the original Roman State; later, one of the 35 political divisions, perhaps from *tri-* three, TRI- + *bhu-*, from the root of the verb BE. The sense of any ethnic group or race of people, is first recorded in 1596. —**tribal** *adj.* 1632, formed from English *tribe* + -al¹.

tribology *n.* 1965, study of friction, wear, and lubrication; coined from Greek *tribos* rubbing (from *tribein* to rub) + English -logy study of.

tribulation *n.* Before 1200 *tribulaciun*, borrowed from Old French *tribulacion*, and directly from Late Latin *tribulatiōnem* (nominative *tribulatiō*) distress, trouble, affliction, from *tribulāre* to oppress, afflict, a figurative use of Latin *tribulāre* to press; also possibly, to thresh out grain, from *tribulum* threshing sledge (stem *trī-* of *terere* to rub + -bulum a suffix forming names of tools); for suffix see -ATION.

tribunal *n.* 1447 *trybunal*, borrowed from Old French *tribunal*, and directly from Latin *tribūnāl* platform for the seats of magistrates, elevation, embankment, from *tribūnus* official in ancient Rome, magistrate; literally, head of a tribe; for suffix see -AL².

tribune¹ *n.* official in ancient Rome. About 1375, borrowed from Old French *tribun*, and directly from Latin *tribūnus* magistrate; originally, head of a tribe, from *tribus* (genitive *tribūs*) TRIBE.

tribune² *n.* raised platform, rostrum. 1762–71, borrowed from French *tribune*, from Italian *tribuna* raised platform, from Latin *tribūnāl* platform for the seats of magistrates in ancient Rome.

tributary *n.* 1375, person who pays tribute; borrowed from Latin *tributarius* liable to tax or tribute, from *tributum* TRIBUTE; for suffix see -ARY. The stream that flows into a larger body of water is a late development (1822) and developed from the adjective sense subsidiary, auxiliary. —**adj.** Before 1382, paying tribute; borrowed from Latin *tributarius* liable to tax or tribute. The sense of subsidiary, auxiliary, is first recorded in English in 1611.

tribute *n.* About 1350 *tribit* tax paid to a ruler or master for security and protection; later *tribute* (about 1380); borrowed from Old French *tribut*, and later directly from Latin *tributum* tribute; literally, a thing contributed or paid, noun use of *tributus*, neuter past participle of *tribuere* to pay, assign, grant; also allot among the tribes or to a tribe, from *tribus* TRIBE. The

sense of an offering, gift, or token, is first recorded in English in 1585.

trice¹ *v.* haul up and fasten with a rope. About 1375 *tricen*, borrowed from Middle Dutch *trisen* hoist, from *trise* pulley; cognate with Middle Low German *trīse* pulley, of unknown origin.

trice² *n.* very short time. About 1440 *tryse*, in the phrase *a tryse*, or later in *a tryce* (1508) at a single pluck or pull, in an instant; *tryse*, *tryce*, *trice* a pull, from *tricen* to pull, **TRICE**¹.

triceps *n.* 1704, borrowed from Latin *triceps* (genitive *tricipitis*) three-headed (*tri-* three + *-ceps*, *caput* HEAD); so called because the muscle has three heads or origins.

trichina *n.*, pl. **trichinae**. 1835, New Latin, borrowed from Greek *trichinē*, feminine of *trichinos* of or like hair, from *thrīx* (genitive *trichós*) hair. —**trichinosis** *n.* 1866, formed from English *trichina* trichina + *-osis*.

trick *n.* About 1412 *trik* thing done to deceive or cheat, ruse, wile; borrowed from Old North French *trique* trick, deceit, treachery, cheating, from *trikier* to deceive, cheat, variant of Old French *trichier*, probably from Vulgar Latin **triccāre*, from Latin *trīcārī* be evasive, shuffle, from *trīcae* trifles, nonsense, a tangle of difficulties. —**v.** 1595, to deceive, cheat; from the noun. An earlier sense of to dress, adorn (found before 1500) is perhaps an unrelated word of different origin. —**trickery** *n.* (1800) —**trickster** *n.* (1711) —**tricky** *adj.* (1786)

trickle *v.* About 1375 *triklen* flow or fall in drops, of uncertain origin; possibly a variant of *striklen* to trickle (also about 1375), a frequentative form of *striken* to flow, move, **STRIKE**; for suffix see *-LE*³. —**n.** 1580, from the verb.

tricolor *n.* 1798, flag having three colors; borrowed from French *tricolore*, originally found in *drapeau tricolore* three-colored flag, from Late Latin *tricolor* (Latin *tri-* three + *color* COLOR). —**adj.** 1815, borrowed from French *tricolore*.

tricot *n.* 1859, borrowing of French *tricot*, from *tricoter* to knit, probably variant of Old French *estriquer* to smooth, from a Germanic source (compare Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *striken* pass over lightly).

tricycle *n.* 1828, three-wheeled carriage; borrowing of French *tricycle* (*tri-* three + *cycle*). The three-wheeled vehicle worked by pedals is first recorded in English in 1868.

trident *n.* About 1450 *trydent* three-pronged spear; borrowed from Middle French *trident*, or directly from Latin *tridēns* (genitive *tridentis*) three-pronged, three-toothed (*tri-* three + *dēns*, genitive *dentis*, tooth).

triennial *adj.* 1640, lasting three years; 1642, occurring every three years; formed from Latin *triennium* three-year period (*tri-* three + *annus* year) + English suffix *-al*¹. —**n.** 1640, event that occurs every three years; from the adjective.

trifle *n.* Probably before 1200 *trufle* false or idle tale; later, a matter of little importance, trivial thing (about 1300); borrowed from Old French *trufle* mockery, diminutive of *truffe*

deception, of uncertain origin. The spelling *trifle* developed in Middle English by about 1390 through earlier *tryfyl* (about 1303). —**v.** Probably before 1200 *trufen* to cheat, mock, jest; borrowed from Old French *truffler*, related to *trufle*, *n.* The sense of treat lightly, is first recorded in English in 1523.

trigger *n.* 1660, small lever that releases a spring or other mechanism, spelling alteration of earlier *tricker* (1621); borrowed from Dutch *trekker* trigger, from *trekken* to pull. *Tricker* remained the usual form in English until about 1750. —**v.** 1930, from the noun.

trigonometry *n.* 1614, from New Latin *trigonometria*, formed on the model of Greek *trīgōnon* triangle (*tri-* three + *gōnīa* angle) + *mētron* a measure; for suffix see *-y*³. —**trigonometric** *adj.* 1811, shortened form of *trigonometrical* (1666), formed from English *trigonometry* + *-ical*.

trilby *n.* 1897, in allusion to *Trilby*, heroine of the novel of the same name by George du Maurier, published in 1894; so called because this kind of hat was worn in the stage version of the novel.

trill *v.* 1666–67, borrowed from Italian *trillare* to quaver, trill, probably of imitative origin, but found in Medieval Latin *trillare* and in an unnamed German source (compare Middle Dutch *trillen* vibrate, move back and forth, vacillate). —**n.** 1649, borrowed from Italian *trillo* a quaver or warbling in singing, from *trillare* to trill.

trillion *n.* 1690, (in Great Britain) fourth power of a million (one million billion); borrowed from French *trillion*, formed from *tri-* three + (*m*)illion, from Old French *million* million. In the United States, Canada, and France, trillion is the third power of a thousand (one thousand billion).

trilobite *n.* 1832, borrowed from New Latin *Trilobites* former group name of these animals (from Greek *tri-* three + *lobós* lobe); so called because the trilobite's body is divided into three lobes; for suffix see *-ITE*¹.

trilogy *n.* 1661, borrowed from Greek *trilogía* series of three related tragedies performed at the festival of Dionysus (*tri-* three + *lógos* story; see *-LOGY*).

trim *v.* Before 1460 *trimmen* make firm, make fit; probably developed from Old English (before 800) *trymman* strengthen, make ready, from *trum* strong, stable, from Proto-Germanic **trumaz*. The meaning of make neat by cutting is first recorded in 1530, and that of decorate, adorn, in 1547. The nautical meaning of adjust (the sails or yards) to fit the direction of the wind (1624) was probably influenced by the adjective sense. —**adj.** Probably about 1500 *trym* elegant; from the verb. The sense of in good condition, neat, fit (1503–13) is implied in *trimly*. —**adv.** 1529, from the adjective. —**n.** 1579–80, ornament, decoration, from the verb. The sense of readiness of a ship for sailing is first recorded in 1590. —**trimmer** *n.* 1518, possibly in the obsolete meaning of a canopy; later, one who trims, repairs, or adjusts (1555), and one who changes his opinions, actions, etc., to suit the circumstances (1682); formed from English *trim*, *v.* + *-er*¹. —**trimming** *n.* 1519, a

making trim, putting in order; later *trimmings* any adornment or accessories (1612).

trimaran *n.* 1949, formed from *tri-* three + (*cata*)*maran*.

trimester *n.* 1821, borrowed from French *trimestre*, from Latin *trimestris* of three months (*tri-* three + *mēnsis* month).

trimeter *n.* 1567, borrowed from Latin *trimetrus*, from Greek *trímētrōs* having three measures (*tri-* three + *mētron* a measure).

Trinity *n.* Probably before 1200 *Trinite* the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit as constituting one God in Christian doctrine; borrowed from Old French *trinité*, from Latin *trīnitātem* (nominative *trīnitās*) Trinity, triad, from *trīnī* three at a time, threefold (earlier **trīsnō*), related to *trēs* (neuter *tria*) three; for suffix see -ITY. The general sense of any group of three is first recorded in 1542. — **Trinitarian** *adj.* 1656, formed from New Latin *trinitarius* of the Trinity (from Latin *trīnitās* Trinity) + English -*an*, probably by influence of French *trinitarien*.

trinket *n.* Before 1533, of uncertain origin.

trinomial *n.* 1674, formed from English *tri-* three + -*nomial*, patterned on *binomial*. — **adj.** 1704, from the noun.

trio *n.* 1724, borrowing of Italian *trio*, from *tri-* three, patterned on *duo* DUO. The sense of any group of three is first recorded in English in 1777.

trip *v.* About 1390 *trippen* tread or step lightly, skip, caper; borrowed from Old French *tripper* strike with the feet, from a Germanic source (compare Low German *trippen*, *trippeln*, Middle Dutch *trepelen*, and modern Dutch *trippelen* to trip, related to Middle Low German, Middle Dutch, and modern Dutch *trappen* to stamp, tread; see TRAP). The sense of strike with the foot causing to stumble is first recorded in Middle English about 1425. — **n.** Before 1420, act of tripping, stumble; from the verb. The sense of a short journey or voyage, a run (1691), originated as a nautical term, possibly developed from an act of tripping or moving lightly and quickly (1600).

tripartite *adj.* Probably before 1425, borrowed from Latin *tripartitus*, variant of *tripertitus* divided into three parts (*tri-* three + *partitus*, past participle of *partiri* to divide).

tripe *n.* Probably before 1300, borrowed from Old French *tripe* entrails, of uncertain origin (perhaps ultimately through Spanish *tripa* from Arabic *therb* suet). The sense of something worthless, foolish, or offensive (1892) derived from earlier use applied contemptuously to a person (1595).

triple *v.* 1375 *tripplen*, borrowed from Medieval Latin *tripulare* to triple, from Latin *tripulus* threefold, triple (*tri-* three + -*plus* -fold). — **n.** About 1425, borrowed from Latin *tripulus*, *n.* and *adj.* — **adj.** Probably before 1425, consisting of three things, threefold; borrowed from Latin *triplex* threefold.

triplet *n.* 1656, three successive lines of poetry; formed in English from TRIPLE, perhaps patterned on *doublet*; for suffix see -ET. The general meaning of any set or group of three is first recorded in 1733, and that of one of three children born at the same birth (usually *triplets*) in 1787.

triplicate *adj.* Probably before 1425, triple, threefold; borrowed from Latin *triplicatus*, past participle of *triplicare* to triple (*tri-* three + *plicare* to fold); for suffix see -ATE¹. — **n.** 1762–71, from the adjective. — **v.** 1623, borrowed from Latin *triplicatus*, past participle of *triplicare* to triple; for suffix see -ATE¹.

tripod *n.* 1603, borrowed from French *tripode*, and directly from Latin *tripūs* (genitive *tripodis*), from Greek *trípous* (genitive *trípodos*) a three-legged stool or table; literally, three-footed (*tri-* three + *poús*, genitive *podós* foot).

triptych *n.* 1731, hinged, three-leaved writing tablet used in ancient Greece and Rome; borrowed from Greek *tríptychos* three-layered (*tri-* three + *ptychós*, genitive of *ptýx* fold, layer).

trireme *n.* 1601, ancient ship with three rows of oars; borrowed from Latin *trirēmis* (*tri-* three + *rēmus* oar).

trisect *v.* 1695, formed in English from *tri-* three + Latin *sectus*, past participle of *secare* to cut; probably patterned on *bisect*.

trite *adj.* Before 1548, borrowed from Latin *tritius* worn, familiar, from past participle of *terere* to rub, wear down.

triturate *v.* 1755, borrowed from Late Latin *trītūrātus*, past participle of *trītūrāre* to thresh, from Latin *trītūra* a rubbing, from *trītus*, past participle of *terere* to rub, grind; for suffix see -ATE¹.

triumph *n.* About 1375 *triumphe* procession for a victorious general in ancient Rome; borrowed from Old French *triumphe*, *triumphe* achievement, conquest, rejoicing for success, and directly from Latin *triumphus* achievement, a success, procession for a victorious general or admiral; earlier, *trumpus*, probably through Etruscan from Greek *thrámbos* hymn to Dionysus. The sense of victory, conquest, is first recorded in Middle English about 1400. — **v.** Probably before 1450, rejoice in victory, exult; borrowed from Middle French *triumpher*, and directly from Latin *triumphāre* to achieve success, celebrate a triumph, from *triumphus* triumph. The sense of gain mastery, prevail, is first recorded in English in 1508. — **triumphal** *adj.* Probably before 1439, of a triumph; borrowed from Latin *triumphālis*, from *triumphus* triumph; for suffix see -AL¹. — **triumphant** *adj.* About 1410 *triumphaunt* conquering, victorious; borrowed from Middle French *triumphant*, *triumphant*, and directly from Latin *triumphantem* (nominative *triumphāns*) celebrating, exultant, present participle of *triumphāre* to triumph; for suffix see -ANT.

triumvir *n.* Probably before 1439 *tryumvir*, borrowed from Latin *triumvir* (usually *triumvirī*, plural), abstracted from the Old Latin phrase *trium virum*, genitive plural of *trēs virī* three men (*trēs* three + *virī*, plural of *vir* man). — **triumvirate** *n.* 1584, association of three joint rulers or powers; borrowed from Middle French *triumvirat*, and directly from Latin *triumviratus* office of a triumvir, from *triumvir* a triumvir; for suffix see -ATE³.

trivia *n. pl.* 1902, borrowing of Latin *trivia*, plural of *trivium* place where three roads meet, common place, gutter, a meaning reinforced by influence of English *trivial*.

trivial *adj.* Before 1425 *triviale* of the trivium; borrowed from Medieval Latin *trivialis*, from *trivium* first three of the seven liberal arts, in Latin from *trivium* place where three roads meet (*tri-* three + *via* road); for suffix see *-AL*¹. The meaning of ordinary (1589) and of not important, insignificant, in 1593 were borrowed from Latin *trivialis* commonplace, vulgar; originally, of or belonging to the crossroads, from *trivium*. —**triviality** *n.* 1598, trivial quality; later, trivial matter (1611); formed from English *trivial* + *-ity*.

trivium *n.* 1804, borrowed from Medieval Latin, grammar, rhetoric, and logic, the first three of the seven liberal arts in the Middle Ages; from Latin *trivium* place where three roads meet; see TRIVIAL.

troche *n.* 1597 *trochies*, plural, alteration of *trosc* (1392); borrowed from Latin *trochiscus*, from Greek *trochiskeos* small wheel or globe, lozenge, diminutive of *trochos* wheel, from *tréchein* to run; see TROCHEE.

trochee *n.* 1603 *trochie*, measure in poetry consisting of two syllables; borrowed from French *trochée* a trochee, from Latin *trochaus* a trochee, from Greek *trochaíos* a trochee; literally, running, as in *trochaíos poús* running foot, from *tróchos* a running, spinning, from *tréchein* to run. —**trochaic** *adj.* 1589, consisting of or characterized by trochees; borrowed from Middle French *trochaïque*, and directly from Latin *trochaeus*, from Greek *trochāikos*, from *trochaíos* trochee; for suffix see *-IC*.

troglydite *n.* 1555, borrowed from Middle French *troglydite*, and directly from Latin *trōglodyta*, from Greek *trōglodytēs* cave dweller; literally, one who creeps into holes (*trōglē* hole, from *trōgein* to gnaw + *dýein* go in, dive in).

troika *n.* 1842, borrowed from Russian *troika* three-horse team, any group of three, from the collective numeral *tróe* three. The sense of a group of three administrators or rulers, triumvirate, is first recorded in 1945.

troll¹ *v.* sing in a full, rolling voice. Probably before 1387 *trollen* to go about, stroll; later (about 1425) roll about, trundle; borrowed from Old French *troller* wander, search for game, from a Germanic source (compare Middle High German *trollen* to walk with short steps), from Proto-Germanic **truzlanan*. The sense of sing in a full, rolling voice (1575) and of fish with a moving line (1606) are extended technical applications of the generalized sense of roll, trundle. —**n.** 1570, fishing reel; from the verb. The meaning of a song sung in parts, round, is first recorded in 1820.

troll² *n.* ugly dwarf or giant. 1616, Scottish; borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *troll* giant, fiend, demon, Swedish and Norwegian *troll* hobgoblin, giant, Danish *trolld*), perhaps originally a creature that walks clumsily (from Proto-Germanic **truzlān*, from **truzlanan*); see TROLL¹.

trolley *n.* 1823, a cart, especially (1858) with wheels flanged for running on a track, probably from *troll*¹ in the sense of to roll. The pulley to convey current to a streetcar motor (1890) is followed by a streetcar drawing power by a trolley (1891).

trollop *n.* 1615, slovenly woman; probably derived from *troll*¹ roll about, wallow; for suffix compare *gallop*, *wallop*.

trombone *n.* 1724, borrowed from French *trombone*, and directly from Italian *trombone*, augmentative form of *tromba* trumpet, from a Germanic source (compare Old High German *trumba*, *trumpa* trumpet); see TRUMPET.

-tron a suffix meaning: 1 having to do with electrons, as in *magnetron* (1924) a device in which the flow of electrons is controlled by a magnetic field. 2 device for directing the movement of subatomic particles, as in *cyclotron*, *synchrotron*. 3 device or structure for controlling physical conditions, as in *phylotron* (1949) a structure where plants are studied under controlled conditions. Borrowed from Greek *-tron*, suffix used in names of means, devices, and tools, as in *átron* plow.

troop *n.* 1545, body of soldiers; borrowed from Middle French *troupe*, from Old French *trope* band of people, company, troop, probably from Frankish **throp* assembly, gathering of people; compare Old High German *thorf*, *thorph* village (modern German *Dorf*), Old Frisian and Old Saxon *thorp*, Old English *thorp*, *thorp*, Old Icelandic *thorp* village, and Gothic *thaurp* field, from Proto-Germanic **thurpa-*. —**v.** 1565, from the noun. —**trooper** *n.* 1640, soldier in the cavalry; formed from English *troop*, *n.* + *-er*¹. The meaning of mounted policeman (1858) was extended to state policeman by 1911.

trope *n.* 1533, figure of speech; borrowed from Latin *tropus* a figure of speech, from Greek *trópos* turn, direction, turn or figure of speech, related to *trópē* a turning, and *trépein* to turn.

trophy *n.* 1513, a spoil or prize of war; borrowed from Middle French *trophée*, from Latin *trophaeum*, *tropaeum* a sign of victory, monument, from Greek *trópaion* monument of an enemy's defeat, from neuter of the adjective *trópaíos* of defeat, from *trópē* a rout; originally, a turning (of the enemy). The figurative sense of any token or memorial of victory is first recorded in English in 1569.

tropic *n.* 1391, either of two circles in the celestial sphere; borrowed from Old French *tropique*, and directly from Late Latin *tropicus* of or pertaining to the solstice (as a noun, one of the tropics), from Latin *tropicus* pertaining to a turn, from Greek *trópikós* of or pertaining to a turn or change, or to the solstice (as a noun, the solstice), from *trópē* a turning (see TROPE); for suffix see *-IC*. The sense of either of the two parallels of latitude on the earth's surface (usually *the tropics*) is first recorded in English in 1527. —**tropical** *adj.* 1527, formed from English *tropic*, *n.* + *-al*¹.

tropism *n.* 1899, tendency of an animal or plant to turn or move in response to a stimulus; abstracted from GEOTROPISM.

troposphere *n.* 1914, lowest region of the atmosphere; borrowed from French *troposphère* (from Greek *trópos* a turn, change + *sphaíra* SPHERE).

trot *v.* Before 1387 *trotten*, borrowed from Old French *troter* trot, go, from a Germanic source (compare Old High German *trottōn* to tread and Middle High German *trotten* to run, related

to Old High German *tretan* to tread). —**n.** Before 1325 *trott*, borrowed from Old French *trot*, from *troter* to trot.

troth *n.* Probably about 1150 *trowthe*; developed from Old English *trēowth* faithfulness, truth (in which the stress shifted from the *e* to the *o*).

troubadour *n.* 1727–41, borrowing of French *troubadour*, from Old Provençal *trobador*, from *trobare* to find; earlier, invent a song, compose in verse, probably from Vulgar Latin **tropāre* compose, sing, especially in the form of tropes, from Latin *trōpus* a song; see **TROPE**.

trouble *v.* Probably before 1200 *trublen* disturb, agitate, injure; borrowed from Old French *trubler*, *troubler* (formed by metathesis of *u*, *ou* and *r*, found in Old French *turbler*, *tourble*), from Vulgar Latin **turbulāre*, alteration of Late Latin *turbidāre* to trouble, make turbid, from Latin *turbidus* TURBID. Vulgar Latin **turbulāre* was influenced by Latin *turbula* small group, diminutive of *turba* turmoil, crowd. —**n.** Probably about 1200 *trubuil* worry, distress; borrowed from Old French *truble*, *trouble*, from *trubler*, *troubler* to trouble. —**troublesome** *adj.* Before 1548, formed from English *trouble*, *n.* + *-some*¹. —**troubled** *adj.* Probably before 1425, borrowed from Middle French *troubleus*, *troubleux*, from *trouble* trouble, *n.*; for suffix see **-OUS**.

trough *n.* Before 1325 *trow*; later *trog*, *trough* (about 1390); developed from Old English (about 700) *trog*; cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *trog* trough, Middle Dutch *trog* (modern Dutch *troch*), Old High German *trog* (modern German *Trog*), and Old Icelandic *trog* (Danish *trug*, Norwegian *trau*, Swedish *tråg*), from Proto-Germanic **trugā-*.

The original sound represented by *gh* in *trough*, as in *cough*, *laugh*, etc., was a guttural *ch*, as in Scottish *loch* or German *ach*. As the pronunciation shifted to the sound of *f* in *off*, the spelling of many words also changed to reflect this process, as in *draft* for *draught*, *dwarf*, etc.; but a group of spellings remained fixed.

trounce *v.* 1551, to trouble, afflict, harass; later, to beat, thrash (1568); of uncertain origin. The original English spelling was *trounse*, but *trounce* was also used by 1568, perhaps through influence of Middle French *troncer* to cut, cut off a piece from, from *tronce* piece of timber, from Old French *tronc* TRUNK.

troupe *n.* 1825, borrowing of French *troupe*, from Middle French *troupe* company, TROOP. —**trouper** *n.* 1890, formed from English *troupe* + *-er*¹.

trousers *n. pl.* 1612, extended form (through apparently accidental intrusion of *r*) of earlier *trouzes* (1581); borrowed from Gaelic or late Middle Irish *triubhas* (pronounced *trē'vəs* or *trē'vəs*), of uncertain origin. As early as 1581 *trouzes* was taken as a plural (and may have been known much earlier, compare *trues*, 1306).

trousseau *n.* 1817; later borrowing of French *trousseau*, originally, a bundle, diminutive of Old French *trousse* bundle. Old French *trousse* was borrowed into Middle English in its original sense of bundle, by about 1200.

trout *n.* Before 1325 *trute*; in part developed from Old English *trūht* trout (about 1050), and in part borrowed from Old French *truite*, *troite*; both from Late Latin *tructa*, *trōcta*, perhaps from Greek *trōktēs* a kind of sea fish; literally, nibbler, from *trōgein* to nibble, gnaw.

trowel *n.* 1344, tool for spreading plaster or mortar; borrowed from Old French *troele*, *truele*, from Late Latin *truella* small ladle, dipper, diminutive of Latin *trua* a stirring spoon, ladle, skimmer. The small spade held in one hand and used in gardening is first recorded in 1796. —**v.** About 1599, from the noun.

troy *adj.* 1380–81 *troye*, probably from *Troyes*, a city in France (ancient *Tricasses*), former site of a fair at which this weight for gems and precious metals is said to have been used.

truant *n.* About 1300, beggar, vagabond; borrowed from Old French *truant* beggar, vagabond, rogue, from Gaulish **trouant-* (compare Breton **truan*, later *truant* vagabond, Middle Welsh *tru* miserable, Welsh *truan* miserable, as a noun meaning wretch, Old Irish *trōg* miserable; also compare Gaelic *truagh* miserable, *truaghan* wretch). The child who stays away from school is first recorded about 1449. —**adj.** Before 1550, that is a truant, or plays truant; from the noun.

truce *n.* Probably before 1200 *triws* a stopping of fighting, feuding, or quarreling, armistice; variant of *trewe*s, originally the plural of *trewe* faith, assurance of faith, covenant, treaty; developed from Old English *trēow* faith, treaty (from Proto-Germanic **treuwō*); related to *trēowe* faithful; see **TRUE**; and cognate with Old Frisian *triūwe* faith, loyalty, Old Saxon *treuwa*, Middle Dutch *trouwe* (modern Dutch *trouw*), Old High German *triūwa* (modern German *Treue*), Old Icelandic *trū* (Danish and Swedish *tro*, Norwegian *tro*, *tru*), and Gothic *triggwa* covenant.

Plural *trewes* gradually became a singular through application of the word to the agreement or promise of good faith pledged by parties after a dispute. —**trucial** *adj.* 1876, pertaining to or bound by a truce (used originally in reference to a maritime truce made in 1835 between the British government and certain sheikdoms in southeastern Arabia); formed from English *truce* + *-ial*.

truck¹ *n.* vehicle. 1611, small wheel, especially one on which carriages of a ship's guns were mounted; probably borrowed from Latin *trochus* iron hoop, from Greek *trochós* wheel, from *tréchein* to run. The cart for carrying heavy loads (1774) was extended to that of a motor vehicle for carrying such loads in 1930, as a shortened form of *motor truck* (1916). —**v.** 1809 (implied in *trucking*); from the noun. —**trucker** *n.* 1853, worker who moves loads using a cart; formed from English *truck* a cart + *-er*¹. The person who drives a truck (1955) comes from *truck driver* (probably before 1931).

truck² *v.* exchange, barter. Probably before 1200 *trukien*, borrowed from Old North French *troquer* to barter, exchange, from Medieval Latin *trocare* barter, of unknown origin. The sense of have dealings with, is first recorded in English in 1615. —**n.** 1533, barter, from the verb. The sense of dealings (as in *to have no truck with loan sharks*) is first recorded in English before

1625. The sense of vegetables raised for the market, market-garden produce (1784) is also found in **truck farm** or **garden** (1866)

truckle¹ *n.* small wheel or roller. 1397 *trokell*, borrowed from Anglo-French *trocle*, from Latin *trochlea* a small wheel, sheaf of a pulley, from Greek *trochileā* a pulley, from *trochós* wheel, from *trêchein* to run. —**truckle bed** low bed moving on small wheels or casters (1459).

truckle² *v.* give up or submit tamely, be servile. 1612, sleep in a truckle bed; later, to submit, give precedence (1667); abstracted from *truckle bed*, in allusion to its use by servants and inferiors.

truculent *adj.* About 1540, borrowed from Latin *truculentus* fierce, savage, from *trux* (genitive *trucis*) fierce, wild; for suffix see -ENT. —**truculence** *n.* 1727, fierceness, savageness; formed in English as a noun to *truculent*, or borrowed from French *truculence*, and directly from Latin *truculentia* savageness, ferocity, from *truculentus* truculent; for suffix see -ENCE.

trudge *v.* 1547, to walk wearily but persistently; of unknown origin. —**n.** 1748, person who trudges; 1835, act of trudging; from the verb.

true *adj.* Probably before 1200 *trewe*, *treowe* faithful, loyal, trustworthy; developed from Old English (about 725, in *Beowulf*) West Saxon *trēwe*, Mercian *trēowe* faithful, trustworthy; related to TRUCE.

Old English *trēwe*, *trēowe* (from Proto-Germanic **trēw-wjaz*) is cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *triuwi* faithful, trustworthy, Middle Dutch *ghetruwe* (modern Dutch *getrouw*), Old High German *gitriuwi* (modern German *treu*) faithful, Old Icelandic *trygg* trustworthy, safe (Danish *tryg*, Swedish and Norwegian *trygg* safe, secure), and Gothic *triggus* faithful. The sense of consistent with fact (as in *a true story*) is first recorded in Middle English probably before 1200, and that of agreeing with a standard, accurate (as in *true north*) about 1550. —**adv.** About 1303 *trew* faithfully; before 1325, truthfully, rightly, from the adjective. —**n.** Probably about 1390, faithful person; from the adjective; later, that which is true (1812). —**v.** 1647, to prove true; from the adjective; later, make true (1841). —**truism** *n.* 1708, formed from English *true*, *adj.* + *-ism*. —**truly** *adv.* About 1303 *trewely*; earlier *trouliche* (probably before 1200); developed from Old English (before 1000) *trēowlice* (*trēowe* faithful, TRUE + *-lice* -ly¹).

truffle *n.* 1591, borrowed from Middle French *trufle*, alteration of Old French *truffe*, from Old Provençal *trufa*, from Late Latin *tīfera*, pl., cognate of Latin *tuber* edible root.

trump¹ *n.* playing card of a suit ranking above others. 1529, alteration of *triumph* name of a card game. —**v.** 1598, from the noun. The sense of surpass, beat, is attested in 1586, and that of put in one's way, in 1553, probably influenced by *trump*² to deceive, cheat.

trump² *v.* **trump up** fabricate, devise unscrupulously. 1695, from *trump* deceive, cheat (1513); developed from Middle

English *trumpen*, borrowed from Old French *tromper* deceive, of uncertain origin.

trumpery *n.* 1456 *tromperie* deceit, trickery; also, nonsense, rubbish; borrowed from Middle French *tromperie*, from *tromper* to deceive, of uncertain origin; for suffix see -ERY. The spelling with *u* was influenced by confusion with *trump*² deceive. The sense of showy but worthless finery is first attested in 1610. —**adj.** 1576, trifling, worthless; from the noun.

trumpet *n.* Before 1393 *trompette*, borrowed from Old French *trompette* trumpet, diminutive (perhaps because of the shortening by bending over into curves) of *trompe* a musical wind instrument of a long tubelike form, from a Germanic source (compare Old High German *trumba*, *trumpa* and Old Icelandic *trumba*, both meaning trumpet); for suffix see -ET. The spelling *trumpet* is first recorded about 1447. —**v.** 1530, from the noun.

truncate *v.* 1486 (implied in *truncated*), borrowed from Latin *truncātus* cut off, past participle of *truncāre* to maim, cut off, from *truncus* mutilated, cut off; for suffix see -ATE¹. —**adj.** 1579 (implied in *truncately*), borrowed from Latin *truncātus*, past participle of *truncāre* cut off. —**truncation** *n.* Probably before 1425 *truncacioun*, borrowed from Late Latin *truncātiōnem* (nominative *truncātiō*) a cutting off or maiming, from *truncāre* to cut off; for suffix see -ATION.

truncheon *n.* Probably before 1300 *tronchon* shaft of a spear; also, a short stick, club, cudgel (probably about 1300); borrowed from Old North French *tronchon*, Old French *tronçon* a piece cut off, thick stick, stump, from Vulgar Latin **trunciōnem* (nominative **trunciō*), from Latin *truncus* stem, stock.

trundle *n.* 1564 (in *trundle bed* low bed on small wheels), possibly alteration of Middle English *trendle* wheel, suspended hoop (1324); developed from Old English *trendel* ring, disk (806); see TREND. —**v.** 1598, from the noun.

trunk *n.* 1440 *trunke* box, case; borrowed from Old French *tronc* alms box in a church; also, trunk of a tree, trunk of the human body, from Latin *truncus* trunk of a tree, trunk of a human body; originally *adj.*, mutilated, cut off. The meaning of a box or case is likely a matter of simple resemblance. The meaning of the main stem of a tree (1490) and that of the torso of a human body (1494) are both derived from Old French. The luggage compartment of a motor vehicle (1930) derives from the use of a trunk fixed to the rear of some models. The use referring to an elephant's snout (1565) is from the generalized sense of pipe or tube (1548, found in *trump* about 1440).

trunnion *n.* Before 1625, either of the two round projections of a cannon; borrowed from French *trognon* core of fruit, stump, tree trunk, from Middle French *troignon*, from Latin *truncus* TRUNK, but influenced by Old French *moignon*, with the same meaning, from Gallo-Romance **moniōnem*, from Gaulish **moni*- neck.

truss *v.* Probably before 1200 *trussen*, borrowed from Old French *trusser*, *trousser* to load, pack, fasten, of uncertain origin. —**n.** Probably before 1200, bundle, pack; borrowed from Old French *trousse*, from *trousser* to pack. The sense of a framework

for supporting a roof or bridge is first recorded in English in 1654.

trust *n.* Probably before 1200 *truste* confidence, reliance; borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *traust* help, confidence, Swedish *tröst*, Danish and Norwegian *tröst* consolation, related to Old Icelandic *tryggr* faithful, TRUE); cognate with Old Frisian *trāst* trust, Middle Dutch *troost*, modern Dutch *troost* consolation, Old High German *trōst*, modern German *Thost* consolation, and Gothic *trausti* agreement, covenant, from Proto-Germanic **traust-*. —**v.** Probably before 1200 *trusten*, borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *treysta* to trust, related to *traust*, *n.*). —**trustee** *n.* 1647, person who is trusted; formed from English *trust*, *v.* + *-ee*. The person responsible for the property or affairs of another is first recorded in 1653. —**trustworthy** *adj.* (1808, implied in *trustworthiness*) —**trusty** *adj.* Probably before 1200 *trusti* having trust, trusting; formed from Middle English *trust*, *adj.* + *-i* *-y*¹. The sense of trustworthy (as in *my trusty dog*) is found in Middle English before 1310. —**n.** 1573, trustworthy person; from the adjective.

truth *n.* 1137 *treuthe* quality of being true (as in *whispering tongues can poison truth*), faithfulness; developed from Old English (before 899), West Saxon *trēowth*, Mercian *trēowth* faithfulness, from *trīewe*, *trēowe* faithful, TRUE. The sense of something that is true (as in *tell us the truth*), is first recorded in Middle English about 1378. The sense of conformity with fact (as in *There is some truth in what you say*), is first recorded in 1570. Compare TROTH.

try *v.* Before 1325 *trien* examine judicially, sit in judgment of; borrowed from Anglo-French *trier*, from Old French *trier* to pick out, cull (also found in Old Provençal and Catalan *triar*) all suggesting derivation from Gallo-Romance **triāre*, of unknown origin. The sense of test, is first recorded in Middle English probably about 1380, and that of attempt to do, perform, etc., before 1333. —**n.** Before 1400, an attempt, endeavor; from the verb.

tryst *n.* 1375, borrowed from Old French *tristre*, *triste* appointed station in hunting, possibly from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *treysta* to TRUST).

tsetse fly or **tsetse** *n.* 1849 *tsetse*, borrowed from a Bantu language (compare Setswana *tsētsē*, Luyia *tsiisi* flies).

T-shirt *n.* 1920, formed from the letter *T*, in allusion to the shape of the shirt when spread out flat + *shirt*.

tsunami *n.* huge ocean wave, tidal wave. 1904, borrowing of Japanese *tsunami* (*tsu* harbor + *nami* wave).

tub *n.* 1384 *tobbe*, 1388 *tub*; borrowed from Middle Low German, Middle Dutch, or Middle Flemish *tubbe*, of uncertain origin. The sense of a bathtub is first recorded in English in 1594, and that of a washtub, in 1560. —**v.** 1610, bathe in a tub; from the noun. —**tubby** *adj.* 1806–07, sounding like a tub when struck; formed from English *tub*, *n.* + *-y*¹. The meaning of shaped like a tub, corpulent, is first recorded in 1835.

tuba *n.* 1852, borrowed from French *tuba*, from Latin *tuba* war trumpet, related to *tubus* TUBE.

tube *n.* 1611, borrowed from Latin *tubus* tube, pipe. —**tubular** *adj.* 1673, having the form of a tube or pipe; formed from Latin *tubulus* small tube (diminutive of *tubus* tube) + English *-ar*.

tuber *n.* 1668, borrowed from Latin *tūber* lump, bump, perhaps related to *tumēre* to swell. Compare TUMOR. —**tuberous** *adj.* 1650, covered with tubers, knobby; borrowed from French *tubéreux* (feminine *tubéreuse*) knobby, from Middle French *tuberoux*, from Latin *tūberōsus* full of lumps or tubers, from *tūber* tuber; for suffix see *-OUS*. A parallel form *tuberosa* knobby, is found in Middle English, probably before 1425, borrowed from Latin *tūberōsus*.

tubercle *n.* 1578, borrowed from Latin *tūberculum* small swelling, pimple, diminutive of *tūber* lump. —**tubercular** *adj.* 1799, characterized by tubercles, having tuberculosis (1898); borrowed from New Latin **tubercularis* of or pertaining to tubercles, from Latin *tūberculum* tubercle; for suffix see *-AR*.

tuberculosis *n.* 1860, New Latin, from Latin *tūberculum* TUBERCLE. —**tuberculous** *adj.* 1747, tubercular; borrowed from New Latin *tuberculosus* characterized by tubercles, from Latin *tūberculum* tubercle; for suffix see *-OUS*.

tuck *v.* 1440 *tukken* gather up in folds; earlier, to pull or gather up (about 1385), and to pluck, stretch (probably before 1300, and implied earlier in *tucker* one who dresses or finishes cloth, 1273); probably borrowed from Middle Low German or Middle Dutch *tucken* pull up, draw up, tug; cognate with Old High German *zuchen*, *zucken* to jerk, tug (modern German *zucken*), and Old English *tūcian* mistreat, torment, related to *togian* to pull, TOW¹. The sense of thrust into a snug place is first recorded in 1587. —**n.** About 1385 *tucke* a fold or pleat; from the verb.

tucker¹ *n.* piece of lace worn around the neck. 1688, earlier, one who tucks in loose edges (1506); developed from Middle English *tokker* one who dresses or finishes cloth (before 1376); *tukken* to TUCK + *-er* *-er*¹.

tucker² *v.* to tire, weary. 1833, of uncertain origin.

-tude a suffix forming abstract nouns from adjectives and participles, usually in words borrowed (often through French) from Latin with French or English *-tude* replacing Latin *-tūdō*, as in *altitude*, *fortitude*, *solitude*; occasionally in words of later formation, as in *decrepitude*, *exactitude*, *platitude*, from French. Borrowed from French *-tude*, from Latin *-tūdō* (genitive *-tūdinis*). An occasional formation is found in English, such as *torpitude*, formed from English *torpid* + *-tude*, perhaps by analogy with a form such as *turpitude*.

Tuesday *n.* Probably before 1200 *tisdae*; earlier *tywesdæi* (1122); developed from Old English (about 1050) *Tiwesdæg* (*Tiwe*s, genitive of *Tiū* Tiu + *dæg* DAY). *Tiū* is derived in form from Proto-Germanic **Tiwaz* god of the sky, but is a differentiation in sense specifically alluding to *Tiū* ancient Germanic god of war.

tuff *n.* 1569, rock of consolidated volcanic fragments; borrowed from Middle French *tuf*, from Italian *tufo* tufa (a porous rock), from Latin *tōfus*, probably.

tuft *n.* About 1387, a bunch of feathers, hair, grass, etc.; borrowed perhaps from Old French *touffe*, *toffe*, *tofe*, either from Late Latin *tufa* a kind of crest on a helmet, also found in Late Greek *toúpha*; or from a Germanic source (compare Old High German *zopf* and Old Icelandic *toppr* tuft, summit, TOP¹). The ending in *-t* is an innovation of English. —**v.** 1535, from the noun.

tug *v.* Probably before 1200 *toggen* pull playfully; later *tuggen* pull with force (about 1303); related to Old English *togian* to pull, drag; see TOW¹. —**n.** 1500–20, a hard pull; from the verb.

tuition *n.* About 1410 *tuicioun* protection, care, custody; borrowed from Anglo-French *tuycioun*, from Old French *tuicion* guardianship, from Latin *tuitiōnem* (nominative *tuitiō*) guard, protection, defense, from *tui-*, stem of *tuērī* to look after, protect, watch over; for suffix see -TION. The meaning of money paid for instruction (1828) is probably a shortening of *tuition money*, *tuition fees*, and derives from the act of teaching, instruction of a pupil (1582).

tulip *n.* 1578, borrowed from earlier Dutch *tulipa*, from French *tulipe* a tulip; earlier *tulipan*, from Turkish *tülbent* turban, gauze, muslin, tulle, from Persian *dulband* turban; so called from the fanciful resemblance of the plant's flower to a turban.

tulle *n.* About 1818, named after *Tulle*, a town in central France where the fabric was first manufactured.

tumble *v.* Probably before 1300 *tomblen*, *tumbelen* to roll over, fall suddenly; later (about 1325), to dance like an acrobat; perhaps a frequentative form of Old English (about 1000) *tumbian* dance about (see suffix -LE³); cognate with Old High German *tūmōn* turn round, reel, Middle High German *tūmeln*, modern German *taumeln* to turn, reel (all ultimately derived from a Low German source), and Old Icelandic *tumba* to tumble, of unknown origin. —**n.** 1634, disorder, confusion; from the verb. A fall or falling down is first recorded in 1716. —**tumble-down** *adj.* 1791, habitually falling down, said of a horse; 1818, dilapidated. —**tumbler** *n.* Before 1340, person who dances or tumbles, acrobat; formed from *tumbelen* dance, roll about + *-er*¹. The sense of a drinking cup or glass is first recorded in 1664; tumblers originally had rounded or pointed bottoms so that they could not be set down until emptied.

tumbrel or **tumbril** *n.* 1383 *tomrell*, 1440 *tumrel*, 1481 *tomberel*; borrowed from Old French *tumberel*, *tomberel* dump cart, from *tomber* (let) fall or tumble, possibly from a Gallo-Romance stem *tumb-*, *tomb-*; or from a Germanic source (compare Old High German *tūmōn* turn round, reel, and Old Icelandic *tumba* to TUMBLE).

tumescence *n.* 1859, borrowed from French *tumescence*, from Latin *tumēscētem* (nominative *tumēscēns*) swelling, present participle of *tumēscere* begin to swell, from *tumēre* to swell; for suffix see -ENCE, -ESCENCE. —**tumescēt** *adj.* swollen.

1882, formed in English as an adjective to *tumescence* on the model of Latin *tumēscēns*; for suffix see -ENT, -ESCENT.

tumor *n.* Probably before 1425 *tumour* an abnormal growth or swelling; borrowed from Latin *tumor* a swelling, condition of being swollen, from *tumēre* to swell; for suffix see -OR¹.

tumult *n.* About 1380 *tumolte* noise, uproar; borrowed from Old French *tumulte*, from Latin *tumultus* commotion, disturbance, related to *tumēre* to be excited, swell. —**tumultuous** *adj.* Before 1548, borrowed from Middle French *tumultueux*, from Latin *tumultuōsus* full of tumult, from *tumultus* (genitive *tumultūs*) commotion, disturbance; for suffix see -OUS.

tun *n.* Probably before 1200 *tunne*, large cask for liquids; also *tonne* (1340); developed from Old English (before 800) *tunne*; corresponding to Old Frisian and Old Saxon *tunna* tun, Middle Dutch *tonne*, *tunne* (modern Dutch *ton*), and Old High German *tunna* (modern German *Tonne*); and in Latin and Romance (Old French *tonne*, Provençal *tona*, Medieval Latin *tunna*, etc.) suggesting a borrowing, perhaps from a Celtic source. Compare TON and TUNNEL.

tuna *n.* 1881, borrowed from American Spanish *tuna* a large saltwater food fish, from Spanish *atún*, from Arabic *tun*, from Latin *thunnus* TUNNY. The Arabic word replaced (presumably during the occupation of southern Spain by the Arabs) an earlier Spanish form that must have existed as a descendant from Latin (compare Italian *tonno*, French *thon*, Provençal *ton*).

tundra *n.* 1841, borrowed from Russian *túndra*, from Lappish *tundar* elevated wasteland.

tune *n.* Before 1325 *tune* musical sound or tone, unexplained variant of TONE. The sense of a succession of musical tones, an air, melody, is first recorded before 1387. The sense (in *in* or *out of tune*) is first recorded about 1440. —**v.** About 1500, give forth a musical sound, sing; from the noun; also, put into correct musical pitch (1505). —**tuner** *n.* About 1580, musician or singer; formed from *tune*, *v.* + *-er*¹. A person who tunes a musical instrument is first recorded in 1801, and that of a device for varying the frequency received by a radio, in 1909.

tungsten *n.* 1770, borrowing of Swedish *tungsten* (*tung* heavy + *sten* stone).

tunic *n.* Before 1481 *tunyk*, borrowed from Middle French *tunique*, and directly from Latin *tunica*, probably from a Semitic source (compare Hebrew *kuttōneth* coat).

tunnel *n.* Probably before 1425 *tonel* funnel-shaped net for catching birds; borrowed from Middle French *tonnelle* net, or *tonel* cask, diminutive of Old French *tonne* tun, cask for liquids, possibly from the same source as Old English *tunne* TUN. The meaning of an underground passage is attested since 1765, about five years after the first modern tunnel was built (on the Grand Trunk Canal, England). The earlier term for a passage dug in the earth was *mine* (1303). —**v.** 1577, furnish with a net; from the noun. The meaning of excavate an underground passage is implied in *tunnelling* (1795).

tunny *n.* 1530, probably an alteration of Middle French *thon*,

from Old Provençal *ton*, and borrowed directly from Latin *thunnus*, *thynnus* = tuna, tunny, from Greek *thýnnos* a tuna, tunny, possibly in the literal sense of darter, from *thýnein* dart along. See also TUNA. The ending -y in English may have been influenced by the -a in tuna.

tupelo *n.* About 1730, apparently borrowed from Algonquian (Cree) *ito opilwa* swamp tree.

turban *n.* 1561 *tolipane*; later *torbant* (1588), and *turban* (1597); borrowed through Middle French *turbant* from Italian *turbante*, from Turkish *tülbent* gauze, muslin, tulle, from Persian *dulband* turban.

turbid *adj.* 1626, muddy, thick; borrowed from Latin *turbidus* muddy, full of confusion, from *turba* turmoil, crowd, probably borrowed from Greek *týrbē* turmoil.

turbine *n.* 1838, borrowing of French *turbine*, from Latin *turbō* (genitive *turbinis*) spinning top, eddy, whirlwind, related to *turba* turmoil, crowd; see TURBID.

turbo- a combining form meaning: 1 coupled to a turbine, as in *turbogenerator* = a generator coupled to a turbine (1902). 2 powered by or consisting of a turbine, as in *turbocar* = an automobile powered by a gas turbine (1956). Formed about 1900 from English *turb(ine)* + connective -o-, influenced by Latin *turbō* spinning top.

turbot *n.* About 1300 *turbut*, borrowed from Old French *turbut*, *tourbout*, from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Swedish *törnbut* turbot, from *törn* thorn + *but* flatfish; see HALIBUT); so called from its "thorns" or spines.

turbulent *adj.* Probably before 1425, unruly, violent; borrowed from Middle French *turbulent*, and directly from Latin *turbulentus* full of commotion, restless, from *turba* turmoil, crowd; see TURBID; for suffix see -ENT. —**turbulence** *n.* Before 1410, state of being turbulent; borrowed from Middle French *turbulence*, and directly from Latin *turbulentia* trouble, disgust, from *turbulentus* turbulent; for suffix see -ENCE.

tureen *n.* 1706, borrowed from French *terraine* earthen vessel, from Old French *terrīn*, *adj.*, earthen, from Gallo-Romance **terrīnus*, from Latin *terrēnus* of the earth. The spelling with *u* is probably a popular equivalent to *e* before *r* and is said to have arisen in cookbooks.

turf *n.* Old English (before 800) *turf*; cognate with Old Frisian, Old Saxon, Middle Dutch, and modern Dutch *turf* turf, Middle Low German *toff* (modern German *Torf* peat, turf), Old High German *zurba*, Old Icelandic *toff* (Swedish and Norwegian *torv*, Danish *torv*), from Proto-Germanic **turb-*.

turgid *adj.* 1620, borrowed from Latin *turgidus* swollen, inflated, from *turgere* to swell. The sense of bombastic, pompous, is first recorded in 1725.

turkey *n.* 1541 (in *turkey cock*) the guinea fowl, a domesticated fowl imported by the Portuguese from New Guinea and thence from Africa by way of *Turkey*. Later (in 1555) the word *turkey* was applied to the familiar large American bird because it was originally identified with or treated as a species of the

guinea fowl. It is also possible the turkey found domesticated by the Spanish in their invasion of Mexico in 1518, and found domesticated in Europe by 1530, is the bird reputed to have reached England in 1524.

turmeric *n.* 1538, alteration of Middle English *turmeryte* (probably before 1425); borrowed from Middle French *terre-mérite* saffron, from Medieval Latin *terra merita*, literally, worthy earth (Latin *terra* earth + past participle of *merēre* to be worth).

turmoil *n.* 1526, of uncertain origin; perhaps an alteration (influenced by TURN and MOIL) of Middle French *tremouille* mill hopper, in reference to its constant motion to and fro, from Latin *trimodia* vessel containing three modii (*tri-* three + *modius* Roman dry measure, related to *modus* measure).

turn *v.* Probably before 1200 *turnen*, in part developed from Old English (about 1000) *turnian* to turn; and in part borrowed from Old French *torner* to turn; both forms borrowed from Latin *tornāre* turn on a lathe, from *tornus* lathe, from Greek *tórnos* lathe, tool for drawing circles. —**n. Probably before 1200, borrowed from Old French *torn* circuit, circumference, turn, lathe, from *torner* to turn. The English noun was also influenced by the verb. —**turner** *n.* About 1400, one who fashions things on a lathe. —**turnpike** *n.* About 1420, spiked road barrier used for defense, and later to restrict access to a road; formed from Middle English *turnen* to turn + *pike*² sharp spike. The toll gate (before 1678) is followed by a road with toll gates (1748), earlier *turnpike road* (1745).**

turnip *n.* Before 1500 *turnepe*, perhaps formed from *turn* (implying its rounded shape) + Middle English *nepe* turnip; developed from Old English *nāp*, borrowed from Latin *nāpus* turnip.

turpentine *n.* About 1400 *turpentyne*; earlier *terebentyn* (1322); borrowed from Old French *terebentine*, from Latin *terebinthina* in *terebinthina resina* resin of the terebinth tree, a small European tree related to the sumac, from Greek *terebinthínē* in *rhētínē* *terebinthínē*, feminine of *terebinthinos* of the terebinth, from *terebinthos*, earlier *terminthos* terebinth tree.

turpitude *n.* 1490, shameful wickedness, baseness; borrowed from Middle French *turpitude*, from Latin *turpitūdō* (accusative *turpitūdinem*) baseness, from *turpis* vile; for suffix see -TUDE.

turquoise *n.* 1567, replacement (by influence of Middle French *turquoise*) of Middle English *turkeis* (before 1398); originally borrowed from Old French *turquoise*, feminine adj. Turkish, in *pierre turquoise* Turkish stone, from *Turc* Turk; so called because it was first found in Turkestan or the Turkish dominions. —**adj.** 1573, from the noun.

turret *n.* Probably about 1300 *turet* small tower; borrowed from Old French *tourret*, diminutive of *tour* tower, from Latin *turris*; for suffix see -ET.

turtle¹ *n.* aquatic reptile. 1657, borrowed as an alteration of French *tortue* turtle, tortoise; of uncertain origin (perhaps influenced by *tortus* twisted, because of the shape of the feet; or a word of English sailors, who altered the French *tortue* by

substituting the like-sounding, known word *turtle*² as indicated above).

turtle² n. turtledove. Old English (about 1000) *turtle*, *turtla*; borrowed from Latin *turtur* turtledove, a reduplicated form imitative of the call of the dove.

turtledove n. About 1300, formed from *turtle*² turtledove + *dove*.

tusk n. Probably about 1200, possibly an alteration of Old English (before 899) *tūx*, variant of *tūsc* tusk; cognate with Old Frisian *tusk* tooth, perhaps from Proto-Germanic **tunthskaz*, extended form of the root found in Gothic *tunthus* TOOTH.

tussle v. About 1470 *tussillen* to wrestle, scuffle; originally Scottish and Northern British English variant of *touselen* to TOUSLE. —**n.** 1629, from the verb.

tussock n. 1550, tuft of hair; of uncertain origin, but found as *tusk* with the same meaning in 1530; of unknown connection. The sense of tuft of grass, sedge, is first recorded in 1607.

tut interj. Before 1529, perhaps a later variation on *trut* (about 1330); or sometimes associated with the now archaic *tush* (about 1440).

tutelage n. 1605, office or function of a guardian; formed from Latin *tūtēla* a watching, protection (*tūt-*, variant past participle stem of *tueri* watch over) + English *-age*. The meaning of instruction, tuition, appeared in 1857.

tutulary adj. 1611, borrowed from Latin *tūtēlārius* guardian, from *tūtēla* protection, watching; for suffix see *-ARY*. —**n.** 1652, from the adjective.

tutor n. Before 1376 *tutour* guardian, private teacher; borrowed from Old French *tutour* guardian, private teacher, from Latin *tutor* guardian, watcher, from *tūt-*, variant past participle stem of *tueri* watch over; for suffix see *-OR*². —**v.** 1592, from the noun. —**tutorial adj.** 1742, formed from Latin *tūtōrius* of a tutor (from *tutor* tutor) + English *-al*¹. —**n.** 1923, from the adjective.

tutti-frutti n. 1834, borrowing of Italian *tutti frutti* all fruits (*tutti*, plural of *tutto* all; and *frutti*, plural of *frutto* fruit).

tutu n. 1910, borrowing of French *tutu*, an alteration of *cucu*, infantile reduplication of *cul* bottom, backside.

tuxedo n. 1889, named after *Tuxedo* Park, N.Y., site of a country club where it was first worn in 1886.

twaddle n. 1782, probably an alteration of *twattle* (1556, in *twittle-twattle*), with *twattle* possibly an alteration of *TATTLE*. —**v.** 1825, from the noun.

twain adj. Probably before 1200 *tweien*, developed from Old English (about 725) *twēgen* (masculine), TWO.

twang n. Before 1553, ringing sound produced when a tense string is plucked, of imitative origin. The sense of a nasal vocal sound, is first recorded in 1661. —**v.** 1542, of imitative origin like the noun.

tweak v. 1601, variant of *twick*, found in *twycken* (1440); developed from Old English (before 1000) *twiccian* to pluck; see *TWITCH*. —**n.** 1609, from the verb.

tweed n. 1847 (perhaps about 1831), a trade name, developing reputedly from a misreading (by James Locke, the London hatter) of *twel*, Scottish variant of *TWILL*, possibly influenced by the name of the river *Tweed* in Scotland. —**tweedy adj.** 1912, consisting of or relating to tweed, formed from English *tweed*, *n.* + *-y*¹. The sense of characteristic of the country or suburban set, is first recorded in 1912.

tweezers n.pl. 1654, extended form (probably on the pattern of *scissors*) of *tweezes*, plural of earlier *tweeze* case for tweezers (1622), shortened from *etweese*, considered as singular and plural of *etwee* a small case (1611); borrowed from French *étui* small case; originally, a keeping safe, from Old French *estui* to keep, shut up, imprison; of uncertain origin. —**tweezer v.** 1932, back formation from *tweezers* or *tweezer*, *n.*, *v.* —**tweezer v.** 1806, back formation from *tweezers*. —**n.** tweezers. 1904, back formation from *tweezers*.

twelve adj. About 1175 *twelve*, developed from Old English *twelf*; literally, two left (over ten), before 899; cognate with Old Frisian *twelef*, *twelif* twelve, Old Saxon *twelif*, Middle Dutch *twalef* (modern Dutch *twaal*), Old High German *zwelf* (modern German *zwölf*), Old Icelandic *tölf* (Swedish, Danish, and Norwegian *tolv*), and Gothic *twalif*; developed from a Germanic compound made up of the source of Old English *twēgen*, *twā* TWO, + the root *-lif-* of the verb *LEAVE*¹; see *ELEVEN*. —**twelfth adj.**, *n.* Before 1387 *twelfthe*; formed from *twelf* + *-the* *-th*²; replacing Old English *twelfta* (*twelf* twelve + *-ta* *-th*²; 878, in *twelftan* *niht*).

twenty adj. Old English (before 899) *twēntig* group of twenty (*twēgen* TWO + *-tig* group of ten, *-TY*¹); cognate with Old Frisian *twintich*, *twēintich*, Old Saxon *twēntig*, Dutch *twintig*, Old High German *zweinzug*. —**twentieth n.**, *adj.* Old English (before 900) *twēntigotha* (*twēntig* twenty + *-tha* *-th*²).

twerp n. 1925, of unknown origin.

twi- a prefix meaning two, in two ways, twice, double, of Old English origin but little used today. It is the stem of such words as *twice*, *twig*, *twill*, and *twin*, and the first component of *twilight*. Old English *twi-* (from Proto-Germanic **twi-*) is cognate with Old High German *zwi-* two, Old Icelandic *tvī-*. Related to TWO. Compare *BI-*, *DI-*.

twice adv. About 1250 *twies*; developed from Old English *twiga*, *twigea* twice (before 899; related to *twi-* two, *TWI-*) + *-es*, genitive singular ending used adverbially; see *-S*³. The Old English forms are cognate with Old Frisian *twīa* twice, Old Saxon *twīo*, and Middle Low German *twie*. The final *-s* was voiceless and so began to be spelled *-ce*, as in *ice*, *mice*, to show this pronunciation.

twiddle v. About 1540, to trifle, of unknown origin (sometimes said to combine the idea of *twist*, or *twirl* and *fiddle*). The meaning of cause to rotate is first recorded in 1676. —**n.** 1774, from the verb.

twig *n.* Old English (about 950) *twigge*, related to *twig* (plural *twigu*), from *twi-* two, *TWI-* (in the sense of “forked”); also found in obsolete *twisel* a fork or point of division, 931, Old English *twisla*). Old English *twig* is from Proto-Germanic **twizān*. Neither Old English *twigge* nor *twig* correspond exactly to the usual Continental forms having the sense of slender shoot, twig; compare Middle Low German *twich* twig, Middle Dutch *twijch* (modern Dutch *twijg*), and Old High German *zweig* (modern German *Zweig*).

twilight *n.* Before 1420, formed from *twi-* + *light*⁴ radiant energy; compare Low German *Tivelecht* twilight. The exact connotation of *twi-* is obscure but even though appearing twice in each day probably refers to half light (as *bi-* implies half in one sense of *bimonthly*, meaning each half of a month or twice a month). The figurative sense of the period just before or after full development is first recorded about 1600.

twill *n.* 1329 *twyll*, Scottish and Northern British English variant of Middle English *twile*; developed from Old English (about 700) *twilf* woven with double thread, twilled; borrowed from Latin *bilix* (with substitution of English *twi-* two for Latin *bi-*). Latin *bilix* (genitive *bilicis*) with a double thread is formed from *bi-* two + *licium* thread, which is of uncertain origin. —*v.* weave (cloth) in this way. 1808–18, from the noun.

twin *adj.* Old English (about 1000) *twinn* consisting of two, twofold, double, from **twi-* two, *TWI-*; probably ultimately from Proto-Germanic **twinjaz*, and cognate with Middle Dutch *twelinc* twin (modern Dutch *tweeteling*), Old High German *zwinal* born a twin, *zwining* twin (modern German *Zwilling*), and Old Icelandic *tvinnr*, *tvennr* double, in pairs. —*n.* Probably before 1300 *twyn* one of two children born at the same birth; earlier *itwinn* (probably before 1200); developed from Old English (before 900) *getwinn* double; related to *twinn*, *adj.* —*v.* Probably about 1395 *twinnen* give birth to twins, from *twin*, *adj.* or *n.*

twine *n.* Probably before 1200 *twinn*, developed from Old English (about 700) *twinn* a double thread, from *twi-* two, *TWI-*, and cognate with Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *twijn* twine, Middle High German *zwirn* (modern German *Zwirn*), and Old Icelandic *tvinni*, from Proto-Germanic **twizna-*. —*v.* Probably before 1200 *twinen*; from the noun.

twinge *v.* About 1250 *twengen* to pinch, tweak, twitch; developed from Old English (about 1000) *twengan* to pinch, of uncertain origin. The meaning of feel a sudden sharp pain is first recorded in 1640 from earlier noun sense. —*n.* 1548, act of pinching; from the verb. The meaning of sudden sharp pain is first recorded in 1608.

twinkle *v.* About 1350 *twynkelen* to sparkle, glitter, wink; developed from Old English *twincian* (before 899), frequentative form of *twincan* to wink, blink; cognate with Middle High German *zwinken* to wink (modern German *zwinkern*); for suffix see -LE³. —*n.* 1548, a winking of the eye; later, a sparkle, gleam (1663); from the verb. —**twinkling** *n.* Before 1300, the act of winking; later, a shining with wavering light (1398), and time taken to wink, as in the *twinkling of an eye* (1303).

twirl *v.* 1598, to spin, whirl; of uncertain origin (possibly a blend of *twist* and *whirl*, or an alteration of *tirl* to *twirl*, about 1500, or connected with Old English *thwirl* a stirrer). —*n.* 1598, from the verb.

twist *n.* 1350–51, a divided or branched object or part, especially the flat part of a hinge, in reference to what a door twists or turns on; developed from Old English *-twist*, as in *mæsttwist* mast rope, stay, from *twi-* two, *TWI-*. Old English *-twist* is cognate with Old Frisian and Middle Low German *twist* quarrel, Middle Low German, Middle Dutch, and modern Dutch *twist*, Middle High German *zwist* (modern German *Zwist*), and Old Icelandic *twistra* divide. The meaning of act or process of twisting is found in 1576, with associated senses derived mainly from the verb. —*v.* Probably before 1200 *tweasten* to divide, branch; later *twasten* to wring, wrench (about 1330), and *twisten* (1340); from the noun, developing out of Old English. The sense of combine, unite (1471) was extended to rotate, revolve, in 1789. —**twister** *n.* Probably about 1475, one that twists; formed from *twist*, *v.* + *-er*⁴. The whirling windstorm, tornado, is first recorded in 1897, but may be found in Middle English “twyster of trees” (probably about 1475).

twit *v.* 1573, from earlier *twite* (1530); shortened form of Middle English *atwiten*; developed from Old English *ætwtitan* to blame, reproach (*æt* AT + *wtitan* to blame); cognate with Old Frisian *wita* to punish, blame, Old Saxon *witan*, Old High German *wizan*, Old Icelandic *vita*, and Gothic *frauweitan* avenge, from Proto-Germanic **wtitanan*. —*n.* 1664, from earlier *twite* (1528); from the verb. The sense of a stupid person, fool, is first recorded in 1934.

twitch *v.* About 1175 *to-twic-chen* pull apart with a quick jerk; later *twicchen* (about 1300), related to Old English *twiccian* to pluck; cognate with Low German *twicken* to pinch, tweak, Dutch *twikken*, and Old High German *gizwickan* (modern German *zwicken*), from Proto-Germanic **twikjōnan*. The meaning of move with a quick jerk is first recorded in 1523. —*n.* 1523, from the verb.

twitter *v.* About 1380 *twiteren* utter a series of light sounds, chirp; of imitative origin; for suffix see -ER⁴. —*n.* 1678, state of agitation, flutter; from the verb (before 1616).

two *adj.* Probably before 1200 *two*, developed from Old English *twā* (about 725, in *Beowulf*), feminine and neuter form of *twēgen* two; cognate with Old Frisian *twēne* (feminine and neuter *twā*), Old Saxon *twēne* (feminine *twā*, neuter *twē*), Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *twee*, Old High German *zwēne* (feminine *zwo*, *zwa*, neuter *zwei*), modern German *zwei*, Old Icelandic *tvær* (feminine *tvær*, neuter *tvau*), and Gothic *twai* (feminine *twōs*, neuter *twa*), from Proto-Germanic **twai*.

The pronunciation (tū) developed by elimination of the sound represented by *w* in earlier (twū) which had developed from earlier Middle English (twō). —**twofold** *adj.*, *adv.* About 1175 *twafalde*; later *twofolde* (about 1394); alteration of Old English *twofeald* (about 890), *twyfeald* (before 899); formed from Old English *twi-* two, double + *-feald* -fold.

-ty¹ a suffix representing ten in forming the cardinal numbers that are multiples of ten, from *twenty* to *ninety*, as in *seventy* = *seven tens*. Developed from Old English *-tig*, cognate with Old High German *-zug* and modern German *-zig*; also found in Gothic *tigjus* and Old Icelandic *tígr*, independent words meaning tens or decades; see **TEN**.

-ty² a suffix forming abstract nouns from adjectives, meaning the fact, quality, or condition of being —, as in *safety* = *condition of being safe*. Middle English *-tie*, *-tee*, *-te*, from Old French *-té*, from Latin *-tatem* (*-tās*, genitive *-tātis*); see **-ITY**. In some words the suffix is not recognizable as such, as in *city*.

tycoon *n.* 1857, title given by foreigners to the shogun of Japan; borrowed from Japanese *taikun* great lord or prince, from Chinese *taí* great + *kiun* lord; influenced by the English suffixal ending **-OON**.

tyke *n.* About 1378, cur, mongrel; borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *tík* bitch; cognate with Middle Low German *tike* bitch). The meaning of a child (1902) though in playful reproach is recorded in 1894.

tympanum *n.* 1619, borrowed from Medieval Latin *tympanum*, from Latin *tympanum* drum, from Greek *týmpanon* a drum, panel of a door, from root of *týptein* to beat, strike. Compare **TIMPANI**. — **tympanic** *adj.* 1808, of or having to do with the eardrum; formed from English *tympanum* + **-ic**.

type *n.* About 1470, symbol, emblem; borrowed from Latin *typus* figure, image, form, kind, from Greek *týpos* dent, impression, mark, figure, original form, from the root of *týptein* to strike, beat. The meaning of the general form or character of some kind, class, or group (1843) evolved from the same sense in Latin and Greek. — **v.** 1596, (in theology) to foreshadow (as in *a time typed by the Sabbath day*); from the noun. The meaning of be a type of, symbolize, is first recorded in 1836. The modern sense of to write with a typewriter is found in 1888.

typhoid *adj.* 1800, formed from English *typhus* + **-oid**. (Originally applied to an infectious disease characterized by intestinal inflammation, now called typhoid fever, formerly thought to be a variety of typhus.) — **n.** 1861, shortened form of *typhoid fever* (1845).

typhoon *n.* 1555 *típhon* violent storm, hurricane; borrowed from Greek *týphōn*; later *touffon*; presumably borrowed from

Chinese (Cantonese) *taí fung* a great wind; influenced in form by Greek *týphōn* whirlwind, and by the English ending **-OON**. It is also probable that the identical meanings of Arabic, Persian, and Hindi *tūfān* (from Greek *týphōn*) influenced the adoption and formation of this word in English. The spelling *typhoon* is not recorded before 1819.

typhus *n.* 1785, New Latin, from Greek *týphos* stupor caused by fever; originally, smoke, from *týphein* to smoke, related to *typhlōs* blind.

typical *adj.* 1605 (implied in *typically*), symbolical, emblematic; borrowed from Medieval Latin *typicalis* symbolic, from Late Latin *typicus* of or pertaining to a type, from Greek *typikós*, from *týpos* impression, **TYPE**; for suffix see **-AL¹**. The sense of characteristic, is first recorded in English in 1850.

typify *v.* 1634, formed from Latin *typus* **TYPE** + English **-ify**, variant of **-fy**.

typography *n.* 1641, borrowed from French *typographie*, from Medieval Latin *typographia*, from Greek *týpos* **TYPE** + *-graphiā* writing, **-GRAPHY**. — **typographical** *adj.* 1593, formed probably by influence of French *typographique*, from Medieval Latin *typographicus* + English **-al¹**.

tyrannical *adj.* 1538, formed in English from Latin *tyrannicus* like a tyrant, despotic (from Greek *tyrannikós* of or pertaining to a tyrant, from *týrannos* **TYRANT**) + English **-al¹**. — **tyrannize** *v.* 1494, to rule as a tyrant; borrowed from Middle French *tyranniser*, from Old French *tyran* **TYRANT**; for suffix see **-IZE**. Perhaps formed in Middle French on the model of Late Latin *tyrannizāre* to act the tyrant. — **tyranny** *n.* About 1370 *tyrannie* cruel or unjust use of power; borrowed from Old French *tyrannie*, from Late Latin *tyrannia* tyranny, from Greek *tyrannīā*, from *týrannos* master, **TYRANT**; for suffix see **-Y³**.

tyrannosaurus *n.* 1905, in New Latin the genus name, from Greek *týrannos* tyrant + *saúros* lizard.

tyrant *n.* Probably before 1300 *tyraunt* absolute ruler; borrowed from Old French *tyrant*, alteration (by influence of the present participle suffix **-ant**) of earlier *tyran*, from Latin *tyrannus* lord, master, tyrant, from Greek *týrannos* lord, master, sovereign, tyrant.

tyro *n.* 1611, borrowed from Medieval Latin *tyro*, variant of Latin *tíro* young soldier, recruit, beginner.

U

ubiquity *n.* 1579, borrowed from Middle French *ubiquité*, also possibly from New Latin *ubiquitas* that is everywhere, from Latin *ubique* everywhere (*ubi* where + *-que*, an ending that can give universal meaning to the word it is attached to); for suffix see *-ITY*. —**ubiquitous** *adj.* 1837, formed from English *ubiquity* + *-ous*.

U-boat *n.* 1916, partial translation of German *U-Boot*, shortened form of *Unterseeboot* literally, undersea boat.

udder *n.* 1398 *udder*; developed from Old English (before 1000) *ūder* milk gland of a cow, goat, etc.; cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *ūder* udder, Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *ūder* (modern Dutch *uier*), Old High German *ūtar* (modern German *Euter*), and probably (by unexplained consonant change) Old Icelandic *jūgr* (Norwegian *jur*, Danish *yver*, Swedish *juver*).

The long vowel in Old English was shortened in Middle English, a process that occurred regularly in closed syllables as in *fodder* (Old English *fōdor*) and *ladder* (Old English *hlāder*).

UFO *n.* 1953, acronym formed from the initial letters of *u(nidentified) f(lying) o(bject)*.

ugly *adj.* Before 1325 *ugli* frightful or horrible in appearance; earlier (about 1250) *uglike*; borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *uggligr* dreadful, from *ugg* fear, perhaps related to *agg* strife, hate); for suffix see *-LY*². The meaning of very unpleasant to look at, unsightly, is first recorded about 1375 and that of morally offensive (as in *an ugly deed*) before 1325. —**ugliness** *n.* About 1390; formed from Middle English *ugli* + *-ness*.

ukase *n.* 1729, decree issued by a Russian emperor; borrowed from Russian *ukáz* edict, from *ukazát* to show, decree, from Old Slavic *ukazati* (prefix *u-* + *kazati* to show, order).

ukulele *n.* 1896, borrowed from Hawaiian *‘ukulele*; literally, leaping flea (*‘uku* louse, flea + *lele* to fly, jump, leap).

ulcer *n.* Before 1400, borrowed from Old French *ulcere*, and directly from Latin *ulcus* (genitive *ulceris*) ulcer. —**ulcerate** *v.* About 1425 *ulceraten* to form an ulcer; possibly in part a back formation from earlier *ulceration* (about 1400); and in part borrowed from Latin *ulcerātus*, past participle of *ulcerāre*, from *ulcus*; for suffix see *-ATE*¹. —**ulcerous** *adj.* Probably about

1425, like an ulcer; borrowed from Latin *ulcerōsus* full of ulcers, from *ulcus*; for suffix see *-OUS*.

-ule a suffix meaning small, little, as in *capsule*, *module*, *nodule*. Borrowed from French *-ule*, from Latin *-ulus* (feminine *-ula*), (neuter *-ulum*), diminutive suffix.

ulterior *adj.* 1646, borrowed from Latin *ulterior* more distant, further, comparative of **ulter*, **ulterus* beyond, *ULTRA*. The sense of beyond what is stated or evident, intentionally concealed (as in *ulterior motives*) is first recorded in English in 1735.

ultimate *adj.* 1654, borrowed from Medieval Latin *ultimatum* last possible, final, from Latin *ultimatum*, past participle of *ultimāre* be final, come to an end, from *ultimus* last, final, superlative of **ulter*, **ulterus* beyond, *ULTRA*; for suffix see *-ATE*¹. —**n.** 1681, from the adjective.

ultimatum *n.* 1731, New Latin, the final terms presented by one power to another in diplomacy, noun use of Medieval Latin *ultimatum* *ULTIMATE*. The general meaning of a final condition or stipulation, is first recorded in English in 1733.

ultra *adj.* 1817, borrowing of French *ultra*, especially as a shortening of *ultra-royaliste* extreme royalist, from Latin *ultrā*, adv. and prep., beyond, on the further side.

ultra- a prefix meaning: 1 beyond, as in *ultraviolet* = beyond the violet color (1840). 2 going beyond the limits of, as in *ultramundane* = going beyond the limits of the mundane (1656). 3 extremely, as in *ultramodern* = extremely modern (1843). Borrowed from Latin *ultrā*, from *ultrā*, adv. and prep., beyond; see *ULTRA*.

ultrasonic *adj.* 1923, having a frequency beyond the audible range; formed from English *ultra-* beyond + *sonic*. —**ultrasonics** *n.* 1924, ultrasonic waves; later, science that deals with ultrasonic phenomena (1940); formed from English *ultrasonic* + *-s*¹; see *-ICS*.

ululate *v.* 1623, probably a back formation from earlier *ululation*, and a borrowing from Latin *ululātus*, past participle of *ululāre* to howl or wail; for suffix see *-ATE*¹. —**ululation** *n.* 1599, a howl or wail, cry of lamentation; borrowed from Latin *ululātiōnem* (nominative *ululātiō*) a howling or wailing, from *ululāre* ululate; for suffix see *-ATION*.

umber *n.* About 1568 (implied in *umber-color*); borrowed from

Middle French *ombre* (also *terre d'ombre*) or from Italian *ombra* (also *terra di ombra*), the two words meaning either "shadow," from Latin *umbra* shadow, shade (see UMBRAGE); or "Umbria," from Latin *Umbra*, feminine of *Umbro* belonging to Umbria, region in central Italy, from which the coloring matter first came. —**adj.** 1802, from the noun.

umbilical *adj.* 1541, borrowed from Medieval Latin *umbilicalis* of the umbilicus or navel, from Latin *umbilicus* navel; for suffix see -AL¹. *Umbilical* replaced Middle English *umbilic*, *adj.* and *n.* (probably before 1425); borrowed from Latin *umbilicus* navel. —**umbilical cord** (1753)

umbra *n.* 1599, phantom, ghost; borrowing of Latin *umbra* shade, shadow. The astronomical meanings of a shadow of the earth or moon that completely hides the sun, is first recorded in 1679, and the dark center of a sunspot, in 1788.

umbrage *n.* 1426, a shadow; borrowed from Middle French *umbrage* shade, shadow, from Latin *umbraticum*, neuter of *umbraticus* of or pertaining to shade, from *umbra* shade, shadow. The meaning of shadowy appearance, semblance, is first recorded in 1604, and that of suspicion that one has been slighted, resentment, offense, in 1620; later, in to take umbrage at (1680).

umbrella *n.* 1610 *umbrello*, 1611 *umbrella*; borrowed from Italian *ombrello*, *ombrella*, from Late Latin *umbrella*, alteration (by influence of *umbra*) of Latin *umbella* sunshade, parasol, diminutive form of *umbra* shade, shadow. The form *umbrello* was used in English until the mid-1700's, and an earlier form *umbrel* is found in 1603, borrowed from Middle French *ombrel*, probably from Italian *ombrello*, *ombrella*.

umiak *n.* About 1743 *oomiak*, later *umyak* (1863); borrowed from Eskimo *umiaq* an open skin boat.

umpire *n.* About 1350 *noumpere*, borrowed from Old French *nonper* odd or not even, in reference to a third person (*non-* not + *per* equal, from Latin *pār*). Later in Middle English (by about 1440), the initial *n* was lost through misdivision of a *noumpere* as an *oumpere*. —**v.** 1611, act as an umpire (in 1592, *adjudge*, *appoint*); from the noun.

umpty *adj.* 1905, of an indefinite number; originally, dash, used in reading Morse code; influenced by association with numerals such as *twenty*, *thirty*; for suffix see -TY. —**umpteenth** *adj.* 1918, many; formed from English *umpty* + -teen. —**ump-teenth** *adj.*, *n.* (1918)

un-¹ a prefix meaning not when used with adjectives and adverbs, as in *unlucky*, *unpopular*, *unfortunately*; also when used with nouns, as in *uncooperation*, but many nouns in *un-*, such as *ungodliness*, *unsociability* may be considered nouns simply formed on adjectives in *un-* (as *ungodly*, *unsociable*). Old English *un-* is cognate with Gothic *un-*, Old High German *un-*, Old Icelandic *ū-*, *ō-*; also related to Latin *in-* and Greek *a-*, *an-*.

It is with *in-* that variants are often in dispute: as between *inescapable* and *unescapable*; *inelastic* and *unelastic*; *indigestible* and *undigestible*, though many times points are raised only in particular usages. The prefix has been freely used (except for words such as *big*, *long*, *ugly*, where direct synonyms exist, as in

small or *little* for *unbig*, and *pretty*, *handsome* for *unugly*) from Old English times. Middle English was apparently left with only a fraction of these terms (*unclear*, *unborn*, *unwounded*), but the native word stock began to build up again (*uncomely*, *untidy*, *undone*), also with Scandinavian and French words (*ungirth*, *unmeek*, *ungracious*) until we see the present-day list of unlimited coinages.

The use of *un-* before past participles was common in Old English and revived in Middle English to produce such words as *unspoiled*, *unbearded*, *unwanted*, *unwarranted*. When formed of a verb in *un-* (as *undone* from *un-*¹ + *done*, but also from the past participle of *undo*), *un-*¹ became confused with *un-*², as illustrated by *unlocked*, modeled on *unlock*, *v.*, which has provided three separate senses: 1) not now locked: *un-*¹ not + *locked* participial adjective; 2) not yet locked: *un-*¹ not + *locked* past participle; 3) no longer locked: *unlock*, *v.* (*un-*² + *lock*, *v.*) + -ed² past participle suffix. —**unassuming** *adj.* (1726) —**unawares** *adv.* (1535; for suffix see -s³) —**unbecoming** *adj.* (1598) —**uncalled-for** *adj.* (before 1610) —**uncanny** *adj.* (1596, mischievous; 1773, supernatural, weird) —**uncommon** *adj.* (1548, not held in common; 1611, unusual) —**undreamed-of** *adj.* (1636) —**unequaled** *adj.* (1622) —**uneven** *adj.* (before 900, Old English *unefen* unequal; about 1275 *unevene* not smooth) —**unfeeling** *adj.* (about 1000, Old English *unfelende* having no feeling; 1596, uncompassionate, unsympathetic) —**ungainly** *adj.* (1611) —**unheard-of** *adj.* (1592) —**uninhabited** *adj.* (1571, replacing earlier *unhabited*, 1490) —**unjust** *adj.* (1382, but also in *unjustified* about 1340) —**unkind** *adj.* (about 1250) —**unlike** *adj.* (probably about 1200; corresponding to Old English *ungelic*, *uniliche*, before 899) —**unprincipled** *adj.* (1634) —**unread** *adj.* (1456, not read; 1606, not instructed by reading) —**unruly** *adj.* (1400) —**unscathed** *adj.* (1425; earlier *unschait*, about 1375) —**unspeakable** *adj.* (before 1400) —**unstable** *adj.* (before 1200) —**untold** *adj.* (about 1000, Old English *unteald* uncounted) —**untoward** *adj.* (1526, perverse, stubborn; 1621, unfavorable) —**unwieldy** *adj.* (about 1386, weak; 1513 difficult to handle) —**unwise** *adj.* (Old English, about 830, *unwis*) —**unworthy** *adj.* (before 1240); *adv.* (1661)

un-² a prefix added to verbs and meaning to do the reverse or opposite, as in *uncover*, *unfasten*, *unhitch*, *unlearn*, or to remove, release, deprive, as in *undress*, *unearth*, *unpeel*. Old English *un-*, *on-*; alteration (perhaps influenced by *un-*¹) of Old English *and-*, *an-* against, opposite, toward. Old English *and-*, *an-* is cognate with Gothic *and-*, Old High German *ant-* (modern German *ent-*), and related to Latin *ante* before, Greek *anti* opposite.

In the 1500's and 1600's use of *un-* was greatly expanded to include numerous formations that are not generally found in current English, such as *uncompass*, *unhide*, *unflow*, *unsort*. These and later formations were built on the model of *unbend*, *unfasten*, *untie*, etc. —**uncover** *v.* (before 1325) —**undo** *v.* (Old English, before 899 *andōn*; about 930 *undōn*) —**unfold** *v.* (Old English, about 890 to spread out; before 1050 to disclose) —**unfurl** *v.* (1641) —**unhinge** *v.* (1612) —**unleash** *v.* (1671) —**unnerve** *v.* (1621) —**unsettle** *v.* (1591, unfasten; 1651,

disturb) —**untie** v. (Old English, about 1000 *untigan*)
—**unveil** v. (1599)

unanimous *adj.* Before 1619 (implied in *unanimously*); borrowed from Latin *ūnānimus* of one mind (*ūnus* ONE + *animus* mind); for suffix see -OUS. —**unanimity** n. 1436 *unanimitie*; later *unanimitie* (1579); borrowed from Middle French *unanimité*, from Latin *ūnānimitātem* (nominative *ūnānimitās*) state of being unanimous, from *ūnānimus* unanimous; for suffix see -ITY.

uncle n. About 1300, brother of one's father or mother; borrowed through Anglo-French *uncle*, Old French *oncle*, from Latin *avunculus* mother's brother; literally, little grandfather, endearing diminutive of *avus* grandfather.

Uncle Sam 1813, originally a humorous expansion of the initials U.S., abbreviation of *United States*.

The name arose during the War of 1812, apparently suggested by the common sight of military vehicles marked U.S. for the United States government. As a figure in a high hat decorated with stars and stripes, Uncle Sam began to appear in political cartoons about 1850; by 1870, due chiefly to the popularization of the figure by the cartoonist Thomas Nast, this personification superseded the earlier nickname *Brother Jonathan* (1776). The frequently cited story that the name *Uncle Sam* originally referred to Samuel Wilson, an army yard inspector of Troy, N.Y., is without confirmation.

Uncle Tom 1922, servile black man; from the name of the central character of Harriet Beecher Stowe's antislavery novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin* (1851–52), thought of as a humble, pious, long-suffering black slave.

unconscionable *adj.* 1565, formed from English *un-*¹ not + *conscionable* conscientious (1549). *Conscionable*, now rarely used, was formed from obsolete English (1541) *conscioned* having a conscience (substandard variant of *conscienced*, 1530) + *-able*.

unconscious *adj.* 1712, unaware, not marked by conscious thought; formed from English *un-*¹ not + *conscious*. The meaning of temporarily not in a conscious state, is first recorded in 1860. —n. Usually, **the unconscious**. Before 1884, from the adjective; loan translation of German *das Unbewusste*.

uncouth *adj.* Old English *uncūth* unknown, uncertain, unfamiliar (about 725, in *Beowulf*); formed from *un-*¹ not + *cūth* known, well-known, past participle of *cunnan* to know. The meaning of strange, crude, clumsy, is first recorded in 1513.

unction n. Before 1387 *uncion* action of anointing as a religious rite; borrowed from Latin *unctiōnem* (nominative *unctiō*) anointing, from *unct-*, stem of *ungere* to anoint; for suffix see -ION.

unctuous *adj.* Before 1387, borrowed from Old French *unctueus*, and directly from Medieval Latin *unctuosus*, from Latin *unctus* (genitive *unctūs*) act of anointing, from *unct-*, stem of *ungere* to anoint; for suffix see -OUS. The sense of blandly ingratiating, is first recorded in English in 1742.

under¹ *prep., adv.* below, beneath. Old English (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *under* under, Old Saxon *undar*, Middle Low German *under*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *onder*, Old High German *untar* (modern German *unter*), Old Icelandic *undir* (Danish, Norwegian, and Swedish *under*), and Gothic *undar*, from Proto-Germanic **under-*. —**adj.** Before 1325, lower; from the adverb.

under² *prep.* between, among. Old English (before 900); cognate with Old High German *untar* between, among (modern German *unter*). The preposition still functions in the sense of due to, because of, as in *under these circumstances*. See also UNDER⁻².

under⁻¹ a prefix meaning below, beneath, in various extended senses, paralleling the use of *under*¹: 1 as preposition, as in *underground* = beneath the ground; 2 as adverb, as in *underdeveloped* = not sufficiently developed; 3 as adjective, as in *underclothes* = (clothes) beneath the outer clothes. Old English *under* (like its cognates Old Saxon *undar*, Old High German *untar*, Old Icelandic *undir*, etc.) was used to form words clearly suggested by Latin forms with *sub-*; the frequency of such forms helped establish the prefix in ordinary use. —**underbrush** n. (1775) —**undercover** *adj.* 1854, sheltered; later, operating secretly, in 1920. —**undercut** v. 1382, to cut off; later, to cut away beneath (1598); and to render unstable, undermine (1955). —**underfoot** *adv.* (about 1200) —**underground** *adj.* 1610, beneath the surface of the ground; later, hidden or secret (1677). —n. 1590, region below the earth; later, secret organization (1939, but preceded by the clandestine system for sending escaped slaves to free territory, established about 1832, but not recorded before 1842). —**underhand** *adj.* 1592, secret; later, with the hand below the level of the shoulder (1850). —**adv. 1538, secretly; later, with the hand held below (1828); found in Old English before 900 as *under hand* in subjection, under rule. —**underlie** v. Before 899 Old English *underlicgan* be subject to; 1856, be the basis of. —**underpass** n. (1904) —**underpinning** n. 1489, act of supporting from beneath; later, supporting material or structure (1538). —**understudy** v. (1874); n. (1882) —**undertake** v. (probably about 1200, entrap, seize upon; later, take upon oneself, before 1325) —**underwrite** v. About 1430, write below something; later, to sign (1557); and to accept insurance risk (1622).**

under⁻² a prefix meaning between, among, in senses paralleling the use of *under*², represented in Old English by such verbs as *underniman* to receive, *undersēcan* to investigate, but surviving in modern English only in the verb UNDERSTAND.

undergo v. Probably about 1200 *unndergan* submit to; later *undergon* go under, deceive, investigate (about 1250), and *undergan* endure, suffer, go through (before 1325); developed from Old English (about 1000) *undergān* undermine (*under*⁻¹ *under-* + *gān* GO); cognate with Middle Dutch *ondergaen* (modern Dutch *ondergaan*), Old High German *untarkān* (modern German *untergehen*), and Danish and Swedish *undergå*.

underneath *adv., prep.* beneath. About 1375 *undernethe*, devel-

oped from Old English (before 899) *underneothan* (*under* UN-
DER¹ + *neothan* below; see BENEATH).

understand *v.* Old English (before 899) *understandan* comprehend, grasp the idea of; literally, stand in the midst of, stand between (*under*-² + *standan* STAND), corresponding to Old Frisian *understonda* and Middle Danish *understande*, both meaning to understand.

underworld *n.* 1608, the lower world, Hades; 1609, the earth as distinguished from heaven; formed from English *under*-¹ + *world*. The meaning of a lower, or the lowest, level of society, etc., is first recorded in 1890, and that of the world of criminals and organized crime, in 1900.

undies *n. pl.* 1906; formed from English *under*, as in *undergarment*, *underwear*, etc. + suffix *-ies*, plural of *-ie*.

undulate *v.* 1664, back formation from earlier English *undulation*, or formed from Late Latin *undula* wavelet (diminutive of Latin *unda* wave) + English *-ate*¹. —**adj.** 1658, borrowed from Latin *undulatus* having a wavy form, from *unda* wave; for suffix see *-ATE*¹. —**undulant** *adj.* 1830, formed from English *undulate* + *-ant*. —**undulation** *n.* 1646, formed from Late Latin *undula* wavelet + English *-ation*.

unguent *n.* Probably before 1425, borrowed from Latin *unguentum* ointment, from *ungere* to anoint or smear with unguents.

uni- a prefix meaning one, a single, the same, as in *unicellular* = *having one or a single cell*. Borrowed from Latin *ūni-*, combining form of *ūnus* ONE. —**unilateral** *adj.* (1802) —**unisexual** *n.*, *adj.* (condition of being) sexually indistinguishable or neutral (1968).

unicorn *n.* Probably before 1200 *unicorne*; borrowed from Old French *unicorne*, from Late Latin *ūnicornis*, noun use of Latin *ūnicornis*, *adj.*, having one horn (*ūni-* one + *cornū* horn).

uniform *adj.* 1540, of one form, character, or kind; borrowed from Middle French *uniforme*, from Latin *ūniformis* having one form (*ūni-* one + *fōrma* form). —**n.** 1748, distinctive clothes worn by members of a group, from the adjective. An earlier sense of one body or flock is found in 1623. —**uniformity** *n.* Probably before 1425 *uniformite* uniform condition or character; borrowed through Middle French *uniformité*, or directly from Latin *ūniformitatem* (nominative *ūniformitās*) uniform in condition or character, from *ūniformis* uniform; for suffix see *-ITY*.

unify *v.* 1502, borrowed from Middle French *unifier*, and perhaps directly from Late Latin *ūnificāre* make one, from a lost adjective **ūnificus* (Latin *ūni-* one + the root of *facere* to make); for suffix see *-FY*. —**unification** *n.* 1851, borrowed from French *unification*, and probably formed from English *unify* on the pattern of such pairs as *mollify*, *mollification*.

union *n.* 1410 *unioun* a uniting or being united; borrowed from Middle French *union*, from Late Latin *ūniōnem* (nominative *ūniō*) oneness, unity, a uniting, found in Latin in the meaning of a single pearl or onion, from *ūnus* ONE; for suffix

see *-ION*. The meaning of a group, as of people or states, united for some purpose, is first recorded in 1660. —**unionize** *v.* 1841, make into a union; formed from English *union* + *-ize*. The sense of bring under the rules of a labor union is first recorded in 1890.

unique *adj.* 1602, single or solitary; borrowing of French *unique*, and in early use in English borrowed directly from Latin *ūnicus* single, sole, from *ūnus* one; for suffix see English *-IC*, in relation to French *-que*. In the sense of having no like or equal, unparalleled, *unique* was reborrowed from the French in the late 1700's and regarded as a foreign word (usually italicized) down to the middle of the 1800's.

unison *n.* 1410 *unisoun* tone of the same pitch as another; borrowed from Middle French *unisson* unison, concord of sound, earlier *unison*, from Medieval Latin *unisonus* having one sound, sounding the same, from Late Latin *ūnisonus* in immediate sequence in the scale, monotonous (Latin *ūni-* one + *sonus* sound). The sense of harmonious agreement, accord, is first recorded in English in 1650.

unit *n.* 1570, single magnitude or number considered as the base of all numbers; formerly *unite* (about 1425), alteration of *unity*, on the pattern of *digit*. The meaning of a single thing as a separable member of a group (1642) was extended to a quantity adopted as a standard of measurement in 1738.

Unitarian *n.* 1687, formed from New Latin *unitarius* (from Latin *ūnitās* UNITY) + English *-an*.

unite *v.* Probably before 1425 *uniten* join together; borrowed from Latin *ūnitus*, past participle of *ūnīre* join together, make one, from *ūnus* one. —**united** *adj.* 1552, from the past participle of *unite*; for suffix see *-ED*². —**unity** *n.* Probably about 1300 *unite*, borrowed from Anglo-French and Old French *unité*, from Latin *ūnitatem* (nominative *ūnitās*) oneness, sameness, agreement, from *ūnus* one; for suffix see *-ITY*.

universal *adj.* About 1380, borrowed from Old French *universel*, *universal*, and directly from Latin *ūniversālis* of or belonging to all, from *ūniversus* all together, whole, entire, collective, general; for suffix see *-AL*¹. —**n.** 1553, universal proposition in logic; from the adjective. —**universality** *n.* About 1380 *universalite* the quality of being universal; borrowed from Middle French *universalité*, and directly from Late Latin *ūniversālītās* a being universal, from Latin *ūniversālis* universal; for suffix see *-ITY*.

universe *n.* 1589, the whole world, the cosmos; borrowed from Middle French *univers*, and directly from Latin *ūniversum* the whole world, noun use of neuter of *ūniversus*, *adj.*, whole, entire; originally, turned into one (*ūnus* one + *versus*, past participle of *vertere* to turn); found earlier in *in universe* universally, about 1385.

university *n.* About 1300 *universite* institution of higher learning; also, body of persons constituting a university; borrowed from Anglo-French and Old French *université*, from Medieval Latin *universitatem* (nominative *universitas*) university, from Late Latin *ūniversitatem* (nominative *ūniversitās*) corporation,

society, from Latin, aggregate, whole, from *ūniversus* whole, entire; for suffix see -ITY.

unkempt *adj.* 1579, (of language) unrefined or rude, from *unkemd* uncombed (before 1393; *un*¹ not + *kembed*, *kempt*, past participles of *kemben* to comb, developed from Old English *cemban*; cognate with Old Saxon *kembian* to comb, Old High German *kemben*, and Old Icelandic *kemba*, derived from the Proto-Germanic source of Old English *camb*, *comb* COMB).

unless *conj.*, *prep.* 1467 *unlesse*, earlier *onlesse* (1438); originally, *on lesse* (*than*) on a less condition (*than*), except (*on on* + *lesse* less). The negative connotation of the word, as well as the lack of stress on the first syllable, led to association with the prefix UN¹.

until *prep.* Probably about 1200 *untill*; formed in Middle English from *un-* as far as, up to (as in *unto*; from Scandinavian; compare Old Icelandic *und*) + *till* until, up to; see TILL¹. The two syllables of *until* are originally of the same meaning.

Old Icelandic *und* is cognate with Old English *oth* up to, as far as, until, Old Frisian, Old Saxon, and Gothic *und*. —**conj.** About 1300 *untill*, from the preposition.

unto *prep.* to. About 1250, formed from *un-* up to, as far as (see UNTIL) + *to* TO.

up *adv.* Developed from Old English *ūp*, *upp* upward (about 725, in *Beowulf*), and from Old English *uppe* on high, aloft (before 899); both cognate with Old Frisian *up* upward, up, Old Saxon *up*, Middle Low German *up*, *uppe*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *op*, Old High German *ūf*, Middle High German *uf*, *ouf* (modern German *auf*), Old Icelandic *upp* (Norwegian *opp*, Danish *op*, and Swedish *upp*), from Proto-Germanic **upp*. —**adj.** Probably before 1300, dwelling inland; from the adverb. The meaning of going up (as in *the up escalator*, 1869), and that of enthusiastic, optimistic (as in *to look on the up side of things*, 1942), derive from the sense of sparkling, excited (1815). —**prep.** 1509, to a higher place (as in *The cat ran up the tree*); later, along or through (as in *to walk up the street*, 1513); also, toward, in, into (as in *to walk up the country*, 1596); from the adverb, by taking the place of the adverb *up* + a preposition, as in *up against*, *up through*. —**n.** 1536, person or thing that is up (as in *the ups and downs of life*); from the adverb. —**v.** 1560–61, to drive up and catch (swans) for marking; from the adverb. The meaning of get up, arise, (as in *to suddenly up and march off*) is first recorded in 1643, and that of increase, (as in *to up the price of wheat*) in 1915. —**up-and-coming** *adj.* (1889) —**up-to-date** *adj.* (1888)

up- a prefix forming compound words with *up* (adverb, preposition, or adjective) in its various senses, as in *upcoming*, *upgrade*, *uphill*, *upriver*, *upcurrent*, *upstroke*. Old English *ūp-*, *upp-*, is identical in meaning with the Old English adverb and corresponds to similar prefixes in other Germanic languages, including Old Frisian *op-*, *up-*, Old Saxon, Middle Low German, and Low German *up-*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *op-*, Old High German and Middle High German *ūf* (modern German *auf-*), and Old Icelandic and Swedish *upp-*, Norwegian *opp-*, and Danish *op-*. —**upbringing** *n.* (1520) —**upcoming** *adj.* 1848, rising; later, forthcoming (1954).

—**update** *v.* (1948) —**upheaval** *n.* (1838) —**uphold** *v.* (probably before 1200) —**uprising** *n.* About 1250, resurrection; later, insurrection (1587). —**upset** *v.* About 1440, to set up, erect; later, overturn (1803). —**adj.** 1338, erected; later distressed (1805). —**n.** About 1425, an insurrection; later, an overturning of a vehicle or boat (1804); an unexpected defeat (1822). —**upside down** About 1490; earlier *upsadown* (1382), and *up so down* (before 1400). The sense of in complete disorder is found in the 1300's. —**upstairs** *adv.* (1596); *adj.* (1782); *n.* (1872) —**upstanding** *adj.* (Old English, about 1000); later, honest (1863). —**uptown** *adv.* (1802); *adj.* (1838) —**upward** *adv.* (before 900, Old English *upweard*); *adj.* (1603) —**upwards**, **upward** *adv.* Before 900, Old English *upweardes*, *upweard*. —**adj.** **upward** (1607, also found in Old English).

upbraid *v.* Probably about 1150 *upbreyden*; developed from Old English *ūpbregdan* (about 1000) bring forth as a ground for censure (*ūp-* up + *bregdan* move quickly, intertwine, BRAID). The meaning of find fault with, scold, is found about 1300.

upholster *v.* 1853, back formation from *upholsterer*. —**upholsterer** *n.* one who upholsters. 1613, formed from obsolete English *upholster*, *n.*, dealer in small goods + English *-er*¹. *Upholster*, *n.* developed from Middle English *upholdester* (1411, *uphold* + *-ster*), from *upholden* to repair, uphold (*up-* up + *holden* to HOLD¹). —**upholstery** *n.* 1649, formed from obsolete English *upholster*, *n.* + *-y*³.

upon *prep.* 1121 *uppon*, a compound of UP, *adv.* + ON, *prep.*, probably influenced by Scandinavian (compare Old Icelandic *upp á*, Middle Swedish *uppa*, *oppa*). The form *upon* is distinct from Old and early Middle English *uppon*, a variant of Old English *uppan* up (about 960).

upper *adj.* Probably before 1300, higher in position or location; originally comparative of UP (*up*, *adj.* + *-er*²), and replacing the earlier *over*, *adj.* —**n.** 1789, that part of a shoe or boot above the sole; from the adjective. Use in *on one's uppers in poor circumstances*, is first recorded in 1886, and *down on one's uppers*, in 1903. The stimulant drug is first recorded in 1968. —**upper crust** About 1460, top crust of a loaf of bread; 1836, the upper classes. —**upper hand** advantage (1481). —**uppermost** *adj.* (1481)

upish *adj.* 1678, lavish, formed from English *up*, *adj.* + *-ish*¹. The meaning of conceited or arrogant is first recorded in 1734.

uppity *adj.* 1880, probably formed by influence of *upish*, from English *up* + *-ty*, as in *haughty*.

upright *adj.* Probably before 1200 *upriht*; later *upright* erect, vertical (before 1325); developed from Old English *ūpriht* (about 725, in *Beowulf*), a compound of *ūp* UP + *riht* RIGHT; cognate with Old Frisian *upriucht*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *oprecht*, Old High German *ūfrehht* (modern German *aufrecht*), and Old Icelandic *upréttr* (Danish *opret*, Swedish *uprät*). The sense of morally good, honest, is first recorded in English in 1530. —**adv.** 1509, sincerely or justly; later, in an upright position (1590); from the adjective. —**n.** 1563, a vertical front; later, something standing erect, vertical stone, post, etc. (1742).

uproar *n.* 1526, used as a loan translation in passages where Luther's Bible has German *Aufbruch* an insurrection, outbreak of disorder, revolt, commotion; or borrowed from Middle Low German *uprör*. Also 1535, in the Coverdale Bible, translated from the Dutch Bible using Dutch *oproer*, probably translated from German *Aufbruch* (*auf* up + *bruch* a stirring, motion, related to *rühren* to stir, move, and corresponding to Middle Low German *roren*, Middle Dutch *roeren*).

The meaning of the noise of shouting, loud outcry, tumult, is first recorded in English in 1544, probably influenced by *roar*, as the spelling *uproar* is mistakenly associated with *roar*. —**uproarious** *adj.* 1819, formed from English *uproar* + *-ious*.

ur- a prefix meaning original, earliest, primitive; originally in words borrowed from German, and now used in English, as in *ur-performance* and *urtext*. Borrowed from German *ur-* primitive, original; cognate with Gothic *us-* as in *us-wakjan* to wake up, and *ūt* OUT.

uranium *n.* 1797, New Latin, formed from *Uranus*, the planet + *-ium*. The planet was named after *Uranus*, a god in Greek and Roman mythology who represented heaven; borrowed from Latin *ūranus*, from Greek *Ouranos*, from *ouranos* heaven, sky.

urban *adj.* 1619, of or relating to cities or towns; borrowed from Latin *urbānus* of or pertaining to a city or city life; as a noun, a city dweller, from *urbs* (genitive *urbis*) city; for suffix see *-AN*; see *URBANE*. —**urbanize** *v.* 1642, render urbane or civil; formed from English *urban* or *urbane* + *-ize*. —**urbanization** *n.* 1888, formed from English *urbanize* + *-ation*.

urbane *adj.* 1533, of or relating to cities or towns; borrowed from Middle French *urbain*, and directly from Latin *urbānus* URBAN.

The meaning of having the manners of townspeople, courteous, refined, is first recorded in 1623; Latin *urbānus* also had this sense of refined, polished, elegant. For the difference in form, and meaning between *urbane* and *urban*, compare *HUMAN* and *HUMAN*. —**urbanity** *n.* 1535, borrowed through Middle French *urbanité*, and directly from Latin *urbānitatem* (nominative *urbānitās*) urban life, refinement, from *urbānus* refined, polite, elegant; see *URBAN*, *URBANE*; for suffix see *-ITY*.

urchin *n.* 1528, hunchback; about 1530, pert or mischievous child; developed from Middle English *urchoun* hedgehog (before 1325), earlier *yrichon* (about 1300); borrowed from Old French *erichon*, *herichon* hedgehog, from Gallo-Romance **ērīciōnem* (nominative **ērīciō*), from Latin *ērīcius* hedgehog, from *ēr* (genitive *ēris*) hedgehog, dialectal variant of **hēr*.

Throughout the 1500's the word was applied to persons who suggested a hedgehog, as an ill-tempered or roguish girl (1534), a goblin or elf (1584), and a poorly or raggedly clothed youngster (1556).

-ure a suffix forming abstract nouns of action or the means or result of action, especially in words borrowed from Latin or French or formed in English from elements of Latin or French origin: 1 the act or fact of _____ing, as in *failure* = the act of

failing. 2 the condition of being _____ed, as in *pleasure* = the condition of being pleased. 3 the result of being _____ed, as in *exposure* = the result of being exposed. 4 something that _____s, as in *legislature* = something that legislates. 5 a thing that is _____ed, as in *disclosure* = a thing that is disclosed. 6 other special meanings, as in *procedure*, *sculpture*, *denture*. Borrowed through Old French *-ure*, and directly from Latin *-ūra*, especially in the longer forms *-tūra* and *-sūra*. Many words in *-ure* were adopted from Old French, as *figure*, *feature*, *closure*, etc.; while others, such as *investiture*, *scripture*, *censure*, and *juncture*, were borrowed directly from Latin. The suffix was also added to English stems of Latin origin, giving *composure*, *exposure*, *legislature*, etc., or to true Latin stems, yielding such words as *divestiture*.

urea *n.* 1806, borrowing of New Latin form of French *urée*, from Old French *urine* URINE.

ureter *n.* 1578, borrowing of New Latin form of Greek *ourēter* one of the urinary ducts of the kidneys, from *oureîn* to urinate; see URINE.

urethra *n.* 1634, borrowed from Late Latin *ūrēthra*, from Greek *ourēthrā* the passage for urine, from *oureîn* to urinate.

urge *v.* 1560, borrowed, by influence of English *urgent*, from Latin *urgere* to press, push, drive, compel. —**n. Before 1618, from the verb. —**urgency** *n.* 1540, probably formed in English as a noun to *urgent*, modeled on Late Latin *urgentia* urgent character, from Latin *urgētem* (nominative *urgēs*) urging, present participle of *urgere* to urge; for suffix see *-ENCY*. —**urgent** *adj.* 1456, borrowed from Middle French *urgent* pressing, impelling, from Latin *urgētem* (nominative *urgēs*) pressing, urging, present participle of *urgere* to urge; for suffix see *-ENT*.**

urine *n.* Probably before 1300, borrowed from Old French *urine*, and directly from Latin *ūrīna* urine; with the verb found only in Medieval Latin, the noun was probably formed after the related verb *ūrīnārī* plunge into water or as if from **ūrīnus* of water, from **ūrūm* water, urine. —**urinal** *n.* Probably before 1200, borrowed from Old French *urinal*, from the neuter of Late Latin *ūrīnālīs* of or pertaining to urine, from Latin *ūrīna* urine; for suffix see *-AL*². —**urinary** *adj.* of or relating to urine. 1578, borrowed from New Latin *urinarius* of or pertaining to urine, from Latin *ūrīna* urine; for suffix see *-ARY*. —**urate** *v.* 1599, probably a back formation from *urination*; for suffix see *-ATE*¹. —**urination** *n.* Probably before 1425 *urinacioun*, formed as if from Medieval Latin **urinationem*; for suffix see *-ATION*.

urn *n.* About 1385 *urne* vase used to preserve the ashes of the dead; borrowed from Latin *urna* a jar, vessel, probably from earlier **urc-nā*, related to *urceus* pitcher, from the same source as Greek *hýrchē* earthen vessel.

ursine *adj.* About 1550, borrowed from Latin *ursinus* of or resembling a bear, from *ursus* bear; for suffix see *-INE*¹.

us *pron.* Old English *ūs* (before 830), accusative and dative plural of *wē* we. Old English *ūs* is cognate with Old Frisian and

Old Saxon *ūs* us, and Old Icelandic *oss* (Norwegian and Swedish *oss*, Danish *os*); these forms have lost an *n*, which appears in Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *ons*, Old High German and modern German *uns*, and Gothic *uns*.

usable *adj.* Before 1382, borrowed from Old French *usable*, from *user* to USE; for suffix see -ABLE. It is also probable that the word was later independently re-formed in English in the 1800's.

usage *n.* Probably before 1300, established practice, custom, habit; borrowed from Anglo-French and Old French *usage* custom, habit, experience, from *us*, from Latin *usus* use, custom; see USE, *n.*; for suffix see -AGE.

use *v.* Probably before 1200 *usen* utilize or employ for a purpose; borrowed from Old French *user* use, employ, practice, from Vulgar Latin **ūsare* use, frequentative form from Latin *ūs-*, past participle stem of *ūtī* to use, in Old Latin *oeti* use, employ, exercise, perform. —*n.* Probably before 1200 *us* act of utilizing or employing a thing; borrowed from Anglo-French and Old French *us* (feminine *use*, 1368), from Latin *ūsus* (genitive *ūsūs*) use, custom, skill, habit, experience, from *ūs-*, past participle stem of *ūtī* to use. —**useful** *adj.* (1595) —**useless** *adj.* (1593)

usher *n.* About 1280 *usschere* doorkeeper; borrowed from Anglo-French *usser*, from Old French *ussier*, from Vulgar Latin **ūstiārius* doorkeeper, from Late Latin *ūstium*, variant of Latin *ostium* door, related to *os* mouth. —*v.* 1594, admit ceremoniously, introduce; 1596, act as an usher to, conduct or escort; from the noun.

usual *adj.* Before 1387 *usualle*, borrowed through Old French *usuel*, and directly from Late Latin *ūsūalis* ordinary, customary, from Latin *ūsus* (genitive *ūsūs*) custom, USE; for suffix see -AL¹. —**usually** *adv.* (1477)

usurer *n.* About 1300, borrowed from Anglo-French *usurer*, variant of Old French *usurier*, from Late Latin *ūsūrārius* moneylender, from Latin *ūsūrārius*, *adj.*, that pays interest, for use, from *ūsūra* use, interest, usury, from *ūsus* (genitive *ūsūs*), from the stem of *ūtī* to USE; for suffix see -ER¹. —**usurious** *adj.* 1610, formed from English *usury*, *n.* + -ous. —**usury** *n.* About 1303 *usery*, borrowed from Medieval Latin *usura*, alteration of Latin *ūsūra* usury, interest, use; see USURER; for suffix see -Y³.

usurp *v.* Before 1325 *usurpen*; borrowed from Old French *usurper*, from Latin *ūsūpāre* make use of, seize for use, take possession of (formed from **ūsū-rapōs*, from *ūsus* USE + *rapere* seize). —**usurpation** *n.* About 1385 *usurpacion* unwarranted claim, act of usurping; borrowed from Old French and Anglo-French *usurpacion*, from Latin *ūsūrpātiōnem* (nominative *ūsūrpātiō*) a using, an appropriation, from *ūsūpāre* use, usurp; for suffix see -ATION.

utensil *n.* About 1375, borrowed from Old French *utensile* implement, from Latin *ūtēnsilia* things for use, utensils, noun use of neuter plural of *ūtēnsilis* usable, that may be used or is fit for use, from *ūtī* to USE.

uterus *n.* Before 1398, borrowed from Latin *uterus* womb, belly. —**uterine** *adj.* Probably before 1425, having the same mother but a different father; borrowed through Old French *uterin* (feminine *uterine*), and directly from Late Latin *uterinus* born of the same mother, from Latin *uterus* uterus; for suffix see -INE¹. The meaning of having to do with the uterus is first recorded in English in 1615.

utilitarian *n.* 1781, formed from English *utility* + -arian, as in *Trinitarian*, etc. —**adj.** 1802, from the noun.

utility *n.* 1391 *utilite*, borrowed from Old French *utilité* usefulness, from Latin *utilitatem* (nominative *utilitās*) usefulness, serviceableness, profit, from *utilis* usable, from *ūtī* to USE; for suffix see -ITY.

utilize *v.* 1807, borrowed from French *utiliser*, from Italian *utilizzare*, from *utile* usable (also found in obsolete English *utile* useful, 1484), from Latin *utilis* usable, from *ūtī* to use; for suffix see -IZE. —**utilization** *n.* 1847, formed in English from *utilize* + -ation, perhaps by influence of French *utilisation*.

utmost *adj.* Old English (Anglian) *ūtmest* outermost (before 830); formed from *ūt* out + -*mest* -most, double superlative (compare *foremost*, *inmost*). The sense of being of the greatest or highest degree, is found in Middle English before 1325.

Utopia or **utopia** *n.* 1551, an imaginary island enjoying a perfect social, legal, and political system; coined by Thomas More, from Greek *ou* not + *tópos* place. The sense of any perfect place is first recorded in 1613.

Although *Utopia* means literally "no place," it is often believed to mean "good place," as though formed from Greek *eu-* good + *tópos* place. Modern coinages such as *dystopia* and *kakotopia* (where all is bad) as opposites of *utopia* reinforce this belief. —**Utopian** or **utopian** *adj.* 1551, borrowed from New Latin *Utopianus*, from *Utopia* Utopia; for suffix see -AN. The sense of having ideal conditions, is first recorded in English in 1613. —*n.* 1551, borrowed from New Latin *Utopianus*, *n.*, *adj.* The meaning of visionary idealist, is first recorded in English before 1873.

utter¹ *adj.* complete, total. Probably before 1200 *uttre* outward, exterior; developed from Old English (before 901) *ūtera*, *ūtera* outer, comparative adjective formed from *ūt* OUT, and corresponding to Old Frisian *ūtera*, *uttra*, Middle Low German *uter*, Middle Dutch *utere*, Old High German *ūzero* (modern German *ausser*), from Proto-Germanic **ūtizon*; for suffix see -ER². The meaning of going to the utmost point, complete, total, is found in Middle English before 1420. —**uttermost** *adj.* utmost. Probably before 1382 *uttermest* outermost, remotest, formed from *utter*¹, *adj.* + -most.

utter² *v.* speak, say, or pronounce. Probably before 1400 *ut-teren*; in part borrowed from Middle Low German *uteren* to turn out, show, speak, from *uter* outer, comparative adjective formed from *ūt* OUT; and in part an alteration (influenced by *utter*¹) of Middle English *outen* to disclose (probably about 1350); later, to utter words, speak (about 1412); developed

from Old English *ūtian* to put out, from *ūt* OUT. —**utterance** *n.* Probably before 1400 *utterans* words, speech, from *utteren* to speak, utter; for suffix see -ANCE.

uvula *n.* 1392, borrowed from Late Latin *ūvula*, from Latin *ūvola* small bunch of grapelike fruit, diminutive of *ūva* grape.

—**uvular** *adj.* 1843, formed in English from *uvula* + -ar, as if from New Latin *uvularis*, from Late Latin *ūvula*.

uxorious *adj.* 1598, borrowed from Latin *uxōrius* of or pertaining to a wife, from *uxor* (genitive *uxōris*) wife; for suffix see -OUS.

V

vacant *adj.* About 1300 *vacant* not held or occupied, empty; borrowed from Old French *vacant*, from Latin *vacantem* (nominative *vacāns*) empty, vacant, present participle of *vacāre* be empty, free, or unoccupied; for suffix see -ANT. —**vacancy** *n.* About 1580, *vacancy*; formed from English *vacant* + -cy. The state of being vacant is first recorded in 1607, and that of vacant office or post in 1693.

vacate *v.* 1643, borrowed from Latin *vacātum*, past participle of *vacāre* be empty, free; for suffix see -ATE¹. —**vacation** *n.* About 1395 *vacacioun* rest and freedom from any activity borrowed through Old French *vacation*, and directly from Latin *vacātiōnem* (nominative *vacātiō*) leisure, from *vacāre* be empty, free, or at leisure; for suffix see -ATION. —**v.** 1896, take a vacation; from the noun.

vaccine *n.* 1846, cowpox serum used in vaccinating against smallpox, developed from earlier *vaccine*, *adj.*, relating to cowpox (1799); borrowed from Latin *vaccīnus* of or from cows (as in New Latin *variola vaccinae* cowpox), from *vacca* cow; for suffix see -INE². —**vaccinate** *v.* 1803, formed from English *vaccine* + -ate¹, or possibly a back formation of *vaccination*. —**vaccination** *n.* 1800, act or practice of vaccinating; formed from English *vaccine* + -ation.

vacillate *v.* 1597, to sway unsteadily; probably a back formation from *vacillation*, perhaps influenced by Middle French *vaciller*, from Latin *vacillāre* to sway; for suffix see -ATE¹. The meaning of waver, hesitate is first recorded in 1623, from the sense in *vacillation* (about 1400). —**vacillation** *n.* About 1400, a wavering, hesitation, uncertainty; borrowed from Latin *vacillātiōnem* (nominative *vacillātiō*) a reeling, wavering, from *vacillāre* sway to and from; for suffix see -ATION.

vacuity *n.* 1392 *vacuite* empty space; later, emptiness (1546); borrowed from Middle French *vacuité*, or directly from Latin *vacuitās* empty space, vacancy, freedom, from *vacuus* empty; see VACUUM; for suffix see -ITY. The meaning of emptiness of mind, is first recorded in English in 1594.

vacuole *n.* 1853, borrowed from French *vacuole*, formed from

Latin *vacuus* empty; see VACUUM + French -ole, diminutive suffix, from Latin -olus.

vacuous *adj.* 1648 (implied in *vacuousness*), empty of matter; borrowed from Latin *vacuus* empty, void, free; see VACUUM; for suffix see -OUS. The meaning of showing no thought or intelligence is first found in 1848.

vacuum *n.* 1550, borrowing of from Latin *vacuum* an empty space, a void, noun use of neuter of *vacuus* empty, related to *vacāre* be empty. The meaning of an empty space without air is first recorded in 1652.

vagabond *adj.* 1426 *vagabonde*, borrowed from Middle French *vagabonde*, from Late Latin *vagābundus* wandering, strolling about, from Latin *vagārī* wander. —**n.** Probably before 1425 *vagabunde*, from the adjective. Middle English form *vacabunde* (1402) was borrowed from a variant form of Middle French *vagabonde* and became obsolete in English in the late 1500's.

vagary *n.* 1573–80, odd fancy, extravagant notion; borrowed probably as a noun use of Latin *vagārī* to wander, from *vagus* roving, wandering, rambling.

vagina *n.* 1682, New Latin, from Latin *vāgīna* sheath, scabbard. —**vaginal** *adj.* 1726, of, resembling, or serving as a sheath; formed from English *vagina* + -al¹. The sense of having to do with, or affecting the vagina is first recorded in 1825.

vagrant *n.* 1444 *vagraunt*, perhaps alteration (by influence of Latin *vagārī* wander) of Anglo-French *wacrant*, present participle of Old French *wacer*, *walcrer* to walk or wander, borrowed from a Germanic source (compare Old Icelandic *valka* wander). Middle English *vagraunt* may have also been influenced in form by Middle French *vagant* wandering, present participle of *vaguer* wander, from Latin *vagārī* see VAGARY. —**adj.** 1461, from the same source as the noun. —**vagrancy** *n.* 1642, formed from English *vagrant*, *adj.* + -cy.

vague *adj.* 1548, not definitely or precisely expressed; borrowed from Middle French *vague*, from Latin *vagus* wandering, rambling, vacillating, vague.

vain *adj.* Probably before 1200 (implied in *veine gloire*), but not found again until about 1300 in the phrase *in veyn* uselessly, ineffectually; borrowed from Old French *vein*, *vain*, from Latin *vānus* idle, empty.

The sense of having too much pride, conceited (1692) is implied in *veine gloire*. — **vainglory** *n.* Probably before 1200 *veine gloire* borrowed from Old French *vaine gloire* and Medieval Latin *vana gloria*, literally, vain glory. — **vainglorious** *adj.* About 1430 *vayneglorious*, formed from Middle English *vaynglorie* vainglory + *-ous*, or borrowed from Old French *vaneglorios* and Medieval Latin *vaniglorius*.

valance *n.* 1463 *valaunce*, about 1475 *valance* of uncertain origin; borrowed from an Anglo-French **valance*, from *valer* go down, variant of Old French *avaler* or possibly borrowed from the plural of Old French *avalant*, from present participle of *avaler* go down.

vale *n.* Before 1325 *wale*; later *vale* (about 1400); borrowed from Old French *val* valley, from Latin *vallem*, with nominative *vallis*, *vallēs* valley.

valediction *n.* 1614, formed as if from Latin **valedictiōnem*, from Latin *valedicere* bid farewell (*valē*, imperative of *valēre* be well + *dicere* to say); for suffix see *-TION*. — **valedictorian** *n.* 1759, formed from *valedictory*, *adj.* + *-an*. — **valedictory** *adj.* 1651, formed in English from Latin *valedictum*, past participle of *valedicere* bid farewell + English *-ory*. — **n.** 1779, from the adjective.

valence *n.* 1884, combining capacity of an atom measured by a unit of hydrogen (in 1869, *valency*); borrowed from Latin *valentia* strength, capacity, from *valentem* (nominative *valēns*), present participle of *valēre* be strong; for suffix see *-ENCE*.

valentine *n.* Before 1450 *Volontyn* sweetheart chosen on Saint Valentine's Day; later *valentyne* (about 1485); from Saint *Valentine*, from Late Latin *Valentīnus* the name of two early Italian saints. The sense of a letter or card sent to a sweetheart on Saint Valentine's Day is first recorded in 1824. — **Valentine's Day**, about 1380 *Volantynys day*.

valet *n.* Before 1400 *valette*, borrowed from Old French *valet*, variant of *vaslet* man's servant; originally, squire or young man, from Gallo-Romance **vassellittus*, *vassallittus* young nobleman, squire, page, diminutive of Medieval Latin *vassallus*, from *vassus* servant, *VASSAL*; for suffix see *-ET*. — **v.** 1840, from the noun.

valiant *adj.* About 1303 *vailaunt* later *valiant* (before 1338); borrowed from Anglo-French and Old French *vaillant*, *valiant* stalwart, brave, from present participle of *valoir* be worthy; originally, be strong, from Latin *valēre* be strong, will, or worth; for suffix see *-ANT*.

valid *adj.* 1571, having force in law, legally binding; borrowed from Middle French *valide*, from Latin *validus* effective, strong, from *valēre* be strong. The meaning of supported by facts or authority, sound, true, is first recorded in English before 1648. — **validate** *v.* Before 1648, borrowed from Late Latin *validatus*, past participle of *validare* make strong, make valid, from Latin *validus* strong, valid; for suffix see *-ATE*¹. — **validity** *n.*

About 1550, legal soundness or force; borrowed from Middle French *validité*, or directly from Late Latin *validitatem* (nominative *validitās*) bodily strength, strength, from Latin *validus* strong, valid; for suffix see *-ITY*.

valise *n.* 1615, borrowed from French *valise*, from Italian *valigia* of uncertain origin.

valley *n.* Probably before 1300 *valey*, borrowed from Old French *valee* a valley, earlier *vallée*, from Vulgar Latin **vallāta*, from Latin *vallis*, *vallēs* valley.

valor *n.* Probably before 1300 *valour* value or worth borrowed from Old French *valour* strength, value, valor, from Late Latin *valōrem* (nominative *valor*) value, worth, from Latin *valēre* be worth, be strong. The meaning of courage or bravery (1581) was borrowed from Italian *valore*, from Late Latin *valōrem* worth. — **valorous** *adj.* 1475 *vallorous*, borrowed from Middle French *valeureux* (*valeur* valor, Old French *valour* + Middle French *-eux* *-ous*).

value *n.* About 1303 *valeu* later *value* (before 1376); borrowed from Old French *value* worth, value, from feminine past participle of *valoir* be worth, from Latin *valēre* be strong, be well, be worth. — **v.** Probably before 1400 *valuen* estimate the value of; from the noun. The sense of think highly of, is found in Middle English in 1439. — **valuable** *adj.* Probably before 1430, formed from Middle English *valuen* to value + *-able*. — **valuation** *n.* 1529, borrowed from Middle French *valuation*, from *valuer* to value, from Old French *value* value, *n.*; for suffix see *-ATION*. — **value judgment** (1892, loan translation of German *Werturteil*) — **valueless** *adj.* 1595, formed from English *value*, *n.* + *-less*.

valve *n.* Before 1387, one of the halves of a folding door, leaf of a door borrowed from Latin *valva* (usually *valvae*, pl., a folding door), related to *volvere* to roll. The senses of a membranous fold regulating flow of body fluids (1615) and a mechanical device that works like a valve (1659) were extended in zoology to halves of a hinged shell in 1661.

valvular *adj.* 1797, having the form or function of a valve; formed in English from *valvula* a small valve (1615; borrowing of New Latin *valvula*, diminutive of Latin *valva* *VALVE*) + *-ar*.

vamoose *v.* 1834 *vamos*; later *vamoose* (1868); borrowed from Spanish *vamos* let us go, from Latin *vādāmus*, from *vādere* to go.

vamp¹ *n.* upper front part of a shoe or boot. Probably before 1200 *vaumpe* the part of hose or stockings which covers the foot borrowed from Old French *avanpié* (*avant* before + Old French *pié* foot). The sense of the upper front part of a shoe or boot is first recorded in English in 1654. — **v.** 1599 (implied in *vamping*), furnish with a vamp; from the noun. The sense of patch up, restore, repair (1632) compares with *REVAMP* in this sense.

vamp² *n.* woman who attracts and exploits men. Before 1911, shortened form of *VAMPIRE*.

vampire *n.* 1734, corpse supposed to come to life at night and seek nourishment by sucking the blood of sleeping persons;

borrowed from French *vampire* and German *Vampir*, from an old West or South Slavic form *vŭmpir*, from Old Slavic *opirŭ* compare Serbian *vampir*. The sense of a person who preys ruthlessly upon others, is first recorded in 1741. —**vampire bat** (1790; earlier *vampire*, 1774)

van¹ *n.* front part of an army or other advancing group. 1610, shortened form of VANGUARD.

van² *n.* covered truck or wagon. 1829, shortened form of CARAVAN.

vanadium *n.* 1835, New Latin, from Old Icelandic *Vanadís*, a name of the Scandinavian goddess Freya of love and fertility + New Latin *-ium*. The element was originally discovered in 1801 in a lead ore from Mexico and called *erythronium* because its salts become red when heated.

vandal *n.* 1663, person who willfully destroys beautiful or valuable things; earlier (1555) *Vandal* member of a Germanic tribe that invaded western Europe in the 300's and 400's, sacking Rome in the year 455; borrowed from Latin *Vandalus* (plural *Vandali*), a name of Germanic origin, and corresponding to *Wandale* (1387). —**vandalism** *n.* 1798, borrowed from French *vandalisme*, from *vandale* *vandal*, from Latin *Vandalus* *Vandal*; for suffix see *-ism*. —**vandalize** *v.* 1800, formed in English from *vandal* + *-ize*.

Vandyke or **vandyke** *n.* 1755, collar with a deeply cut edge; named after Anton *Van Dyck*; so called from a style of dress frequently depicted in his portraits. The short pointed beard, as on the subjects his paintings, is first recorded in English in 1894.

vane *n.* About 1395 *vane* device that shows wind direction variant in southern Middle English of *fane* developed from Old English (before 1000) *fana* banner, flag; cognate with Old Frisian *fana* piece of cloth, Old Saxon and Old High German *fano* (modern German *Fahne* flag), Gothic *fana* (from Proto-Germanic **fanōn*).

vanguard *n.* Probably about 1450 *vaunt garde* later *vandgard* (1487) and *vanguard* (1503); borrowed from Middle French *avant-garde* advance guard (*avant* forward + *garde* guard).

vanilla *n.* 1662 *vaynilla* bean of the vanilla plant; borrowed from Old Spanish *vaynilla* later in the spelling *vanilla* (1673); borrowed from New Latin *Vanilla* the genus name, from Spanish *vainilla* vanilla plant, little pod, diminutive of *vaina* sheath, from Latin *vāgīna* sheath. The flavoring extract from the vanilla bean (1728) is implied as early as 1662, in use of the vanilla pod for flavoring.

vanish *v.* About 1303 *vanishen*, borrowing (with loss of initial syllable) of Old French *esvaniss-*, stem of *esvanir*, from Vulgar Latin **exvānīre*, from Latin *evānēscere* disappear, die out (*ex-* out + *vānēscere* vanish, from *vānus* empty); for suffix see *-ish²*.

vanity *n.* Probably about 1200 *vanite* borrowed from Old French *vanité*, from Latin *vānitātem* (nominative *vānitās*) emptiness, foolish pride, from *vānus* empty, vane, idle; for suffix see *-ity*.

vanquish *v.* Before 1338 *venquisen*, *vencusen* borrowed from Old French *venqui*, *venquis*, past tense and *vencus*, past participle of *veintre* conquer, from Latin *vincere* conquer. The late Middle English form *vainquishen* (1474) was borrowed from Middle French *vainquiss-*, present stem of *vainquir* conquer, from Old French *vainkir*, alteration of *veintre* conquer; for suffix see *-ish²*. The sense of overcome, suppress (as in *to vanquish fear*) appeared about 1380.

vantage *n.* Before 1325, borrowed through Anglo-French *vantage*, from Old French *avantage* ADVANTAGE.

vapid *adj.* 1656, (of drinks) flat, insipid borrowed from obsolete French *vapide*, or directly from Latin *vapidus* flat, insipid; literally, that has exhaled its vapor; related to *vappa* stale wine, and probably to *vapor* vapor. The sense of dull, flat, lifeless (applied to talk, writings, etc.) is first recorded in English in 1758.

vapor *n.* Before 1382 *vapour* steam, mist; borrowed from Anglo-French *vapour* (in Old French *vapeur*), and directly from Latin *vapōrem* (nominative *vapor*) exhalation, vapor. —**v.** Probably about 1408 *vapouren* rise or cause to rise as vapor; from the noun. —**vaporize** *v.* 1634, change into smoke; later, change into vapor (1803); formed from Latin *vapor*, *n.*, vapor + English *-ize*. —**vaporous** *adj.* full of vapor. Before 1400, borrowed perhaps from Old French *vaporeux*, and directly from Latin *vapōrōsus* full of steam or vapor, from *vapor*, *n.*, vapor; for suffix see *-ous*. —**vapory** *adj.* 1598, formed from English *vapor*, *n.* + *-y¹*.

variable *adj.* About 1387, apt to change, fickle borrowed from Old French *variable*, and directly from Latin *variābilis* changeable, from *variāre* to change; for suffix see *-able*. —**n.** 1816, quantity that can vary in value; from the adjective.

variant *adj.* About 1380 *variaunt* not constant or uniform, tending to vary or change borrowed from Old French *variant*, and directly from Latin *variantem* (nominative *variāns*) a changing, varying, present participle of *variāre* to change; for suffix see *-ant*. —**n.** 1848, a different form; from the adjective. —**variance** *n.* About 1385 *variaunce* the fact of varying, difference, divergence borrowed from Old French *variance*, and directly from Latin *variantia* a difference, diversity, from *variantem* (nominative *variāns*), present participle; for suffix see *-ance*.

variation *n.* About 1385 *variacion* difference, divergence borrowed from Old French *variation*, and directly from Latin *variatiōnem* (nominative *variatiō*) a difference, variation, change, from *variāre* to change; for suffix see *-ation*. The sense of the fact of varying, change, is first recorded in English in 1502.

varicolored *adj.* 1665, of various or different colors; formed from Latin *varius* VARIOUS + English *colored*.

varicose *adj.* Probably before 1425, borrowed from Latin *varicōsus* full of dilated veins, from *varix* (genitive *varicis*) dilated vein; for suffix see *-ose¹*.

variegate *v.* 1653, give variety to, diversify; borrowed from

Late Latin *variēgātus* made of various sorts or colors, past participle of *variēgāre* diversify with different colors, from a lost adjective **variēgus* (*varius* spotted + the root of *agere* to drive, make); for suffix see -ATE¹. The sense of mark, spot, or streak with different colors (before 1728) is found earlier in *variegated*. —**variegated** *adj.* Before 1661, formed from Latin *variēgātus* variegated (past participle of *variēgāre*) + English -ed².

variety *n.* Before 1533, borrowed through Middle French *variété*, and directly from Latin *varietātem* (nominative *varietās*) difference, diversity, from *varius* various; for suffix -TY².

various *adj.* Probably before 1425, borrowed perhaps from Middle French *varieux*, and directly from Latin *varius* changing, different, diverse; for suffix see -OUS.

varlet *n.* 1456, servant, attendant on a knight; borrowed from Middle French *varlet*, variant of *vaslet* originally, squire or young man. The meaning of rascal, rogue, is first recorded in English before 1550.

varmint *n.* 1539 *varment* later *varmint* (1829); dialectal variant of VERMIN. Compare VARSITY.

varnish *n.* 1358 *vernisshe* borrowed from Old French *verniz*, *verniz* varnish, from Medieval Latin *vernix*, *vernica* odororous resin, from Late Greek *verenikē*, from Greek *Berenikē*, an ancient city in Libya. The sense of pretense, is first recorded in 1565. —**v.** About 1390 *vernissen*, borrowed from Old French *vernissier*, from *verniz* varnish, *n.*; or from Old French *verniss*, stem of *vernir* to varnish, from *verniz* varnish; for suffix see -ISH².

varsity *n.* 1846, university, variant of earlier *versity* (about 1680), shortened form of UNIVERSITY. The team representing a university, college, or school in a given sport developed from such phrases as *varsity captain*, *varsity race*, *varsity team* (1891). For a similar change in the vowel pronunciation, compare *sergeant*, *varmint*, and the British pronunciation of *clerk*.

vary *v.* About 1350 *varien*, borrowed from Old French *varier*, and directly from Latin *variāre* change, alter, make different, from *varius* varied, different, spotted. —**varied** *adj.* 1588, from the past participle of *vary* for suffix see -ED².

vascular *adj.* 1672–73, borrowed from New Latin *vascularis* of or pertaining to vessels or tubes, from Latin *vāsculum*, diminutive of *vās* vessel; for suffix see -AR.

vase *n.* 1563, ornamental vessel on a pillar; later, ornamental container, as for flowers (1629); borrowed from Middle French *vase*, from Latin *vās* container, vessel.

vasectomy *n.* 1897, formed from New Latin *vas* (*deferens*) + English -ectomy.

Vaseline *n.* 1874, trademark for an ointment made from petroleum; coined from German *Wasser* water + Greek *elaion* oil + English -ine¹.

vassal *n.* 1325, borrowed from Old French *vassal*, from Medieval Latin *vassallus* manservant, domestic, retainer, from *vassus* servant, from a Celtic source (compare Old Irish *foss* servant,

Welsh *gwaz* young man, servant, and Breton *gwaz* servant, man, male). —**adj.** 1588, from the noun.

vast *adj.* 1575–85, borrowed from Middle French *vaste*, and directly from Latin *vastus* immense, extensive, huge; desolate, unoccupied, empty. Latin *vastus*, originally distinct from *vāstus* desolate, empty, must have merged early in Latin, so that English *vast* is related to *waste*, Old English *wēste* desolate; see WASTE.

vat *n.* Probably about 1200 *veat* tank, variant in southern Middle English of *fat* container; developed from Old English *fæt* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *fet* container, vat, Old Saxon *fat*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *vat*, Old High German *vaz* (modern German *Fass* barrel, vat), Old Icelandic *fat*, from Proto-Germanic **fatan*. For a similar change of *f* to *v*, compare VIXEN.

vaudeville *n.* 1739, light popular song, especially one sung on the stage; borrowed from French *vaudeville*, alteration (influenced by *ville* town) of Middle French *vaudevire*, possibly from (*chanson du*) *Vau de Vire* (song of the) valley of Vire and first applied to the songs of Olivier Basselin, a poet of the 1400's who lived in Vire; or perhaps from Middle French (dialectal) *vauder* to go + *vier* to turn. The meaning of a theatrical entertainment interspersed with songs is first recorded in English in 1827.

vault¹ *n.* arched roof or ceiling. Probably before 1300 *vaute*, borrowed from Old French *voute*, *vaute*, *vaulte* arch, vaulted roof, from Vulgar Latin **volta*, contraction of **voluita*, noun use of feminine of **voluitus*, alteration of Latin *volūtus* bowed, arched, past participle of *volvere* to turn, turn around, roll. The spelling with *l* is first found in late Middle English, by influence of the Latin forms, and possibly Old French *vaulte*. —**v.** 1387 *vouten* borrowed from Old French *vouter*, *vauter*, from *voute*, *vaute* vault¹, *n.*

vault² *v.* jump or leap over. 1538, borrowed from Middle French *volter* to gambol, leap, from Italian *voltare*, from Vulgar Latin **volvitāre* to turn, leap, a frequentative form derived from Latin *volvere* to turn, turn around, roll. —**n.** 1576, from the verb.

vaunt *v.* Before 1425 *vaunten*, in part a shortened form of *avaunten*, and borrowed from Middle French *vanter*, from Late Latin *vāniūtāre* to boast, a frequentative form derived from Latin *vānāre* to utter empty words, from *vānus* idle, empty. —**n.** Probably before 1400 *vaunte*, shortened form of *avaunt* a boast (about 1380), from *avaunten* to boast (1303), borrowed from Old French *avanter* (*a-* to + *vanter* to boast).

veal *n.* About 1395, borrowed from Anglo-French *vel*, from Old French *veel*, *veal* a calf, earlier *vedel*, from Latin *vitellus* diminutive of *vitulus* calf.

vector *n.* 1704, line joining a fixed point (the sun) and a variable point (a planet); borrowed from Latin *vector* one who carries or conveys, carrier, from past participle stem of *vehere* carry, convey; for suffix see -OR². The meaning of a quantity involving direction as well as magnitude is first recorded in 1846.

veer *v.* 1582, borrowed from Middle French *vire* to turn, origin uncertain; perhaps from Vulgar Latin **vīrāre* to turn, sheer off, associated with the stem *vir-* in *viriae*, pl., bracelets (also found in French *environ* where *viron* represents the sense of circle) and where the original sense is thought to be to wind around, twist. It is also possible that a relationship exists with Latin *viere* to bend, plait. —**n.** 1611, from the verb.

vegetable *adj.* Before 1398 *vegetabil* living and growing as a plant borrowed from Old French *vegetable* living, fit to live, and directly from Medieval Latin *vegetabilis* growing, flourishing, from Late Latin *vegetābilis* animating, enlivening, from Latin *vegetāre* enliven; see **VEGETATE**; for suffix see **-ABLE**. —**n.** 1582, any plant; from the adjective. The sense of a plant cultivated for food is not recorded in English before 1767.

vegetarian *n.* 1839, irregularly formed from English *veget(able)* + *-arian*, as in *agrarian*, *trinitarian*.

vegetate *v.* 1605, grow as plants do; probably a back formation from *vegetation*, and in part developed from *vegetate*, *adj.*, endowed with vegetable life, growing as a plant (1574); borrowed from Late Latin *vegetatum*, past participle of *vegetare* grow, flourish, enliven, from Latin *vegetāre* invigorate, enliven, from *vegetus* vigorous, energetic, from *vegēre* to impart vigor, move, excite; for suffix see **-ATE**¹. The sense of live with very little action, thought, or feeling, is first recorded in English in 1740. —**vegetation** *n.* 1564, act of vegetating; borrowed from Middle French *végétation*, and directly from Medieval Latin *vegetationem* (nominative *vegetatio*) a quickening, action of growing, from *vegetare* grow, quicken; for suffix see **-ATION**. The sense of plant life, is first recorded in English in 1727–46, and that of dull, empty, or stagnant life, in 1797. —**vegetative** *adj.* growing as plants do. Before 1398 *vegetatif*, borrowed from Old French *vegetatif* (feminine *vegetative*), from Medieval Latin *vegetativus* growing, from *vegetatum*, past participle of *vegetare* grow, quicken; for suffix see **-IVE**. The sense of having very little action, thought, or feeling, is first recorded in English in 1802.

vehement *adj.* Probably before 1425, intense, severe; borrowed from Middle French *vehement* impetuous, ardent, from Latin *vehementem* (nominative *vehemens*) impetuous, carried away, perhaps from **vehēmēnos* carrying oneself, rushing, lost present middle participle of *vehere* to carry. —**vehemence** *n.* 1402 *vehemens*, borrowed from Middle French *vehemence* vehement quality or nature, forcefulness, from Latin *vehementia* eagerness, strength, from *vehementem* impetuous; for suffix see **-ENCE**.

vehicle *n.* 1612, a medium through which a drug or medicine is administered; 1615, any means of conveying or transmitting; borrowed from French *véhicule*, and directly from Latin *vehiculum* means of transport, a vehicle, from *vehere* to carry. The sense of carriage, cart, or other conveyance, is first recorded in English in 1656. —**vehicular** *adj.* 1616, borrowed from Late Latin *vehiculāris* of or pertaining to a vehicle, from Latin *vehiculum* vehicle; for suffix see **-AR**.

veil *n.* Probably before 1200, head covering worn by nuns borrowed from Anglo-French and Old North French *veil* a

headcovering; also, a sail, from Latin *vēlum* sail, curtain, covering (earlier **vexlom*).

The sense of something that conceals or hides is first recorded in English in 1382. —**v.** Before 1382 *veilen*, from the noun. The sense of conceal or hide is first recorded in English in 1538.

vein *n.* Probably before 1300 *veine* blood vessel borrowed from Old French *veine*, from Latin *vēna* a blood vessel; also, a water course, a vein of metal, a person's natural ability or interest.

velar *n.* See **VELUM**.

Velcro *n.* 1960, trademark for a nylon fabric with minute hooks, used as a fastener; borrowed from French *vel (ours)* *cro(ché)* hooked velvet.

vellum *n.* About 1430 *velym* borrowed from Middle French *velin* parchment made from calfskin, from Old French *vel*, *veel* calf; see **VEAL**.

velocipede *n.* 1819, wheeled vehicle propelled by the feet on the ground; borrowed from French *vélocipède*, from Latin *vēlōx* (genitive *vēlōcis*) swift + *pedem*, accusative of *pēs* foot. In 1849–50 the word was applied to a kind of early bicycle or tricycle with pedals.

velocity *n.* Probably before 1425 *velocite*, borrowed from Latin *vēlōcitās* swiftness, speed, from *vēlōx* (genitive *vēlōcis*) swift, perhaps related to *vehere* carry; for suffix see **-ITY**.

velour or **velours** *n.* 1706 *velours* plush cushion used by hatters borrowed from French *velours* velvet, from Old French *velour*, alteration (with introduction of *r*) of *velous*, from Old Provençal *velos*, from Latin *villōsus*, *adj.*, shaggy (in Medieval Latin, velvet), from *villus* shaggy hair, tuft of hair. The fabric like velvet is first recorded in English in 1858.

velum *n.* 1753, soft palate, New Latin, from Latin *vēlum* covering. —**velar** *adj.* 1876, pronounced by means of the soft palate, as the *g* in *goose*; borrowed by influence of French *vélaire*, from Latin *vēlāris* of or pertaining to a veil or covering, from *vēlum* covering; for suffix see **-AR**. An earlier sense of resembling a sail is found in 1726.

velvet *n.* 1327 *veluett* later in the spelling *velvet* (1351); probably borrowed from Old Provençal *veluet*, from Vulgar Latin **vil-lūtittus*, diminutive of Vulgar Latin *villūtus* velvet; literally, shaggy cloth, from Latin *villus* shaggy hair, nap of cloth, tuft of hair, probably a dialectal variant of *vellus* fleece. —**velveteen** *n.* 1776, formed from English *velvet* + *-een*, variant of *-ine*¹. —**velvety** *adj.* (1752)

venal *adj.* 1652, that may be bought for a price; borrowed from French *venal*, and directly from Latin *vēnālis* that is for sale, from *vēnum* (nominative **vēnus*) for sale; for suffix see **-AL**¹. —**venality** *n.* 1611, state of being for sale later, corruption (before 1683); borrowed from French *venalité*, and directly from Late Latin *vēnālītās* capable of being bought, from Latin *vēnālis* that is for sale; for suffix see **-ITY**.

vend *v.* 1622, sell, peddle; a possible back formation from *vendible* or *vendee*, modeled on Latin *vendere*; also borrowed

from Latin *vendere* to sell, praise, contraction of *vēnumdare* offer for sale (*vēnum* for sale + *dare* give). —**vendee** *n.* 1547, probably formed from Latin *vendere* to sell + English *-ee*. —**vendible** *adj.* 1330, borrowed from Old French *vendible*, and directly from Latin *vēndibilis* that may be sold, from *vendere* to sell; for suffix see *-IBLE*. —**vendor** *n.* 1594, borrowed from late Anglo-French *vendore*, from *vendre* to vend, from Latin *vendere* to sell; for suffix see *-OR*².

vendetta *n.* 1855, borrowing of Italian *vendetta* a feud, blood feud, from Latin *vindicta* revenge.

veneer *n.* 1702, borrowed (with loss of *r* in the unstressed first syllable) from German *Furnier*, from *furnieren* to cover with a veneer, inlay, from French *fournir* to furnish, accomplish, from Middle French *fornir*, *furnir* to FURNISH. The sense of a merely outward show is first recorded in English in 1868. —**v.** 1728, earlier *fineer* (1708); borrowed from German *furnieren* to cover with veneer.

venerate *v.* 1623, probably a back formation from *veneration*; also developed from *venerate*, *adj.*, reverent (1592); modeled on Latin *venerātus* revered, past participle of *venerārī* to worship, revere, related to *venus* (genitive *veneris*) love, desire; for suffix see *-ATE*¹. —**venerable** *adj.* worthy of reverence. About 1410, borrowed through Old French *venerable*, and directly from Latin *venerābilis* worthy of reverence, from *venerārī* venerate; for suffix see *-ABLE*. —**veneration** *n.* About 1410 *veneracioun* borrowed from Middle French *veneration*, and directly from Latin *venerātiōnem* (nominative *venerātiō*) reverence, from *venerārī* venerate; for suffix see *-ATION*.

venereal *adj.* Probably before 1425 *venerealle*, formed from Latin *venereus* (from *venus*, genitive *veneris* love, sexual desire) + Middle English *-alle* *-al*¹.

venery *n.* Before 1450, borrowed from Medieval Latin *veneria* sexual intercourse, from Latin *venus* (genitive *veneris*) love, sexual desire; for suffix see *-Y*³.

vengeance *n.* Probably before 1300 *vengeaunce* act of avenging, revenge borrowed from Anglo-French *vengeaunce*, variant of Old French *vengeance* revenge, from *vingier* take revenge, from Latin *vindicāre* to set free, claim, avenge, VINDICATE; for suffix see *-ANCE*. —**vengeful** *adj.* Before 1586, formed from obsolete English *venge* take revenge (from Middle English *venge*, borrowed from Old French *vingier*) + *-ful*.

venial *adj.* About 1303, borrowed from Old French *venial*, and directly from Latin *veniālis* pardonable, from *venia* forgiveness, indulgence, pardon, related to *venus* love, desire; for suffix see *-AL*¹.

venison *n.* Probably before 1300 *venisoun*, borrowed from Old French *venesoun* meat of large game, especially the deer or boar; also, a hunt, from Latin *vēnātiōnem* (nominative *vēnātiō*) a hunt, also, game as the product of the hunt, from *vēnārī* to hunt, pursue.

venom *n.* Before 1250 *venim* later *venom* (about 1440); borrowed from Anglo-French and Old French *venim*, variant (probably on the model of Vulgar Latin) of *venin* poison, from

Vulgar Latin **venūmen*, from Latin *venenum* poison, drug, potion. The sense of bitter or virulent feeling, language, etc., is found in Middle English before 1325. —**venomous** *adj.* About 1300 *venimous* pernicious; borrowed from Anglo-French *venimus*, *venimous*, from Old French *venim* venom; for suffix see *-OUS*. The sense of poisonous is found in Middle English before 1338, and that of virulent, embittered, about 1340.

venous *adj.* 1626, having veins later, of or having to do with a vein (1681); borrowed from Latin *vēnōsus* full of veins, from *vēna* VEIN; for suffix see *-OUS*.

vent *v.* Before 1382 *venten* emit from a confined space (implied in *venting*, verbal noun); probably borrowed (with loss of initial *e*) from Old French *eventer*, *esventer* let out, expose to the air, from Vulgar Latin **exventāre* (Latin *ex-* out + *ventus* wind¹, *n.*). The sense of express freely, is first recorded in English in 1596. —**n.** 1508, act of emitting or discharging; probably borrowed (with loss of initial *e*) from Middle French *event*, *esvent*, from Old French *eventer*, *esventer* let out. The sense of a hole or opening, an outlet, is first recorded in 1570.

ventilate *v.* About 1425 *ventilatten* blow away; borrowed from Latin *ventilātus*, past participle of *ventilāre* to brandish, toss in the air, winnow, fan, agitate, set in motion, from *ventulus* a breeze, diminutive of *ventus* wind¹, *n.*; for suffix see *-ATE*¹. The sense of examine and discuss is first recorded in English in 1527 and that of to supply (a room) with fresh air, in 1743. —**ventilation** *n.* 1456, current of air, breeze; borrowed from Middle French *ventilation*, and directly from Latin *ventilātiōnem* (nominative *ventilātiō*) an exposing to the air, from *ventilāre* ventilate; for suffix see *-ATION*. —**ventilator** *n.* (1743)

ventral *adj.* 1739, borrowed from French *ventral*, and directly from Late Latin *ventrālis* of or pertaining to the belly or stomach, from Latin *venter* (genitive *ventris*) belly, paunch; for suffix see *-AL*¹.

ventricle *n.* 1392, borrowed from Latin *ventriculus* stomach, ventricle, diminutive of *venter* (genitive *ventris*) belly.

ventriloquism *n.* 1797, formed as a descriptive noun to *ventriloquist*, with substitution of the suffix *-ism*. The word has replaced older *ventriloquy*. —**ventriloquist** *n.* 1656, formed from English *ventriloquy* + *-ist*. —**ventriloquy** *n.* 1584, formed from Late Latin *ventriloquus* ventriloquist + English *-y*³. Late Latin *ventriloquus* (Latin *venter*, genitive *ventris*, belly + *loquī* speak) was patterned on Greek *engastrímýthos*, literally, speaking in the belly.

venture *n.* Probably before 1400, fortune, luck, chance; shortened form of *aventure*, itself an earlier form of ADVENTURE. The sense of risky undertaking is first recorded before 1566. —**v.** About 1430 *venteren*, shortened and altered form of *aventure* to chance, risk (probably before 1300); borrowed from Old French *aventureur*, from *aventure* adventure.

venue *n.* Probably about 1300 *veneue* assault, attack; borrowed from Old French *venue* coming, from the feminine of the past participle of *venir* to come, from Latin *venīre* to come. The

sense of a place where a case in law is tried is first recorded in 1531.

veracious *adj.* Before 1677, formed in English from Latin *vērāx* (genitive *vērācis*) truthful, from *vērū* true + English *-ous*.
—veracity *n.* 1623, formed from Latin *vērāx* (genitive *vērācis*) truthful + English *-ity*.

veranda *n.* 1711, borrowed from Hindi *varandā*, probably from Portuguese *varanda*, originally, long balcony or terrace, of uncertain origin, but also related to obsolete Spanish *baranda* railing, Catalan *barana* small railing or balustrade, and Old Provençal *baranda* defense, barricade. The ultimate origin is perhaps from Vulgar Latin **barra* barrier, bar.

verb *n.* Before 1397 *verbe*, borrowed from Old French *verbe* part of speech that expresses action or being, and directly from Latin *verbum* a verb; originally, a word.

verbal *adj.* Probably before 1425 *verbale* borrowed from Middle French *verbal*, and directly from Latin *verbālis* consisting of words, relating to verbs, from *verbum* verb; for suffix see *-AL*¹.
—n. 1530, word derived from a verb from the adjective.
—verbalize *v.* 1609, to use too many words; borrowed from French *verbaliser*, and formed from English *verbal*, *adj.* + *-ize*. The meaning of express in words is first recorded in English in 1875.

verbatim *adv.* 1481, borrowing of Medieval Latin *verbatimum* word for word, from Latin *verbum* word. **—adj.** 1737, from the adverb.

verbiage *n.* Before 1721, borrowed from French *verbiage* wordiness, from *verbier* to chatter, from Old French *verbe* word, from Latin *verbum* word; for suffix see *-AGE*.

verbose *adj.* Before 1400 (implied in *verbosely*); borrowed from Latin *verbōsus* full of words, wordy, from *verbum* word; for suffix see *-OSE*¹. **—verbosity** *n.* 1542, borrowed from Middle French *verbosité*, or directly from Late Latin *verbōsitàtem* (nominative *verbōsitàs*) wordiness, from Latin *verbōsus* wordy, verbose; for suffix see *-ITY*.

verdant *adj.* 1581, green in color; borrowed from Middle French *virdeant*, *verdoyant* becoming green, present participle of Old French *verdeier*, *verdoyer* become green, from Vulgar Latin **viridiāre* grow green, make green, from Latin *viridis* green, related to *viŕe* be green; for suffix see *-ANT*.

verdict *n.* 1533, alteration of Middle English *verdit* (about 1300); borrowed from Anglo-French *verdit* (from Old French *ver* true + *dit*, past participle of *dire* to speak, from Latin *dīcere*). Alteration of Middle English *verdit* to modern English *verdict* was influenced by Medieval Latin *verdictum*, *verdictum* a verdict; from Anglo-French.

verdigris *n.* 1336–37 *verdegrez*, alteration of earlier *vertegrez* (1300–01); borrowed from Old French *verte grez*, *verte de Grece* literally, green of Greece. The spelling *verdigris* is first recorded in English in 1789.

verdure *n.* Probably about 1390, borrowed from Old French

verdure greenness, from *verd*, variant of *vert* green; for suffix see *-URE*.

verge¹ *n.* edge, rim, brink. 1459, border or margin of some object; borrowed from Middle French *verge* rod or wand of office, scope or territory dominated, from Latin *virga* shoot, rod, stick. The meaning of outermost edge (of an extensive area) is first found in 1593, and that of the point at which something begins or happens, brink (as in *be on the verge of*) in 1602. **—v.** 1605, provide with a border; from the noun. The meaning of lie on the border of, is first recorded in 1787.

verge² *v.* tend, incline. 1610, borrowed from Latin *vergere* to bend, turn, incline.

verify *v.* Before 1325 *verifien* (implied in *verifying*) prove to be true, confirm; borrowed from Old French *verifier*, from Medieval Latin *verificare* make true, from a lost adjective **vērificus* (Latin *vērū* true + the root of *facere* to make); for suffix see *-FY*.
—verifiable *adj.* 1593, formed from English *verify* + *-able*.
—verification *n.* 1523, act of verifying; borrowed from Middle French *verification*, from Medieval Latin *verificationem* (nominative *verificatio*) a verifying, from *verificare* verify; for suffix see *-TION*.

verily *adv.* Before 1325 *verailly*, formed from Middle English *verray* true, real + *-ly*¹.

verisimilitude *n.* 1603, borrowed from obsolete French *vérisimilitude*, and probably directly from Latin *vērīsimilitūdo* likeness to truth, from *vērīsimilis* like truth (*vērī*, genitive of *vērū*, neuter of *vērū* true; see *VERY* + *similis* like, similar).

veritable *adj.* Probably before 1425, borrowed from Anglo-French and Old French *veritable* true, from *verité* *VERITY*; for suffix see *-ABLE*. Revival of *veritable* was probably a borrowing of modern French *véritable*.

verity *n.* About 1375, borrowed from Anglo-French and Old French *verité*, from Latin *vērītātem* (nominative *vērītās*) truth, truthfulness, from *vērū* true; for suffix see *-ITY*.

vermeil *adj.* Probably before 1400 *vermayle*, borrowed from Anglo-French and Old French *vermeil* bright-red; see *VERMILION*. **—n.** 1596, from the adjective. The meaning of bronze, copper, or silver coated with gilt, is first recorded in 1858.

vermiform *adj.* 1730, borrowed from New Latin *vermiformis* (Latin *vermis* worm + *fōrma* form); now usually in *vermiform* appendix (1778).

vermilion *n.* 1296 *vermelyon* borrowed from Old French *vermeillon*, from *vermeil* bright-red, from Late Latin *vermiculus* a little worm; also, the cochineal insect from which the color crimson was obtained, from Latin, larva of an insect, grub, maggot, diminutive of *vermis* worm. **—adj.** 1589, from the noun.

vermin *n.* *pl.* or *sing.* Probably before 1300, noxious animals borrowed from Anglo-French and Old French *vermin*, from Vulgar Latin **verminum* vermin, possibly including bothersome insects, from Latin *vermis* worm. The sense of creeping

insects and other minute animals is found in Middle English about 1340, and that of low, obnoxious people, in 1562. —**verminous** adj. About 1616, like vermin, vile; borrowed from French *vermineux*, and directly from Latin *verminosus* full of worms, from **vermina* maggots, related to *vermis* worm; for suffix see -OUS.

vermouth *n.* 1806, borrowed from French *vermouth*, *vermout*, from earlier German *Wermuth* (now *Wermut*) wormwood, from Middle High German *wermuot*, *wermuote*, from Old High German *wermuota* wormwood.

vernacular *adj.* 1601, formed from Latin *vernāculus* domestic, native (from *verna* home-born slave, native) + English -*ar*. The adjective in English is restricted to the use represented in Latin by *vernācula vocābula*, in reference to language. —*n.* Before 1706, from the adjective.

vernal *adj.* 1534, borrowed from Latin *vērnalis* of the spring, from *vērnis* of spring, from *vēr* spring; for suffix see -AL¹.

versatile *adj.* 1605, changeable, variable borrowed from French *versatile*, and directly from Latin *versātilis* turning, revolving, movable, capable of turning to varied subjects or tasks, from *versāt-*, past participle stem of *versāre* keep turning, be engaged in something, turn over in the mind, frequentative form of *vertere* to turn. The meaning of able to turn from one subject or occupation to another, many-sided, is first recorded in English in 1656. —**versatility** *n.* 1755, probably formed from English *versatile* + -*ity*, influenced by French *versatilité*, from *versatile* versatile.

verse *n.* Probably before 1200 *vers* line or section of a psalm or canticle later, line of poetry (about 1369); borrowed from Anglo-French and Old French *vers*, from Latin *versus* (genitive *versūs*) verse, line of writing, (apparently so named in allusion to plowing, as the plowman turns to make another row or furrow), from *vertere* to turn. The sense of a stanza is first recorded in Middle English about 1308, and the phrase *in verse*, about 1315. Middle English *vers* replaced the Old English *fers* (first recorded about 737), itself an early borrowing (along with Old Frisian *fers*, Middle Dutch and Middle Low German *vers*, Old High German *vers*, *fers*, and Old Icelandic *vers*) from Latin *versus* line of writing.

versed *adj.* Before 1610, from the past participle of now obsolete English *verse* to turn over (a book, subject, etc.) in study or investigation (1606); borrowed from Middle French *verser* to turn or revolve, as in meditation, from Latin *versāre* and *versārī* keep turning, be engaged in something, turn over in the mind; for suffix see -ED². The meaning of *versed* was probably influenced by Middle French *versé* experienced, skilled, from Latin *versātus*, past participle of *versārī*.

versicle *n.* Before 1380, borrowed from Latin *versiculus*, diminutive of *versus* verse.

versify *v.* Probably before 1387, borrowed from Old French *versifier* turn into verse, and directly from Latin *versificāre* compare verse, from a lost adjective **versificus* (*versus* verse + the root of *facere* to make); for suffix see -FY. —**versification** *n.* 1603, borrowed from Middle French *versification*, and directly

from Latin *versificātionem* (nominative *versificātiō*), from *versificāre* to versify; for suffix see -ATION.

version *n.* 1582, a translation of a text; borrowed from Middle French *version*, from Medieval Latin *versionem* (nominative *versio*) a turning, from Latin *vers-*, past participle stem of *vertere* to turn; for suffix see -ION. The meaning of the particular form of a statement or description (as in *her version of the story*) is first recorded in English in 1788. The word is also recorded in the sense of an overturning, destruction (before 1420).

versus *prep.* 1447–48, borrowed from Latin *versus* turned toward or against, from the past participle of *vertere* to turn.

vertebra *n.* Probably before 1425, borrowed from Latin *vertebra* joint or articulation of the body, joint of the spine, from *vertere* to turn. —**vertebral** *adj.* 1681, borrowed from New Latin *vertebralis* of the spine or backbone, from Latin *vertebra* vertebra; for suffix see -AL¹. —**vertebrate** *adj.* 1826, borrowed from Latin *vertebrātus* jointed, articulated, from *vertebra* vertebra; for suffix see -ATE¹. —*n.* 1826, from the same source as the adjective.

vertex *n.* 1570, the point opposite to the base in geometry; borrowed from Latin *vertex* highest point; originally, a whirling column, whirlpool, whirl, from *vertere* to turn. The meaning of highest point of anything, is first recorded in English in 1641.

vertical *adj.* 1559, of or at the vertex, directly overhead; borrowed from Middle French *vertical*, and directly from Late Latin *verticālis* overhead, from Latin *vertex* (genitive *verticis*) highest point, VERTEX; for suffix see -AL¹. The meaning of straight up and down, perpendicular, is first recorded in English in 1704.

vertiginous *adj.* 1608, of the nature of vertigo or dizziness; borrowed from French *vertigineux*, and directly from Latin *vertiginosus* suffering from dizziness, from *vertigō* (genitive *vertiginis*) VERTIGO; for suffix see -OUS. The meaning of whirling, revolving, rotary, is first recorded in English in 1663.

vertigo *n.* Probably before 1425, borrowed from Latin *vertigō* dizziness; originally, a whirling or spinning movement, from *vertere* to turn.

verve *n.* 1697, special talent in writing borrowed from French *verve* enthusiasm, especially pertaining to the arts, in Old French, caprice, odd humor, proverb, probably from Gallo-Romance **verva*, from Latin *verba* whimsical words, plural of *verbum* word. The meaning of mental vigor, liveliness of expression, is first recorded in English in 1803, and the meaning of vigor, enthusiasm, in 1863.

very *adj.* About 1275 *verray* true, real, genuine; later, actual, sheer, as in *the very air* (about 1390); borrowed from Anglo-French *verrai*, Old French *verai* true, from Vulgar Latin **verācus*, from Latin *verāx* (genitive *verācis*) truthful, from *verus* true. —**adv.** Before 1325 *verray* truly, really, genuinely; from the adjective. The meaning of greatly, extremely, is first recorded in Middle English in 1448.

Use of *very* as an intensive form (as in *passing under our*

very eyes and in the very best of us), has been known since Middle English.

vesicle *n.* Probably before 1425, borrowed from Middle French *vesicule*, from Latin *vēsīcula*, diminutive of *vēsīca*, *vēsīca* bladder, blister. —**vesicular** *adj.* 1715, borrowed from New Latin *vesicularis* bladderlike, from Latin *vēsīcula* vesicle; for suffix see -AR.

vesper *n.* Before 1393, the evening star borrowed from Old French *vespre*, and directly from Latin *vesper* (masculine), *vespera* (feminine) evening star, evening, west. The meaning of evening is first found in English in 1606. —**adj.** 1791, from the noun. —**vespers** *n. pl.* 1611, borrowed from Middle French *vespres*, from Old French, from Medieval Latin *vesperae*, from plural of Latin *vespera* evening. An earlier sense of public disputations and ceremonies preceding a university commencement is recorded in 1574.

vessel *n.* About 1303 *vessel* container borrowed from Old French *vessel* (masculine), from Latin *vāscellum* small vase or urn, also, a ship, diminutive of *vāsculum*, itself a diminutive of *vās* vessel; also borrowed from Old French *vesselle* (feminine), from Latin *vāscella*, neuter plural (taken as feminine singular) of *vāscellum*. The sense of a ship or boat is found in Middle English before 1325.

vest *v.* About 1425 *westen*, to put in the possession of a person (as in *authority is vested in the trustees*); later *vesten* (1464); borrowed from Middle French *vestir*, from Medieval Latin *vestire* to put into possession, to invest, from Latin *vestire* to clothe, from *vestis* garment, clothing. The meaning of invest (as in *to be vested with the office of chancellor*) is first recorded in 1674. —**n.** 1613, loose outer garment, robe, gown; borrowed from French *veste*, from Italian *vesta*, *veste* robe, gown, from Latin *vestis* garment, clothing, attire. —**vested** *adj.* 1671, clothed or dressed; later, established or settled in the hands of a person (1766); from *vest*, *v.* + *-ed*².

vestibule *n.* 1623 *vestible* a porch later, an antechamber or lobby (1730); borrowed from French *vestible* (now *vestibule*), from Latin *vestibulum* forecourt, entrance. The spelling *vestibule* (before 1751) is borrowed directly from Latin *vestibulum*.

vestige *n.* 1602, borrowed from French *vestige* a mark, trace, sign, from Latin *vestigium* footprint, trace, mark. English *vestige* replaced earlier *vestigy*, borrowed from Middle French *vestigie*, borrowed from Latin *vestigium*. —**vestigial** *adj.* 1877, formed from Latin *vestigium* *vestige* + English *-al*¹.

vestment *n.* Probably before 1300 *vestment*, borrowed from Old French *vestment*, alteration of Latin *vestimentum* clothing, clothes, from Latin *vestire* to clothe.

vestry *n.* 1388 *westre* later *vestrye* (1440); probably borrowed from Anglo-French **vesterie*, alteration of Old French *vestiaire*, *vestiarie* room for vestments, from Latin *vestiārium* wardrobe, noun use of neuter of *vestiārius* of clothes, from *vestis* garment.

vesture *n.* About 1380, borrowed from Anglo-French and Old French *vesture*, from Vulgar Latin **vestitūra* vestments, clothing, from *vestire* to clothe; for suffix see -URE.

vet¹ *n.* 1862, shortened form of VETERINARIAN. —**v.** 1891, to submit to veterinary care; from the noun. The sense of subject to careful examination, scrutinize, evaluate, is first recorded in 1904.

vet² *n.* 1848, shortened form of VETERAN.

vetch *n.* About 1384 *vetche*, borrowed from Old North French *veche*, from Latin *via*.

veteran *n.* 1509, old, experienced soldier; borrowed from Latin *veterānus*, from *vetus* (genitive *veteris*) old. The meaning of any ex-serviceman (not necessarily old 1798), is alluded to in the Roman army (1779). The sense of long service is first recorded in 1597. —**adj.** 1611, having had much experience in war; from the noun. The sense of grown old in service, experienced by long practice, is first recorded in 1728.

veterinary *adj.* 1791, borrowed (perhaps by influence of French *vétérinaire*, *adj.*) from Latin *veterinārius* of or having to do with beasts of burden; also, cattle doctor, from *veterinum* beast of burden, *veterinus* belonging to beasts of burden, perhaps derived from *vetus* (genitive *veteris*) old; possibly, experienced, or used to work as a draft animal; for suffix see -ARY. —**n.** 1861, from the adjective. —**veterinarian** *n.* 1646, formed (perhaps by influence of French *vétérinaire*, *n.*) from Latin *veterinārius*, *adj.* + English *-an*.

veto *n.* 1629, right to forbid something, rejection, prohibition; borrowed from Latin *vetō* I forbid, first person singular present indicative of *vetāre* to forbid. Latin *vetō* was used by Roman tribunes when opposed to measures of the Senate or the magistrates. —**v.** 1706, from the noun.

vex *v.* About 1415 *vexen* annoy, provoke; borrowed from Middle French *vexer*, and directly from Latin *vexāre* to attack, harass, trouble. —**vexation** *n.* About 1400 *vexacioun*, borrowed through Old French *vexation*, and directly from Latin *vexatiōnem* (nominative *vexatiō*) agitation, annoyance, from *vexāre* vex; for suffix see -ATION. —**vexatious** *adj.* 1534, formed from English *vexation* + *-ous*.

via *prep.* 1779, borrowing of Latin *viā*, ablative form of *via* way, road, channel, course.

viable *adj.* 1828–32, capable of living (applied to a newborn infant) borrowed from French *viable* capable of life, from *vie* life, from Latin *vita* life; for suffix see -ABLE. The sense of surviving or existing independently is first recorded in English in 1848, and that of workable, practicable, in 1955. —**viability** *n.* 1843, probably formed from English *viable* + *-ity*, on the model of French *viabilité*.

viaduct *n.* 1816, formed from Latin *via* road + English *-duct*, as in *aqueduct*.

vial *n.* About 1384 *viole*, variant of *fyole* PHIAL.

viand *n.* Before 1399 *viaunde* borrowed from Anglo-French *viaunde*, *viande*, Old French *viande* food, from Vulgar Latin **vīvanda*, alteration of Late Latin *vīvenda* things for living, in Latin with the sense of be lived, neuter plural gerundive of *vīvere* to live.

vibrant *adj.* About 1550, agitated; later, vibrating (1616); borrowed from Latin *vibrantem* (nominative *vibrans*) swaying, present participle of *vibrare* move to and fro; for suffix see -ANT. The sense of vigorous, full of life, is first recorded in English in 1860.

vibrate *v.* 1616, move to and fro in a fight; later, swing to and fro, oscillate (1667); borrowed from Latin *vibratus*, past participle of *vibrare* move to and fro, set in tremulous motion, shake; see WIPE; for suffix see -ATE¹. — **vibration** *n.* 1656, borrowed from French *vibration*, and directly from Latin *vibratiōnem* (nominative *vibratiō*) a shaking, from *vibrare* to vibrate; for suffix see -ATION.

vicar *n.* Before 1325 *wicare* later *vicar* an earthly representative of God or Christ (specifically applied to the Pope, 1340); borrowed from Anglo-French *vikere*, *vicare*, Old French *vicare*, from Latin *vicarius* a substitute, delegate, deputy; noun use of past participle; see VICARIOUS. The person acting for a priest first recorded about 1325. — **vicarage** *n.* 1425, formed from English *vicar* + -age.

vicarious *adj.* 1637, taking the place of another, substitute; borrowed from Latin *vicarius* substitute, deputy, from *vic-*, found only in oblique cases (genitive *vicis*, etc.) and plural *vicēs*, with the meaning of turn, change, exchange, substitution; for suffix see -OUS.

The meaning of done, attained, or suffered for or in place of others is first recorded in English in 1692.

vice¹ *n.* evil habit or tendency. About 1300, evil or wickedness; borrowed from Old French *vice*, from Latin *vitium* defect, fault, vice (in Medieval Latin *vicium*). The sense of an evil habit or tendency is first recorded in Middle English about 1325, and the sense of a fault or bad habit, in 1338.

vice² *prep.* instead of, in the place of. 1770, borrowed from Latin *vice*, ablative form of *vicis* (genitive) a change, turn, place, substitution.

vice³ *n.* = vise (a device for holding things).

vice- a prefix meaning a deputy, assistant, substitute, rank next to the highest, as in *vice-chairman* = person who acts in the place of a chairman (1858). Middle English *vice-*, borrowed through Old French *vice-*, and directly from Late Latin *vice-*, from Latin *vice* instead of, ablative form of *vicis* (genitive) a turn, change, substitution.

vice-president *n.* 1574 *vice-president* one who acts as representative or deputy for a president; later *Vice-President* official next in rank to the President of the U.S., in the Constitution of the U.S. (1787).

viceroys *n.* 1524 *vice-roy*, borrowing of Middle French *vice-roy* (Old French *vice-* deputy + *roi* king).

vice versa 1601, borrowing of Latin *vice versā* (*vice*, ablative form of genitive *vicis* a turn, change; and *versā*, feminine ablative singular of *versus*, past participle of *vertere* to turn, turn about).

vicinity *n.* 1560, nearness in place, being close; borrowed

from Middle French *vicinité*, and directly from Latin *vicinitās* of or pertaining to neighbors or a surrounding area, from *vicinus* neighbor, neighboring, from *vicus* group of houses, village, habitation; for suffix see -ITY. The meaning of surrounding district, is first recorded in English in 1796.

vicious *adj.* About 1340 *vecious* of the nature of vice, wicked, immoral; later *vicious* (about 1374); borrowed from Anglo-French *vicious*, Old French *vicieus*, from Latin *vitiōsus* faulty, defective, corrupt (in Medieval Latin *viciosus*), from *vitium* fault; for suffix see -OUS. The meaning of inclined to be savage or dangerous, evil-tempered, is first recorded in English in 1711, and that of full of malice or spite, bitter or severe, in 1825.

vicissitude *n.* 1570–76, borrowing of Middle French *vicissitude*, from Latin *vicissitudinem* (nominative *vicissitudo*) change, from *vicissim* changeably, in turn, from *vicis* (genitive) a turn, change; for suffix see -TUDE.

victim *n.* 1497, living creature killed and offered as a sacrifice to a god; borrowed from Middle French *victime*, and directly from Latin *victima* animal offered as a sacrifice, any sacrifice.

The sense of a person who is hurt, tortured, or killed by another is first recorded in English in 1660, and that of a person taken advantage of (as in *the victim of a swindle*), in 1781. — **victimize** *v.* 1830, make a victim of, formed from English *victim* + -ize.

victor *n.* About 1340, borrowed from Anglo-French *victor*, *victour* (Old French *victour*), and directly from Latin *victōrem* (nominative *victor*) a conqueror, from past participle stem of *vincere* to conquer; for suffix see -OR². — **victorious** *adj.* About 1390, borrowed from Anglo-French *victorieux* (Old French *victorieux*), and directly from Latin *victōriōsus* having many victories, from *victōria* victory, from *victor* victor; for suffix see -OUS. — **victory** *n.* About 1340, borrowed from Anglo-French and Old French *victorie*, and directly from Latin *victōria* victory, from *victor* a conqueror, victor; for suffix see -Y³.

victual *n.* Usually, **victuals**, pl. food. 1523, spelling alteration (with *c*, imitating Latin *victuālia* food) of Middle English *vitaylle* (about 1303); borrowed from Anglo-French and Old French *vitaillie*, from Late Latin *victuālia* provisions, nourishment, food, neuter plural of *victuālis* of food, from Latin *victus* (genitive *victūs*) food, sustenance, from *vivere* to live; for suffix see -AL².

vicuna or **vicuña** *n.* 1604, borrowing of Spanish *vicuña*, from Quechua (Peru) *wikuña*.

videlicet *adv.* that is to say, to wit, namely (usually *viz.*). Before 1456, borrowing of Latin *videlicet*, contraction of *vidēre licet* it is permissible to see (*vidēre* to see, and *licet* it is allowed, third person singular present indicative of *licēre* be allowed). See also *VIZ.*

video *adj.* 1935, borrowed from Latin *videō* I see, first person singular present indicative of *vidēre* to see; probably influenced in its adoption into English by the pronunciation of the final syllable of *radio*. — **n.** 1935, either from the adjective in English or borrowed from Latin *videō*. — **videocassette** *n.* (1971) — **videocassette recorder** (1971, now usually *VCR* 1971)

—**videotape** *n.* 1953, formed from English *video* + *tape*, *n.*
—**v.** to record on videotape. 1959, from the noun.

vie *v.* 1565, to hazard or bet, make a bid; later, contend, compete (1602); shortened form of Middle English *envien* contend, strive (about 1385), borrowed from Old French *envier* increase the stake, challenge, invite, from Latin *invītāre* invite.

view *n.* 1415–16 *veue* formal inspection or survey (of land); later *veu* observation, notice (about 1450), and *view* (1454); borrowed from Anglo-French *veue* view, variant of Old French *veüe*, noun use of feminine past participle of Old French *veoir* to see, from Latin *vidēre*. The act of seeing and the manner of regarding something, opinion, are first recorded in English in 1573. —**v.** 1525, to inspect, examine carefully; from the noun. The meaning of consider, regard, appeared 1591. —**viewer** *n.* (1415)

vigil *n.* Probably before 1200 *vigile* the eve of a religious festival as an occasion for devotional watching or observance later, the watch kept on the eve of a festival (about 1395); borrowed from Anglo-French and Old French *vigile*, from Latin *vigilia* watch, watchfulness, wakefulness, from *vigil* watchful, awake, related to *vigēre* be lively, thrive, and *vegēre* to enliven. The sense of a one of the four night watches maintained by Roman soldiers was known as early as 1380.

—**vigilance** *n.* 1570, borrowed from Middle French *vigilance*, and possibly directly from Latin *vigilantia* watchfulness, from *vigilantem* (nominative *vigilāns*) wakeful, watchful, present participle of *vigilāre* keep watch, from *vigil* watchful; for suffix see -ANCE. —**vigilant** *adj.* About 1480, borrowed from Middle French *vigilant*, and possibly directly from Latin *vigilantem*; see VIGILANCE; for suffix see -ANT.

vigilante *n.* 1856, borrowing of Spanish *vigilante*, literally, watchman, from Latin *vigilantem*; see VIGILANCE.

vignette *n.* 1751, decorative design (often in the form of vine tendrils) on a page of a book; borrowing of French *vignette*, from Old French, diminutive of *vigne* vineyard, VINE; for suffix see -ETTE. The form *vignette* replaced *vinette* a trailing ornament in architecture or decorative work (before 1420) an Anglicized borrowing (with loss of *g*) of Old French *vignette*. The sense of a literary sketch, is first recorded in English in 1880, probably extended from the then very popular use of the word in photography in reference to small portraits made by blurring the edges, as if looking through vines (1853).

vigor *n.* Probably before 1300 *vigour*, borrowed from Anglo-French *vigour*, Old French *vigor*, and probably borrowed directly from Latin *vigōrem* (nominative *vigor*) liveliness, activity, force, from *vigēre* be lively, flourish, thrive. —**vigorous** *adj.* Probably before 1300 *vigorous*, borrowed from Anglo-French and Old French *vigorous*, from *vigor*, *vigour* vigor; for suffix see -OUS.

Viking or **viking** *n.* 1807 *vikingr* one of the Scandinavian pirates who raided the coasts of Europe from the 700's to the 900's; borrowed from Old Icelandic *vīkingr* (possibly with the sense of one who came out of the inlets of the sea, and formed

from Old Icelandic *vīk* creek, inlet, bay + *-ingr* -ing). The modern Icelandic form is *vīkingur*. The spelling *viking* is first recorded in English in 1840 and is not found in Middle English, but came into use in modern historical writings. However, cognates of the Old Icelandic word are found in Old English *wicing* (as early as the 700's) and Old Frisian *wīzing*, *wīsing*, and are of so early a time that a Scandinavian origin is doubtful because in Old Icelandic *vīkingr* is not found before the latter part of the 900's. Thus, Old English *wīcing* was probably derived from *wīc* village, camp, from Latin *vīcus* village, habitation.

vile *adj.* Probably before 1300 *vyle*, *vile* of poor quality, very bad or inferior; later, disgusting, base (about 1300); borrowed from Anglo-French and Old French *vile*, from Latin *vīlis* cheap, worthless, base, common.

vilify *v.* Before 1500 *vilifien* to lower in worth or value; borrowed from Late Latin *vilificāre* to make cheap or base, regard as of little value, from a lost adjective **vilificus* (Latin *vīlis* cheap, base + the root of *facere* to make); for suffix see -FY. The meaning of slander, speak evil of, is first recorded in 1598. —**vilification** *n.* 1630, act of making vile, degradation; later, act of reviling (1653); borrowed from Medieval Latin *vilificationem* (nominative *vilificatio*) a vilifying, cheapening, from Late Latin *vilificāre* vilify; for suffix see -ATION.

villa *n.* 1611, borrowing of Italian *villa*, from Latin *vīlla* country house, farm, related to *vīcus* village.

village *n.* About 1390, borrowing of Old French *village* houses and other buildings in a group, usually smaller than a town, from Latin *vīllāticum* farmstead (with its associated buildings), noun use of neuter singular of *vīllāticus* having to do with a farmstead or villa, from *vīlla* country house, VILLA. —**villager** *n.* (1570)

villain *n.* About 1303 *vyleyn* base or low-born rustic later *vilaine* (about 1330); borrowed from Anglo-French and Old French *villain*, *vilein*, from Medieval Latin *vīllānus* farmhand, from Latin *vīlla* country house, VILLA. The extended (and now usual) sense of an unprincipled scoundrel is implied in the earliest uses of this word. —**villainous** *adj.* Probably about 1390 *vilanous*, borrowed from Old French *vīlennus*, from *vīllain*, *vilein* villain; for suffix see -OUS. —**villainy** *n.* Probably before 1200 *vileinie*, borrowed from Anglo-French and Old French *villainie*, *vileinie*, from *villain*, *vilein* villain; for suffix see -Y. This word probably influenced the borrowing of *villain*, but had little to do with the early formation of *villain*.

***ville** a suffix sporadically in vogue since about 1840 (often with -s-, as in *dullsville*, *dragsville*, but also *mediaville*). Adapted from -ville in place names, such as *Clarksville*, *Hicksville* ultimately a borrowing from Old French *ville* town, from Latin *vīlla* VILLA.

villein *n.* member of a class of half-free peasants in the Middle Ages. Before 1325 *vīleyn*, variant of VILLAIN.

vim *n.* 1843, borrowed from Latin *vim*, accusative of *vīs* strength, force, power, energy.

vincible *adj.* 1548, borrowed from Middle French *vincible*, and directly from Latin *vincibilis* that can be easily overcome, from *vincere* to conquer; for suffix see -IBLE.

vindicate *v.* 1533, to exercise in revenge borrowed from Latin *vindicatus*, past participle of *vindicāre* to set free, lay claim to, assert, avenge; related to *vindicta* revenge; for suffix see -ATE¹. Latin *vindicāre* probably from *vim dicāre* to show authority, and *vindicta* from *vim dictam* ownership asserted, were both formed from *vim*, accusative of *vīs* force and the root of *dicere* to say. It is also possible that *vindicate* is a back formation from *vindication*. The sense of clear from suspicion, dishonor, etc., is first recorded in English before 1635. —**vindication** *n.* 1484, act of avenging borrowed from Middle French *vindication*, and directly from Latin *vindicatōnem* (nominative *vindicatīō*) act of claiming or avenging, from *vindicāre*; for suffix see -ATION.

vindictive *adj.* 1616, formed from Latin *vindicta* revenge + English -ive.

vine *n.* Probably before 1300 *vyne*, borrowed from Old French *vigne*, *vine*, from Latin *vīnea* vine, vineyard, from *vīnum* WINE. —**vineyard** *n.* About 1300 *vynezord* plantation of vines; formed from Middle English *vyne* vine + *zord* enclosure, yard¹.

vinegar *n.* Before 1325 *vinegre*, borrowed from Old French *vinagre*, *vinagre* (vin wine, from Latin *vīnum* WINE + *aigre* sour, sharp). —**vinegary** *adj.* 1730, formed from English *vinegar* + -y¹. Largely used in a figurative sense of sour or acid, it is distinct from *vinegarish* (1648), which is more often used in the literal sense of resembling vinegar in taste.

vintage *n.* Probably before 1425, the yield of grapes or wine from a vineyard; borrowed from Anglo-French *vintage*, alteration (influenced by Middle English *viniter* or Anglo-French *vineter* vintner) of Old French *vendange* yield from a vineyard (cognate with Italian *vendemmia*, from Vulgar Latin **vindēmia*), from Latin *vīndēmia* a gathering of grapes, yield of grapes (*vīnum* wine + *dēmere* take off). The meaning of age or year of a particular wine is first recorded in English in 1746, and that of a being of an earlier time (as in *a man of ancient vintage*, 1883).

vintner *n.* Probably before 1410 *vynteneer*, about 1460 *vyntnere* alteration of earlier *viniter* (1300); borrowed from Anglo-French *vineter*, Old French *vinetier*, from Medieval Latin *vinetarius* a wine dealer, from Latin *vīnētum* vineyard, from *vīnum* wine; for suffix see -ER¹.

vinyl *n.* 1863, a univalent radical derived from ethylene formed from Latin *vīnum* wine + English -yl. The connection with Latin *vīnum* wine is through *ethylene*, and *ethyl* ordinary alcohol present in wine. The meaning of a plastic or synthetic resin made from a compound containing the vinyl radical is first recorded in 1939.

viol *n.* 1542 *veol*; 1560 *viol*, variant of Middle English *viel* (1483); borrowed from Middle French *viole*, *vielle*, from Old French, from Old Provençal *viola* VIOLA.

viola *n.* 1797, borrowing of Italian *viola*, from Old Provençal *viola*, from Medieval Latin *vitula* stringed instrument.

violate *v.* Probably before 1425 *violaten* to break or transgress (an oath, promise, etc.) borrowed from Latin *violatus*, past participle of *violāre* treat with violence, outrage, dishonor; perhaps related to Latin *vīs* violence, strength; for suffix see -ATE¹. The sense of ravish is first recorded in Middle English about 1450. —**violation** *n.* Before 1400 *violacion* borrowed from Old French *violacion*, and directly from Latin *violatōnem* (nominative *violatīō*) an injury, irreverence, from *violāre* to violate; for suffix see -ATION. —**violator** *n.* Probably before 1425, borrowed from Latin *violātor*, from *violāt-*, past participle stem of *violāre* to violate + -or -or².

violent *adj.* About 1340, very strong or severe; borrowed from Old French *violent*, from Latin *violentus* vehement, forcible, probably related to *violāre* VIOLATE. The sense of using strong force to harm or frighten, is first recorded about 1384. —**violence** *n.* About 1300, borrowed from Anglo-French and Old French *violence*, from Latin *violentia* vehemence, impetuosity, from *violentus* vehement, forcible, violent; for suffix see -ENCE.

violet *n.* Probably before 1300, borrowed from Old French *violette*, diminutive of *viole* violet, from Latin *viola*; for suffix see -ET.

violin *n.* 1579, borrowed from Italian *violino*, diminutive of *viola* VIOLA. —**violinist** *n.* About 1670, borrowed from Italian *violinista*, from *violino* violin; for suffix see -IST.

violoncello *n.* 1724, borrowing of Italian *violoncello*, diminutive of *violone* bass viol, augmentative form of *viola* VIOLA.

viper *n.* Probably before 1425 *vipere*, borrowed from Middle French *vipere*, from Latin *vīpera* viper, snake, serpent, contraction of **vivipera*, remade in Late Latin *vīviparus* bringing forth alive (Latin *vīvus* alive, living + *parere* bring forth, bear); so called from the former belief that the viper does not lay eggs. The sense of a spiteful person, or scoundrel, is first recorded in English in 1591.

vireo *n.* 1834, borrowed from Latin *vireō* kind of bird, perhaps the greenfinch, from *virēre* be green.

virescent *adj.* 1826, borrowed from Latin *virēscens* (nominative *virēscens*) a growing green, present participle of *virēscere* turn green, from *virēre* be green; for suffix see -ESCENT.

virgin *n.* Probably before 1200 *virgine* unmarried or chaste woman borrowed from Old French *virgine*, from Latin *virginem* (nominative *virgō*) maiden, unwedded girl or woman; also *adj.* unwedded, fresh, unused; probably related to *virga* young shoot. —**adj.** Probably before 1300 *virgine* from the noun in English and borrowed from adjective use in Latin. The sense of unsullied, pure, is first recorded in English in the 1300's, and of new, fresh, unused, in 1590. —**virginal** *adj.* About 1412, of or characteristic of a virgin borrowed from Middle French *virginal*, and directly from Latin *virginalis* maidenly, from *virgō* (genitive *virginis*) virgin; for suffix see -AL¹. —**n.** small harpsichord. 1530, used in the plural to refer to a single instrument probably from the adjective, but the association is unknown. The singular is first recorded in 1570. —**virginity** *n.* About 1303 *virginité*, borrowed from Anglo-French and Old French

virginité, from Latin *virginitatem* (nominative *virginitās*) maidenhood, from *virgō* (genitive *virginis*) virgin; for suffix see -ITY.

virgule *n.* 1837, borrowing of French *virgule*, from Latin *virgula* punctuation mark, twig, diminutive of *virga* shoot, rod, stick. The form *virgule* replaced *virgula* (borrowing of Latin *virgula*) recorded in 1728.

virile *adj.* 1490, borrowed from Middle French *viril*, and directly from Latin *virilis* of a man, manly, from *vir* a man, a hero. The sense of vigorous, forceful, is first recorded in 1572. —**virility** *n.* 1586, period of manhood; borrowed from Middle French *virilité*, and possibly directly from Latin *virilitatem* (nominative *virilitās*) manhood, from *virilis* manly, virile; for suffix see -ITY.

virology *n.* 1935, formed from English *vir(us)* + -ology.

virtu *n.* 1722, excellence in an object of art; borrowed from Italian *virtù* excellence, from Latin *virtutem* (nominative *virtūs*) virtue.

virtual *adj.* Before 1398 *virtual* influencing by certain physical virtues or capacities; borrowed from Medieval Latin *virtualis*, from Latin *virtūs* excellence, potency, efficacy, virtue; for suffix see -AL¹. The meaning of being something in essence or effect, though not so formally or in name, is first recorded in English in 1654.

virtue *n.* Probably before 1200 *vertu* moral excellence; borrowed from Anglo-French and Old French *vertu*, from Latin *virtutem* (nominative *virtūs*) moral strength, manliness, valor, excellence, worth, from *vir* man. The meaning of superiority or excellence, unusual ability, is found in Middle English about 1384, and that of a particular power, efficacy, or inherent good quality, before 1387. The phrase *by virtue of* (before 1200) originally meant by the power or efficacy of. —**virtuous** *adj.* Probably before 1300 *vertuous* valorous, valiant; borrowed from Anglo-French and Old French *vertuous* excellent, effective, from Late Latin *virtuōsus* good, excellent, from Latin *virtūs* virtue; for suffix see -OUS. The meaning of just, righteous, appeared before 1439.

virtuoso *n.* 1620, scholar, connoisseur; borrowing of Italian *virtuoso*, noun use of adjective, skilled, learned, of exceptional worth, from Late Latin *virtuōsus* VIRTUOUS. The meaning of a person with great skill, as in music, is found in 1743. —**virtuosity** *n.* 1673, formed from English *virtuoso* + -ity.

virulent *adj.* 1400, borrowed from Latin *virulentus* poisonous, from *vīrus* poison; for suffix see -ENT.

virus *n.* 1392, venomous substance; borrowed from Latin *vīrus* poison, sap of plants, slimy liquid. The meaning of a poisonous substance or agent that causes an infectious disease is first recorded in 1728. —**viral** *adj.* 1948, formed from English *vīrus* + -al¹.

visa *n.* 1831, official signature or endorsement upon a passport; borrowing of French *visa*, from New Latin *visa* in *charta visa* paper that has been verified; literally, seen, feminine past participle of *vidēre* to see.

visage *n.* Probably before 1300, borrowed from Old French *visage*, from *vis* face, appearance, from Latin *vīsus* (genitive *vīsus*) a look, vision, from the past participle stem of *vidēre* to see; for suffix see -AGE.

vis-à-vis *prep.* 1755, borrowing of French, prepositional use of the adjective *vis-à-vis* face to face, from Old French *vis* face; see VISAGE. —**adv. 1807, from the preposition.**

viscera *n. pl.* 1651, from Latin *vīscera*, plural of *vīscus* internal organ. —**visceral** *adj.* 1575, affecting inward feelings; borrowed from Middle French *viscéral*, and directly from Medieval Latin *visceralis* internal, from Latin *vīscera* viscera; for suffix see -AL¹. The figurative sense disappeared from the record after 1640, and is apparently a revival of the mid-twentieth century. The literal sense is first recorded in 1794.

viscid *adj.* 1635, borrowed from French *viscide*, or directly from Late Latin *viscidus* sticky, clammy, from Latin *viscum* anything sticky, birdlime made from mistletoe, mistletoe.

viscount *n.* Before 1387, borrowed from Anglo-French and Old French *visconte* (in which the *s* eventually ceased to be pronounced; compare modern French *vicomte*), from Medieval Latin *vicecomes* (genitive *vicecomitis*), formed from Late Latin *vice-* deputy, VICE- + Latin *comes* member of the imperial court, nobleman.

viscous *adj.* 1392, borrowed from Anglo-French *viscous*, and directly from Late Latin *viscōsus* sticky, from Latin *viscum* anything sticky, birdlime (see VISCID); for suffix see -OUS.

vise *n.* Probably before 1300 *vys* device like a screw or winch for bending a crossbow or catapult; borrowed from Old French *vis*, *viz* screw, nominative case to a lost oblique case **vit*, from Latin *vītis* vine, tendril of a vine; literally, that which winds. The tool having two jaws closed by a screw is first recorded in English in 1500. —**v.** 1602, from the noun.

visible *adj.* Before 1340, borrowed from Old French *visible*, and directly from Latin *visibilis* that may be seen, from *vīsus*, past participle of *vidēre* to see; for suffix see -IBLE. —**visibility** *n.* 1581, borrowed from Middle French *visibilité*, or directly from Late Latin *visibilitatem* (nominative *visibilitās*) the condition of being seen, conspicuousness, from Latin *visibilis* visible; for suffix see -ITY.

vision *n.* About 1300 *visioun* something seen in the imagination, as a supernatural experience; borrowed from Anglo-French *visioun*, Old French *vision*, from Latin *vīsiōnem* (nominative *vīsiō*) sight, thing seen, from *vīs-*, past participle stem of *vidēre* to see; for suffix see -ION. The meaning of the sense of sight, is first recorded in English about 1491. —**visionary** *adj.* 1648, perceived in a vision; also, able to see visions (1651); formed from English *vision* + -ary. —**n.** 1702, from the adjective.

visit *v.* Probably before 1200 *visiten* come to (a person) in order to comfort or benefit; borrowed from Old French *visiter*, and directly from Latin *visitare* to go to see, come to inspect, a frequentative form of *vīdere* behold, visit (a person or place), from *vīs-*, past participle stem of *vidēre* to see, notice, observe,

consider. The meaning of go to see a person is first recorded in English about 1250, and that of come upon, afflict, in 1424. —**n.** 1621, act of visiting; from the verb, and borrowed from French *visite*, from the verb in French. —**visitation** **n.** About 1303 *visitacioun* official visit to inspect; borrowed from Anglo-French and Old French *visitation*, from Latin *visitationem* (nominative *visitatio*) a sight, appearance, from *visitare* to visit; for suffix see -ATION. The meaning of a coming by God to a person is first recorded about 1340. —**visitor** **n.** About 1370 *visitour*, borrowed from Anglo-French *visitour*, Old French *visiteur*, from *visiter* to visit; for suffix see -OR².

visor **n.** 1459 *vesour*, alteration of earlier *viser* (probably before 1300); borrowed from Anglo-French *viser*, in Old French *visiere*, from *vis* face; see VISAGE; for suffix see -OR². The spelling *visor* is first found in 1599.

vista **n.** 1644, borrowing of Italian *vista* sight, view, noun use of feminine past participle of *vedere* see, from Latin *vidēre*.

visual **adj.** Before 1420, coming from the eye or sight (as a beam of light); borrowed from Late Latin *visuālis* of sight, from Latin *visus* sight, from past participle of *vidēre* to see; for suffix see -AL¹. The meaning of relating to vision is first recorded in English in 1603. —**n.** 1726, ray emanating from the eye; from the adjective. The meaning of a photograph, film, or other visual display is first recorded in 1951. —**visualize** **v.** 1817 (implied in *visualized*), formed from English *visual* + -ize.

vital **adj.** About 1385, of or manifesting life; borrowed from Latin *vitalis* of or belonging to life, from *vita* life, related to *vivere* to live; for suffix see -AL¹. The sense of very necessary or important (1619), is from the meaning of essential or necessary to life (1482). —**vitals** **n.** pl. Before 1610, probably borrowed from Latin *vitalia* vital force, life, neuter plural of *vitalis* vital, and probably from the adjective in English + -s plural. —**vitality** **n.** 1592, vital force, power, or principle as manifested by living things; borrowed from Latin *vitalitatem* (nominative *vitalitās*) vital force; for suffix see -ITY.

vitamin **n.** 1920, alteration of *vitamine* (1912); formed from Latin *vita* life + English *amine*; so called because vitamins were thought to be amine derivatives.

vitiāte **v.** 1534, borrowed from Latin *vitiātus* past participle of *vitiāre* to vitiate, make faulty, injure, spoil, corrupt, from *vitium* fault; for suffix see -ATE¹. —**vitiātion** **n.** 1635, borrowed from Latin *vitiātiōnem* (nominative *vitiātiō*) violation, corruption, from *vitiāre* vitiate; for suffix see -ATION; also probably formed in English from *vitiāte* + -ation.

viticulture **n.** 1872, the cultivation of grapes, formed from Latin *vitis* vine + English *culture*.

vitreous **adj.** 1646, borrowed from Latin *vitreus* of glass, glassy, from *vitrum* glass; for suffix see -OUS.

vitriify **v.** 1594, borrowed from Middle French *vitriifier* (also found in Spanish and Portuguese *vitricar*, Italian *vitrificare*) implying a Medieval Latin **vitrificare*, from Latin *vitrum* glass; for suffix see -FY. Modern English *vitriify* replaced *vitricate* (recorded in 1471), a form which adds weight to the possible

existence of a Medieval Latin **vitrificare* to vitrify. —**vitrication** **n.** 1612, borrowed from Middle French *vitrication* (also found in Spanish *vitricación*, Portuguese *vitricação*, Italian *vittrificazione*) implying a Medieval Latin **vitricationem* (nominative *vitricatio*), from **vitrificare*; for suffix see -ATION.

vitriol **n.** 1392, borrowed from Old French *vitriol*, from Medieval Latin *vitriolum* vitriol, from neuter of *vitriolus*, variant of Late Latin *vitreolus* of glass, from Latin *vitreus* of glass, glassy, from *vitrum* glass; so called from the glassy appearance of vitriol in certain states. The sense of bitterly severe or caustic feeling is first recorded in 1769, with reference to the corrosive properties of vitriol. —**vitriolic** **adj.** 1670, of or belonging to vitriol; borrowed from French *vitriolique*, or formed from English *vitriol* + -ic. The sense of sharp, bitterly severe, is first recorded in 1841.

vituperate **v.** 1542, probably a back formation from *vituperation*, modeled on Latin *vituperātus*, past participle of *vituperāre* blame, censure, disparage, formed from a lost adjective **vituperos*, variant of *vituperos* having faults (*vitium* fault + *-paros*, from *parāre* prepare); for suffix see -ATE¹. —**vituperation** **n.** About 1449 *vituperacioun* act or fact of reviling; borrowed from Middle French *vituperation*, and directly from Latin *vituperātiōnem* (nominative *vituperātiō*) blame, censure, from *vituperāre* vituperate; for suffix see -ATION. —**vituperative** **adj.** (1727)

viva *interj.*, **n.** 1644, borrowing of Italian *viva* (long) live, may he or she live, third person singular present subjunctive of *vivere* to live, from Latin *vivere* to live. The word was probably reborrowed (1836) from Spanish *viva*, from *vivir* to live, from Latin *vivere* to live.

vivacious **adj.** About 1645, formed in English as an adjective to *vivacity*, from Latin *vivāx* (genitive *vivācis*) lively, long-lived, from *vivere* to live + English -ous. —**vivacity** **n.** Probably before 1425 *vivacite* mental acuteness; borrowed from Middle French *vivacité*, and possibly directly from Latin *vivacitatem* (nominative *vivacitās*) vital force, liveliness, from *vivāx*; for suffix see -ITY.

vivid **adj.** 1638, energetic, lively; borrowed from French *vivide*, and probably directly from Latin *vividus* spirited, animated, lively, from *vivus* alive. The meaning of brilliant, strikingly bright (said of colors) is first recorded in 1665, that of strong and distinct (as in *a vivid memory of the fire*) in 1690, and that of very active or intense (as in *a vivid interest or imagination*) in 1853.

vivify **v.** 1392 *vivifier*; borrowed from Old French *vivifier*, from Late Latin *vivificāre* make alive, from *vivificus* enlivening (Latin *vivus* alive + the root of *facere* to make); for suffix see -FY.

viviparous **adj.** 1646, borrowed from Late Latin *viviparus* bringing forth alive, from Latin *vivus* alive, living + *parere* bring forth, bear; for suffix see -OUS.

vivisection **n.** 1707, formed in English from Latin *vivus* alive + English (dis)section; compare obsolete English *vividissection* (before 1711). —**vivisect** **v.** 1859, back formation from *vivisec-*

tion. —**vivisectionist** *n.* person who practices or defends vivisection (1879).

vixen *n.* About 1150 *fixen*; developed from Old English **fyxen* (implied in *fyxan*), feminine of *fox* FOX, corresponding to Old High German *fuhsin* (modern German *Füchs*); or Middle English *fixen* may have developed from Old English *fyxen*, adj., of the fox, as in *fyxen hȳd* fox hide. The form *vixen* is first found in the late 1500's; for a similar change of *f* to *v*, compare VAT.

viz. *adv.* Before 1540, abbreviation of VIDELICET. The *z* represents the ordinary Medieval Latin symbol for the ending *-et*. Earlier (now obsolete) English forms of this abbreviation were *vidz.* and *vidzt.*

vizier or **vizir** *n.* 1562 *vesir*, borrowed from Turkish *vezir*, from Arabic *wazīr* one who bears the burden of office, viceroy, in reference to the original sense of a porter or carrier, from *wazara* he carried.

vocabulary *n.* 1532, borrowed (perhaps by influence of Middle French *vocabulaire*) from Medieval Latin *vocabularium* a list of words, from Latin *vocabulum* word, name, noun, from *vocāre* to name, call; for suffix see -ARY.

vocal *adj.* Before 1396, spoken, oral; borrowed from Old French *vocal*, and directly from Latin *vōcālis* sounding, sonorous, speaking (as a noun, a vowel), from *vōx* (genitive *vōcis*) voice; for suffix see -AL¹.

The meaning of having to do with the voice is attested by 1644, and the sense in phonetics of voiced, in 1688, and like a vowel, in 1589. —**vocalic** *adj.* 1814, composed mainly or entirely of vowels; formed from English *vocal* + *-ic*. The sense in phonetics of consisting of a vowel is first recorded in 1852, and that of having a vowel sound, in 1861. —**vocalist** *n.* 1834, formed from English *vocal* + *-ist*. An earlier (now obsolete) sense of speaker is found in 1613. —**vocalize** *v.* 1669, formed from English *vocal* + *-ize*. The sense in phonetics of change into a vowel (as in *vocalize the r in four*) is first recorded in 1844, and that of to insert vowels in, in 1845.

vocation *n.* Probably before 1430 *vocacioun* spiritual calling; borrowed from Middle French *vocation*, or directly from Latin *vocātiōnem* (nominative *vocātiō*), literally, a calling, from *vocāre* to call; for suffix see -ATION. Compare AVOCATION. The sense of one's occupation or profession (1553) was perhaps influenced by that meaning in Middle French. —**vocational** *adj.* (1652)

vocative *adj.* About 1432 *vocatif*, showing the person or thing spoken to; borrowed from Middle French *vocatif* (feminine *vocative*), and directly from Latin *vocātīvus* (*cāsus*) (case of) calling, from *vocātus*, past participle of *vocāre* to call (translation of Greek *klētikē ptōsis*; *klētikós* related to calling, from *klēōs* called); for suffix see -IVE. —**n.** Before 1522, from the adjective.

vociferate *v.* 1599, in part borrowed from Latin, and in part, probably a back formation from *vociferation*, modeled on Latin *vōciferātus*, past participle of *vōciferārī* to shout, yell, from a lost adjective **vōcifer* lifting one's voice (*vōx*, genitive *vōcis* VOICE + the root of *ferre* to carry); for suffix see -ATE¹. —**vociferation**

n. About 1400, borrowed from Old French *vociferacion*, and directly from Latin *vōciferātiōnem* (nominative *vōciferātiō*) clamor, outcry, from *vōciferārī* vociferate; for suffix see -ATION. —**vociferous** *adj.* About 1611, formed from Latin *vōciferārī* vociferate + English *-ous*.

vodka *n.* 1802, borrowed from Russian *vódka* (*vodá* water + diminutive suffix *-ka*).

vogue *n.* 1571, leading place in popularity greatest success or acceptance; borrowed from Middle French *vogue* fashion, success, drift, swaying motion (of a boat); literally, a rowing, from Old French *voguer* to row, sway, set sail, probably from Old Low German **wōgōn*, variant of *wagōn* float, fluctuate; literally, to balance oneself.

voice *n.* Probably before 1300, sound made by the human mouth; borrowed from Old French *voiz*, *vois*, from Latin *vōcem*, accusative of *vōx* voice, sound, utterance, cry, call, speech, sentence, language, word, related to *vocāre* to call. The meaning of anything like speech or sound (as in *the voice of conscience*) is first recorded before 1325, that of opinion or choice (as in *a voice for compromise*) in 1390, and ability as a singer, in 1607. —**v.** Before 1438 *voicen*, from the noun. The meaning of utter with the vocal cords (as the sounds represented by *z* and *v*) is first recorded in 1867. —**voiceless** *adj.* 1535, having no voice; 1867, not voiced (as the sounds represented by *f* and *p*).

void *adj.* About 1300 *voide* unoccupied, vacant; borrowed from Anglo-French and Old French *voide* (feminine *voit*) empty, vast, wide, hollow, waste, from Vulgar Latin **vocitus*, presumably replacing Latin *vōcivus*, *vacivus* unoccupied, vacant, and thereby related to *vacuus* empty. —**v.** Probably before 1300 *voiden* to empty, discharge; borrowed from Anglo-French and Old French *voider* make void or empty, from Vulgar Latin **vocitare*, from **vocitus* empty. —**n.** 1616, unfilled space in a building; before 1618, emptiness, vacancy; from the adjective.

voile *n.* 1889, borrowing of French *voile*, from Old French *veile*, originally veil, from Latin *vēla*, plural (taken as feminine singular) of *vēlum* covering, curtain, veil.

volatile *adj.* 1597, fine or light; later, evaporating rapidly (1605); borrowed from Middle French *volatile*, from Latin *volātilis* fleeting, transitory, flying, from *volāt-*, past participle stem of *volāre* to fly. The sense of readily changing, fickle, is first recorded in 1647. —**volatility** *n.* 1626, readiness to vaporize or evaporate; borrowed from New Latin *volatilitas*, from Latin *volātilis* volatile; for suffix see -ITY. —**volatilize** *v.* 1657, formed from English *volatile* + *-ize*, and probably borrowed from French *volatiliser*, from Middle French *volatile* + *-iser* *-ize*.

volcano *n.* 1613 *vulcano*; later *volcano* (1690); borrowed from Italian *vulcano*, *volcano*, literally, burning mountain, from Latin *Vulcānus*, earlier *Vōlcānus* Vulcan, Roman god of fire; also, fire, flames, volcano (first applied to Mt. Etna by the Romans, as the seat of Vulcan). The later borrowings from Italian replaced English *volcan* (1577, from French and Spanish *volcan*), and *vulcan* (1578, from Latin *Vulcānus*). —**volcanic** *adj.* 1774,

ejected by a volcano; borrowed from French *volcanique*, from *volcan* volcano, from Italian *vulcano*, *volcano*; for suffix see -IC.

vole *n.* 1805 *vole mouse*; probably borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Norwegian *voll*, perhaps **vollmus* field mouse, Icelandic *völlur*, and Swedish *vall* field, from Proto-Germanic **walthuz*).

volition *n.* 1615, borrowing of French *volition*, from Medieval Latin *volitionem* (nominative *volitio*) will, volition, from Latin *vol-*, stem (as in *volō* I wish) of *velle* to wish; for suffix see -TION. The sense of power of willing (as in *drug use weakens volition*) is not recorded before 1660.

volley *n.* 1573, the discharge of a number of guns at once; borrowed from Middle French *volee* flight, from Vulgar Latin **volāta* (feminine), from Latin *volātum*, past participle of *volāre* to fly; for suffix see -y³. The sense of an outpouring of words, oaths, shouts, etc., is first recorded in 1590. —**v.** 1591, from the noun.

volt *n.* Before 1873, probably created by back formation from *voltaic*, in allusion to Alessandro Volta, who perfected a chemical action used in the electric battery. —**voltage** *n.* 1890, formed from English *volt* + *-age*. —**voltaic** *adj.* 1813, formed from *volta* (in allusion to Alessandro Volta) + English suffix -ic.

voluble *adj.* Probably before 1425, variable, moving easily; earlier *volible* turning (before 1382); borrowed from Old French *voluble*, from Latin *volūbilis* that turns around, rolling, flowing, fluent (of speech), from *volvere* to turn around, roll. The meaning of fluent, talkative, is first recorded in English in 1588. —**volubility** *n.* 1579, versatility; later, talkativeness (1596); borrowed from Middle French *volubilité*, and perhaps directly from Latin *volūbilitatem* (nominative *volūbilitās*) rotating motion, fluency, from *volūbilis* rolling, flowing, fluent.

volume *n.* Before 1382, roll of parchment containing writing, large book; borrowed from Old French *volume*, and directly from Latin *volūmen* (genitive *volūminis*) roll (as of manuscript), coil, wreath, etc., from *volvere* to turn around, roll.

The meaning of a book forming part of a set (1523) was borrowed from Middle French, and the sense of the bulk or size (of a book) in 1530, leading to the generalized sense of bulk, mass, quantity, in 1621, in part borrowed from French. The meaning of the amount of sound is first recorded in 1822. —**voluminous** *adj.* 1611, full of turnings and windings, writing so much as to fill volumes; borrowed from Late Latin *volūminōsus* full of turnings or folds, from Latin *volūmen* (genitive *volūminis*) volume; for suffix see -OUS.

voluntary *adj.* About 1385, borrowed from Latin *voluntārius* of one's free will, from *voluntās* will, from earlier **voluntitās*, formed from the ancient accusative singular present participle **velontem* of *velle* to wish; for suffix see -ARY.

volunteer *n.* About 1600, person who voluntarily enrolls for military service; borrowed from Middle French *volontaire*, *volontaire*, noun use of adjective meaning voluntary, from Latin *voluntārius* voluntary, of one's free will; for suffix see -EER. The meaning of one who offers his services in any capacity is first recorded in 1638. —**v.** 1755, to enlist as a soldier; from the

noun. —**adj.** 1649, serving as a volunteer in an army or navy; from the noun.

voluptuous *adj.* About 1380, borrowed probably from Old French *voluptueux*, and directly from Latin *voluptuōsus* full of pleasure, delightful, from *voluptās* pleasure, delight, from *volup* pleasurably, from **volupe*, neuter of **volupis* pleasant, ultimately related to Latin *velle* to wish; for suffix see -OUS. —**voluptuary** *n.* Before 1610, borrowed perhaps from French *voluptuaire*, and directly from Medieval Latin *voluptuarius*, alteration of Latin *voluptārius* of or pertaining to pleasure, from *voluptās* pleasure; for suffix see -ARY.

volute *n.* 1696, spiral ornament on an Ionic capital; borrowed from French *volute*, from Italian *voluta*, from Latin *volūta* a spiral scroll; originally feminine past participle of *volvere* to turn around, roll. The meaning of a thing or part having a spiral form is first recorded in English in 1756. —**adj.** 1845, from the noun.

vomit *v.* 1422 *vomiten*, borrowed from Latin *vomitāre* to vomit often, frequentative form of *vomere* spew forth, discharge, vomit. —**n.** 1737, borrowed from Anglo-French and Old French *vomite*, and directly from Latin *vomitūs* (genitive *vomitūs*) vomit, a throwing up, from past participle of *vomere*.

voodoo *n.* 1850 *voudou* (influenced by the name of an African deity, *Vandoo*, 1820); borrowed from Louisiana French *voudou*, from a West African language (compare Ewe and Fon *vodu* spirit, demon, deity). The variant form *vodun*, was originally borrowed directly, possibly also influenced by *Vandoo*, from a West African language spoken in Dahomey, but was probably later reborrowed (1920) from Haitian Creole *vodun*, *vodou*.

voracity *n.* 1526, quality or character of being greedy, especially in eating, voraciousness; borrowed from Middle French *voracité*, and probably directly from Latin *voracitatem* (nominative *voracitās*) greediness, ravenousness, from *vorāx* (genitive *vorācis*) greedy, from *vorāre* to devour; for suffix see -ITY. The sense of a being unable to be satisfied, is first recorded in English in 1601. —**voracious** *adj.* 1635, formed in English as an adjective to *voracity*, from Latin *vorāx* (genitive *vorācis*) greedy + English -ous.

vortex *n.* 1652, borrowed from Latin *vortex*, variant of *vertex* an eddy of water, wind, or flame, whirlpool, whirlwind, from *vertere* to turn.

votary *n.* 1546, person bound by vows to a religious life; formed from Latin *vōtum* vow + English -ary. The sense of a person devoted to a particular pursuit or interest is first recorded in 1591.

vote *n.* Probably before 1300, a vow, wish; borrowed from Latin *vōtum* a vow, wish, promise, dedication, noun use of neuter of *vōtus*, past participle of *vovēre* to promise, dedicate. The sense of a formal expression of a wish or choice, as in accepting or rejecting a proposal, candidate, etc., is first recorded about 1460. —**v.** 1533 (originally Scottish), to vow (to do something); probably borrowed from Late Latin *vōtāre* to devote by a vow, from Latin *vōtum* vow, *n.* The meaning of

cast a vote is first recorded in English in 1552. —**voter** *n.* (Before 1578)

votive *adj.* 1593, carrying out a vow, devout; 1597, expressive of a vow or wish; borrowed from Middle French *votif* (feminine *votive*), and directly from Latin *vōtivus* of or pertaining to a vow, conforming to one's wishes, from *vōtum* VOW; for suffix see -IVE.

vouch *v.* Before 1325 *vochen* summon into court to prove a title; later, allege, affirm (probably about 1380); borrowed from Anglo-French *voucher*, Old French *vocher*, *vochier* to call, summon, invoke, claim, probably from Gallo-Romance **voticāre*, by metathesis (of *t* and *c*) from Latin *vocitāre* to call to, summon insistently, a frequentative form of Latin *vocāre* to call, call upon, summon. The meaning of guarantee to be true or accurate is first recorded in English in 1591. —**voucher** *n.* 1523, borrowed from Anglo-French *voucher*, noun use of *voucher* to vouch. The sense of a receipt from a business transaction is first recorded in English in 1696.

vouchsafe *v.* About 1303 *vouchen sauf* to vouch as safe (*vouchen* to VOUCH + *sauf* SAFE).

vow *n.* About 1300 *vou*, borrowed from Anglo-French and Old French *vou*, from Latin *vōtum* a vow, wish, promise, dedication, noun use of neuter of *vōtus*, past participle of *vovēre* to promise solemnly, pledge, dedicate, vow. —**v.** About 1303 *vowen*; borrowed from Old French *vouer*, *vower* make a vow, promise, from *vou* vow, *n.*

vowel *n.* About 1308, borrowed from Old French *voel*, from Latin *vōcālis* in *littera vōcālis* vowel; literally, vocal letter (referring to its voiced quality), from *vōx* (genitive *vōcis*) voice.

voyage *n.* Probably before 1300 *viage* a traveling, journey; about 1300 *veyage*; borrowed from Old French *veiage*, *vayage*, *voiage*, *vaiage* travel, journey, voyage, from Late Latin *viaticum* a journey, in Latin meaning provisions for a journey, noun use of neuter of *viaticus* of or for a journey, from *via* road, journey, travel. —**v.** 1475 *voyagen*, borrowed from Middle French *voyager*, from Old French *voyage*, *n.* —**voyager** *n.* 1477, borrowed from Old French *voyagier* (*voyage* + *-ier* -er¹), and probably formed from English *voyage*, *v.* + -er¹.

voyeur *n.* About 1920, borrowing of French *voyeur* (1898), literally, one who views or inspects, from *voir* to view, see, from Latin *vidēre* to see.

vulcanite *n.* 1860, formed from English *Vulcan* (from Latin *Vulcānus*) the Roman god of fire + *-ite*¹. An earlier sense, pyroxene (a mineral), is found in English in 1836.

vulcanize *v.* 1827, burn up, formed from English *Vulcan* (from Latin *Vulcānus*) the Roman god of fire + *-ize*. The meaning of treat (rubber) with sulfur and heat is first recorded in 1846. —**vulcanization** *n.* 1846, formed from *vulcanize* + *-ation*.

vulgar *adj.* 1391, common, ordinary; borrowed from Latin *vulgāris* of or pertaining to the common people, common, vulgar, from *vulgus* the common people multitude, crowd, throng; for suffix see -AR. The meaning of coarse, low, ill-bred, is first recorded in English in 1643 and that of commonly or customarily used, vernacular (as in *Vulgar Latin*) in 1483. —**vulgarism** *n.* 1644, a common expression; later, a colloquialism (1746), and the quality of being vulgar (1749); formed from English *vulgar* + *-ism*. —**vulgarity** *n.* 1579, the common people; borrowed from Middle French *vulgarité*, and directly from Latin *vulgāritās* the multitude; literally, the quality of being common, from *vulgāris* common, vulgar; for suffix see -ITY. The meaning of lack of good breeding, is recorded in English before 1774. —**vulgarize** *v.* 1605, act in a vulgar manner, perhaps borrowed from French *vulgariser*, and formed from English *vulgar* + *-ize*. The meaning of coarsen, is first recorded in English in 1756.

Vulgate *n.* 1609 (as an attributive use), Latin translation of the Bible made by Saint Jerome; borrowed from Medieval Latin *Vulgata* the Vulgate edition, from Late Latin *vulgāta* common, general, ordinary, popular, in *vulgāta editiō* popular edition, from Latin *vulgāta*, feminine past participle of *vulgāre* make common or public, from *vulgus* the common people; for suffix see -ATE¹.

vulnerable *adj.* 1605, borrowed from Late Latin *vulnerābilis* wounding, from Latin *vulnerāre* to wound, from *vulnus* (genitive *vulneris*) wound; for suffix see -ABLE. —**vulnerability** *n.* (1808)

vulpine *adj.* 1628, borrowed from Latin *vulpinus* of or pertaining to a fox, from *vulpēs*, earlier *volpēs* (genitive *vulpis*, *volpis*) fox; for suffix see -INE¹.

vulture *n.* About 1380 *voltor*; also, about 1385 *voltur*; borrowed from Anglo-French *vultur*, and Old French *voultour*, from Latin *vultur*, earlier *vultur*.

vulva *n.* 1392, borrowing of Latin *vulva*; earlier *volva* womb; female sexual organ, from *volvere* to turn around, roll.

W

wabble *v.* See WOBBLE.

wacky *adj.* 1935, variant of *whacky*; probably formed from *whack*, *n.*, a blow, stroke + *-y*¹.

wad *n.* 1540 *wadde* soft material for padding or stuffing; of uncertain origin and of undetermined relation to earlier Medieval Latin *wadda* (1380), and later Dutch *watten* (after 1599), German *Watte* (from Dutch), Swedish *vadd* (from English); and perhaps to earlier *wadmal* woolen cloth (1392); borrowed from Old Icelandic *vathmál* a woolen fabric of Scandinavia and Iceland, probably from **vāthmāl* (*vāth* cloth + *māl* measure). —*v.* 1579, put a wad in (a gun or cartridge); from the noun.

waddle *v.* 1592, frequentative form of WADE; for suffix see -LE³. The meaning of fall heavily (probably before 1400); may not be connected with the modern use. —*n.* 1691, from the verb.

wade *v.* Before 1250 *waden*; developed from Old English *wadan* to go forward, proceed (about 725, in *Beowulf*), confined to poetical use, except for such instances as *ofenwadan* overwade, wade across (before 899), and cognate with Old Frisian *wada* to proceed, wade, Middle Low German, Middle Dutch, and modern Dutch *waden*, Old High German *watan* (modern German *waten*), Old Icelandic *vadha* (Swedish *vada*, Danish *vade*, Norwegian *va*, *vade*) to wade.

wafer *n.* 1368 *waffre* very thin cake or biscuit; borrowed from Anglo-French *wafre*, Old North French *waufre*, perhaps from Frankish (compare earlier Flemish *wāfer*, with alteration of *l* to *r* from Middle Dutch *wāfel* honeycomb; see WAFFLE¹); also found in Old French *gaufre*, *gofre* wafer, waffle; compare Gopher. The thin piece of bread used in the Eucharist is first recorded in 1559.

waffle¹ *n.* batter cake. 1744 (in *wafel-frolic* party at which waffles are served); borrowed from Dutch *wafel* waffle, from Middle Dutch *wāfel*, perhaps from Middle Low German *wāfel* waffle (though the Middle Low German form may have come from the Middle Dutch); cognate with Old High German *waba* honeycomb (modern German *Wabe*), related to *weban* to WEAVE.

The sense of honeycomb, found in Old French *gaufre*, Old High German *waba*, etc., is preserved in English in *waffle pattern* (1948), *waffle piqué* (1949) and other combinations referring to a weave of cloth. —**waffle iron** 1794, borrowed

from Dutch *wafelijzer*, and probably from German *Waffeleisen* waffle iron.

waffle² *v.* talk foolishly. 1698, to yelp, bark, a frequentative form of obsolete *waff* to yelp (1610); possibly of imitative origin; for suffix see -LE³. The meaning of talk foolishly, engage in doubletalk (1701) extended to waver, vacillate as implied in *waffler* an unreliable person, equivocator (1803). —*n.* 1861, the bark of a small dog; from the verb. The meaning of foolish talk, gossip, doubletalk, is first recorded in 1888.

waft *v.* 1513, to escort or convoy (a ship); back formation from *wafter*, *waughter* convoy ship (1484); borrowed from Middle Dutch (or Middle Low German) *wachter* a guard, from *wachten* to guard, related to *wāken* rouse from sleep; see WAKE¹. The meaning of pass through the air or through space, float (1664, implied in *waftage* passage through air or space, before 1658), is perhaps from the noun. —*n.* 1607, wafting movement, puff, gust; from the verb, and probably in of a taste or flavor, especially of a foul nature, developed from *wef*, *weffe* (before 1300).

wag¹ *v.* move rapidly from side to side or up and down. Probably before 1200 *waggen* to stir, move; probably from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Swedish *wagga* fluctuate, wag, rock a cradle, also, Old Icelandic *vagga*, Danish *vugge* a cradle, and *vugge* rock a cradle). Also in part probably developed from Old English *wagian* move backwards and forwards, wag (or its root), from Proto-Germanic **wagōjanan*. —*n.* 1589, act of wagging; from the verb.

wag² *n.* person fond of making jokes. Before 1553, mischievous boy; perhaps a shortening of obsolete *waghalter* (1570) gallows bird (person likely to swing in a noose or halter, and applied humorously to a child); formed from *wag*¹ + *halter*, or possibly from *wag*¹, *v.* with reference to moving the head in a playful or derisive manner. The meaning of a person fond of making jokes is first recorded in 1584. —**waggish** *adj.* fond of joking. 1589, formed from English *wag*² + *-ish*.

wage *n.* Before 1338, pledge, security, amount paid for services or work; later *wages*, *pl.* (1378); borrowed from Old North French *wage* pledge, from Frankish **wadjā-* (compare Gothic *wadi* pledge); see WED. —*v.* Probably before 1200 *wagian* to pledge; later *wagen* (probably before 1300); borrowed

from Old North French *wagier*, from *wage*, n. The meaning of carry on (a war, etc.) is first recorded in 1456, developing from the sense of offer as a pledge to combat (about 1430), and to give as a pledge (1376).

wager n. About 1303 *waieur*; later *wager* (about 1450); borrowed from Anglo-French *wageure* (compare modern French *gageure* a wager), from Old North French *wagier* to pledge; see *WAGE*. —v. 1602, from the noun. An earlier sense of contend for a prize is found in 1574.

waggle v. 1440 *wagelen*, a frequentative form of *wag*¹, v.; corresponding to Dutch *waggelen* to stagger, Middle Low German *waggeln*, and German *wackeln* to stagger, totter; for suffix see -LE³. —n. 1885, from the verb.

wagon n. Before 1475 *waggin* four-wheeled vehicle for heavy loads; borrowed from Middle Dutch *wagen*, *waghen* wagon, cart; cognate with Old English *wægn*, *wæn* wagon, Old Frisian *wein*, Old High German *wagan* (modern German *Wagen*), and Old Icelandic *vagn* (Swedish *vagn*, Danish and Norwegian *vogn*). The process in development of spelling (with loss of *g*, found in the series *hail*, *nail*, *tail* and in *day* from Old English *dæg*), shows that modern English *wagon* would not develop from Old English, but was a later borrowing, in part, a result of soldiers' contact in the Continental wars, and through the Flemish immigrants and Dutch trade.

waif n. 1376, unclaimed property, flotsam; also, stray animal; borrowed from Anglo-French *weyf*, *guayf* lost property, corresponding to Old French *gaif*, probably from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *veif* something waving or flapping, *veifan* a moving about uncertainly, *veifa* to wave; see *WAIVE*). The meaning of a person without home or friends (1784) is found in *waif* and *stray* in 1624.

wail v. Probably before 1300 *wailen* cry loud and long in grief or pain; borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *væla*, *vála* to wail, related to *vei* WOE). The meaning of grieve bitterly is first recorded about 1385. —n. About 1300, act of wailing; from the verb.

wain n. About 1250, wagon; developed from Old English *wægn*, *wæn* (about 725, in *Beowulf*).

wainscot n. 1352–53, an imported oak of superior quality; probably borrowed from Middle Dutch or Middle Flemish *waghenscote* superior quality oak wood, board used for paneling, but originally for wagon building and coachwork (*waghen* WAGON + *scote*, *scot* partition, crossbar). —v. 1570, from the noun, and in part borrowed from early modern Dutch or Flemish *waeghenschotten*. —**wainscoting** n. (1580)

waist n. Probably 1350–75 *wast* middle portion of the body; possibly developed from Old English **wæst*, **weahst* growth, size, related to Old English *waestm* growth, and cognate with Old Icelandic *vpætr* growth, stature (Swedish *växt*, Norwegian and Danish *vekst*), Gothic *wahstus* growth, size, stature; all derived from the same root as Old English *weaxan* to grow, *WAX*².

wait v. Probably before 1200 *waiten* to watch, spy, lie in wait;

borrowed from Old North French *waitier*, originally, to watch, from Frankish **wahtōn* (compare Old High German *wahta* watch, guard, and *wahhēn*, *wahhōn* to watch, be awake; see *WAKE*¹, v.) The sense of stop doing or stay (as in *wait in the shade*) is first recorded in 1375, and that of attend (as in *wait on*) in 1509–10. —n. About 1200 *waite* a watching, watchman; borrowed from Old North French *waite*, probably from *waitier* to watch. Other senses of the noun developed from the verb in English. —**waiter** n. Before 1382, attendant, watchman; probably borrowed through Anglo-French from Old North French *waitteor*, from *waitier* to wait, and formed in Middle English from *waiten* to wait + -er¹.

waive v. About 1300 *weiven* deprive of legal protection, outlaw; about 1469 *waiven* give up (a legal right, claim); borrowed from Anglo-French *weyver* to abandon, waive, Old French *weyver*, *guesver*, *guever* to abandon, give back, probably from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *veifa* to swing about, move to and fro, wave; cognate with Gothic *biwaibjan* wind around, Old High German *-weiben* disperse, from Proto-Germanic **waibjanan*; compare *WAIF*). —**waiver** n. 1628, formed in English from *waive*, v. + -er¹, perhaps modeled on Anglo-French *weyver*, noun use of *weyver* to abandon, waive.

wake¹ v. rouse from sleep. A fusion of: (1) Middle English (probably about 1200) *waken*, developed from Old English *wacan* to become awake, and (2) Middle English (probably before 1200) *wakien*, developed from Old English *wacian* to be or remain awake. Both verbs are related to Old English *wæccan* be awake (see *WATCH*) and Old English *weccan* to cause to wake, rouse from sleep, which did not survive in English.

Cognates of Old English *wacian* and *wæccan* are found in Old Frisian *wakia*, *waka* be awake, Old Saxon *wakōn*, Middle Dutch *wāken* (modern Dutch *waken*), Old High German *wahhēn*, *wahhōn* (modern German *wachen*), Old Icelandic *vaka* (Swedish *vaka*, Norwegian *vake*, Danish *vaage*), and Gothic *wakan*. Cognates of Old English *weccan* are found in Old Saxon *wekkian* cause to wake up, Old High German *weccen* (modern German *wecken*), Old Icelandic *vekja* (Norwegian *vekke*, Danish *vække*, Swedish *väcka*), and Gothic *uswakejan*, from Proto-Germanic **wak-*. —n. About 1200, partly developed from Old English *-wacu* (found in *nihtwacu* night watch), related to *WATCH*, and partly borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *vaka* vigil, eve before a feast, related to *vaka* be awake). See also *WAKEN*.

wake² n. track left behind a moving ship. Before 1500, track, trace, of uncertain origin; possibly borrowed from Middle Low German or Middle Dutch *wake* hole in the ice, from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *vpök* hole in the ice, Norwegian *våk*, Swedish *vak*, and Danish *vaage*). Old Icelandic *vpök* is from Proto-Germanic **wakwō*.

waken v. Probably about 1200 *wakenen* be stirred up or aroused, rouse; developed from Old English *wæccnan*, *wæccnian* to rise, spring (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Icelandic *vakna* (Swedish *vakna*, Norwegian *vakne*, Danish *vaagne*), and Gothic *gawaknan* to waken, from the same source as English *WAKE*; for suffix see -EN¹ (not to be confused with

the medial *n* which is also a suffix of verbs with the sense of act of becoming or getting into a state).

wale *n.* Late Old English (1024) *wale* ridge, as of earth or stone; later, ridge made on flesh by a lash (before 1100), variant of *walu*; cognate with Low German *wale* weal, welt, and perhaps with Old Frisian *walu*- staff; see WALL. Related to WEAL². Old English *walu* is from Proto-Germanic **walō*. The sense of streak or ridge is now often used of fabric, especially corduroy in which it is designated wide wale or narrow wale (from 1583). —*v.* About 1430 *walen*, from the noun.

walk *v.* Probably before 1200 *walken*, *walkien* travel on foot, move about, a fusion (before 1000) of Old English *wealcan* to toss, roll, and of Old English *wealcian* to roll up, curl, muffle up.

The abrupt change in meaning from Old English “roll” to Middle English “walk” is explained as perhaps coming from a colloquial use in Old English that was adopted in Middle English, the original meaning in Old English no longer being current in Middle English. Another source may be apparent in the sense of the cognates, that is in thickening cloth, which is done not only by rolling it, but also by treading or trampling, which has a semantic connection with “walk” and may be suggested in such a term as *walker* one who fulls or thickens cloth by treading (about 1050).

The Old English verbs are cognate with Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *walken* to knead, press, thicken cloth (modern Dutch *walken* to thicken cloth), Old High German *walchan* (modern German *walken* to thicken cloth), Old Icelandic *valka* drag or roll about. —*n.* Before 1250 *walke*, from the verb.

wall *n.* Probably about 1175 *walle*, developed from Old English *weall* rampart, wall (about 725, in *Beowulf*); an early borrowing from Latin *vallum* wall, rampart, row or line of stakes, apparently a collective form of *vallus* stake, and cognate with Old Frisian, Old Saxon, Middle Low German, and Middle Dutch *wal*, Gothic *walus* stake, and Old Icelandic *völur* round staff. —*v.* About 1250 *wallen*, from the noun.

wallaby *n.* 1826, borrowed from Australian *wolabā*.

wallet *n.* About 1385–95 *walet* bag, knapsack; of uncertain origin. The word's form and original pronunciation (*walet*?) suggest an Anglo-French or Old French source. Case for carrying paper money is first recorded in 1834 in American English.

walleyed *adj.* Probably before 1400 *wawil-eghed*, borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *vagl-eygr* having speckled eyes, from *vagl* speck in the eye + *eygr* eyed). The meaning of having one or both eyes turned away from the nose and so showing much white is first recorded in 1588.

wallop *v.* 1375 *walopen* to gallop; of uncertain origin; possibly borrowed from Old North French **waloper* (compare Flemish and Middle High German *walop*, *n.* and Middle High German *walopiren*, *v.*), probably from Frankish **walalaupan*, *walahaupan* to run well (compare Old High German *wela* WELL¹ and Old Low Franconian *loupun*, Old Saxon *hlōpan* to run, LEAP).

The meaning of beat soundly, thrash (1825), may be partly

of imitative origin, probably influenced by the sense of boil rapidly with noisy bubbling motion (1579). —*n.* Before 1375 *wallop* horse's gallop; probably borrowed from Old North French *walop*, from **waloper* to gallop.

wallow *v.* Probably before 1200 *walewen* roll about, flounder; developed from Old English *wealwian*, *walwian* to roll, before 899. —*n.* Before 1591, from the verb.

walnut *n.* 1358–59 *walnotte*; developed from Old English (about 1050) *walhnutu* nut of the walnut tree; literally, foreign nut (*walh*, *wealh* foreign, WELSH referring to the Celts + *hnutu* NUT); so called because this nut was introduced into from Gaul and Italy, distinguishing it from the native hazel nut.

Corresponding forms are found in Middle Dutch *walnoot* (modern Dutch *walnoot*), Middle Low German *wallnot* (modern German *Walnuss*), Old Icelandic *valhnott* (Norwegian *valnøtt*).

walrus *n.* 1728, borrowed from Dutch *walrus*, *walros*, probably an alteration (by folk etymology with influence of Dutch *walvis* whale, and *ros* horse) of a word from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *rosmhvalr* walrus, *hrosshvalr* a kind of whale, *rostungur* walrus).

waltz *n.* 1781, borrowed from German *Walzer*, from *walzen* to roll, dance, from Old High German *walzan* to turn, roll; see WELTER. —*v.* About 1794, from the noun.

wampum *n.* 1636, shortened form of *wampumpeag* (1627); borrowed from Algonquian (probably Narragansett) *wanpan-piak* string of white shell beads.

wan *adj.* Probably about 1200 *won*; before 1325 *wane*; developed from Old English *wann* dark, lacking luster, leaden, pale gray (about 725, in *Beowulf*); of uncertain origin.

wand *n.* Probably about 1200 *wand* slender stick or rod; borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *vǫndr* rod, switch, Danish and Norwegian *vånd*, all cognate with Gothic *wandus* rod, probably from the same root as Old English *windan* to turn, twist, WIND²).

wander *v.* Before 1175 *wandren*; developed from Old English *wandrian* move about aimlessly, wander (before 899); cognate with Old Frisian *wondria* to wander, Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *wandieren*, and Middle High German and modern German *wandern*; related to forms in *l*, such as Middle Dutch *wandelen* to wander about, change (modern Dutch, to walk), Old Saxon *wandlon* to change, Old High German *wantalōn*.

wane *v.* Before 1122 *wanien*; found in Old English *wanian* make or become smaller gradually, to lessen (about 725, in *Beowulf*); from Proto-Germanic **wanōjanan*, and cognate with Old Frisian *wania* lessen, Old Saxon *wanon*, Middle Dutch *waenen*, *wanen*, Old High German *wanōn*, and Old Icelandic *vana* make less, *vanask* become less. —*n.* Probably about 1300 *wane* lack, shortage; later, a waning (before 1325); in part developed from the Old English noun *wana* shortage (before 899), and in part from the verb *wanen* to wane.

wangle *v.* 1888, originally, printer's slang in the sense of fake by manipulation; perhaps alteration of WAGGLE. —**n.** 1915, from the verb.

want *v.* Probably about 1200 *wanten* be lacking, be without, need; borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *vanta* to lack, want). The meaning of desire or wish for is first recorded in English in 1706. —**n.** Probably about 1200, lack, deficiency; from the verb in Middle English and probably also from, or influenced by, Old Icelandic *vant* lack, deficiency, neuter of *vanr* wanting, lacking. The meaning of thing desired (as in *a man of few wants*) is first recorded in 1578. —**wanting** *adj.* Before 1325 *wantand*, formed from Middle English *wanten* be lacking + *-and* and *-ing*².

wanton *adj.* Before 1325 *wantun* undisciplined, unruly; later *wantowen* unchaste, lascivious, lewd (before 1376); formed from Middle English *wan-* not, lacking (from Old English *wan* wanting) + *towen* trained, disciplined, (from Old English *togen*, past participle of *tēon* to train, discipline, draw). The meaning of reckless of justice and humanity, merciless, is first recorded in 1513. —**n.** 1526, spoiled or pampered person; from the adjective. The meaning of lascivious or lewd person is first found in 1540. —**v.** 1582, to gambol, frolic; from the adjective.

war *n.* Before 1121 *wyrre*; later *uerre* (1140), and *werre* (probably about 1175); borrowed from Old North French *werre* war, from Frankish **werra* (compare Old High German *werra* confusion, contention, strife, from Proto-Germanic **wersō*, and related to *werran* to bring into confusion, modern German *wirren* confuse, bewilder). A cognate of the Old High German words is found in Old Saxon *werran* bring into confusion or discord. In Old English the usual translation of Latin *bellum* was *gewin* struggle, strife which (like the native form *orlege* hostility, strife, war; cognate with Old Saxon *orlegas*, Old Frisian *orloch*, Old High German *orloge*), did not survive into modern times. —**v.** Before 1160 *uerriou*, from *uerre*, *werre* war. —**warfare** *n.* 1456, a going to war; formed from English *war* + *fare*¹, *n.* —**warlike** *adj.* (about 1420) —**wartime** *n.* (before 1387)

warble *v.* Probably about 1390 *werbelen* to resound, sound; borrowed from Old North French *werbler* to sing with trills and quavers, from Frankish **werbilōn* (compare Middle Dutch *wervelen* to turn, whirl, Middle High German *wirbel* whirl, spinning top, and Old High German *wirbil* whirlwind). —**n.** About 1385 *werble*, borrowed from Old North French *werble*, related to *werbler* to sing with trills and quavers.

ward *n.* Probably before 1200 *warde* act of guarding, guardianship; developed from Old English *weard* a guarding, from Proto-Germanic **wardō* or **wardō*. Old English *weard* is cognate with Old High German *warta* a guarding, Middle High German *warte* watch, observation (modern German *Warte* watchtower), Middle Low German *warde*, related to Gothic *wars* alert, WARY.

The administrative division or district (originating in the sense of a place for guarding) is first recorded about 1378, and the division of a hospital, in 1749. Some of the senses in

English were influenced by Old North French *warde* guard, from *warder* to guard; see WARDEN. —**v.** Probably before 1200 *warden* to guard, defend; developed from Old English *weardian* (before 1000); cognate with Frisian *wardia* to guard, watch, Old Saxon *wardōn*, Old High German *wartēn* (modern German *warten* look after), and Old Icelandic *vardha*, all derived from the same Germanic root as Old English *weard*, *n.* Some of the senses of the English verb were influenced by Old North French *warder* to guard; see WARDEN.

—**ward** a suffix meaning in the direction of, toward, forming adjectives and adverbs, as in *backward* = toward the back, *northward* = in the direction of north. Developed from Old English *-weard*, from Proto-Germanic **-ward*, variant of **werth-*; cognate with Old High German *-wart*, Old Icelandic *-verdr*, and related to Old English *weorthan* to become; also compare *-WARDS*.

warden *n.* Probably before 1200 *wardein* guardian, custodian; later, person in charge of a prison (probably about 1300); borrowed from Old North French *wardēin*, from Frankish **warding-* (compare early Old French *guardenc*), from **wardōn* to watch, guard (compare Old High German *wartēn* to watch, guard, WARD).

warder *n.* Probably before 1400, borrowed from Anglo-French *wardere* and *wardour* guardian, from Old North French *warder* to guard; see WARDEN; for suffix see *-ER*¹.

wardrobe *n.* About 1325, a private chamber, especially one for sleeping; later, room in which wearing apparel is kept (1387), and a person's stock of clothes (before 1400); borrowed from Old North French *warderobe*, variant of Old French *garderobe* place where garments are kept; also, a privy (*warder* to keep, guard + *robe* garment); also found in Middle English *garderobe* (1333–34, *garder* to keep, guard + *robe* garment).

—**wards** a suffix meaning in the direction of, toward, forming adverbs, as in *backwards* = in the direction of or toward the back. Developed from Old English *-weardes*, genitive singular case form with *-es* (neuter) of adjectives in *-ward*; corresponding to Dutch *-waarts*, German *-wärts*, and Gothic *-wairths*; see *-WARD* and *-S*³.

ware *n.* Usually, **wares**. Probably about 1175, developed from Old English *waru* (about 1000), probably with an original meaning of object of care, and hence related to *wær* aware, cautious, WARY. Old English *waru* is cognate with Old Frisian *were* manufactured thing, Middle Dutch *were*, *ware* (modern Dutch *waar*), Middle High German *ware* (modern German *Ware*), and Old Icelandic *vara* (Swedish *vara*, Norwegian and Danish *ware*), from Proto-Germanic **warō*. —**warehouse** *n.* (1349)

warlock *n.* wizard, male witch. Before 1400 *warlag*, *warlau*, *warlo*; developed from Old English *wærloga* (before 900) demon, traitor, scoundrel, damned soul, monster; originally, oathbreaker (*wær* covenant, related to *wær* true + *-loga*, agent noun related to *lēogan* to speak falsely, LIE¹). The modern spelling *warlock* is Scottish, first recorded in 1685 (also Scottish *warlok*, before 1585).

warm *adj.* Probably before 1200 *warne* having or giving out heat; developed from Old English *wearm* (before 899); cognate with Old Frisian, Middle Low German, Middle Dutch, modern Dutch, Old High German, and modern German *warm* warm, and Old Icelandic *varmr* (Danish, Swedish, and Norwegian *varm*), from Proto-Germanic **warmaz*, earlier **warmaz*. —**v.** Probably before 1200 *warman* make or become warm; developed partly from Old English *wyrman* make warm, and partly from Old English *wearmian* become warm. The Old English verbs are cognate with Old Saxon *wermian* to warm, Middle Low German, Middle Dutch, and modern Dutch *warman*, Old High German *warman*, *wermen* (modern German *wärmen*), Old Icelandic *verma*, and Gothic *warmjan*, all derived from the Germanic source of Old English *wearm* warm, *adj.* —**warmth** *n.* About 1175 *wermthe*; formed from Old English *wearm* warm + the suffix *-thu-* *-th¹*. The cognates, Middle Low German *warmede*, *warmte*, Middle Dutch *warmte*, and Middle High German *wermede*, suggest a Proto-Germanic **warmithō*.

warn *v.* Probably before 1200 *warnen*; developed from Old English *warnian* to warn, take heed (before 1000), related to *wær* aware, cautious, **WARY**. Old English *warnian* (from Proto-Germanic **warnōjanan*) is cognate with Middle Low German *warnen* to warn, inform, and Old High German *warnōn* (modern German *warnen*). —**warning** *n.* Probably before 1200, developed from Old English *warning*, *wearning* (before 800); formed from *warnian* to warn + *-ung* *-ing¹*.

warp *v.* Probably about 1200 *warpen* to throw, cast; developed from Old English *weorpan* to throw, hit with a missile (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *werpa* to throw, Old Saxon *werpan*, Middle Low German, Middle Dutch, and modern Dutch *werpen*, Old High German *werpan* (modern German *werfen*), Old Icelandic *verpa*, and Gothic *wairpan*, from Proto-Germanic **werpanan*. The meaning of twist out of shape is first recorded in Middle English probably before 1400. —**n.** 1346, threads running lengthwise in a fabric; developed from Old English *wearp* (about 725); cognate with Middle Low German *warf* warp, Old High German *warf*, and Old Icelandic *varp* cast of a net, related to *verpa* to throw.

warrant *n.* Probably about 1200 *warant* protector, protection, safeguard; later, authorization, sanction, authority (before 1325); borrowed from Old North French *warant* (in Old French *guarant*, *garant*), from Frankish **wārand* (compare Middle Low German *warend*, *warent* guarantee, warranty, Old High German *wēren* to authorize, warrant, Old Frisian *wēria* to confirm, prove, Old High German *gauwārjan* to verify, Gothic *-wērian* to ascertain, and Old High German *wār* true). —**v.** 1275, *warrantien*, borrowed from Old North French *warrantir*, from *warant* authorization, warrant. The meaning of guarantee (as in *he warranted the quality of the produce*) is first recorded in 1387. Compare **GUARANTY**.

warranty *n.* Before 1338 *warantie* covenant annexed to a deed; borrowed from Anglo-French and Old North French *warantie*, from *warant* **WARRANT**; for suffix see *-y³*. The meaning of a

guarantee, assurance, is first recorded in English in 1555. Compare **GUARANTY**.

warren *n.* About 1378 *wareine* a franchise or piece of land enclosed for breeding beasts and fowls or warren (rabbits, hares, partridge, pheasant, etc.); borrowed from Anglo-French and Old North French *wareinne* (central Old French *gareinna* game park), also found in Anglo-Latin and Medieval Latin *wareinna* preserve for animals, possibly from Gaulish **wareinna* enclosed area, built on **warros* post. It is also possible the Old French forms represent a present participle of Old French *warir*, *warer* defend, keep, from a Germanic source with the root **war-* to protect, guard (compare Old High German *warjan*, *werjan* protect; also in Old English *warian* take care, guard).

The suffix is of uncertain formation; it may represent the present participle ending of the verb either in Old French or perhaps in Germanic.

warrior *n.* Probably before 1300 *werreyoure*, borrowed from Old North French *werreier* a warrior, one who wages war, from *werreier* wage war, from *werre* **WAR**; for suffix see *-OR²*.

wart *n.* Before 1325 *wert*; developed from Old English *wearte* (before 800); cognate with Old Frisian *warte* wart, Old Saxon *warta*, Middle Dutch *warte*, *wratte* (modern Dutch *wrat*), Old High German *warza* (modern German *Warze*), and Old Icelandic *varta* (Swedish *vårta*, Norwegian and Danish *vorte*), from Proto-Germanic **wartō*.

wary *adj.* 1470, formed from Middle English (1140) *war*, *ware* alert, wise, prudent + *-y¹*. Middle English *war*, *ware* developed from Old English (917) *wær* prudent, aware, alert, *wary* (compare modern English **AWARE**, from Old English *gewær*, and **BEWARE**); cognate with Old Saxon *giwar* aware, Middle Dutch *ghewāre*, Old High German *giwar* (modern German *gewahr*), Old High German *biwārōn* to preserve, protect (modern German *wahren*, *bewahren*), Old Icelandic *varr* aware, *wary* (Danish and Norwegian *var*), and Gothic *vars*, from Proto-Germanic **waraz*.

was *v.* Old English (about 950) *wæs* first and third person singular past indicative of *wesan* to be.

In Old English *wesan* to remain (with the stem *wes-*) was a distinct verb, but came to supply the past tense to the verb *am*, which had only a present tense, and as the needs of usage developed, all other parts of that verb were supplied by *wes-*, so that the two verbs supplemented each other in Old English and constituted the verb **es-/wes-* (*am-was*) showing "existence." By the 1200's parts of *am-was* became obsolete, and corresponding parts of *be* took the place of the infinitive, participle, imperative, etc. See **BE** and **AM**.

Old English *wesan* is cognate with Old Frisian *wesa* to be (past indicative *was*), Old Saxon *wesan* (past indicative *was*), Middle Dutch *wesen* (modern Dutch *wezen*, past indicative *was*), Old High German *wesan* (past indicative *was*), modern German *gewesen* has been (past indicative *war*), Old Icelandic *vera*, *vesa* to be (past indicative *var*), and Gothic *wisān* to be, dwell, remain (past indicative *was*), from Proto-Germanic **wesanan*. See **BE**.

wash *v.* Probably before 1200 *waschen*, developed from Old English (900) *wascan*, *wæscan*; cognate with Old Saxon and Old Low Franconian *wascan* to wash, Middle Dutch *wasscen* (modern Dutch *wassen*), Old High German *waskan* (modern German *waschen*), and Old Icelandic *vaska* (Swedish *vaska*, Danish and Norwegian *vaske*), from Proto-Germanic **watskanan*, from the Germanic stem **wat-* of WATER. Except for the sense of cleaning clothes, this verb was little used in Old English; the principal verb for washing the body, dishes, etc., was *thwēan*. —**n.** 1440 *wasche* land alternately covered and exposed by the sea; earlier, act or process of washing (as in a good wash, about 1050); from the verb. —**washer** *n.* 1450–1530, person who washes; 1808, machine that washes, formed from English *wash*, *v.* + *-er*. Development of the meaning of a flat ring for sealing joints or holding nuts (1346), perhaps a separate word has not been accounted for.

wasp *n.* 1373, developed from Old English (about 700) *wæfs*, *wæps*, *wæsp*. The forms with *p* (as contrasted with those in *f*) are probably the result of influence by Latin *vespa*, in English and other Germanic cognates, such as Old Saxon *waspa* *wasp*, Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *wespe* (modern Dutch *wesp*), contrasted with Old High German *wafsa*, *wefsa* (modern German *Wespe*), Old Danish *hwæfse* (modern Danish *hveps*), Norwegian *veps*, *kvefs*, dialectal Swedish *väfs*. The word is believed to be ultimately derived from the source of Old English *webb* WEB and *wefan* to WEAVE. —**waspish** *adj.* 1566, irascible, spiteful; formed from English *wasp* + *-ish*¹.

Wasp or **WASP** *n.* white Anglo-Saxon Protestant. 1960, originally an acronym used in statistical and sociological studies of ethnic groups; formed from the initials of *W*(hite), *A*(nglo)-*S*(axon), *P*(rotestant).

wassail *n.* About 1140 *wes heil*; later *wæshail* salutation used when drinking to someone's health, drinking party, revelry (probably before 1200); borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *wes heill* be healthy, from *wes*, imperative of *vera* to be; see WAS in which the original form *wes* is the imperative form of *wesan* to be + *heil* healthy, see WHOLE). A similar formation appears in Old English *wes hāl*, but not as a salutation in drinking. —**v.** take part in a wassail. About 1300 *wesseylen*; from the noun.

waste *v.* Probably before 1200 *wassten* devastate, ravage, ruin (replacement of earlier Middle English *westen*); borrowed from Anglo-French and Old North French *waster* to spoil, ruin, alteration of Latin *vastāre* lay waste, from *vastus* empty, desolate, waste. Old North French *waster* was altered from Latin *vastāre* by influence of Frankish **wöstjan* (compare Old High German *wuostan* lay waste). The earlier Middle English *westen* to lay waste, found (probably before 1200); developed from Old English (before 899) *wēstan*, from the adjective *wēste*, and is cognate with Old Saxon *wöstian*, and Old High German *wuostan*. The sense of spend or consume uselessly, squander, is first recorded in Middle English in 1340. —**n.** Probably before 1200, desert, wilderness; borrowed from Old North French *wast*, partly from Latin *vastum* (from neuter of *vastus* empty), and partly from *waster* to waste. The sense of useless spending

or consumption, squandering, is first recorded in Middle English about 1300.

Middle English *waste*, *n.* is a replacement of earlier *weste*; from Old English *wēsten*, *wōsten* a desert, wilderness, from the adjective; cognate with Old Saxon *wōstun*, and Old High German *wuosti* a waste. —**adj.** About 1290, uncultivated, uninhabited, barren; borrowed from Old North French *wast*, from Latin *vastus* empty, desolate. Middle English *waste*, *adj.* replaced earlier *west* (about 1200); developed from Old English *wēste*, *wōste* (about 725, in *Beowulf*), from the stem **wōst-*, related to Latin *vastus* empty, desolate; see WASTE, *v.*; cognate with Old Frisian *wōste* waste, desolate, Old Saxon *wōsti*, and Old High German *wōsti*, *wuosti*. —**wasteful** *adj.* Before 1325, formed from Middle English *waste* + *-ful*. —**waster** *n.* 1352, spendthrift, idler; borrowed from Anglo-French *wastere*, *wastour*, from *waster*, *v.*, and also in Middle English, formed from *waste*, *v.* + *-er*¹. —**wastrel** *n.* 1589–90, tract of wasteland; formed from English *waste*, *v.* + *-rel*, as in *mongrel*, *scurdrel*. Something useless or imperfect is first recorded in 1790, and spendthrift, idler, in 1847.

watch *v.* About 1200 *wachen*, developed from Old English *wæccan* keep watch, be awake (about 725, in *Beowulf*); related to *wacian* be or remain awake, WAKE¹. The spelling with *t* began to appear in the mid-1400's. —**n.** Probably before 1200 *wecche*, developed from Old English (971) *wæcce* a watching, vigil, from *wæccan* to watch. The meaning of a small timepiece (1588) is related to that of a clock to wake up sleepers (1440). —**watchman** *n.* (about 1400) —**watchword** *n.* About 1400, password; later, motto, slogan (1738).

water *n.* Old English *wæter* (before 899), from Proto-Germanic **watar*; cognate with Old Frisian *weter* water, Old Saxon *watar*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *water*, Old High German *wazzar* (modern German *Wasser*), Old Icelandic *vatn* (Norwegian *vatn*, Swedish *vatten*, Danish *vand*), and Gothic *watō* (dative plural *watnam*) water. Compare WET. In Germanic, two separate nouns developed, one with *r* (Old English *wæter*, etc.) and one with *n* (Old Icelandic *vatn*, etc.) —**v.** Old English *wæterian* supply water to (before 899); from *wæter*, *n.* —**watercress** *n.* (probably before 1300) —**waterfall** *n.* Before 1500; found in Old English *wætergefeal* (998). —**waterfowl** *n.* (before 1325) —**waterspout** *n.* Before 1393, pipe for water; later, spinning column of water (1738). —**water table** 1428, sloping ledge for shedding rainfall; later, level below which the ground is saturated (1879). —**watertight** *adj.* (1387) —**waterway** *n.* 1440, channel for water; 1797, route for ships; found in Old English *wæterneg*. —**water wheel** (1408) —**waterworks** *n.* (1443) —**watery** *adj.* Old English *wæterig* (about 1000) full of water, formed from *wæter* water + *-ig* -y¹.

watt *n.* 1882, in allusion to James Watt, Scottish engineer and inventor. —**wattage** *n.* 1903, formed from English *watt* + *-age*.

wattle *n.* 1382 *wattel*, developed from Old English *watol* hurdle; in plural, twigs, thatching, tiles (before 899); related to *wætla* and *wethel* bandage, and cognate with Old High German *wadal* bandage, and with Gothic *gawidan* to bind, join.

The meaning of fleshy appendage below the head or neck of certain birds is first recorded in English in 1513, but its connection with the primary sense of something intertwined is obscure, suggesting the possibility that *wattle* in the sense of an appendage may be a different word of unknown origin. —**v.** 1377, construct of *wattle*, from the noun.

wave *v.* 1375 *waven* move back and forth; probably developed from Old English *wafian* to wave with the hands, fluctuate; also, waver in mind (about 1000); related to *wæfre* wavering, restless; see **WAVER**. —**n.** 1526, a moving swell of water; from the verb. *Wave* is a replacement for earlier *waw* a wave, probably before 1200; from Old English *wagian* to move to and fro (before 899; earlier, to shake, totter, before 800). The meaning of an act of waving is first recorded in 1688.

waver *v.* Probably about 1280 *weyveren* to show indecision, fluctuate, vacillate, related to Old English *wæfre* restless, wavering (from Proto-Germanic **wæbrāz*); cognate with Middle High German and modern German *wabern* to waver, totter, move to and fro, and Old Icelandic *vafra* hover about, move unsteadily, flicker, *vafi* doubt, *vāfa* to swing, vibrate. The meaning of sway, stagger, is first recorded in Middle English probably before 1400, and that of float, flutter, in 1440. —**n.** 1519, from the verb.

wax¹ *n.* yellowish substance made by bees. Before 1325 *wax*; earlier *wex* (recorded probably before 1200); developed from Old English *weax* (805–10); cognate with Old Frisian *wax* wax, Old Saxon *wahs*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *was*, Old High German *wahs* (modern German *Wachs*), and Old Icelandic *vax* (Swedish *vax*, Norwegian and Danish *voks*), from Proto-Germanic **waHsan*. The sense of any substance resembling beeswax is first recorded in English in 1799. —**v.** About 1378 *wexen* cover with wax, dress with wax; from the noun. —**waxen** *adj.* Probably about 1390, made of wax; formed from Middle English *wax*, *n.* + *-en*², replacing Old English (recorded about 1000) *wexen*. —**waxy** *adj.* Probably before 1425 *wexy* made of wax; formed from Middle English *wex* wax + *-y*¹.

wax² *v.* grow bigger or greater, increase. Probably before 1200 *waxen*; earlier *wexen* (recorded before 1123); developed from Old English *weaxan* to increase, grow (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *waxa* to increase, grow, Old Saxon *wahsan*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *wassen*, Old High German *wahsan* (modern German *wachsen*), Old Icelandic *vaxa* (Swedish *växa*, Norwegian and Danish *vokse*), from Proto-Germanic **waHsan*, also cognate with Gothic *wahsan*, and ultimately related to Old English *ēcan*, *ēcan* EKE¹ increase.

way *n.* Probably about 1225 *way*; earlier *weie* (probably before 1200); developed from Old English *weg* road, path, course of travel (before 800); cognate with Old Frisian *wei* way, Old Saxon *weg*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *weg*, Old High German *weg* (modern German *Weg*), Old Icelandic *vegr* (Swedish *väg*, Norwegian *veg*, Danish *vej*), Gothic *wigs* (from Proto-Germanic **wezaz*). The shift in spelling from *-eg* to *-ay* is a matter of spelling convention, as the same sound with the same type of spelling pattern is found in modern English *weigh*.

The sense of *way* meaning direction (as in *look this way*) is found before 1325; that of distance (as in *a long way off*) before 899; that of means (as in *ways of preventing disease*) in about 1175; and that of style or manner (as in *wear one's hair in a new way*) before 800. The plural *ways* timbers on which a ship is built and launched is found in 1639. —**wayfaring** *adj.* Old English *wegfarende* (about 1000). —**wayside** *n.* (probably before 1400) —**wayward** *n.* About 1380, shortened form of earlier *aweeward* turned away (probably before 1200).

-ways a suffix forming adverbs indicating direction, as in *lengthways* = *in the direction of the length*, or manner, as in *anyways* = *in any manner*. Middle English *-ways*, genitive case form of *way*; and suffix *-s*³.

we *pron.* Old English *wē* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *wi* we, Old Saxon *wī*, *wē*, Middle Dutch *wī* (modern Dutch *wij*), Old High German and modern German *wir*, Old Icelandic *vēr* (Swedish, Norwegian, and Danish *vi*), and Gothic *weis*, from Proto-Germanic **wīz*.

Use of *we* to denote oneself (about 725, in *Beowulf*), in reference to a ruler (before 899) is now also extended to editorial use and unsigned articles.

weak *adj.* About 1300 *wayke*; later *weke* (before 1325); borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *veikr* weak, Swedish *vek* soft, Danish *veg*, Norwegian *veik* weak, pliant). The Scandinavian forms are cognate with Old English *wāc* weak, pliant, soft (which did not survive beyond late Middle English), Old Saxon and Middle Low German *wēk*, Middle Dutch *weec* (modern Dutch *week*), and Old High German *weih* yielding, soft (modern German *weich*), from Proto-Germanic **waikwaz* yield. These adjectives derive from a Germanic verb represented by Old Icelandic *vīkja* to move, turn, Old High German *wīthan* to yield, give way (modern German *weichen*), Middle Dutch *wīken*, Old Saxon *wīkan*, and Old English *wīcan*, from Proto-Germanic **wīkanan* bend.

The sense of lacking authority is first recorded in 1423, that of lacking moral strength (about 1375), and that of lacking in amount, intensity, etc. (about 1400). —**weaken** *v.* Probably about 1380 *waykenen*; formed from Middle English *wayke* weak + *-nen* *-en*¹. The verb *weak* (probably 1370), from the adjective, existed alongside *weaken* for about 275 years before becoming obsolete in English. —**weakling** *n.* 1526, formed from English *weak* + *-ling*.

weal¹ *n.* well-being, prosperity, happiness. Probably before 1200 *wele*, developed from Old English *wela* wealth, welfare, well-being (before 899), from Proto-Germanic **welōn*; related to *wel* WELL¹, adv. Old English *wela* is cognate with Old Saxon *welo*, of similar meaning.

weal² *n.* raised mark on the skin. 1821, alteration (influenced by *wheel*), of **WALE**.

wealth *n.* About 1250 *welthe* prosperity, riches; formed from Middle English *wel* well-being; see **WEAL**¹ + *-the* *-th*¹. —**wealthy** *adj.* About 1375 *welthi* happy, prosperous; formed from Middle English *welth(e)* prosperity, riches + *-i* *-y*¹. The meaning of rich, opulent, is first recorded before 1430.

wean *v.* Probably about 1200 *wenen*; developed from Old English (about 960) *wenian* to accustom. The sense of wean (a child) was ordinarily expressed in Old English by *gewenian* or *āwenian*. Old English *wenian* is cognate with Old Frisian *wenna* accustom, Old Saxon *wennian*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *wennen*, Old High German *giwennen* (modern German *gewöhnen*), Old Icelandic *venja* (from Proto-Germanic **wan-janan*, formed from **wanaz* accustomed).

weapon *n.* Probably about 1175 *wepen*; developed from Old English *wæpen* instrument used in fighting or defense (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *wēpin* weapon, Old Saxon *wāpan*, Middle Dutch *wāpen* (modern Dutch *wapen*), Old High German *wāffan* (modern German *Waffe* armorial bearings), Old Icelandic *vāpn* (Swedish *vapen*, Norwegian *våpen*, and Danish *våben*), and Gothic *wēpna*, plural, weapons, from Proto-Germanic **wæpnan*.

wear *v.* Before 1121 *weren* grow (hair, beard) in a certain way; later, carry (clothes) on the body, be dressed in (probably before 1200); use up, destroy by use (about 1275); developed from Old English *werian* to clothe, put on (before 899). Old English *werian* (from Proto-Germanic **wazjanan*), is cognate with Old High German *werien* to clothe, Old Icelandic *verja* to cover, keep (with *r* standing for *s*), and Gothic *wasjan* to clothe.

The shift of this verb from a weak conjugation (*wered* past tense and past participle) to a strong conjugation (*wore* past tense, *worn* past participle) took place on analogy of other strong verbs, such as *bear* and *tear*, from the 1300's on, accelerating in the 1500's; also possibly influenced by such a vestige of Old English as the past participle *foreworen* worn out, decayed. —**n.** 1464 *were*, from Middle English *weren* to wear. The sense of clothing (as in *men's wear*, *underwear*) is first recorded in 1570; that of gradual damage (in the expression *wear and tear*) is found in 1666.

weary *adj.* Probably about 1175 *weri*; developed from Old English *wērig* tired (about 725, in *Beowulf*), related to *wōrian* to wander, totter; for suffix see -Y¹. Old English *wērig* (from Proto-Germanic **wōri-gaz*) is cognate with Old Saxon *wōrig* weary, Old High German *uuorag* drunk, and probably with Old Icelandic *ōrar* (plural) attacks of vertigo, confusion, madness. —**v.** Probably before 1200 *werien* to grow or make weary; developed from Old English *wērigian* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); from *wērig* weary, *adj.* —**wearisome** *adj.* About 1450 *werisom*, from *werien* to weary + *-som* *-some*¹.

weasel *n.* Before 1325 *wesele*; developed from Old English (before 800) *weosule*, *wesle* weasel; cognate with Middle Low German, Middle Dutch and Dutch *wezel* weasel, Old High German *wisula* (modern German *Wiesel*), from Proto-Germanic **wisulōn*, also with Old Swedish *visla* (modern Swedish *vessla*), Norwegian *vesel*, and Danish *vaesel*, probably related (as they both have a foul musky smell) to Old Icelandic *visundr* BISON. —**v.** 1900, to deprive (a word or phrase) of its meaning; from the noun; so used because the weasel sucks out the contents of an egg, leaving the shell intact. The sense of extricate oneself (from a difficult situation) in the manner of a weasel is first recorded in 1925.

weather *n.* Old English *weder* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *weder* weather, Old Saxon *wedar*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *weder*, Old High German *wetar* (modern German *Wetter*), Old Icelandic *vedhr* (Swedish *väder*, Norwegian *vær*, *ver*, Danish *veir*), from Proto-Germanic **wedhran*.

The spelling with *th* first appeared in the 1400's (though the pronunciation with *th* may well be much older). —**v.** 1440 *wederen* expose to the air, from *weder*, *n.* The meaning of come through safely is first recorded in 1655, and the sense of wear away by atmospheric action in 1757.

weave *v.* About 1200 *weven*; developed from Old English *wefan* form (a fabric) by interlacing yarns (about 899); cognate with Middle Low German, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *weven* to weave, Old High German *weban* (modern German *weben*), and Old Icelandic *vefa* (Swedish *väva*, Norwegian *veve*, Danish *væve*), from Proto-Germanic **webanan*. See WEB. In Middle English the past participle *weved* (and later the past tense *wevede*) shifted in form to that of a strong verb, assuming the spellings *woven*, in the past participle and *wove* in the past tense.

The sense of combine into a whole (as in *to weave a story from several incidents*) comes from fabricate, contrive (1380). The sense of go by twisting and turning (as in *to weave through traffic*) is found in 1650. —**n.** 1581, something woven; from the verb. The meaning of a method or pattern of weaving is first recorded in 1888. —**weaver** *n.* Before 1387; formed from *weven* + *-er*¹.

web *n.* Old English *webb* woven fabric (about 725, in *Beowulf*), related to *wefan* to WEAVE. Old English *webb* (from Proto-Germanic **wabjan*) is cognate with Old High German *weppi* web, and Old Icelandic *vefr* (Swedish *väv*, Norwegian *vev*, Danish *væv*). The meaning of a spider's web, cobweb, is first recorded in Middle English before 1250. The meaning of a membrane that connects the toes of an aquatic bird or other animal is first found in English in 1576; the sense of a snare or entanglement, in 1574, and that of something that is flimsy, unsubstantial, or fanciful, in 1605. —**v.** 1440 *webben* to weave; developed from Old English *webbian* to weave, devise, from *webb*, *n.* The meaning of join by a web is first recorded in 1774, but is known earlier in *webbed*, *adj.* (1664), and in the compound *web-footed* (1681).

wed *v.* Probably before 1200 *wedden* to marry; developed from Old English (before 1000) *weddian* to covenant or engage to do something, pledge, marry (from Proto-Germanic **wadjojanan*); cognate with Old Frisian *weddia* to pledge, Middle Low German, Middle Dutch, and modern Dutch *wedden*, Middle High German and modern German *wetten* to pledge, wager, Old Icelandic *vedhja* to pledge, and Gothic *gawadjōn* to marry, espouse. The verb may derive from the noun in Old English, or directly from Proto-Germanic **waaslashdjan* a pledge or covenant, represented by Old English *wedd* (as in *to wedde* being pawned, mortgaged; about 725, in *Beowulf*), Old Frisian *wed*, Old Saxon *weddi*, Middle Low German *wedde* pledge, wager, Old High German *wetti* pledge, wager (modern German *Wette* bet, wager), Old Icelandic *vedh* pledge (Swedish

vad bet, wager), and Gothic *wadi* surety, pledge. —**wedding** n. Probably about 1225, ceremony of marriage; later, action of marrying, marriage (about 1250); developed from Old English (about 1000) *weddung*; formed from *weddian* to marry + *-ung* -ing¹. —**wedding ring** (about 1395) —**wedlock** n. Probably before 1200 *wedlake*, *wedlac*; developed from Old English (before 1100) *wedlāc* marriage vow (*wedd* pledge + *-lāc*, noun suffix, later changed by folk etymology through association with *lock*).

wedge n. Before 1250 *wedg*; developed from Old English (before 800) *wegc* a wedge; cognate with Old Saxon *weggi* wedge, Middle Low German *wegge*, Middle Dutch *wegge* bread roll (modern Dutch *wegge*), Old High German *weggi*, *wecki* wedge (dialectal German *Weck* bread roll), and Old Icelandic *veggur* wedge (modern Icelandic *veggur*, Norwegian *vegg*, Swedish *vigg*, Danish *vægge* wedge), from Proto-Germanic **wazjaz*. For note on spelling see DRUDGE. —**v.** Probably before 1425 *wegen* tighten by driving in a wedge; from the noun.

Wednesday n. Probably about 1200 *Wednesdai*, *Wodnesdei*; developed from Old English (about 950) *Wōdnesdæg*, literally, Woden's day; corresponding to Old Frisian *Wōnsdei*, *Wēnsdei* Wednesday, Middle Low German *Wōdensdach*, Middle Dutch *Wudensdach*, *Woensdach* (modern Dutch *Woensdag*), and Old Icelandic *Odinsdagr* (Danish, Norwegian, and Swedish *onsdag*), a loan translation of Latin *diēs Mercurii* day of Mercury, the Roman God of commerce (in Vulgar Latin **Mercuris diēs*, the source of French *mercredi* Wednesday, Spanish *miércoles*, etc.).

wee adj. Before 1449 *wei*, from earlier noun use in the sense of quantity, amount, as in *a littel wei* a little thing or amount (before 1325); developed from Old English *wæge* weight; see WEIGH. The spelling *wee* is first recorded in 1598, and the adjective use *wee* *bit* apparently developed as a parallel to such forms as *a bit thing* a little thing.

weed n. About 1200 *wede*; earlier *wiede* (probably before 1200); developed from Old English *wēod* grass, herb, weed (before 899); and implied earlier in *uuēodhōc* (before 800); see WEEDER below. Old English *wēod* is cognate with Old Saxon *wiod* weed, Middle Dutch *wiet*, and Old High German *wiota* fern, from Proto-Germanic **weud-*. —**v.** Before 1325 *weden*, developed from Old English *wēodian*, from *wēod*, n. Old English *wēodian* is cognate with Old Saxon *wiodōn* to weed, and Middle Dutch *wieden*. —**weeder** n. About 1400 *wedare* a tool to cut weeds, found in *weedhook* (before 800, Old English *uuēodhōc*, from *uuēod*, *wēod* + *hōc* hook).

weeds n. pl. 1595, plural of archaic *weed* garment; developed from Middle English *wede*, *weade* garment (probably before 1200) and Old English *wæd*, *wæde* garment (before 899); cognate with Old Frisian *wēde* garment, Old Saxon *wād*, *wādi*, Old High German *wāt*, and Old Icelandic *vādh*, from Proto-Germanic **zawēdjan*.

week n. Probably before 1200 *wike*, developed from Old English *wice* (878); probably originally (in Germanic) having the sense of turn or succession. Cognates of Old English *wice*

are found in Old Frisian *wike* week, Old Saxon *wika*, Middle Dutch *weke* (modern Dutch *week*), Old High German *wehha*, *wohha* week (modern German *Woche*), Old Icelandic *vika* week (Norwegian *veke*, Swedish *vecka*), from Proto-Germanic **wikōn*, associated with Old Icelandic *víkja* to move, turn, and Gothic *wikō* order, turn, Old High German *wehsal* change, turn (modern German *Wechsel*).

The development of the meaning of week, as we know it, is a purely astrological convention, borrowed by the Europeans directly from the Romans, but by substitution of Germanic divinities for those of the Romans without regard to the planets, in the Germanic speaking areas. —**weekday** n. 1477, day of the week other than Sunday; developed from Old English (about 900) *wicdæge* day of the week. —**weekly** adv. (1465); adj. (1489); formed from Middle English *weke* + *-ly*¹ (adv.) and *-ly*² (adj.).

ween v. Archaic. think, suppose, believe, expect. Probably about 1200 *wenen*; developed from Old English *wēnan* to think (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *wēna* to think, Old Saxon *wānian*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *wānen* to think, fancy, Old High German *wānen* to think (modern German *wāh-nen* suppose wrongly), Old Icelandic *væna* to hope, and Gothic *wēnjan* expect, hope, from Proto-Germanic **wēnjanan*, formed from **wēniz* expectation.

weep v. About 1300 *wepen*; earlier *weopen* (probably before 1200); developed from Old English *wēpan* shed tears, cry (before 899); cognate with Old Frisian *wēpa* to weep, Old Saxon *wōpian* bewail, Old High German *wuofan*, Old Icelandic *œpa* to cry, shout, Gothic *wōpjan*, from Proto-Germanic **wōpjanan*.

weevil n. 1440 *weyyl*, developed from Old English (before 800) *wifel* beetle; cognate with Old Saxon *wibil* beetle, Middle Low German *wevel*, Old High German *wibil* (modern German *Wibbel*), from Proto-Germanic **webilaz*. For the shift in vowel from Old English to Middle English compare the analogous change in BEETLE¹.

weft n. Old English (before 800) *weft*, *wefra*, from *wefan* to WEAVE. Old English *weft*, *wefra* is cognate with Old Icelandic *veptr*, of similar meaning.

weigh v. Probably before 1200 *weien*, *wegen*; developed from Old English *wegan* find the weight of, have weight, lift, carry (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *wega* to weigh, Old Saxon *wegan*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *wegen*, Old High German *wegan* (modern German *wiegen*, *wāgen* to weigh), Old Icelandic *vega* to lift, weigh (Swedish *väga*, Danish *veje*, Norwegian *veie*), and Gothic *gawigan* to move, shake, from Proto-Germanic **wezanan*. See also WAY. The old sense of lift, carry, survives in *weigh anchor*, and indirectly in *fruit weighing heavily on the bough*. For development of the spelling with *gh* see FIGHT, the spelling with *-ei-* developed, by influence of the spirant *gh*, from the diphthong as pronounced in later Old English *wegan*.

weight n. Before 1123 *wiht*; later *wizte* (about 1250); *weizte* (before 1398); developed from Old English (before 1000) *ge-wiht*, from *wegan*, v. WEIGH. Old English *gewiht* is cognate with

Old Frisian *wicht* weight, Middle Dutch *wicht*, *ghewichte* (modern Dutch *wicht*, *gewicht*), Middle High German *gewiht* (modern German *Gewicht*), and Old Icelandic *vætt* (Danish *vegt*, Norwegian *vekt*, Swedish *vikt*), from Proto-Germanic *(3a)wehtiz* and *(3a)wehtjan*.

For general development of spelling see **WEIGH** (except that the vowel which by pattern with *night*, *sight*, would be **wight* is *weight* by influence of *weigh*, v.; and final -t is a formative of nouns from verbs in Germanic, after *gh*). —**v.** 1647, from the noun. —**weighty** adj. Before 1398, heavy; formed from Middle English *weizte* weight + -y¹.

weir n. About 1121 *waere*; developed from Old English (839) *wer* a dam, fence or enclosure, especially one for catching fish; related to *werian* dam up. Old English *wer* is cognate with Old Frisian *were* dam, *wera* defend, protect, Old Saxon *werr* dam, *werian* defend, Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *were* dam (modern Dutch *weer*), Old High German *weri* defense (modern German *Wehr*), *werien*, *werren* defend (modern German *wehren*), Old Icelandic *ver* fishing-place, *verja* defend, and Gothic *warjan* defend, from Proto-Germanic **warjanan*.

The spelling with -ei- represents a shift in pronunciation with a raising of the vowel before *r* in early modern English.

weird adj. About 1400, having the power to control the fate of men, attributive use of earlier *wierd*, *werd*, n. fate, destiny; developed from Old English *wyrd* (about 725, in *Beowulf*) from Proto-Germanic **wurdiz*. Old English *wyrd* is cognate with Old Saxon *wurd* fate, Old High German *wurt*, and Old Icelandic *urðr*, and related to Old English *weorthan* to become; see **WORTH**. For development of spelling see **WEIR**.

The Middle English adjective was originally used in *weird sisters*, the three Fates or goddesses who controlled human destiny. The meaning of odd in appearance is first recorded in 1815.

welch v. See **WELSH**.

welcome interj. About 1150 *welcume*; later *wel come* (1297); alteration (influenced in part by *wel* **WELL**¹, adv.) of Old English (about 890) *wilcuma* exclamation of kindly greeting, from earlier *wilcuma*, n., welcome guest (about 725, in *Beowulf*); formed from *willa* pleasure, desire, choice; see **WILL**² + *cuma* guest, related to *cuman* to COME; corresponding to independently formed Old High German *willicomo*, Middle Low German *willecome*. The alteration of *wil-* to *wel-* was also in part possibly influenced by a Scandinavian word (compare Old Icelandic *velkominn*). —**v.** Probably before 1200 *welcumen*, alteration of Old English (about 1000) *wilcumian* greet kindly, from *wilcuma* welcome guest. —**adj.** Old English *wilcuma* acceptable, freely permitted (about 725, in *Beowulf*); presumably from *wilcuma*, n., welcome guest. —**n.** 1525, kindly greeting; from the adjective.

weld v. 1599, alteration of **WELL**² to boil, rise; influenced by *welled*, past participle. —**n.** 1831, from the verb.

welfare n. About 1303, condition of being or doing well; from *wel faren* fare well; developed from Old English *wel faran* (*wel* **WELL**¹, adv. + *faran* get along, **FARE**²). The sense of social

concern or provision for the well-being of children, unemployed workers, etc., is first recorded in 1904.

well¹ adv. in a satisfactory manner, satisfactory (as in *everything is going well*). Old English *wel* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian, Old Saxon, Middle Dutch, and modern Dutch *wel* well, Old High German *wela*, *wola* (modern German *wohl*), Old Icelandic *vel* (Swedish, Norwegian, and Danish *vel*), and Gothic *walla*, from the same source as Old English *willan* to wish, **WILL**². —**adj.** (as in *all was not well*), Old English *wel* in a state of good fortune, welfare, or happiness (about 725, in *Beowulf*); probably from the adverb (of which many uses of the adjective may be classified as adverbs). The meaning of in good health is first recorded in 1555. —**interj.** (as in *Well, I'm not sure*), Old English *wel*, an introductory expletive (before 899); and (as in *Well, well, here he is*) *wel* an expression of surprise, resignation, etc. —**wellborn** adj. (about 950, Old English *wel-boren*). —**well-done** adj. About 1200, skillfully done; later, thoroughly cooked (1747). —**well-founded** adj. (1369) —**well-grounded** adj. (about 1369) —**well-informed** adj. (about 1440) —**well-known** adj. (about 1470) —**well-made** adj. (1297) —**well-mannered** adj. (about 1387) —**well-meaning** adj. (1387) —**well-nigh** adv. (before 1122, Old English *welneah*).

well² v. to spring, rise, gush. Probably before 1200 *wellen*; in part replacing earlier *wall* (Old English *weallan* to boil, bubble up, about 725, in *Beowulf*), and in part developed from Old English, before 1000: (West Saxon) *wiellan*, (Anglian) *wellan* cause to boil, from *weallan* to boil. The Old English forms are cognate with Old Frisian *walla* to boil, Old Saxon *wallan*, Old High German *wallan* (modern German *wallen*), Old Icelandic *vella* (Swedish *välla*, Danish *vælde*, Norwegian *velle*). —**n.** Probably before 1200 *welle*, developed from Old English, hole dug for water, spring of water, before 830 (West Saxon) *wielle*, (Anglian) *welle*, from *wiellan*, *wellan* cause to boil. The Old English forms are cognate with Old Frisian *walla* spring, Middle Dutch *welle*, Old High German *wella* wave (modern German *Welle*), and Old Icelandic *vella* boiling heat.

Welsh adj., n. Probably before 1200 *Welisc*, developed from Old English, 668–95: (West Saxon) *Wīlisc*, *Wylisc*, (Anglian and Kentish) *Wēlisc*, *Wælic*, from *Wealh*, *Walh* Celt, Briton, Welshman, non-Germanic foreigner, corresponding to Old High German *Walh*, *Walah* Celt, Roman, Gaulish, and Old Icelandic *Valir* Gauls, Frenchmen; all from a Celtic name represented also by Latin *Volscae* an ancient Celtic tribe in southern Gaul; for suffix see -ISH¹. The Old English noun survives in the names *Wales*, *Cornwall*, and in *Walsh*, *Wallace*; compare **WALNUT**. The spelling *Welsh* begins to appear in the early 1500's.

The English adjective *Welsh* corresponds to Old High German *walhisc* (modern German *wälsch*, *welsch*) Celtic, Gaulish, Roman, Romanic; Dutch *waalsch* Walloon; and Old Icelandic *valsker* Gaulish, French (Swedish *välsk*, Danish *vælsk* "Italian, French, southern"), from Proto-Germanic **Wal-Hiskaz*. —**Welsh rabbit** (1725; originally, a humorous formation like *Cape Cod turkey* for codfish; also *Welsh rarebit*, 1785).

welsh or **welch** *v.* 1857 *welch*, 1867 *welsh* (racing slang) to refuse or avoid payment of money laid as a bet; of uncertain origin. — **welshe** *n.* (1860)

welt *n.* About 1425 *welte*, of uncertain origin; perhaps related to Middle English *welten* to overturn, roll over (probably before 1400), borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *velta* to roll; see **WELTER**). The meaning of ridge on the skin from a wound is first recorded in English in 1800. — *v.* 1483 *welten* furnish (shoes) with welts, from *welte*, *n.* The meaning of beat severely is first recorded in 1823.

welter *v.* Before 1325 *weltren*, borrowed from Middle Dutch or Middle Low German *welteren* to roll; cognate with Old English *weltan*, *wæltan* to roll, Old High German *walzan* (modern German *wälzen*), Old Icelandic *velta* (Swedish *välta*, Danish *vælte*, Norwegian *velte*), and Gothic *waltjan*, from Proto-Germanic **waltjanan*. — *n.* 1596, confusion, upheaval; from the verb. The meaning of a confused mass (as in a *welter* of inconsistencies and errors) is first recorded in 1851.

welterweight *n.* 1832, heavyweight horseman; later, boxer or wrestler of a certain weight (1896); formed from earlier *welter* heavyweight horseman or boxer (1804); possibly formed from *welt* beat severely + *-er* and *weight*.

wen *n.* Old English (about 1000) *wenn*; cognate with Middle Low German *wene* a wen, wart, Middle Dutch *wan*, and modern Dutch *wen*, of uncertain origin.

wench *n.* About 1300 *wenche* girl or young woman, shortened form of *wenche* child (probably before 1200); developed from Old English (about 890) *wencel*, probably related to *wancol* unsteady, fickle, weak.

wend *v.* Probably before 1200 *wenden*, found in Old English *wendan* to turn, go, *wend* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *wenda* to turn, *wend*, Old Saxon *wendian*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *wenden*, Old High German *wenten* (modern German *wenden*), Old Icelandic *venda* (Danish and Norwegian *vende*, Swedish *vända*), and Gothic *wandjan* (from Proto-Germanic **wandijanan*), causative verb form of **windan*, found in Old English *windan* to turn, twist; see **WIND**² and **WANDER**.

The original forms of the past tense were *wende*, *wended* and past participle *wend*, but variants *wente*, *went* developed from about 1200. In certain senses *went* replaced the older past tenses of *go*, and from about 1500 was regarded as the past tense of that verb, while *wend* was given the new past tense form *wended*.

went *v.* past tense of *go*. Originally a past tense (and past participle) of **WEND**.

were *v.* form of the verb *be*. Developed from two different past indicative forms of Old English *wesan* to be: *wæron*, plural, and *wære*, second person singular, both recorded about 1000; see **WAS**. The second person singular form *wast* (formed in the 1500's from *was* on the analogy of *be*, *beest*) displaced the etymological *were* (from Old English *wære*); the intermediate form *wert* was used in literature during the 1600's and 1700's.

werewolf *n.* Old English (about 1000) *werewulf*, formed from *wer* man (see **VIRILE**) + *wulf* **WOLF**. Old English *werewulf* is cognate with Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *weeuwulf* werewolf, and Old High German *werwolf* (modern German *Werwolf*).

west *adv.* Old English *west* in or toward the west (also about 725, in *Beowulf*, in the compound *West-Dene* West Danes); also *westan* from the west; cognate with Old Frisian, Middle Low German, Middle Dutch, and modern Dutch *west*, Old Saxon and Old High German *-west* (in compounds), modern German *west*, Old Icelandic *vestr* (Danish and Norwegian *vest*, Swedish *väst*) from the Proto-Germanic **wes-t-*. — *adj.* About 1375, toward the west; from the adverb. — *n.* Probably before 1200, from the adverb. — **westerly** *adj.* Before 1470, formed from Middle English *wester*, *westir* (probably before 1350), developed from Old English (963) *westra* + *-lich*. The adverb also appeared in 1470. — **western** *adj.* Late Old English *west-erne* coming from the west (about 1050); formed from *west* west, *adv.* + *-erne*, suffix denoting direction; cognate with Old Saxon and Old High German *westrōni*, Old Icelandic *vestrœn*. — **westward** *adv.* 1297, developed from Old English (before 900) *westweard* (*west* west + *-weard* -ward).

wet *adj.* Probably before 1200, developed in part from: 1) the past participle use of the Middle English verb *weten* to wet, found in Old English (before 830) *wētan*; 2) Old English *wēt* moist, liquid (before 899), from Proto-Germanic **wētaz*; and 3) a Scandinavian source represented by the stem **wāt-* (compare Old Icelandic *vātr*, modern Icelandic *votur*, Norwegian and Swedish *våt*, Danish *våd*); cognate with Old Frisian *wēt* moist, liquid, related to English **WATER**. — *v.* Old English (before 830) *wētan*, probably from the adjective in spite of the dates, because of the wide-spread use of the adjective in the major meanings in Old English at an earlier date than the verb. — *n.* water, moisture. Old English (before 899) *wæt*; also *wēta* moisture; from the adjective in Old English.

wether *n.* Old English (about 890) *wether*; cognate with Old Saxon *withar* ram, Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *weder* (modern Dutch *weerd*), Old High German *widar* (modern German *Widder*), Old Icelandic *veðr* (Danish *væder*, Norwegian *vær*, Swedish *vädur*), and Gothic *withrus* lamb, from Proto-Germanic **wethruz*.

wh The spelling developed during the Middle English period as a respelling of words with initial *hw*, usually of Old English origin, such as Middle English *what* (Old English *hwæt*) and *whisperen* (Old English *hwisprian*). Words in *wh-* that were borrowed into English, such as *whisk* and *whelk*, were respelled on analogy with Old English words. It is uncertain how much the spelling affected the pronunciation of any of these words and sometimes *wh* varies with simple *h* or *w*, as in *whortleberry*, *hurtleberry*, *whiz*¹, *wiz*(ard).

Early in the 1400's, words that had customarily been spelled with *ho-*, such as *home* and *hot*, began to appear with the spelling *who-*. The free-ranging influence of the digraph *wh* was retained in the spellings *whole* (for Middle English *hol*, Old English *hāl*) and *whore* (Middle English *hore*, Old English *hōre*), which became common about 1600; but even in the time of

Samuel Johnson (1755) and John Walker (1791) pronunciation of words spelled with *wh*, such as *whole* were much in dispute in educated speech. See also CH, SH, TH.

whack *n.* 1737, sharp, resounding blow; possibly of imitative origin, or from the verb. —**v.** 1719, probably of imitative origin.

whale¹ *n.* fishlike mammal. Probably before 1300 *whal*, developed from Old English *hwæl* (before 899) from Proto-Germanic **Hwalaz*; cognate with Old Saxon *hwal* whale, Middle Dutch *wal*, *walvisc* (modern Dutch *walvis*), Old High German *wal*, *walfisc* (modern German *Wal*, *Walfisch*), Old Icelandic *hvalr*, *hvalfiskr* (modern Icelandic *hvalur*, Swedish *val*, Danish *hval*, Norwegian *kval*, *hval*). Compare *walrus* in which the Old Icelandic and Dutch words figure by folk etymology. —**v.** About 1700, from the noun.

whale² *v.* beat, whip severely. 1790, possibly variant of WALE, *v.*

wharf *n.* 1320 *warf*, developed from Old English (probably after 1042) *hwearf* shore, bank where ships could tie up; earlier, a dam or embankment (1038), from Proto-Germanic **Hwar-faz*; cognate with Middle Low German *werf*, *warf* dam, wharf.

The spelling *wharf* is first recorded in Middle English in 1442.

what *pron., adj., adv., interj.* Probably before 1200 *whæt* or *whatt*, *watt* (about 1200); developed from Old English *hwæt* (about 725, in *Beowulf*, except *huæt*, *pron.*, before 735); cognate with Old Frisian *hwet*, *wet*, Old Saxon *huat*, Middle Low German, Middle Dutch, and modern Dutch *wat*, Old High German *hwaz*, *waz* (modern German *was*), Old Icelandic *hvat* (Swedish *vad*, Norwegian *hva*, Danish *hvad*), and Gothic *hwa*; from Proto-Germanic **Hwat*. —**whatever** *pron., adj.* (before 1325) —**whatsoever** *pron., adj.* (about 1250)

wheal *n.* 1808, probably alteration of WALE, possibly by confusion with *weal* welt (though not recorded before 1821), and probably also developed by association with obsolete English *wheal* pimple, pustule (1530), from Middle English *whelle* (about 1440); related to Old English *hwelian* to form pus, bring to a head (before 899), from **hwele*.

wheat *n.* Probably about 1200 *hwæte*, developed from Old English (before 830) *hwæte* wheat; cognate with Old Frisian *hwēte* wheat, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *weit*, Old High German *weizzi* (modern German *Weizen*), Old Icelandic *hveiti* (Danish *hvede*, Norwegian *hvete*, *kveite*, Swedish *hvete*, *vete*), and Gothic *hwaiteis*; from Proto-Germanic **Hwaitijaz* that which is white, from the source of Old English *hwīt* WHITE.

wheedle *v.* 1661, of uncertain origin, perhaps connected with Old English *wædlian* to beg; or borrowed by English soldiers during service in the German wars of the 1600's (compare German *wedeln* wag the tail, and so fawn, flatter, found in Danish *logre* wag the tail, fawn, flatter; also in Icelandic *flathra* wag the tail, fawn upon).

wheel *n.* Probably about 1200 *whel*, developed from Old

English *hwēol*, *hweogl* (before 899); cognate with Old Frisian *hwēl* wheel, Middle Low German *wēl*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *wiel*, and Old Icelandic *hvēl*, *hjöl* (Swedish, Norwegian, and Danish *hjul*), from Proto-Germanic **Hwē-Hwlan*, **Hwēwulan*. The figurative sense of a moving or propelling force (as in *the wheels of progress*) is first recorded before 1340, from the earlier sense of the wheel of fortune or chance (before 899). —**v.** About 1385 *whielen*; probably before 1200 *hweolen*, from the noun. —**wheelbarrow** *n.* (about 1340) —**wheelwright** *n.* (1281)

wheeze *v.* Before 1460 *whesen*, probably borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *hvæsa* to hiss, Swedish *våsa*, Norwegian *hvese*, *kvese*, Danish *hvæse*; cognate with Old English *hwæst* act of blowing). —**n.** 1834, from the verb.

whelk *n.* Before 1500, mollusk with a spiral shell, alteration of Middle English *welke*, *wilke* (about 1170); developed from Old English *weoloc*, *wioloc* (about 700); cognate with Middle Dutch *willoc*, *wilc*, *welc* whelk, modern Dutch *wulk*. The later spelling with *wh* was by analogy with words such as *whale* and *whelp*; see WH.

whelm *v.* Before 1325 *qhelmen* turn upside down, about 1350 *welmen*; probably an alteration (by association with *helmen* to cover, Old English *helmian*) of earlier *whelven* to turn, overturn, cover by something overturned (about 1275); developed from Old English (West Saxon) *-hwiefan*, (Mercian) *-hwelfan*, as in *āhwelfan* cover over.

whelp *n.* Probably before 1200, developed from Old English (before 830) *hwelp* whelp; cognate with Old Saxon *hwelp* whelp, Old High German *hwelf*, *welf* (modern German *Welf*), and Old Icelandic *hvelpr* (Swedish *valp*, Danish *hvalp*, Norwegian *hvalp*, *kvalp*). The sense of a scamp, is first recorded about 1330. —**v.** About 1200, from the noun.

when *adv., conj., pron.* Probably about 1200 *whanne*; later *when* (about 1320, in *whensoever*); developed from Old English *hwænne*, *hwenne*, *hwonne* (before 899); cognate with Old Frisian *hwenne* until, if, Old Saxon *hwan* when, Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *wan*, *wen* when (modern Dutch *wanneer*), Old High German *wanne*, *wenni* (modern German *wann* when, *wenn* if, whenever), Gothic *hwan* when, how; derived from the Germanic pronominal stem **Hwa-*. —**whenever** *adv., conj.* (about 1380)

whence *adv.* Probably about 1225 *whannes*; also *whennes*; formed from *whenne* whence + suffix *-es -s*³. The earlier forms *whanne*, *whenne* developed from Old English *hwanone* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); related to *hwænne* WHEN. The spelling with *-ce*, first recorded in 1526, is a spelling convention for an earlier voiceless *-s* (in *-es*), as found in *twice* and *pence*.

where *adv., conj.* Probably about 1200 *whære*; developed from Old English *hwær*, *hwar* (before 830; also about 725, in *Beowulf* in *elles hwær* elsewhere); cognate with Old Frisian *hwēr* where, Old Saxon *hwār*, Middle Low German *wār*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *waar*, Old High German *hwār*, *wā*, Middle High German *wā* (modern German *wo*), Old High German

wār (modern German *warum* why), Old Icelandic *hvar* (Swedish *var*, Danish *hvor*, Norwegian *hvor*, *kvar*), and Gothic *hwar* where. Old High German *wār* is from Proto-Germanic **Hwær*, and Gothic *hwar* is from Proto-Germanic **Hwar*. —**n.** About 1445, from the adverb. —**whereabouts** adv. Before 1415; earlier *whereabout* (before 1325). —**n.** 1795; earlier *whereabout* (1605). —**whereby** adv., conj. (about 1200) —**wherefore** adv., conj. (about 1200); **n.** reason (1590). —**wherever** adv., conj. (about 1450 *wherever*; earlier *hwar æfre*, 971) —**wherewith** adv., conj. (probably about 1200)

whet *v.* Probably before 1200 *whætten* sharpen, make more acute; developed from Old English *hwettan* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Middle Low German, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *wetten* to whet, Old High German *wezzen* (modern German *wetzen*), Old Icelandic *hvetja*, and Gothic *gahwatjan* incite, from Proto-Germanic *Hwatjanan*. These verbs derive from an adjective represented by Old English *hwæt* brave, bold, Old Saxon *hwat* sharp, Old High German *waz*, and Old Icelandic *hwatr* bold, vigorous, from Proto-Germanic **Hwataz*. —**whetstone** **n.** Old English *hwetstān* (about 725).

whether *conj.* Probably before 1200 *whæther*, *whether*, developed from Old English *hwæther*, *hwether* which of two (before 830; found also as an adverb about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *hweder*, *hwedder* which of two, whether, Old Saxon *hwethar* which of two, whether, Old High German *hwedar*, *wedar* which of two, whether, either (surviving in modern German *weder* neither), Old Icelandic *hvaðarr* which of two, each, whether (Swedish *var* each, Danish *hver*, Norwegian *hver*, *kvar*), and Gothic *hwathar* which of two; from Proto-Germanic **Hwatharaz*. Compare EITHER.

whew *n.* Before 1250 *wei*; later *whew* (1400); developed from Old English (before 800) *hwæg* whey; cognate with Middle Dutch *wey* (modern Dutch *wet*) and Middle Low German *hoie*, from Proto-Germanic **Hwaja-*.

which *adj., pron.* Probably before 1300 *whiche*; earlier *hwich* and *whilch* (both about 1200); developed from Old English *hwilc* (before 899); cognate with Old Saxon *hwilik*, Old Icelandic *hvílikr* (Danish and Norwegian *hvílen*, Swedish *vilken*), and Gothic *hwileiks* which; all from Proto-Germanic **Hwīlikaz*, **Hwi-* who + **likan* body, form, found in Old English *līc* body.

Though *hwilc* is the surviving form through modern English *which*, two other principal forms existed in Middle and Old English: *hwelc* (before 800 from Proto-Germanic **Hwālikaz*) and *hwylc* (871–889), developing into early Middle English **hwelch* and *hwūlch*, which became *hwech* and *hwūch*, both disappearing in late Middle English. —**whichever** *pron., adj.* (about 1395)

whiff *n., v.* 1591, in part perhaps an alteration of earlier *weffe* foul scent or odor (before 1300); also in part a formation, probably of imitative origin; and possibly connected with earlier *whiffle* blow in gusts or puffs (1568).

Whig *n.* 1657, in part perhaps a disparaging use from *whigg* a country bumpkin (about 1645), and a shortened form of

earlier (1649) *Whiggamore* one of the adherents of the Presbyterian cause in western Scotland who marched on Edinburgh in 1648 to oppose the secret agreement of the Scots with Charles I against the followers of Oliver Cromwell; perhaps associated with dialectal *whig* to urge forward.

In 1689 the name is first recorded in reference to a member of the British political party that opposed the Tories and favored reforms and progress. During the American Revolution a *Whig* was a colonist who opposed the measures of the Royal Governors (1711); later the name was applied to a political opponent of Andrew Jackson, a member of the Whig party (1825). In 1854, the Whigs re-formed to become the Republican party.

while *n.* Before 1175, developed from Old English *hwīl* a space of time (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *hwīle* while, Old Saxon *hwīl*, Old High German *hwīla* (modern German *Weile*), Old Icelandic *hvīla* bed (Danish *hvile*, Swedish *vila*, Norwegian *hvile*, *kvile* rest), and Gothic *hwīla* time, while, from Proto-Germanic **Hwīlō*. —**conj.** 1137, during the time that (now expressed by *while* alone, but earlier found in Middle English with the noun in *the while that* and Old English *pā hwīle pe*). —**v.** 1606, from the noun.

whim *n.* 1641, pun or play on words; shortened form of earlier *whim-wham* fanciful object (before 1590); of unknown origin. The meaning of a sudden notion, fancy, or idea, is first recorded in English in 1697, probably a shortened form of *whimsy*.

whimper *v.* 1513, probably of imitative origin, but compare German *wimmern* to whimper, moan. —**n.** Before 1700, fretful cry; from the verb (found in *whimpering* in 1522).

whimsy *n.* 1605, probably related to earlier *whim-wham* (with the ending *-sy*, perhaps patterned on such words as *dropsy*, *topsy*); see WHIM. —**whimsical** *adj.* 1653, formed from English *whimsy* + *-ical*.

whine *v.* Probably before 1300 *whynen* make a low cry of pain or distress; developed from Old English *hwīnan* to whiz or whistle through the air (also found in *hwīnsian*, of dogs, to whine); cognate with Old Icelandic *hvīna* to whiz, whistle in the air (Swedish *vina*, Danish and Norwegian *hvīne*), Old High German *weiōn*, *hweiōn* to cry, shout, *wihōn* to neigh, Middle High German *wīhen* (modern German *wiehern*) to neigh; ultimately of imitative origin. The meaning of complain in a feeble way, is first recorded in 1530. —**n.** 1633, from the verb.

whinny *v.* 1530, probably related to *whine* in the sense applied to animals of make a protracted sound or cry, neigh (probably before 1300). —**n.** 1823, from the verb.

whip *v.* Before 1250 *wippen* flap violently, as with the wings; later *whippen* to strike or beat with a whip, flog, lash (about 1386, probably developed from the earlier sense found in the noun). Middle English *wippen* (from Proto-Germanic **wipp-anan*) is cognate with Middle Low German, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *wippen* move up and down or to and fro, swing, whip, Middle High German *wipfen* to leap, dance, and Old High German *wipf* swing; see WIPE. —**n.** About 1340

wippe, in part developed from *wippen* to flap violently, and probably in part borrowed from Middle Low German *wippe*, *wip* quick movement, leap.

whipper-snapper *n.* 1674, perhaps an alteration of earlier *snipper-snapper* (about 1590).

whippet *n.* Before 1610, probably formed from *whip* in the sense of move quickly + diminutive suffix *-et*; earlier in the sense of a brisk, nimble woman (1550).

whippoorwill *n.* 1709, coined in imitation of the bird's call.

whir or **whirr** *v.* Probably before 1400 (Scottish), fling, hurl; probably borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Danish *hvirre* to whirl, whirl, and Old Icelandic *hverfa* to turn); probably also reinforced by association with *whirl*. —**n.** Probably before 1400 (Scottish), rush, hurry; from the verb.

whirl *v.* About 1300 *zwirlen*, about 1380 *whirlen*; probably borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *hvirfla* to go round, spin, related to *hvirfill* circle, ring, crown); cognate with Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *wervel* bolt, hinge, whirlwind, modern Dutch *wervel* vertebra, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *wervelen* to turn, and Old High German *wirbil* whirlwind modern German *Wirbel* whirl, eddy, whirlpool. The meaning of spin around (as in *the room whirled round and round*) appeared about 1384. —**n.** 1411 *whirle* fly-wheel or pulley on a spindle; later, act of whirling (about 1480); from *whirlen* to whirl. —**whirlpool** *n.* (1529) —**whirlwind** *n.* (before 1340)

whisk *n.* 1375 *wisk*, *wysk* quick sweeping movement; probably borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *visk* wisp, Danish, Norwegian, and Swedish *visk* broom); cognate with Old English *granwisc* awn, Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *wisch* wisp (modern Dutch *wis*), and Old High German *wisc* (modern German *Wisch*). The meaning of an implement for beating eggs, cream, etc., is first recorded in 1666. The spelling *whisk* is first found in 1577. —**v.** About 1410 *wysken*, borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *víska* to wipe); cognate with Old English *wiscian* to plait, related to *granwisc* awn.

whisker *n.* Usually **whiskers**, pl. Before 1600, from Middle English *wisker* anything that whisks or sweeps (about 1425); formed from *wisk*, *v.* + *-er*¹.

whiskey *n.* 1715 *whiskie*; later, in the spelling *whisky* (1746) and *whiskey* (1753); originally Scottish *usky* (about 1730), *usquebea* (1706), *usquebaugh* (1703; earlier *iskie* bae, 1583); borrowed from Gaelic *uisge beatha* whisky; literally, water of life (Old Irish *uisce* water + *bethu* life). The Gaelic word is probably a loan translation of Medieval Latin *aqua vitae* alcohol, spirits; literally, water of life; in English *aqua vitae* had been recorded as applying to intoxicating drinks since before 1425.

whisper *v.* 1440 *whysperen*, developed from Old English *whisprian* speak very softly (about 950); cognate with Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *wispelen* to whisper, Old High German *hwispalōn* (modern German *wispeln*), and Old

Icelandic *hvískra* (Swedish *víska*, Danish and Norwegian *hviske*); possibly related to Old English *hwistlian* to WHISTLE. —**n.** 1595, from the verb.

whist *n.* 1663, alteration of earlier *whisk* kind of card game (1621, but alluded to as early as 1529); perhaps so called from the act of *whisking* up the cards after each trick of the game is won; or associated with *whist* an exclamation to command silence (about 1374), used during the game; of imitative origin.

whistle *v.* Before 1382 *whistlen*, developed from Old English (about 1000) *hwistlian* utter a shrill sound; cognate with Old Icelandic *hvísla* to whisper, Middle Swedish *hvisla* and modern Swedish *vísla* to whistle, Danish *hvisle* to hiss, Norwegian *hvisle*, *kvisle*, and Old Icelandic *hvína* to whistle in the air. —**n.** About 1340 *whistil*, developed from Old English (about 950) *hwistle* a whistling instrument, shrill-toned pipe; related to *hwistlian* to whistle.

whit *n.* Probably before 1200 *na whit* no amount, found in Old English *nān wiht* (971), from *wiht* amount (before 900); originally, person, human being; see WIGHT. The meaning of an amount in Old English may have been influenced by senses in cognate words: Old Saxon *wiht* thing, Old High German *wiht* creature, being, thing, etc.

white *adj.* Before 1325, developed from Old English *hwīt* (before 899); cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *hwīt* white, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *wit*, Old High German *hwīz*, *wīz* (modern German *weiss*), Old Icelandic *hvítr* (Danish *hvid*, Norwegian *hvit*, *kvit*, Swedish *vit*), and Gothic *hweits*, from Proto-Germanic **Hwītaz*. —**n.** Before 1300, developed from Old English (about 1000) *hwīt* fluid surrounding an egg yolk, from *hwīt*, *adj.* —**v.** About 1325, developed from Old English (before 1000) *hwītan*, from *hwīt*, *adj.* —**whiten** *v.* Before 1300, formed from Middle English *white*, *adj.* + *-en*¹.

whither *adv.* Probably before 1200 *wider*, developed from Old English (before 830) *hwider*; formed from Proto-Germanic **Hwi-* who + *-der*, as in Old English *hider* HITHER and *thider* THITHER.

whitlow *n.* 1440, alteration of earlier *whitflaw* (before 1400), possibly formed from *white* + *flaw*¹; or borrowed in part from early modern Dutch *vijt*, *fijt*, Low German *fit* abscess, whitlow.

Whitsunday *n.* Probably before 1200 *White-sune-dæie*; developed from Late Old English (1067) *Hwīta Sunnandæg* white Sunday (*hwīt* white + *Sunnandæg* Sunday); possibly so called from the custom of having the newly baptized wear white baptismal robes on this day.

whittle *v.* 1552, verb use of Middle English *whittel* a knife (1404), variant of earlier *thwittle* (1390), from *thwiten* to cut (about 1370); developed from Old English *thwītan*; cognate with Old Icelandic *thveita* to hew, hurl, from Proto-Germanic **thwītanan*; for suffix see *-LE*³.

whiz¹ or **whizz** *v.* Make or move with a humming or hissing sound. Before 1547, of imitative origin. —**n.** 1620, from the verb.

whiz² *n.* clever person, expert. 1914, probably a special use of *whiz* something remarkable (1908), transferred use of *whiz*¹; perhaps an alteration (by influence of *whiz*¹) of a shortened form of *wizard*.

who *pron.* About 1250 *hwo*; later *who* (about 1303); developed from Old English *hwā* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *hwā* *who* (interrogative pronoun), Old Saxon *hwē*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *wie*, Old High German *hwer*, *wer* (modern German *wer*), Old Icelandic *hverr*, Old Danish *hwa* (modern Danish *hvo*), Old Swedish *hvar*, and Gothic *hwas*, feminine *hwō*; from Proto-Germanic **Hwas*, **Hwes* (*Hwez*), **Hwō*.

The pronoun *whom* developed from Old English *hwām*, the dative form of *hwā* *who*. The pronoun *whose* developed from Old English *hwæs*, the genitive form of *hwā* *who*. — **whoever** *pron.* (before 1225) — **whomever** *pron.* (probably before 1300)

whole *adj.* 1420 *wholle*, spelling alteration of earlier *hol* (probably before 1200); developed from Old English *hāl* entire, unhurt, healthy (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *hāl*, *hēl* whole, Old Saxon *hēl*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *heel*, Old High German and modern German *heil*, Old Icelandic *heill* (Danish, Norwegian, and Swedish *hel*), and Gothic *hails*, from Proto-Germanic **Hailaz*. For an explanation of the spelling with *wh-*, see *WH*. — **n.** Before 1387, from the adjective. — **wholesale** *n.* Before 1417; the sense of general (extensive, as in a *wholesale reform of taxes*), is first recorded in 1642. — **v.** (1800) — **wholesome** *adj.* (about 1200) — **wholly** *adv.* Before 1338 *holy*, formed from Middle English *hol* whole, *adj.* + *-ly*¹.

whom *pron.* See *WHO*.

whoop *v.* Probably about 1450 *howopen*, alteration of earlier *houpen* (about 1376); in part of imitative origin in English (compare the interjection), and in part possibly borrowed from Old French *houper* to cry out; also of imitative origin. For an explanation of the spelling with *wh-*, see *WH*. — **interj.** (before 1460 *whop*) — **n.** 1593, alteration of Middle English *houp* (about 1350), probably from the interjection. — **whoopie** *interj.* 1862, from *whoop*, *interj.* + *-ee*. — **n.** noisy, unrestrained revelry. 1928, from the interjection.

whopper *n.* 1785, something very large or great; formed in English as if from *whop*, *v.* + *-er*¹ (found in *whopping*, *adj.*, before 1625). English *whop*, *v.* beat, overcome, is first recorded in 1575, but is of uncertain origin. *Whopper* in the sense of a big lie is first recorded in 1791.

whore *n.* 1535, spelling alteration (with replacement by *wh-*) of Middle English *hore* (probably before 1200); developed from Late Old English (before 1100) *hōre* prostitute, harlot (from Proto-Germanic **Hōrōn*); cognate with Middle Dutch *hoere* (modern Dutch *hoer*), Old High German *huora* (modern German *Hure*), Old Icelandic *hōra* (Norwegian and Danish *hore*, Swedish *hōra*) adulteress, *hōrr* adulterer, and Gothic *hōrs* adulterer. — **v.** 1583, from the noun.

whorl *n.* 1440 *whorhwyll*, *whorle* flywheel or pulley on a spindle;

possibly alteration of *whirle* WHIRL. The meaning of a circle of leaves or flowers round a stem of a plant is first recorded in 1551.

whose *pron.* See *WHO*.

why *adv.* About 1200 *whi*, developed from Old English *hwī*, *hwī* (before 899), instrumental case (showing for what purpose or by what means) of *hwæt* WHAT; and cognate with Old Saxon *hwī* why and Old Icelandic *hvī* why (Danish *hvi*, Norwegian *hvi*, *kvi*), from Proto-Germanic **Hwī*. — **n.** cause, reason, purpose. About 1303 *why*, from earlier (before 1200) *hwi*, *adv.* — **interj.** 1519, as an expression of surprise or to call attention to a statement; from the adverb.

wick *n.* Probably before 1200 *wueke*, developed from Old English (about 1000) *wōce* (from a reduplicated Proto-Germanic noun **weukōn*); later *wicke* (before 1376), perhaps developed from Old English **wice*; cognate with Middle Dutch *wieke* wick (modern Dutch *wiek*), Old High German *wiohha* (dialectal German *Wieche*).

The formation with *-ick*, showing the shortening of the vowel, is found generally by the 1600's and replaced the older form with lengthened vowel sound inherited from Middle English.

wicked *adj.* Probably before 1200, formed from earlier *wicke* wicked, evil (1154, perhaps attributive use of Old English *wicca* wizard) + *-ed*¹.

wicker *n.* 1336 *wekirr* wickerwork; later *wyker* pliant twig, withe (before 1398), and *wickir* (1508); borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare dialectal Swedish *vikker* branch of willow, Swedish *vika* to bend, and Old Icelandic *vikja* to move, turn). — **adj.** 1502, from the noun.

wicket *n.* Probably about 1225 *wiket* small door or gate; borrowed from Anglo-French *wiket*, from Old North French (compare French *guichet* ticket-window), from a Germanic source (compare Old Icelandic *vík* nook).

wide *adj.* Probably 1200, found in Old English *wīd* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian, Old Saxon, and Middle Low German *wīd* wide, Middle Dutch *wijt* (modern Dutch *wijd*), Old High German *wīt* (modern German *weit*), and Old Icelandic *viðr* (Danish, Norwegian, and Swedish *vid*), from Proto-Germanic **widās*. — **adv.** Probably before 1200, developed from Old English *wīde* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); from *wīd*, *adj.* — **widen** *v.* 1607, formed from English *wide*, *adj.* + *-en*¹. — **width** *n.* 1627, formed from English *wide*, *adj.* + *-th*¹, a parallel to earlier *wideness*, formed on the analogy of *breadth*.

widow *n.* About 1386 *wydow* (also *widow* in verb); developed from Old English (about 830) *widewe*, *widuwe*; cognate with Old Frisian *widwe* widow, Old Saxon *widowa*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *weduwe*, Old High German *wituuwa*, *witawa* (modern German *Witue*), and Gothic *widuwo*, from Proto-Germanic **widewō*. — **v.** Before 1325 *widowen*; from the noun. — **widower** *n.* About 1378, formed from *widow* + *-er*¹. — **widowhood** *n.* About 1200 *widewehod*, formed from

widewe widow + *-hod* -hood; replacing Old English *wuduwanhād* (before 899).

wield *v.* Probably about 1175 *welden* to rule, guide, decide, handle with skill; developed from Old English (Mercian) *weldan*, (West Saxon) *wieldan*, *wealdan* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *walda* to rule, Old Saxon *waldan*, Old High German *waltan* (modern German *walten*), Old Icelandic *valda* (Swedish *vålla*, Danish and Norwegian *valde* to cause, occasion), and Gothic *waldan* to rule, from Proto-Germanic **wal-t-*.

wiener *n.* 1904, shortened form of *wienerwurst* (1889); borrowing of German *Wienerwurst*, from *Wiener* of Vienna (from *Wien* Vienna) + *Wurst* sausage. — **wienie** *n.* 1911 (but found earlier in the misspelling *winnies*, 1867); formed by clipping *wien(er)* + *-ie*.

wife *n.* 1483 *wife*; found in Old English (before 800) *wif* woman, wife; cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *wif* woman, wife, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *wijf*, Old High German *wīb* (modern German *Weib*), and Old Icelandic *vif* (Danish, Norwegian, and Swedish *viv*), from Proto-Germanic **wīban*.

The Old English general sense of woman survives in *fish-wife*, *midwife*, and *old wives' tale*; the Middle English sense of the mistress of a household survives in *housewife*; compare WOMAN. — **wifely** *adj.* About 1386, befitting a wife; developed from Old English *wiflic* womanly (before 899); formed from Old English *wif* woman + *-lic* -ly³.

wig *n.* 1675, shortened form of PERIWIG. — **v.** 1826, from the noun.

wiggle *v.* Probably before 1200 *wigelen*, perhaps borrowed from Middle Dutch or Middle Flemish *wigelen*, frequentative form of *wiegen* to rock, from *wiege* cradle; cognate with Old High German *wiga* cradle (modern German *Wiege*), and Old English *wegan* to move; for suffix see -LE³. — **n.** 1894, from the verb. — **wiggly** *adj.* 1903, formed from English *wiggle*, *v.* or *n.* + *-y*¹.

wight *n.* Archaic. person. Old English *wiht* living being, creature (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Saxon *wiht* thing, Middle Low German *wicht* thing, being, creature, demon, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *wicht* little child, Old High German *wiht* creature, being, thing (modern German *Wicht* creature, being, infant), Old Icelandic *vētr*, *vætr* creature, thing, and Gothic *wahts* thing, from Proto-Germanic **wehtiz*.

The meaning of a human being, person (probably about 1200) was widely used with the spelling *wight* (see FIGHT).

wigwam *n.* 1628, borrowed from Algonquian (probably Abnaki) *wigwam* a dwelling; also said to be found in such formations as *wikiwam* and specifically in (Ojibwa) *wigiwam*, (Delaware) *wiquoam* their house.

wild *adj.* Old English (before 800) *wilde* in the natural state, uncultivated, undomesticated; cognate with Old Frisian *wilde* wild, Old Saxon *wildi*, Middle Dutch *wilde*, *wilt* (modern Dutch *wild*), Old High German *wildi* (modern German *wild*),

Old Icelandic *villr* (Danish and Swedish *vild*, Norwegian *vill*), and Gothic *wiltheis*, from Proto-Germanic **wiltijaz*. — **n.** Probably before 1200, wild animal, from the adjective. The meaning of an uncultivated or desolate region is found in *the wilds* (1596). — **adv.** 1549, from the adjective. — **wildcat** *n.* (1418) — **wildfire** *n.* 1032; later, violent force or excited feeling (before 1325).

wildebeest *n.* 1838, borrowed from Afrikaans *wildebees*; literally, wild beast, plural *wildebeest* (from Dutch *wild* wild + *bees* beast, ox, from Middle Dutch *beeste*, from Old French *beste* beast).

wilderness *n.* About 1200, formed from Old English *wildēoren* wild, savage (*wilde* wild + *dēor* animal) + *-ness*.

wile *n.* Before 1160, developed from Late Old English *wīl* wile, trick; perhaps borrowed from Old North French **wile*, from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *vēl* trick, craft, fraud, and *vēla* defraud). — **v.** About 1375 *wilen* deceive by a wile, coax, lure; from the noun. The weakened sense of divert attention pleasantly from, pass easily or pleasantly (1796) was strongly influenced by *while*, *v.* — **wily** *adj.* Before 1325, formed from Middle English *wile* + *-y*¹.

will¹ *v.* be going to, be determined to. Before 1121 *wilen*; later *willen* (before 1225), past tense *wolde*, *wulde* would; developed from Old English **willan*, *wyllan* (about 725, in *Beowulf*) to wish, desire, want (past tense *wolde*); cognate with Old Frisian *willa* to wish, desire, Old Saxon *willian*, *wellian* (past tense *welda*, *wolda*), Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *willen*, Old High German *wellan*, *wellen* (past *wolta*), modern German *wollen* (past *wollte*), Old Icelandic *vilja* (past *vilda*), Swedish *vilja*, Danish and Norwegian *ville*, and Gothic *wiljan* (earlier **weljan*) to will (past *wilda*), *waljan* to choose.

The unusual feature of this verb is its use as a regular auxiliary of the future tense, with implications of intention or volition, and thus distinguished from *shall*, expressing or implying obligation or necessity; see SHALL for other distinctions. The use of *will* as a future auxiliary is already found in Old English (before 899). Most of the basic senses of *will* are found in Old English, including the meaning of choose or decide to do something (as in *God willed it*), found before 950, and the meaning of do often or habitually (as in *she will read for hours*), found before 899.

Contracted forms of the verb, especially after pronouns, began to appear in the 1500's (as in *shee'll* = *she'll*), the form with an apostrophe (*I'll*, *he'll*, *it'll*) occurring since the 1600's. The contraction *won't* for *will not* is first recorded in Middle English (before 1475) as *wynnot*, later (1584) *wonnot*, the form *won't* being first recorded in 1667. — **willing** *adj.* Before 1325, formed from Middle English *willen* will + *-ing*². The word is also found in Old English as an element in compounds, such as *unwillende* unwilling, *willendliche* willingly.

will² *n.* power to choose, choice, wish. Old English *will*, *willā* (about 725, in *Beowulf*), related to **willan* to wish; see WILL¹; cognate with Old Frisian *willā* will, Old Saxon *willio*, Middle Dutch *wille* (modern Dutch *wil*), Old High German *willō*, *willio* (modern German *Wille*), Old Icelandic *vili* (Danish *villie*,

Norwegian *vilje*, Swedish *vilja*), and Gothic *wilja*, from Proto-Germanic **weljōn*. The meaning of a written document expressing a person's wishes about disposition of property after death is first recorded about 1380. —**v.** About 1100 *willen*, developed from Old English (before 830) *willian*, from *will*, *willā*, *n.* —**willful** adj. About 1200 (implied in Old English *wilfullice* willfully, before 1100).

willies *n. pl.* 1896, spell of nervousness; of uncertain origin.

will-o'-the-wisp *n.* 1661; earlier *Will with the wisp* (1608); formed from *Will*, as a shortened form of *William* + *wisp* bundle of hay or straw used as a torch.

willow *n.* About 1340 *weluw*; earlier *wilwe* (about 1325), also *wilghe*; alteration of Old English (before 750) *welig*; cognate with Old Frisian *wilg* willow, Old Saxon *wilgia*, Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *wilge* (modern Dutch *wilg*), Middle High German *wilge*. The change in form to *-ow* probably parallel to that of *bellow* and *fellow*. —**willowy** adj. 1766, bordered or shaded with willows; formed from *willow* + *-y*¹. The meaning of like a willow, graceful, slender, is first recorded in 1791.

willy-nilly *adv.* 1608 *wille nille*, contraction of *will I, nill I* or *will he, nill he*, or *will ye, nill ye*; literally, with or without the will of the person concerned (compare Latin *nōlēns volēns*). The word *nill*, developed from Old English *nyllan* (*ne* no + **willan* will¹).

wilt *v.* 1691, probably a dialectal alteration of *wilk*, *welk* to wilt, influenced by earlier *welter* to wilt (1645, with the ending perhaps parallel to *wither*, 1535). English *welk* was probably borrowed from Middle Dutch or Middle Low German *welken* to wither; cognate with Old High German *inwelkēn* to wilt, *inwelhēn* become soft. —**n.** 1855, from the verb.

wimp *n.* 1920, perhaps a clipped form from WHIMPER a fretful cry; compare earlier *whimp* (1549), *wimp* (1890) to whimper.

wimple *n.* Late Old English (before 1100) *wimpel*, *wimple*; cognate with Old Frisian *wimpel* veil, banner, Old Saxon *wimpal*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *wimpel*, Low German *wimpelen*, and Old Icelandic *vimpill*, from Proto-Germanic **wimpilaz*.

win *v.* Probably about 1200 *winnen* strive, contend; later, be victorious, prevail, win (about 1300); fusion of Old English *winnan* struggle for, work at (about 725, in *Beowulf*), and Old English *gewinnan* to gain or succeed by struggling, to win (971), from Proto-Germanic **wenuwanan*. The Old English forms are cognate with Old Frisian *winna* obtain, Old Saxon *winnan* suffer, win, *giwinnan* obtain, Middle Low German, Middle Dutch, and modern Dutch *winnen* gain, win, Old High German *winnan* to rage, contend, exert oneself, also *gawinnan* to gain by labor or exertion (modern German *gewinnen* earn, gain, win), Old Icelandic *vinna* to work, gain, win (Swedish *vinna*, Norwegian *vinne*, Danish *vinde*), and Gothic *gawinnan* suffer. Related to WISH. —**n.** Probably before 1200 *winne* strife, conflict; also, gain, acquisition, profit (probably about 1200); fusion of Old English *winn* labor, strife, conflict

(before 1000), and *gewinn* gain, profit (before 1000); related to *winnan* struggle for, and *gewinnan* gain, succeed. —**winner** *n.* About 1353, formed from Middle English *winnen* win, *v.* + *-er*¹.

wince *v.* About 1300 *wincen* to kick or move in impatience or pain, alteration of earlier *wenchen* (probably before 1200, found also in later variant *winchen*); borrowed from Anglo-French or Old North French **wenchier*, **wenchir* (in Old French *guenchir* to turn aside, avoid), from Frankish **wenkjan* (compare Old Saxon *wenkian* to turn, direct, Old High German and Middle High German *wenken*). —**n.** 1612, a kick; from the verb. The meaning of a flinching, is first recorded in 1865.

winch *n.* 1295 *wenche* reel, roller, pulley, or other device for drawing or pulling; developed from Old English (about 1050) *wince*. —**v.** 1529, from the noun.

wind¹ *n.* air in motion. Old English *wind* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian, Old Saxon, Middle Dutch, and modern Dutch *wind* wind, Old High German *wind* (modern German *Wind*), Old Icelandic *vindr* (Danish, Norwegian, and Swedish *vind*), and Gothic *winds*, from Proto-Germanic **wendās*. —**v.** Probably before 1400 *winden* to follow by scent; from the noun. The meaning of tire, put out of breath, is first recorded in 1811. —**windfall** *n.* 1464, something blown down by the wind; later, unexpected acquisition or advantage (1542). —**windmill** *n.* (1297) —**windstorm** *n.* (before 1398) —**windy** adj. Probably about 1200 *windy*, developed from Old English (about 1000) *windig*; formed from *wind*, *n.* + *-ig* *-y*¹.

wind² *v.* move by turning and twisting. About 1175 *winden*, found in Old English *windan* to turn, twist, wind (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *winda* to wind, Old Saxon *windan*, Middle Low German, Middle Dutch, and modern Dutch *winden*, Old High German *wintan* (modern German *winden*), Old Icelandic *vinda* (Swedish *vinda*, Norwegian and Danish *vinde*), and Gothic *biwindan* wind around, wrap, from Proto-Germanic **wendanan*. Related to WANDER and to WEND, the causative form of *wind*².

The past tense and past participle *wound* (wound) developed from the earlier Middle English past tense *wand*, *wonde* and past participle *wunden*, *wonden*; coalescing, probably by confusion of use, into a common form for past tense and past participle between the 1300's and 1500's. —**n.** 1399, apparatus for winding, winch or windlass; borrowed from Middle Low German *winde* windlass, and in part from the verb in English.

windlass *n.* Before 1400 *wynlase*, probably an alteration of earlier *wyndase* (1293); borrowed through Anglo-French *windas*, and directly from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *vindäss*, a compound of *vinda* to WIND² + *äss* pole, beam).

window *n.* Probably before 1200, borrowed from a Scandinavian source; compare Old Icelandic *vindauga* (*vindr* WIND¹ + *auga* EYE), Norwegian and Danish *vindue*. The Scandinavian loanword replaced Old English *ægathyrl* (before 899; literally, eye-hole) and *ægaduru* (literally, eye-door), but the Old French or Medieval Latin borrowing *fenester* (found in Old High

German *fenster*) was in concurrent use with *window* till the mid-1500's.

wine *n.* Probably before 1200 *wine*, developed from Old English *win* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); an early borrowing from Latin *vinum* wine, as are Old Frisian, Old Saxon, Middle Low German, Middle Dutch *win* (modern Dutch *wijn*), Old High German *win* (modern German *Wein*), Old Icelandic *vin*, Swedish, Norwegian, and Danish *vin*, and Gothic *wein*. —**v.** entertain with wine. About 1624, to spend in drinking wine; from the noun. The meaning of entertain with wine is first recorded in 1862. —**wine cellar** (1371)

wing *n.* About 1175 *wenge*; later *whing* (probably before 1200) and *winge* (1390); replacement of Old English *fethra*, pl., wings, and borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *vængr* wing of a bird, aisle, etc., Norwegian and Danish *vinge*, *veng*, Swedish *vinge*), of unknown origin. The meaning of either of two divisions of an army, political group, etc., is first recorded about 1400. —**v.** 1486, to carve (a quail or partridge), from the noun. The meaning of take flight, fly, is first recorded in 1605.

wink *v.* Probably before 1200 *winken* to close one's eyes; developed from Old English *wincian* to nod, wink (before 899); cognate with Middle Low German, Middle Dutch, and modern Dutch *winken* to wink, stagger, Old High German *winkan* move sideways, stagger, nod (Middle High German and modern German *winken* to wave, wink), Old High German *wankōn* to stagger, totter, and Old Icelandic *vakka* to stray, wander about. Old High German *winkan* is from Proto-Germanic **wenkanan*. The meaning of close an eye as a hint or signal is first recorded about 1100, and that of close one's eyes to a fault, irregularity, etc., about 1480. —**n.** About 1303, a closing of the eyes for sleep, nap; from the verb.

winkle *n.* 1585, shortened form of PERIWINKLE².

winnow *v.* Before 1382 *winnewen*; earlier *windwen* (probably before 1200); developed from Old English (before 830) *wind-wian*, from *wind* air in motion, paring down, WIND¹. The sense of sort out, separate, sift (as in *to winnow truth from lies*) is first recorded in 1382, but may possibly occur earlier in Old English; compare the literal sense of separating refuse particles, before 830. —**n.** 1580, device, such as a fan, for winnowing grain; from the verb. The act of winnowing is first recorded in 1802.

wino *n.* 1915, formed from English *wine* + suffix *-o*, as in *bucko* (1833) and *kiddo* (1896).

winsome *adj.* 1677, charming, attractive, pleasing; surviving for almost 400 years apparently only in northern British dialect from Old English *wynsum* agreeable, pleasant (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Saxon *wunsam* and Old High German *wunnisam*, and a compound of *wynn* pleasure, delight + *-sum* -some¹. Old English *wynn* is cognate with Old Saxon *wunna* joy, bliss, delight, Old High German *wunna*, *wunni* (modern German *Wonne*), from Proto-Germanic **wunjō*, and Old Icelandic *una* be content, dwell; see WONT.

winter *n.* Old English, the fourth season of the year; also, a

year (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *winter*, Old Saxon *wintar*, Middle Low German, Middle Dutch, and modern Dutch *winter*, Old High German *wintar* (modern German *Winter*), Old Icelandic *vetr* (Norwegian *vetr*), and Gothic *wintrus*, from Proto-Germanic **wentruz*. —**v.** 1382 *winternen*, from the noun. —**wintertime** *n.* (probably before 1387) —**winttry** *adj.* 1590, formed from English *winter* + *-y*¹. A corresponding form existed in Old English *wintrig* (*winter* + *-ig* -y¹), but the modern word appears to be a new formation.

wipe *v.* Probably before 1200 *wipen* to rub clean or dry; developed from Old English (about 960) *wīpian*; cognate with (but distant in semantic connection) Old High German *wīfan* to wind around (modern German *weifen*), *wipf* impulse, movement, *weif* bandage, band, head covering, Old Icelandic *veipr* head covering, cloth for wiping the head, and Gothic *wipja* wreath, and *weipan* to crown with a garland, from Proto-Germanic **wīpanan*. —**n.** 1550, from the verb.

wire *n.* Before 1376 *wyre*, developed from Old English *wīr* metal drawn out into a thread (about 725, in *Beowulf*). Old English *wīr*, from Proto-Germanic **wīraz*, is cognate with Middle Low German *wīre* wire, Old High German *wiara* finest gold, gold ornament, Old Icelandic *vīra*- in *vīravirki* filigree work. —**v.** Probably before 1300 *wyren* to adorn with (gold) wire, from the noun. The meaning of furnish with a wire is first recorded in 1435. —**wiretapping** *n.* 1904, back formation from earlier *wiretapper* (1893); for suffix see -ING¹. —**wiry** *adj.* 1588, made of wire, formed from English *wire*, *n.* + *-y*¹. The meaning of lean, tough, sinewy, is first recorded in 1808.

wisdom *n.* Old English *wīsdōm* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); formed from *wīs* WISE¹ + *-dōm* -DOM, and cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *wīsdōm*, Middle Dutch *wijsdom*, Old and Middle High German *wīstuom* (modern German *Weistum* legal sentence, precedent), and Old Icelandic *viðdóm* (Swedish and Danish *visdom*). —**wisdom teeth** 1848 (but *teeth of wisdom* since 1668), loan translation of Latin *dentēs sapientiae*, after Greek *sōphronistēres* (used by Hippocrates); so called because they ordinarily appear after a person has reached adulthood (usually between the ages 17 and 25), from *sōphrōn* prudent; self-controlled.

wise¹ *adj.* sage, judicious. Probably before 1200, developed from Old English *wīs* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian, Old Saxon, and Middle Low German *wīs* wise, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *wijs*, Old High German *wīs*, *wīse* (modern German *weise*), Old Icelandic *vīss* (Danish, Norwegian, and Swedish *vis*), and Gothic *-weis* (in compounds); from Proto-Germanic **wīszaz*, and related to the source of Old English *witan* to know, wit². —**wiseacre** *n.* 1595, partial translation of Middle Dutch *wijssegger* soothsayer, by association with English *wise*¹ and a probable phonetic misunderstanding of then obsolete English *segger* sayer, braggart (about 1440). The Middle Dutch word was perhaps altered (by association with Middle Dutch *segger* sayer) from Old High German *wīzzago* prophet, from *wīzzan* to know. —**wise guy** (1896)

wise² *n.* way of proceeding, manner (as in *no wise bad, just mischievous*). Old English *wise* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *wis* way, manner, Old Saxon *wisa*, Middle Low German *wise*, *wis*, Middle Dutch *wize*, *wijs* (modern Dutch *wijze*), Old High German *wisa*, *wis* (modern German *Weise*), Old Icelandic *-vís* manner (in *qðhruvís* otherwise), Danish, Norwegian, and Swedish *vis* way, manner; ultimately from the same source as WISE¹. Compare GUISE.

-wise a suffix forming adverbs meaning: **1a** in a _____ manner, as in *likewise* = in a like manner. **b** in a _____ing manner, as in *slantwise* = in a slanting manner. **2** in the characteristic way of a _____; like a _____, as in *clockwise* = in the way the hands of a clock go. **3** in the direction of the _____, as in *lengthwise* = in the direction of the length. **4** in the _____ respect or case, as in *otherwise* = in the other respect. Middle English *-wise*, developed from Old English *-wisan*, from *wise* way, manner; see WISE².

wish *v.* Before 1325 *wichen* to desire; earlier *wusshen* (probably before 1200); developed from Old English *wýscan* (before 899). Old English *wýscan* (with loss of *n* before spirant *s*) is cognate with Middle Dutch *wonscen*, *wunscen*, *wenscen* (modern Dutch *wensen*) to wish, *wonsc*, *wunsc*, *wensc* a wish, Middle Low German *wunschen* to wish, Old High German *wunsken* to wish, *wunsc* a wish (modern German *wünschen*, *Wunsch*), Old Icelandic *öskja* to wish (Swedish *önska*, Norwegian and Danish *ønske*), *ösk* a wish; from Proto-Germanic **wunskijanan*. Other Germanic cognates are Gothic *wēns* expectation, hope, and Old English *wine* friend. —**n.** Before 1325 *wiss* a wishing, before 1393 *wissh*; from the verb. —**wishful** *adj.* 1523, wished-for, desirable; later, wishing, desirous (1593); formed from English *wish*, *n.* + *-ful*.

wishy-washy *adj.* Before 1693, feeble or poor in quality, unsubstantial, trifling, inconclusive; reduplication of *washy* thin, watery, with alternating vowel (found in earlier *swish-swash*, 1547).

wisp *n.* Before 1325 *wispe*, cognate with Norwegian and Swedish *visp* wisp, of unknown origin, sometimes connected with WHISK or with Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *wispel* a measure of grain, but whether *wispel* contains the same word as English *wisp* is not certain. —**wispy** *adj.* Before 1717, formed from English *wisp* + *-y*¹.

wisteria or **wistaria** *n.* 1819 *wisteria* (apparently a misprint), New Latin; formed in allusion to Caspar Wistar, American anatomist but coined by Thomas Nuttall, English botanist.

wistful *adj.* 1613–16, closely attentive, intent; formed from obsolete English *wist*(ly) intently (before 1500, of uncertain origin) + *-ful*. The meaning of expectantly or yearningly eager, longing, is first recorded in 1714.

wit¹ *n.* mental capacity, knowledge, intellect. Old English *wit*, more commonly *gewit* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *wit* knowledge, intellect, Old High German *wizzi* (modern German *Witz* joke, witticism), Old Icelandic *vit* wit, knowledge (Danish *vid*, Norwegian *viðd*, *vett*,

Swedish *vett*), and Gothic *-witi*, from Proto-Germanic **witjan*; related to Old English *witan* to know; see WIT².

The meaning of ability to make clever remarks in an amusing way is first recorded in English in 1542, and that of a person of wit or learning, about 1470.

wit² *v.* Archaic. know. Before 1225 *witen*, developed from Old English *witan* to know (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *wita* to know, Old Saxon *witan*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *weten*, Old High German *wizzan* (modern German *wissen*), Old Icelandic *vita* (Norwegian *vite*, Danish *vide*, Swedish *veta*), and Gothic *witan*, from Proto-Germanic **witanan*. The Germanic words mean basically to have seen, hence to know.

The phrase *to wit*, with the meaning of that is to say, namely, is first recorded in 1577, from the earlier expression *that is to wit*, with the same meaning (1340), probably a loan translation of Anglo-French *cestasavoir*.

witch *n.* About 1250 *wiche*, developed from Old English *wicca* female magician, sorceress (about 1000), feminine of *wicca* sorcerer, wizard (about 890). These words are related to, and probably derivatives of, Old English *wiccian* to practice witchcraft, itself related to Old English *wigle* divination, *wiglian* to divine, and *wig* idol, all cognate with Old Frisian *wigla* sorcery, witchcraft, and probably with Middle Low German and Middle High German: *wicken*, *wikken* to bewitch, divine, Old High German *wih*, *wih* holy, Old Icelandic *vē* temple, and Gothic *weihs* holy. The form with *t* is a spelling convention of modern English, reflecting pronunciation. —**v.** Before 1200 *wichen*; developed from Old English (about 1000) *wiccian* practice witchcraft. —**witchcraft** *n.* Probably before 1200 *wicheckraft*, developed from Old English (about 1000) *wiccecraft* (*wicce* witch, *n.* + *craft* craft). —**witchery** *n.* 1546, formed from English *witch*, *n.* + *-ery*. —**witch hunt** 1885 (implied in *witch hunting*, 1640), the hunting out and persecuting persons suspected of witchcraft; later, the action of persecuting persons who hold unacceptable views or engage in unacceptable practices (1938).

witch hazel (1541) *wyche hasill*, probably from Old English *wice* wych-elm + *haesel* any of a group of bushes of the pine family. The North American bush from which a soothing lotion is made (1671), is so called from application of the name of the European plant to a new plant found by the colonists.

with *prep.* Old English *with* against, opposite, toward (about 725, in *Beowulf*); related to *wither* against; cognate with Old Frisian *with*, *wither* against, with, Old Saxon *with*, *withar*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *weder* again, Old High German *widar* against, back, again (modern German *wider*), Old Icelandic *viðr*, *viðr* against, with (Swedish *vid*, Norwegian and Danish *ved*), and Gothic *withra* against.

The basic senses of this preposition in the earliest periods were those of opposition ("against") and of motion in proximity ("towards, away, alongside," still found in such compounds as *withdraw* and *withstand*). Later, a significant change in the sense development took place in Middle English with assimilation of senses denoting association, combination, and union, which in Old English were carried by *mid*. This devel-

opment in the meaning of *with* resulted partly from influence of Old Icelandic *vidh* (found also in Old Frisian, and in Old Saxon) and may have been further enlarged by association with Latin *cum* *with* (as in *pugnāre cum* . . . to fight with). —**within** prep., adv. Old English *withinnan* (about 1000); formed from *with* toward + *innan* in. —**without** prep., adv. About 1290 *withoute*; alteration of Old English *withūtan* (before 899); formed from *with* toward + *ūtan* from without, *ūt* OUT.

with- a prefix meaning: 1 away, back, as in *withdraw* = to draw back. 2 against, opposing, as in *withstand* = to stand against. 3 along with, alongside, toward, as in *without*, *within*. Middle English and Old English *with-*, related to WITH, prep.

withdraw *v.* Probably before 1200 *withdrawen*; formed from *with* away + *drawen* to draw, probably by influence of, or a loan translation of, Latin *retrahere* to retract (compare German *zurückziehen*, a probable loan translation from Latin). —**withdrawal** *n.* 1824, formed from *withdraw* + *-al*. The meaning of discontinuation of the use of an addictive drug is first recorded in 1897.

with *n.* tough, flexible twig, as of a willow. Old English *withthe* (about 1000); cognate with Old High German *wid*, *widi* twisted cord, Old Icelandic *vidh* willow twig, *vidhir* willow; see WITHY.

with *v.* 1535, alteration of Middle English *wydderen* dry up, shrivel (probably about 1380), apparently a differentiated or special use of *wederen* to expose to the weather; see WEATHER.

withers *n. pl.* 1580, probably formed from the obsolete or dialectal English (and Old English) *wither* against, contrary, opposite; see WITH + the plural suffix *-s*; possibly so called because the withers are the parts that the animal opposes to its load.

withhold *v.* Probably before 1200 *withholden* hold back; formed from *with-* back, away + *holden* to hold; probably by influence of, or a loan translation of, Latin *retinēre* to withhold (compare German *zurückhalten*, a probable loan translation from Latin).

withstand *v.* About 1200 *withstanden* stand against, resist, oppose; developed from Old English *withstandan* (before 899); formed from *with-* against + *standan* to stand; cognate with Old Frisian *withstonda* and Old Icelandic *viðstanda*, all perhaps influenced by, or loan translations of, Latin *resistere* to resist (compare also German *widerstehen*, a probable loan translation from Latin).

withy *n.* Probably before 1200 *withi* willow; developed from Old English (961) *withig*; cognate with Old High German *wida* willow (modern German *Weide*), Old Icelandic *vidhir* (Swedish *vide*, Norwegian *vidje*, *vie*, Danish *vidje*), and Gothic *wida* in *kunawida* chain.

witness *n.* Old English *witnes* attestation of a fact, event, etc., from personal knowledge, testimony, evidence, one who testifies; originally, knowledge, wit (about 950); formed from *wit* + *-nes* -ness. —**v.** Probably about 1300 *witnessen* bear witness to, testify to; from the noun.

witting *adj.* About 1378, intentional; formed from *wit*², know + *-ing*¹. —**wittingly** *adv.* 1535, formed from *witting* + *-ly*¹; replacing Middle English *witandly* (before 1340); formed from *witand*, present participle of *witen* to know, *wit*² + *-ly*¹.

witty *adj.* About 1340, developed from Old English *wittig* wise, clever (about 725, in *Beowulf*); formed from *wit* intellect; + *-ig* -y¹; cognate with Old High German *wizzig* wise, clever (modern German *witzig* witty), and Old Icelandic *vitugr* wise.

wive *v.* Probably before 1200 *wiuen* marry a woman; developed from Old English *wīfian* (before 899), from *wīf* woman, WIFE.

wizard *n.* sorcerer. Probably before 1425 *wysard* wise man, sage; formed from Middle English *wys*, *wise* WISE¹ + *-ard*. The meaning of one supposed to have magic power (about 1550) is found with the spelling *wizard* in 1601. —**wizardry** *n.* 1583 *wisardrie*, formed from earlier English *wisard* wizard + *-rie* -ry.

wizen *v.* Before 1450 *wisenen*; developed from Old English (before 893) *wisnian*, *weosnian*; cognate with Old High German *wesanēn* to dry up, shrivel, wither (modern German *verwesen* to decay), Old Icelandic *visna* (Swedish *vissna*, Norwegian and Danish *visne*).

wobble *v.* 1657 (implied in *wabbling*); probably borrowed from Low German *wabbeln* to wobble; cognate with Middle High German *wablen* to waver, Old Icelandic *vafla* hover about, totter, related to *vafra* move unsteadily; see WAVER. The spelling *wobble* is first recorded in the 1850's. —**n.** 1699 *wabble*, from the verb. —**wobbly** *adj.* 1851–61 *wabbly*; 1871 *wobbly*; formed from English *wabble*, *wobble*, *v.* + *-y*¹.

woe *interj.* Probably before 1200 *wo*, *wa*, developed from Old English *wā* (about 725, in *Beowulf*). The word is a common exclamation of lament developed in many languages, and Old English *wā* corresponds to Old Frisian, Old Saxon, and Middle Low German *wē* woe, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *wee*, Old High German and Middle High German *wē* (modern German *weh*), Old Icelandic *vei*, *væ* (Swedish, Norwegian, and Danish *ve*), Gothic *wai*. —**n.** Probably about 1175 *wo*; developed from the interjection in Old English. —**woebegone** *adj.* Probably about 1300, in (*he, she*) *is wo bigon*. Originally *me is wo bigon* woe has beset me (Middle English *wo* + *begon*, past participle of *begon* to beset, happen to, Old English *begān*, from *be-* + *gān* go). —**woeful** *adj.* Before 1325 *uaful* full of woe, from *wa* woe, *n.* + *-ful*.

wold *n.* About 1220 *wolde* open country; developed from Old English: (Anglian) *wald*, (West Saxon) *weald* forest, wooded upland (786); cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *wald* forest, Old High German *wald* forest, wilderness, Old Icelandic *völfr* untillied field, plain (Swedish *vall* pasture, Norwegian *voll* grassy plain), from Proto-Germanic **walthuz*.

The sense development from forested upland to rolling country follows the historical deforestation of Britain. The word survives in place names associated with rolling country, such as *Cotswold* and *Stow-on-the-Wold*.

wolf *n.* Probably before 1300 *wolf*, developed from Old English (about 750) *wulf*, cognate with Old Frisian *wolf*, Old

Saxon *wulf*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *wolf*, Old High German *wolf* (modern German *Wolf*), feminine *wulpa*, Old Icelandic *ulfr* (Swedish, Norwegian, and Danish *ulv*), and Gothic *wulfs*, from Proto-Germanic **wulfaz*. —**v.** 1862, eat like a wolf, devour; from the noun. —**wolfish** adj. 1570, formed from *wolf*, n. + *-ish*¹, replacing *wolvish*, formed in Middle English (about 1430) from *wolv-*, inflectional stem of *wolf* + *-ish*¹.

wolverine n. 1619, alteration of *wolvering* (1574), of uncertain origin; possibly from *wolv-*, inflectional stem of *wolf* (as in the plural *wolves*) + *-ing*¹; or perhaps from *wolver* one who behaves like a wolf, ravenous or savage animal (1593).

woman n. About 1250 *woman*; earlier *wumman* (probably before 1200); developed from Old English (about 1000) *wimman*, plural *wimmen*, alteration (by assimilation of *f* to *m*) of *wifman*, plural *wifmen* (before 766), a compound of *wif* woman, wife + *man* human being.

The formation is peculiar to English, and not found before 766 in Old English, the more ancient word being *wif* wife. From about 1400 *woman* and *women* became the regular spellings for the singular and plural (corresponding to *man* and *men*). —**womanhood** n. About 1385, state or condition of being a woman, formed from English *woman* + *-hood*. —**womanly** adj. Probably before 1200 *wummonlich* like a woman, formed from Middle English *woman* + *-lich* -ly². The sense of having qualities traditionally admired in women is first recorded about 1385. —**women's liberation** (1966) —**women's rights** (1840 *woman's rights*; 1850 *women's rights*; with an isolated example in 1632)

womb n. Probably about 1175 *wombe*; developed from Old English *wamb*, *womb* belly, uterus (before 830); cognate with Old Frisian *wambe*, *wamme* belly, Middle Dutch *wamme* (modern Dutch *wam*), Old High German *wamba* (modern German *Wamme* in animals), Old Icelandic *vomb* (Norwegian, Swedish, and Danish *vom*), and Gothic *wamba* belly, from Proto-Germanic **wambā*.

wombat n. 1798, borrowed from an aboriginal Australian source.

wonder n. Before 1100; later *wonder* (about 1300); developed from Old English *wundor* marvelous thing, marvel (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Saxon *wundar* wonder, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *wonder*, Old High German *wuntar* (modern German *Wunder*), and Old Icelandic *undr* (Danish, Norwegian, and Swedish *under*), from Proto-Germanic **wundran*. —**v.** Probably before 1200 *wundren*, developed from Old English (before 899) *wundrian*; related to *wundor*, n., and cognate with Old High German *wuntarōn* to wonder, and Old Icelandic *undra*. —**wonderful** adj. Before 1100 *wunderful* full of wonder, marvelous; formed from Middle English *wunder*, n. + *-ful*. —**wondrous** adj. Before 1500, wonderful; alteration of Middle English *wonders*, adj., by substitution of suffix *-ous*, patterned after *marvelous*. Middle English *wonders*, adj., wonderful (before 1325), was originally the genitive of *wonder*, n., and was probably influenced by a Scandinavian source (compare Middle Swedish *unders*, genitive of *under* wonder).

wont adj. Before 1325 *wont*, *wunt*; earlier *iwoned* (probably about 1175); from the past participle of *wonen*, *wunen* to dwell, be accustomed; developed from Old English *wunian* (before 899); cognate with Old Frisian *wonia*, *wunia* to dwell, be accustomed, Old Saxon *wunon*, *wonon*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *wonen*, Old High German *wonen* (modern German *wohnen* to dwell), Old Icelandic *una* to dwell, be content, and Gothic *-wunan* be content, from Proto-Germanic **wun-*; related to Old English *winnan*, *gewinnan* to WIN. —**v.** accustom. 1440 *wonten*, *wunten*, probably from *wont*, *wunt*, past participle of *wonen*, *wunen* be accustomed. —**n.** Before 1400, custom, habit; from the adjective. The noun disappeared from use during the 1700's but reappeared in the 1800's. —**wonted** adj. Before 1413, accustomed; extension of *wont*, past participle of *wonen*; for suffix see *-ED*². The word was probably reinforced by later formation from *wont*, v. and n. + *-ed*².

won't contraction of *will not*; see WILL¹.

woo v. Probably before 1200 *wowen*, developed from Late Old English *wōgian* (before 1050, earlier in *woer*, about 1000), of uncertain origin (possibly related to *wōh*, *wōg-* bent or inclined, as in affection; found in Gothic *-wāhs* bent, in the compound *unwāhs* not crooked, blameless), from Proto-Germanic **wanHaz*.

wood n. Probably about 1225 *wode*, developed from Old English *wudu* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); earlier *widu* tree, trees collectively, the substance of which trees are made (probably before 700); cognate with Old High German *witu* wood, and Old Icelandic *viðr* (Danish, Norwegian, and Swedish *ved*), from Proto-Germanic **widuz*. —**v.** 1538, surround with trees; from the noun. The meaning of supply with wood, especially for fuel, is first recorded in 1628. —**woodbine** n. Before 1387 *wodebinde*, developed from Old English (before 850) *wudubinde* a climbing plant (*wudu* wood + *binde* wreath). —**woodcock** n. Old English *wuducoc* (about 1050); formed from *wudu* wood + *coc* COCK¹. —**woodland** n. Old English (869) *wudulond* (*wudu* wood + *lond* LAND). —**woodpecker** n. (1530) —**woodsman** n. (1688, largely replacing *woodman*, about 1410) —**woods** adj. 1860, formed from *woods*, pl. + *-y*¹. —**woodwind** n. (1876) —**woody** adj. 1375, wooded; later, made of wood (before 1540), like or forming wood (1578); formed from Middle English *wode* + *-y*¹.

woodchuck n. 1674, alteration (influenced by *wood*) of Algonquian (Cree) *otcheke* or (Ojibwa) *otchig*, the name of the marten, transferred to the groundhog.

woof n. 1540 *wofe*, alteration of *oof* (1382); developed from Old English (before 800) *ōwef* (*ō-* on + *wefan* to WEAVE). Middle English *oof* became *woof* partly by association with *warp*, as in *warp and woof*.

wool n. About 1300 *wolle*, developed from Old English (before 800) *wull*; cognate with Old Frisian *wolle*, *ulle* wool, Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *wolle*, *wulle* (modern Dutch *wol*), Old High German *wolla* (modern German *Wolle*), Old Icelandic *ull* (Swedish, Norwegian, and Danish *ull*), and Gothic *wulla*, from Proto-Germanic **wulnō*.

—**woolen** adj. Probably before 1300 *wollen*; developed from Late Old English (1046) *wullen* (*wull* wool + *-en*²). —**woolly** adj. (1578)

woozy adj. 1897, muddled or dazed, as with drink; a variant of *oozy* muddy, or an alteration of *boozy* (1719, showing the effects of intoxication, formed from *booze* alcoholic liquor + *-y*¹).

word n. Old English *word* speech, talk, utterance, word (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *word* word, Middle Dutch *wort* (modern Dutch *woord*), Old High German *wort* (modern German *Wort*), Old Icelandic *ordh* (Danish, Norwegian, and Swedish *ord*), and Gothic *waúrd*, from Proto-Germanic **wurđan*. The meaning of promise (as in *keep one's word*) is first recorded in Old English, in 971. —**v.** Probably before 1200 *worden* utter words, speak; from the noun. The meaning of put into words is first recorded in 1613.

—**wording** n. choice of words, phrasing. 1649, in Milton's *Eikonoklastes*; formed from English *word*, *v.* + *-ing*¹. —**wordy** adj. Before 1382 *wordi*; developed from Late Old English *wordig* verbose (about 1100); formed from *word*, *n.* + *-ig* *-y*¹.

work n. Probably before 1200 *work*, developed from Old English *weorc*, *work* something done, deed, action, proceeding, business (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *werk* work, Middle Low German, Middle Dutch, and modern Dutch *werk*, Old High German *werc*, *werah* (modern German *Werk*), Old Icelandic *verk* (Swedish and Norwegian *verk*, Danish *værk*), from Proto-Germanic **werken*. —**v.** Before 1250 *werken*; later *worken* (about 1300, past tense *wroghte*, past participle *wroght*); developed from a fusion of: 1) Old English *wyrkan* (about 725, in *Beowulf*, with past tense *worhte*, past participle *geworht*); cognate with Old Saxon *workian* to work, Old High German *wurchen*, Old Icelandic *yrkja*, and Gothic *waúrkjan*, from Proto-Germanic **wurkijanan*. 2) Old English (Mercian) *wircan*; cognate with Old Frisian *werkia*, *werka* to work, Old Saxon *wirkian*, *-werkon*, Old High German *wirchen*, *werchon* (modern German *wirken* to work, operate, function), and Old Icelandic *verka*, formed relatively late from the Proto-Germanic noun **werken*.

The modern English verb form *work* instead of **worth*, was the result of influence of the noun *work*, with possible Scandinavian influence.

The new past tense and past participle *worked*, became established in the 1400's, replacing *wrought*, now archaic, except in senses that denote fashioning or decorating with the hand or an implement. —**workaday** adj. 1554, developed from *werkedei* working day, workday (probably before 1200); formed from *werk* work + *dei* day. —**workday** n. About 1430; earlier, with three syllables, *werkedei*; see **WORKADAY**. —**worker** n. (about 1340) —**workhouse** n. Old English (before 1100) *weorchūs* workshop (*weorc* work + *hūs* house). The sense of a place where the poor or petty criminals are lodged appears in 1652. —**workman** n. Old English *weorcman*, implied in *weorcmen* (before 899). —**workmanship** n. Before 1325, formed from Middle English *werkmon* workman + *-ship*.

workaholic n. 1968, coined on the analogy of *alcoholic*, from *work* + connective *-a-* + (*alco*)*holic*.

world n. Probably before 1200, developed from Old English *woruld*, *worold* human existence, the affairs of life (about 725, in *Beowulf*); also, the human race, mankind (about 750); and the earth (before 900).

The word is peculiar to Germanic with cognates in Old Frisian *warld*, *wrald*, Old Saxon *werold*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *wereld*, Old High German *weralt*, *worolt* (modern German *Welt*), and Old Icelandic *verld* (Swedish *värld*, Danish and Norwegian *verden*); the original Germanic word meaning literally "age of man," made up of **wer-* man (Old English *wer*) + **ald-* age (Old English *ild* age, related to *eald*, *ald* OLD). —**worldly** adj. Probably before 1200 *worldlich*, developed from Old English (before 900) *worldlic* (*world* world + *-lic* *-ly*²).

worm n. Probably before 1300 *worme*, developed from Late Old English (about 1000) *wurm*, variant of earlier *wyrm* serpent, dragon, worm (about 725, in *Beowulf*), from Proto-Germanic **wurmiz*; cognate with Old Frisian *wirm* serpent, worm, Old Saxon *wurm*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *worm*, Old High German *wurm* (modern German *Wurm*), Old Icelandic *ormr* (Danish *orm* worm, Norwegian and Swedish *orm* snake) (from Proto-Germanic **wurmaz*), and Gothic *waúrms*. —**v.** 1564–78 clear out worms; from the noun. The meaning of creep or crawl like a worm is first recorded in 1610 and *to worm out*, to extract (information, etc.), in 1715. —**worm-eaten** adj. (1398) —**wormy** adj. (about 1450)

wormwood n. Before 1400 *wormuod*, alteration by folk etymology (as if from *worm* + *wood*, partly because of its use as a worm medicine) of earlier *wormod*, *wermod* (before 1382); developed from Old English (before 800) *wermod* wormwood; cognate with Old Saxon *wermoda* wormwood, Middle Low German *wermod*, *wermodē*, Dutch *wormoet*, and Old High German *wermuota* (modern German *Wermut*); the ultimate etymology is unknown. Related to **VERMOUTH**.

worry v. Probably before 1350 *worien* to strangle, choke, alteration of earlier *werien*, *wirien* (before 1325); developed from Old English *wyrkan* to strangle (before 800), from Proto-Germanic **wurzijanan*; cognate with Old Saxon *wurgil* rope, Middle Dutch *worghen*, *wurghen* to strangle (Dutch *worgen*, *wurgen*), Old High German *wurgen* (modern German *würgen*), Old Icelandic *virgill* rope. The sense of annoy, bother, vex (1671) developed from that of harass by rough or severe treatment, assail (before 1553). —**n.** 1804, troubled state of mind; from the verb. —**worrisome** adj. 1845, formed from *worry*, *n.* or *v.* + *-some*¹.

worse adj. 1340 *worse* more bad or ill, less well, alteration of earlier *werse*, *wurse* (probably before 1200); developed from Old English *wiersa*, *wyrsa* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *wirra*, *werra* more evil or bad, worse, Old Saxon *wirs*, *wirsa*, Old High German *wirsiro*, Old Icelandic *verri* (Danish and Norwegian *værre*, Swedish *värre*), and Gothic *waírs*. These words derive from a Proto-Germanic comparative form whose suffix **-izan-* was added to a root **wers-*, also

found in Old Saxon and Old High German *werran* bring into confusion or discord; see WAR. —**adv.** Probably before 1200 *wers* more badly; developed from Old English (before 900) *wyrs*, *wiers*; related to *wyrsa*, *wiersa*, adj., and cognate with Old High German *wirs* worse, Old Icelandic *verr*, and Gothic *waírs*. —**n.** Before 1137 *werse*, developed from Old English *wyrsa*, adj. —**worsen** v. Probably before 1200 *wursnen*; formed from Middle English *wurse* worse + *-nen* -en¹.

worship n. Probably about 1200 *wurrschipe* condition of being worthy, distinction, honor, renown; later *worschipe* (before 1338); developed from Old English (Anglian) *worthscip*, *wurthscip* (about 950), and (West Saxon) *weorthscipe* (before 900); formed from Old English *weorth* WORTH + *-scipe* -SHIP. The meaning of respect or honor shown to a person or thing is first recorded in Old English (about 1000) and that of reverence or veneration paid to a being regarded as supernatural or divine before 1325. —**v.** Before 1390 *worschipen*, alteration of earlier *wurthsupen* (probably before 1200); from the noun. —**worshipful** adj. Before 1300, honorable; formed from Middle English *worschipe* worship + *-ful*.

worst adj. About 1300 *worste* most badly, alteration of earlier *wurste* (probably before 1200), *wurst* (probably about 1175); developed from Old English *wyrresta* (before 899); cognate with Old Frisian *werste*, Old Saxon *wirsista*, Old High German *wirsisto*, and Old Icelandic *verstr* (Norwegian *verst*, Swedish *värst*, Danish *værst*). These words derive from a Proto-Germanic comparative form with the root **wers-* (see WORSE) and the suffix **-istaz* (see -EST). —**adv.** Probably before 1200 *werst*, *wurst*; developed from Old English *wyrst*, *wierst* (before 900), superlative of *wyrs*, *wiers*, adv., worse. —**n.** About 1385 *worste*, from the adjective. —**v.** 1602, to make worse, impair, damage, inflict loss upon; from the adjective.

worsted n. About 1387 *worstede*, alteration of earlier *Worthstede* (1296; later *Worsted*, now *Worstead*), a town in northeastern England, where worsted was originally made.

wort¹ n. plant, herb, or root. About 1300 *wort*, alteration of earlier *wurt* (probably before 1200); developed from Old English *wyrt* (before 830); cognate with Old Saxon *wurt* root, herb, plant, Old High German *wurz*, *wurzala* (modern German *Wurzel* root), Old Icelandic *urt* herb (Norwegian *urt*, Swedish *ört*), and Gothic *waúrts* root, from Proto-Germanic **wurtiz*.

wort² n. liquid made from malt. Before 1325, developed from Old English (about 1000) *wyrt*; related to *wyrt* herb, plant, WORT¹. Old English *wyrt* is cognate with Old Saxon *wurtia* spice, and Middle High German *würze* spice, brewer's wort (modern German *Würze*).

worth adj. Probably before 1200 *wurth*; later *worth* (before 1325); developed from Old English (before 695) *weorth* equal in value to (something); cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *werth* worth, worthy, Middle Dutch *wert*, *weert* (modern Dutch *waard*), Old High German *werd* (modern German *wert*), Old Icelandic *verðr* (Danish *værd*, Swedish *vård*, Norwegian *verd*), and Gothic *waírths*, from Proto-Germanic **werthaz*. —**n.** Probably before 1200 *wurth*; later *worth* (before

1325); developed from Old English (before 830) *weorth* monetary value, price; cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *werth*, Old High German *werd* (modern German *Wert* worth, value), Old Icelandic *verðr*, and Gothic *waírth*; from noun use of the adjective. —**worthless** adj. 1588, (of things) having no intrinsic value; formed from English *worth*, n. + *-less*. The sense of lacking merit, contemptible, despicable, is first found in 1591. —**worthwhile** adj. (1884, implied in *worthwhileness*) —**worthy** adj. Probably about 1250 *wurthi* having worth, good, excellent; formed from Middle English *wurth*, n., worth + *-y*¹. —**n.** Probably about 1390, person of merit; from the adjective.

wot v. Before 1325, know; developed from Old English *wāt*, first and third person singular present indicative of *witan* to know, WIT², and cognate with Gothic *wait*, from Proto-Germanic **wait*.

would v. About 1380 *wulde*, *wolde*, developed from Old English *wolde*, past tense of *willan* to WILL¹. Old English *wolde*, from **wilde*, was altered under influence of *sceolde*. —**would-be** adj. wishing or pretending to be (1300).

wound n. About 1300 *wounde*, developed from Old English *wund* hurt, injury (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *wunde* wound, Old Saxon *wunda*, Middle Dutch *wonde* (modern Dutch *wond*), Old High German *wunta*, *wunda* (modern German *Wunde*), and Old Icelandic *und*. —**v.** About 1300 *wounden*, developed from Old English (about 760) *wundian* to inflict a wound on by means of a weapon; from the noun; cognate with Old Frisian *wundia* to wound, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *wonden*, Old High German *wuntōn*, Middle High German *wunden* (modern German *verwunden*), Old Icelandic *unda*, and Gothic *gawundōn*.

wow interj. Before 1500, Scottish, of imitative origin. —**n.** 1920, an unqualified success, hit; from the interjection. —**v.** 1924, overwhelm with delight or amazement; from the interjection.

wrack n. About 1390 *wrak* wrecked ship; probably borrowed from Middle Dutch *wrak* wreck; cognate with Old English *wræc* misery, punishment, *wrecan* to punish, drive out; see WREAK. The meaning of damage, disaster, destruction (in *wrack and ruin*) appeared probably about 1408.

wraith n. 1513, ghost; Scottish; of uncertain origin.

wrangle v. Probably before 1387; cognate with Low German *wrangeln* to dispute, related to Middle Low German *wrangen* to struggle, wrestle, and *wringen* to WRING. —**n.** 1547, from the verb. —**wrangler** n. About 1515, person who wrangles; formed from English *wrangle* + *-er*¹. The sense of a person in charge of horses or cattle, herder, is first recorded in 1888.

wrap v. About 1320 *wrappen* to swathe, envelop, enfold, of uncertain origin. —**n.** About 1412 *wrappe* a wrapper or covering; from the verb. —**wrapper** n. About 1460 *wrappere*, formed from Middle English *wrappen* to wrap + *-ere* -er¹.

wrath n. Before 1200 *wraththe*; later *wrath* (before 1300); developed from Old English *wræththu* (about 950), derived from

wrāth angry; see WROTH. —**wrathful** adj. Before 1300, formed from Middle English *wrath* + *-ful*.

wreak *v.* Probably before 1200 *wreken* avenge; developed from Old English *wrecan* to drive, drive out, punish, avenge (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *wreka* to punish, avenge, Old Saxon *wrekan*, Middle Low German, Middle Dutch, and modern Dutch *wreken*, Old High German *rehhan* (modern German *rächen*), Old Icelandic *reka* (earlier *wreka*) to drive, push, avenge, and Gothic *wrikan* persecute, from Proto-Germanic **wrekanan*.

The meaning of inflict or cause damage, destruction, etc. (1817), developed from the sense of inflict or take vengeance (about 1489).

wreath *n.* Probably before 1350 *wrethe* twisted or wreathed band; developed from Old English (about 1000) *wriþa* (from Proto-Germanic **wriþōn*), related to *wriþan* to twist, WRITHE. The meaning of ring or garland of flowers is first recorded in 1563. —**wreath** *v.* 1530, in part a back formation from *wrethen*, past participle of *wriþe* to twist or turn, and in part from *wreath*, *n.*

wreck *n.* 1228 *wrek* goods cast ashore after a shipwreck, flotsam; borrowed through Anglo-French *wrec*, from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *rek* wreck, flotsam, from older **wrek*, related to *reka* to drive, push; see WREAK).

The meaning of a shipwreck is first recorded in 1463, and that of a wrecked ship, before 1500. —**v.** Before 1400 *wrekken* to cast ashore; from the noun. The meaning of destroy, ruin, is first recorded in 1510. —**wreckage** *n.* 1837, formed from English *wreck*, *v.* + *-age*.

wren *n.* Old English (before 1100) *wrenna*; earlier (with metathesis of *e* and *n*) *werna* (before 800); of uncertain origin, but probably cognate with Old High German *rentilo* wren, and Icelandic *rindill*.

wrench *v.* Probably before 1200 *wrenchen*, developed from Old English (about 1050) *wrencan* to twist; cognate with Old High German and modern German *renken* to twist (from Proto-Germanic **wrānkijanan*). —**n.** violent twist or twisting pull. About 1460, apparently from the verb. A tool with jaws for turning is first recorded in 1794.

wrest *v.* Probably before 1200 *wresten*, developed from Old English (before 1000) *wræstan* to twist, wrench (from Proto-Germanic **wraistijanan*); related to *wrist* WRIST, and Dutch *gewricht* joint. Old English *wræstan* is cognate with Old Icelandic *reista* to wring, wrest. —**n.** Before 1325, from the verb.

wrestle *v.* Before 1250 *wrestlen*, developed from Old English *wræstlian* (implied about 890 in *wræstlung* a contention); frequentative form of *wræstan* to WREST; for suffix compare -LE³. —**n.** 1593, from the verb.

wretch *n.* Probably before 1200 *wrecche*, developed from Old English *wrecca* wretch, stranger, exile (about 725, in *Beowulf*); related to *wrecan* to drive out, punish; see WREAK. Old English *wrecca* is cognate with Old Saxon *wrekkio* exile, and Old High German *recho*, *reckio* (modern German *Recke* warrior, hero), from Proto-Germanic **wrekkjōn*. The spelling with *t* (from the

1400's) is a spelling convention. —**wretched** adj. Probably before 1200 *wrecchede*; from Middle English *wrecche* wretch + *-ede* -ed².

wriggle *v.* Before 1398 *wrigglen*; cognate with Middle Low German *wriggelen* to wriggle, West Frisian *wriggelje*, dialectal Norwegian *rigla*, and perhaps related to Old English *wrigian* to turn, incline, go forward; see WRY; for suffix see -LE³. —**n.** 1709, from the verb.

wright *n.* (now usually in combinations), as in *wheelwright*, *playwright*. Before 1200 *wrihte*; later *wright* (before 1325); developed from Old English (about 950) *wryhta*, variant of earlier *wyrhta* (perhaps before 695), from *wyrcan* to WORK. Old English *wyrhta* (from Proto-Germanic **wurHtijōn*) is cognate with Old Frisian *wrichta* and Old High German *wurhto* worker.

wring *v.* About 1300 *wringen* (past tense *wrang* or *wrong*, past participle *wrung*); developed from Old English (before 899) *wringan* press, strain, wring (past tense *wrang*, past participle *wrunge*); cognate with Old Frisian **wringa* to wring, Old Saxon *-wringan* in *ūturingan*, Middle Low German *wringen*, Middle Dutch *wringhen* (modern Dutch *wringen*), and Old High German *ringen* struggle, wrestle, wrest, wring (modern German *ringen* to wrestle), from Proto-Germanic **wrenzanan*. Related to WRANGLE. —**n.** Before 1425, from the verb. —**wringer** *n.* Before 1300, extortioner; formed from Middle English *wringen* + *-er*¹. The device for squeezing water from clothes is first recorded in 1799.

wrinkle *n.* 1392 *wrynkle* ridge, fold; probably developed from the stem of Old English *gewrinclod* wrinkled, crooked, winding, past participle of *gewrinclian* to wind, crease, formed from *ge-* perfective prefix + *-wrinclian* to wind (from Proto-Germanic **wreng-*), related to *wrencan* to twist, WRENCH; for suffix see -LE³. The meaning of a clever expedient or trick, innovation, is first recorded in 1731–38. —**v.** Probably about 1425 *wrynclen*, from the noun.

wrist *n.* Old English (probably before 940) *wrist*; cognate with Old Frisian *wrist*, *wirst* wrist, Middle Dutch and Middle Low German *wrist*, Middle High German *rist* wrist, ankle (modern German *Rist* instep, wrist), and Old Icelandic *rist* instep (Norwegian *rist*), from Proto-Germanic **wristiz*; related to Old English *wræstan* to turn, twist; see WREST.

writ *n.* Old English (before 900) *writ* something written, piece of writing (corresponding to Proto-Germanic **writa-*), from the past participle stem of *writan* to WRITE. The meaning of a legal document or instrument is first recorded before 1121.

write *v.* About 1100 *writen*; developed from Old English *writan* to score, outline, draw the figure of (about 725, in *Beowulf*); later, to set down in writing (832); cognate with Old Frisian *writa* to write, Old Saxon *writan* to tear, scratch, write, Old High German *rizan* to tear, draw (modern German *reissen* to tear), Old Icelandic *rita* to score, write (Swedish *rita*, Norwegian *rite* draw, scratch), from Proto-Germanic **writanan* tear, scratch, and cognate with Gothic *writs* stroke, letter. —**writer** *n.* Old English *writere* (before 899); formed from *writan* write + *-ere* -er¹.

writhe *v.* Probably before 1200 *writen*, developed from Old English (about 1000) *wriþan* to twist or bend; earlier, to bind or fetter (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old High German *ridan* to turn, twist, Old Icelandic *riðha* (Swedish *vrida*, Danish *vride*), from Proto-Germanic **wriþanan*. Related to WREATH, WRATH, WROTH. —**n.** About 1350, from the verb.

wrong *adj.* Probably before 1200 *wrang* twisted, crooked, wry; later *wrong* (before 1250), and before 1325 in the sense of not right, bad, immoral, unjust; borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *rangr*; earlier **wrangr* crooked, wry, wrong, Danish and Norwegian *wrang*, Swedish *vrång*); cognate with Middle Dutch *wrangh*, *wranc* acid, tart, Middle Low German *wrange* sour, bitter, from Proto-Germanic **wranǵaz*.

The adjective use is not recorded in Old English (except supposedly in a document in 944). Though probably borrowed from Scandinavian, earlier noun use probably influenced development of the adjective, possibly at first in attributive constructions. —**adv.** Probably about 1200 *wrang*, *wrong*; from the adjective. —**n.** Probably about 1175 *wronge* that which is wrong; developed from Late Old English (1067) *wrange* a wrongful act; later, that which is unjust or improper (before 1100); perhaps borrowed from a Scandinavian source;

see the adjective. —**v.** Before 1338 *wrangen* do wrong to; later *wrongen* (before 1393); from the adjective. —**wrongdoer** *n.* (about 1385) —**wrongful** *adj.* (about 1311)

wroth *adj.* Probably before 1200, developed from Old English *wrāth* (about 725, in *Beowulf*), from Proto-Germanic **wraithaz*; cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *wrēth* angry, Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *wrēt* (Dutch *wreed* cruel), Old High German *reid* twisted, and Old Icelandic *reidhr* (Danish, Norwegian, and Swedish *vred*); from the same stem as that of the past tense of Old English *wriþan* to twist, WRITHE. Related to WRATH.

wrought *adj.* About 1250 *wroght*, from past participle of Middle English *werken*, *worken* to WORK.

wry *adj.* 1523, twisted (as in *to make a wry face*); adjective use of Middle English *wrien* to turn, swerve; developed from Old English (before 899) *wrigian* to turn, bend, move, go; cognate with Old Frisian *wrigia* to bow, bend, stoop, Middle Low German *wrich* twisted, cranky. The meaning of ironic, somewhat twisted (as in *wry humor*) is first recorded before 1586.

—**wry-necked** *adj.* 1596, having a wry or crooked neck; later, afflicted with a stiff neck (1586, in *wryneck*).

X

X, x *n.* 1660, unknown quantity; from French; later, in the XYZ Affair in which French emissaries designated as X, Y, and Z negotiated with the United States government (1797).

xenon *n.* 1898, borrowed from Greek *xénōn*, neuter of *xénos* strange.

xenophobia *n.* 1919 (in 1909 *xenophoby*); formed from Greek *xénos* stranger, *n.* (strange, foreign, *adj.*) + *-phóbīa* fear, *-PHOBIA*. —**xenophobic** *adj.* (1912)

xerography *n.* 1948, formed from Greek *xēros* dry + English suffix *-graphy*, as in *photography*. —**xerographic** *adj.* 1948, formed on the model of English *xerography*, from *xero-* + *-graphic*.

xerophyte *n.* 1897, borrowed from French *xérophYTE*, formed from Greek *xēros* dry + French *-phyte* plant, *-PHYTE*.

Xerox *n.* 1952, trademark for a xerographic process of photocopying and a machine for photocopying; formed in English from Greek *xēros* dry, with substitution of *-x* for *-s*. —**xerox** *v.* 1966, from the noun.

—**-xion** a suffix used especially in British English for many words leveled in American English to the ending *-ction*, such as

connexion (American English *connection*) and *inflexion* (American English *inflection*). In British English use of *-xion* is modeled on the Latin original, as in *inflexiō* (genitive *inflexiōnis*), while use of the *-ction*, as in *convection*, *inspection* follows the model of Latin in *-ctiō* (genitive *-ctiōnis*), and *inspectiō* (genitive *inspectiōnis*). *Fluxion* is a survival of one of the two Latin variants (*fluxiō* and *fluctiō*), and *complexion*, while true to its original form in Latin *complexiō* is reinforced by English *complex*. See *-TION* and *-SION*.

Xmas *n.* 1551, formed from X, an abbreviation for *Christ* (from the Greek letter X chi, representing the first letter of Greek *Christós* Christ) + (*Christ*)*mas*.

X ray *n.* 1896, partial translation of obsolete German *X-Strahlen* (X, in the sense of unknown + *Strahlen*, plural of *Strahl* ray, beam). The German word was coined in 1895 by Wilhelm Roentgen. —**X-ray** *v.* 1899, from *X ray*.

xylem *n.* 1875, borrowing of German *Xylem*, from Greek *xýlon* wood + *-em*, as in *phloem*.

xylophone *n.* 1866, formed from Greek *xýlon* wood + English *-phone* sound.

Y

y Modern English *yard*, *yarn*, *yarow*, etc., developed from Old English words with initial *g*. In Old English the graphic symbol *g* (often transcribed as *ȝ* or some variant of that symbol and known as *yogh*, especially in Middle English) stood both for our *g* in *got* and *finger* (*fingār*) and for *ȝ* in *yet* (sometimes now transcribed as *g*). Later in early Middle English the so-called continental form *g* was used (and reinforced by the French scribes) for the sounds represented by *g* and also by *dg* in *edge* (a complex sound that had already developed in Late Old English or early Middle English, often transcribed with the symbol *ȝ* for native words). Gradually this symbol took the form of *ȝ*, representing our sound of *y* in *year*, and from the 1200's on this symbol was by degrees, wholly or partially, replaced by *y* or *gh*. The sound represented by *yogh* in words such as *knight*, *night* died out in the 1700's, but was also earlier represented by *g* in Old English and mostly by *ȝ* in Middle English.

-y¹ a suffix of wide application, forming adjectives from nouns, with the meaning of full of or having (as in *bumpy*, *salty*, *cloudy*), characterized by (as in *funny*, *winty*, *icy*), somewhat (as in *chilly*), resembling or suggesting (as in *sugary*); also forming adjectives with the meaning of inclined to (as in *curly*, *sleepy*, *squeaky*, *sticky*); and occasionally added to other adjectives without a change in meaning (as in *stilly*, *vasty*). Middle English *-y*, developed from Old English *-ig*; cognate with Gothic *-igs*, Old Icelandic *-igr*, and Old High German *-ig*. See also *-EY*.

-y² a suffix forming pet names and diminutives, as in *Billy*, *Tommy*, *daddy*, *pussy*, also informal alterations such as *nighty* and the plural *undies*; frequently written *-ie* (see *-IE*, also *-EY*). Middle English *-ie*, *-y*, is first recorded (as *-ie*) in Scottish.

-y³ a suffix forming nouns of condition or quality from adjectives or other nouns (as in *victory*, *jealousy*); or nouns showing activity, occupation, place of work, as in *carpentry*, *chandlery*, *laundry*; or with a collective meaning as in *soldiery*, *stationery*. Middle English *-ie*, *-ye* was usually borrowed through Old French *-ie*, from Latin *-ia*. In some words, this *-y* can denote a single instance or act, as in *perjury*, *remedy*, *subsidy*; this is through Middle English *-ie*, Anglo-French *-ie*, from Latin *-ium*. See also *-ACY*, *-CY*, *-ERY*, *-RY* (and others), in which *-y³* forms the last part of a compound suffix.

-y⁴ a suffix surviving in words such as *army*, *assembly*, *delivery*, *deputy*; in Middle English it is *-e* or *-ee*, borrowed through

Anglo-French and Old French *-é*, *-ée* perfect participle suffix, from Latin *-ātum* and *-āta*. Compare *-ATE¹*.

yacht *n.* 1557 *yeaghe* (in *Norway yeaghes*); 1565 *yaucht* (in *Norway yaucht*) a light, fast-sailing ship; probably borrowed from earlier Norwegian *jagt* (now *jakt*), from Middle Low German *jacht*, shortened form of *jachtschip*, *jageschip*, literally, ship for chasing (*jacht*, *jage* chase, from *jagen* to chase, hunt, from Old High German *jagōn* + *schip* SHIP); Old High German *jagōn* is from Proto-Germanic **jaǵōjanan*. — **v.** to sail or race in a yacht. 1836, from the noun.

yak *n.* 1795, borrowed (with conventional Roman letters) from Tibetan *yag*.

yam *n.* 1697 *yam*; earlier in various spellings adapted from foreign languages (*inany*, *nname* 1588; *iniamo* 1598; *igname* 1600; *inhame* 1640); borrowed from earlier Portuguese *inhame* or Spanish *igname*, from a West African language (compare Fulani *nyami* to eat, Twi *anyinam* species of yam). In American English, the word is possibly a direct borrowing from a West African language, as is probably the case in Caribbean English (Jamaican), in which *nyams* exists for "yam" after earlier application in various forms *nyam* to eat, *ninyam* food, forms; or a form which probably contributed to American use (compare Gullah *jambi* a reddish sweet potato).

yammer *v.* 1481 *yameren* to lament, whine, whimper; probably in part borrowed from Middle Dutch *jammeren* and possibly an alteration of Middle English *yeoumeren* to mourn, complain (probably before 1200); developed from Old English *geōmrian* to lament (about 725, in *Beowulf*), from *geōmor* sorrowful; cognate with Old Saxon and Old High German *jāmar* sorrowful, Middle Low German *jamer*, *jammer* sorrow, woe, Middle Dutch *jāmer*, *jammer*, and Old Frisian *jōmerlik* wretched, miserable.

yank *v.* 1822 (Scottish), of uncertain origin. — **n.** 1885, sudden pull or tug; earlier, sudden blow, cuff (1818); of uncertain origin.

Yankee *n.* a nickname, as applied in early quotations: *Yankey Duch* (1683), *Captain Yankey* (1684), *John Williams, Yankey* (1687), also used (1758) as a term of contempt and later as a general term for a native of New England (1765). What the earliest associations were is undecipherable, but the word almost certainly came from the Dutch, whether ultimately from

the Flemings is questionable; the name may have been an alteration of Dutch *Jan Kees*, dialectal variant of *Jan Kaas*, literally, John Cheese, a nickname for Dutchmen used by Flemings.

yap *n.* 1603, a yelping dog; probably of imitative origin. The meaning of a snappish bark, yelp, is first recorded in 1826, from the verb. —**v.** 1668 (implied in *yapping*), probably of imitative origin similar to that of the noun.

yard¹ *n.* piece of ground around a house. Before 1325, developed from Old English *geard* enclosure, garden, court, house, yard (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Saxon *gard* enclosure, field, house, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *gaard* garden, Old High German *gart* circle, ring, Old Icelandic *gardihr* yard, court (Danish, Norwegian, and Swedish *gård*), and Gothic *gards* house, from Proto-Germanic **yardaz*. Corresponding related forms are found in Old Frisian *garda* garden, Old Saxon *gardo*, Old High German *garto* (Middle High German *garte*, modern German *Garten*) garden, and Gothic *garda* enclosure. Related to GARDEN. —**v.** enclose in a yard. 1758, from the noun.

yard² *n.* measure of length. About 1385 *yerd*, developed from Old English (Old Mercian) *gerd*, (West Saxon) *gierd* rod, stick, measure of length (about 725); cognate with Old Frisian *ierde* rod, Old Saxon *gerdia*, Old High German *gertia* switch, twig (modern German *Gerte*), from Proto-Germanic **jazdijō*. The spelling *yard* is first recorded in Middle English (probably before 1439). —**yardstick** *n.* (1816)

yarn *n.* Before 1325, developed from Old English (about 1000) *gearn* spun fiber; cognate with Middle Low German *garn* yarn, Middle Dutch *gaern* (modern Dutch *garen*), Old High German *garn* (modern German *Garn*), and Old Icelandic *garn* (Danish, Norwegian, and Swedish *garn*) yarn (from Proto-Germanic **jarnan*). —**v.** tell stories. 1812, from the noun.

yarrow *n.* 1373 *yarowe*, developed from Old English (before 800) *gearwe*; cognate with Middle Dutch *garwe*, *gerwe* (modern Dutch *gerwe*) yarrow, and Old High German *garwa*, *garawa* (modern German *Garbe*), perhaps from Proto-Germanic **janwō*.

yaw *n.* 1546, movement from a straight course; perhaps borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *jaga* and Old Danish *jæge* to drive, chase, Swedish *jaga*, Norwegian and Danish *jage*). In the sense of chase, the Scandinavian word probably came from Middle Low German *jagen*; see YACHT. —**v.** 1584, probably from the noun.

yawl *n.* 1670 *yall*, *yale*; borrowed from Dutch *jol* a skiff (found in Middle Dutch *jolleken*, diminutive form, also Danish *jolle* and Swedish *julle* skiff, yawl), from Middle Low German *jolle* (also found in Low German); of uncertain origin.

yawn *v.* Probably before 1300 *yanen* open the mouth wide, gape; later, to yawn from sleepiness, fatigue, etc. (about 1430); alteration of earlier *yenen* (about 1300), *yonen* (probably before 1300), which developed from Old English (before 830) *ginian*, *gionian*, *geonian* open the mouth wide, gape (from Proto-Germanic **jin-*), and related to *gīnan* to yawn; cognate with

Old Saxon *ginōn* to yawn, Middle Dutch *ghēnen* (modern Dutch *geeuwen*), Old High German *ginēn*, *geinōn* (modern German *gähnen*), and Old Icelandic *gīna*.

The Middle English forms *yenen* and *yonen* were altered to *yanen* probably by influence of the synonymous Middle English word *ganen*, which became obsolete in the 1500's. Middle English *ganen* developed from Old English *gānian* (from Proto-Germanic **gain-*), which is related to Old English *gīnan* to yawn, and *ginian* to gape. The spelling *yawn* (1549), may have been a dialectal development of Middle English *yanen*(*n*). —**n.** 1602, gaping opening; from the verb. The meaning of a yawning is first recorded in 1697.

yaws *n. pl.* 1679, probably borrowed from Carib *yaya*, the native name for the disease.

yclept or **ycleped** *adj.* Archaic. called, named. Probably before 1300 *ycleped*; developed from Old English (about 950) *geclīpod* named, past participle of *geclīpan*, *gecleopian* to speak, call (*ge-* with, together + *clīpan*, *cleopian* call out, cry out).

ye¹ *pron. pl.* Archaic. you. About 1150, developed from Old English *gē*, the nominative plural of *thū* THOU (about 725, in *Beowulf*). Old English *gē* was an alteration (by influence of the first person plural pronoun *wē* we) of an earlier form represented by Gothic *jūs* you (plural). Similarly modified forms are seen in other Germanic languages: Old Frisian *gī* ye, Old Saxon *gī*, *ge*, Middle Dutch *gi*, *ge* (modern Dutch *gij*), Old High German *ir*, by influence of *wir* we (modern German *ihr*), Old Icelandic *ēr*, by influence of *vēr* we, and Old Swedish *ir* (Swedish and Danish *I*).

ye² an old way of writing the definite article *the*. Before 1568, graphic alteration of *þ*, the form in which *the* was written in Old and Middle English. Printers in the 1500's, who often did not have the runic consonant letter *þ* (called "thorn") in their fonts, substituted *y* for it, but this was not intended to be read with the sound associated with *y*. In modern times *ye* is frequently used as part of quaintly archaic names of stores, shops, etc.

yea *adv.* yes. Before 1325 *yai*, *yaa*; developed from Old English (West Saxon) *gēa*, (Anglian) *gē* so, yes (about 900), an affirmative word found in corresponding forms throughout the Germanic languages, including Old Frisian *jē* yes, Old Saxon *jā*, Middle Low German, Middle Dutch, and modern Dutch *ja*, Old High German *jā* (modern German *ja*), Old Icelandic *jā* (Danish, Norwegian, and Swedish *ja*), Gothic *ja*, *jai*. Compare YES. The spelling *yeah* is not recorded before 1905. —**n.** 1228 *ya*, affirmative statement; from the adverb. The meaning of an affirmative vote or voter is first recorded in 1657.

yea *v.* Before 1387 *iyenen*, give birth to (a lamb or kid); developed from Old English **geēanian* (*ge-* with, together + *ēanian* to yearn). Old English *ēanian* (from Proto-Germanic **azwnōjanan*) is cognate with dialectal Dutch *oonen* to yearn. —**yea**ling *n.* 1637, lamb or kid; formed from English *yea* + *-ling*.

year *n.* Before 1325 *yeir*, *yeire*, developed from Old English (900–30) *gēar* year; cognate with Old Frisian *gēr* year, Old

Saxon *jār*, Middle Dutch *jaer* (modern Dutch *jaar*), Old High German *jār* (modern German *Jahr*), Old Icelandic *ár* (Danish, Norwegian, and Swedish *år*), and Gothic *jēr*, from Proto-Germanic **jæran*. —**yearling** *n.* 1465; formed from Middle English *yeir* + *-ling*. —**adj.** one year old. 1528; from the noun. —**yearly** *adj.* Probably before 1400 *yerely*; developed from Old English (before 800) *gēarlic* every year, once a year, year by year; formed from *gēar* year + *-lic* -ly².

yearn *v.* Before 1325 *yeren*, developed from Old English (Mercian) *geornan*, (West Saxon) *giernan* to yearn (before 899), from Proto-Germanic **jernjanan*. These Old English forms are related to Old English *georn* eager, desirous, (from Proto-Germanic **jernaz*) which is cognate with Old Saxon and Old High German *gern* eager, willing (modern German *gern* gladly), Old High German *gerōn* to desire (modern German *begehren*), Old Icelandic *giarn* eager, willing, *girma* to desire, and Gothic *-gairns* (as in *faihu-gairns* money-desiring, covetous), wish. The Germanic forms are all from Proto-Germanic **zer-*.

yeast *n.* About 1430 *yest* froth of fermenting beer; developed from Late Old English (about 1000) *gist* yeast; cognate with Middle Low German *gest* dregs, dirt, Middle Dutch *ghist* yeast (modern Dutch *gist*), Middle High German *jest* foam (modern German *Gischt*), Old High German *jesan*, *gesan* to ferment (modern German *gären*), and Old Icelandic *jöstr* yeast (Swedish *jäst*). —**yeasty** *adj.* 1598, swelling, frothy; formed from English *yeast* + *-y*¹.

yell *v.* Probably about 1200 *yellen* to cry out loud, shout; developed from Old English (Mercian) *gellan*, (West Saxon) *giellan* (before 1000); cognate with Middle Low German *gellen*, *gillen* to yell, Middle Dutch *ghellen* (modern Dutch *gillen*), Old High German *gellan* (modern German *gellen*), and Old Icelandic *gjalla* (Norwegian *gjalle*, Danish *gjalde* resound, ring). The Germanic forms are from Proto-Germanic **jelnanan*, an extended form of the root found in Old English *galan* to sing, modern English *-gale* in *nightingale*, Old Icelandic *-gal* in *hana-gal* cockcrow, and Old Saxon, Middle Dutch, and Old High German *galm* outcry. —**n.** About 1375, (Scottish); from Middle English *yellen* to yell.

yellow *adj.* About 1380–85 *yelowe*, *yelwe*, developed from Old English *geolu*, *geolwe* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Saxon *gelo* yellow, Middle Dutch *ghēle* (modern Dutch *geel*), Old High German *gelo* (modern German *gelb*), and Old Icelandic *gulr* (Swedish, Norwegian, and Danish *gul*), from Proto-Germanic **zelwaz*. —**n.** About 1390 *yellow*, from the adjective. —**yellowish** *adj.* 1379, formed from Middle English *yellow* yellow + *-ish*¹.

yelp *v.* Probably before 1200 *yelpen* to boast; developed from Old English (Anglian) *gelpan*, (West Saxon) *gielpen* to boast (about 725, in *Beowulf*), from Proto-Germanic **zelpanan*. The Old English forms are cognate with Old Saxon *galpōn* to cry aloud, boast, Old High German *gelp* outcry, revelry, Old Icelandic *gjalpa* to yelp, *gjalp* boasting, and related to Old English *gielp* pride, boasting. The meaning of make a quick, sharp bark or cry (1553) is probably from the noun. —**n.** Probably about 1200 *yelp* a boasting; developed from Old

English *gielp* pride, boasting (about 725, in *Beowulf*). The meaning of a quick, sharp bark or cry is first recorded in 1500–20.

yen¹ *n.* unit of money in Japan. 1875, borrowed from Japanese *yen*, from Chinese *yüan* round, round object, circle, dollar.

yen² *n.* sharp desire or hunger. 1906, earlier *yin* intense craving for opium (1876); probably borrowed from Chinese (Cantonese) *yan* craving. —**v.** 1919, from the noun.

yeoman *n.* Probably before 1300 *yoman* high-ranking servant or attendant; of uncertain origin; perhaps a contraction of *youngman* person in early manhood (1052, also found in Old English *iunge men*, 963–84); later, a servant or attendant (before 1376); or English *gingra* (modern English *younger*, *n.*) follower, disciple, vassal (before 899); a form developed from Old English **gēaman*, *geāman*; borrowed from Old Frisian *gāman* villager, and paralleling the sense in Middle English of a commoner or countryman who cultivates his own land (before 1387). The connection between the Old Frisian and possible Old English forms is reinforced by comparing the first element of Old English **gēaman* with the second element of *Sūthri-gēa* Southern district. Old English *-gēa* district, village, is thus cognate with Old Frisian *gā*, *gē*, Old Saxon *gā*, *gō*, Old High German *gewi*, *gouwi* (modern German *Gau*), and Gothic *gawi* region, district, from Proto-Germanic **zaujan*.

The sense of a petty officer in the navy in charge of supplies appeared in 1669. The phrase *yeoman's service*, meaning good, efficient service, is first found in 1602.

yep *adv.* 1897, alteration of *yes*; possibly by influence of earlier *NOPE*, or formed by parallel process of closing the lips emphatically.

-yer a variant form of *-IER* after a vowel or *w*, as in *lawyer*, *sawyer*.

yes *adv.* Probably before 1200, developed from Old English (before 899) *gise*, *gese* so be it!, probably formed from *gēa*, *gē* so, see *YEA* + *sī* be it!, a form used as the third person singular imperative of *bēon* to BE. —**n.** 1712, from the adverb.

yesterday *adv.* About 1250 *yisterdai*, developed from Old English (about 950) *geostran dæg*, a compound of *geostran* yesterday (about 725, in *Beowulf*) and *dæg* DAY, parallel to Gothic *gis-tradagis* tomorrow. Old English *geostran* is cognate with Middle Low German *gister* yesterday, Middle Dutch *ghisteren* (modern Dutch *gister*, *gisteren*), Old High German *gestaron*, *gestren* (modern German *gestern*), from Proto-Germanic **gestra-*. —**n.** Before 1300 *yisterdai*; developed from Old English *geostran dæg*. —**yesteryear** *n.* 1870, loan translation of French *antan* (from Vulgar Latin **anteannum* the year before).

yet *adv.* Probably before 1200, developed from Old English (about 1000) *gēt*, *gieta* till now, thus far; earlier, at last, ultimately (before 899); and besides, also (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *ieta*, *eta*, *ita* yet. —**conj.** Before 1200, nevertheless, though, but; from the adverb.

yeti *n.* 1937, legendary apelike creature of the Himalayas, also

known as *abominable snowman*; borrowed from Tibetan *yeh-teh* small manlike animal.

yew *n.* Before 1325 *ew*, about 1450 *yew*; developed from Old English (before 800) *īw*, *ēow* *yew*; cognate with Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *īwe*, *īewe* *yew* (modern Dutch *ijf*, influenced by French *if*), Old High German *īwa* (modern German *Eibe*), and Old Icelandic *īr* *yew* or *bow*, from Proto-Germanic **īwa-*, *īwō*.

Yiddish *n.* 1875, borrowed from Yiddish *yidish*, from Middle High German *jüdisch* Jewish, from *jude* Jew, from Old High German *judo*, from Latin *Jūdaeus* JEW; for suffix see -ISH¹.

yield *v.* Before 1325 *yelden*, *yeilden* to pay, repay, return, produce, surrender; developed from Old English (Anglian) *geldan* to pay, (West Saxon) *gielðan* (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian *gelda* be worth, be valid, concern, Old Saxon *geldan*, Middle Dutch *ghelden* (modern Dutch *gelden*), Old High German *geltan* (modern German *gelten*), Old Icelandic *gjalda* (Norwegian *gjelde*, Swedish *gälda*, Danish *gælde*), and Gothic *-gildan* (in compounds *forigildan*, *usgildan* to compensate), from Proto-Germanic **zeldanan*. —**n.** Before 1121 *yild* payment; developed from Old English *gielð*, from *gielðan* to pay. Old English *gielð* is cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *geld* payment, Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *gelt* (modern Dutch *geld* money), Old High German *gelt* (modern German *Geld* money), Old Icelandic *gjald*, and Gothic *gild* tax. The action of yielding or producing, production, produce, is first recorded in Middle English about 1450.

yip *v.* 1903, possibly from dialectal English *yip* to cheep like a bird (before 1825), from Middle English *yippen* (1440); of imitative origin. —**n.** 1911, from the verb.

—**yl** a suffix used in chemistry in naming radicals acting like a simple element, as in *ethyl*, *propyl*. Borrowed from French *-yle*, in *benzoyl* (1832), from Greek *hylē* wood, material, matter.

yodel *v.* 1827, borrowed from German *jodeln*, from dialectal German *jo* an exclamation of joy; of imitative origin. —**n.** 1849, from the verb.

yoga *n.* 1820, system of Hindu philosophy that seeks union with the Supreme Spirit; borrowed from Hindi *yoga*, from Sanskrit *yōga-s*, literally, union, yoking. —**yogi** *n.* 1619, person who practices yoga; borrowed from Hindi *yogī*, from Sanskrit, from *yōga-s* *yoga*.

yogurt *n.* 1625 *yoghurd*; later *yogourt* (1687); borrowed from Turkish *yogurt* (with *g* unpronounced so that the English word constitutes a kind of spelling pronunciation).

yoke *n.* About 1325 *yock*, about 1340 *yoke*; developed from Old English (before 899) *geoc* yoke, (figurative) heavy burden, oppression, servitude; earlier *geoht* a pair of draft animals (688–95); cognate with Old Saxon *juk* yoke, Middle Dutch *joc*, *juc* (modern Dutch *juk*), Old High German *joh* (modern German *Joch*), Old Icelandic *ok* (Swedish *ok*, Norwegian *åk*, Danish *åg*), and Gothic *juk*, from Proto-Germanic **jukan*. —**v.** Probably before 1200 *yeoken*, about 1400 *yoken*; developed from Old English *geocian* (before 1000), from *geoc* yoke, *n.*

yokel *n.* 1812, origin uncertain (perhaps borrowed from dialectal German *Jokel* disparaging name for a farmer; originally, diminutive of *Jakob*; compare *Rube* in English).

yolk *n.* Before 1325 *yelke*; later *yolke* (before 1398); developed from Old English (before 1000) *geolca*, *geoloca*, *geoleca* *yolk*; literally, the yellow part, from *geolu* YELLOW.

yon *adj.*, *pron.* *yonder*. About 1325, developed from Old English (before 899) *geon*, *adj.*, that (over there), perhaps from Proto-Germanic **jenaz*; cognate with Old Frisian *gēna*, *iēna* that (over there), Old High German *enēr*, *jenēr* (modern German *jener*), Old Icelandic *enn*, *inn* the (definite article), Gothic *jains* that (perhaps from Proto-Germanic **jainaz*). —**adv.** About 1475, shortened form of *yonder* and of *yond* (before 1122; developed from Old English, before 899, *geond*; see YONDER).

yonder *adv.* within sight, but not near, that over there. Before 1325, extended form of earlier *yond*, developed from Old English (before 899) *geond*, *adv.* and *prep.*, beyond, yonder; cognate with Middle Low German *gint*, *genten* beyond, Dutch *ginds*, and Gothic *jaind*, *jainar* yonder, there, related to *jains* that; see YON.

yore *n.* (in the phrase *of yore*), of long ago, in the past, formerly. Probably about 1350, from earlier *yore*, *adv.*, of old, long ago (about 1250); developed from a variant *geāra* of Old English *gēara*, *adv.*, of yore (about 725, in *Beowulf*); originally, in the meaning “of years,” genitive plural of *gēar* YEAR.

you *pron.* *pl.* or *sing.* Before 1325 *yow*, developed from Old English (about 725, in *Beowulf*) *ēow*, the dative and accusative form of *gē* YE¹. Old English *ēow* (from Proto-West Germanic **iuwiz*) is cognate with Old Frisian *iuwe*, *iue* you (dative and accusative of *gī* ye), Old Saxon *iu*, Middle Dutch and modern Dutch *u*, and Old High German *iu* (dative of *ir* ye). A parallel formation is found in Old Icelandic *ydhr* (dative and accusative of *ēr* ye), and Gothic *izwis* (dative and accusative of *jūs* ye). Between 1300 and 1400 *you* began to replace the nominative form *ye*, and became established before 1700. During the 1300's *you* also appeared as a substitute for the singular nominative *thou*, being originally used as a sign of respect in addressing a superior, but later used in speaking to an equal, and ultimately as the general form of address. Compare THOU.

young *adj.* Before 1325 *yong*, developed from Old English *geong* youthful, young (about 725, in *Beowulf*); cognate with Old Frisian and Old Saxon *jung* young, Middle Dutch *jonc* (modern Dutch *jong*), Old High German *junc*, *jung* (modern German *jung*), Old Icelandic *ungr* (Danish, Norwegian, and Swedish *ung*), and Gothic *jungs*, from Proto-Germanic **jūnǵas*, earlier **juwunās*. —**youngster** *n.* 1589, formed from English *young*, *adj.* + -*ster*.

your *adj.* Probably before 1300, developed from Old English (about 725, in *Beowulf*) *ēower*, the genitive form of *gē* YE¹, and cognate with Old Frisian *iuwer* your, Old Saxon *iuwar*, *iwar*, Old High German *iuwēr* (modern German *euer*), Old Icelandic *ydhar*, *ydhar*, and Gothic *izvar*; derived from the Germanic base represented by Old English *ēow* YOU. —**yours**

pron. Before 1325, from the adjective; formed from English *your* + *-s*, as in *hers*, *ours*, *theirs*. — **yourself** **pron.** Before 1325. The plural *yourselves* is first recorded in 1523, providing an unambiguous form for the plural use.

youth **n.** Probably about 1150 *youhthe*; developed from Old English *geoguth* youth (about 725, in *Beowulf*); related to *geong* YOUNG, and cognate with Old Frisian *jogethe* youth, Old Saxon *juguth*, Middle Dutch *joghet*, *jöghet* (modern Dutch *jeugd*), and Old High German *jugund* (modern German *Jugend*).

The formation is analyzed as *young* + *-th*¹ (actually found in *youngth*, 1303), from Old English *geong(u)* + *-th*¹. Old English *geoguth*, *iuguth*, earlier **iugūth*, is from Proto-West Germanic **jugūnthiz*, altered by influence of **dūzunthiz* ability (Old English *duguth*) from Proto-Germanic **juwūnthiz*. — **youthful** **adj.** 1561, of youth or the young, juvenile; formed from English *youth* + *-ful*.

yowl **v.** to howl. Probably about 1200 *yuhelen*; later *youlen* (before 1382); probably of imitative origin. — **n.** About 1450 *yowle*; from the verb.

yo-yo **n.** 1915, probably borrowed from a language of the Philippines. Apparently an earlier name for the toy was *bandalore* (1824), but it was from American contact in the Philippines that first commercial development was established. The

figurative sense of fluctuating or vacillating is first recorded in 1960, from the earlier sense of up-and-down movement (1932).

ytterbium **n.** 1879, New Latin, from *Ytterby*, a town in Sweden where the element was discovered, + *-ium*.

yttrium **n.** 1822, New Latin, from earlier *yttria* (1800, a heavy white powder, the oxide of yttrium) + *-ium*.

yucca **n.** 1664, New Latin *Jucca* genus name of the plant, from Spanish *yuca*, of uncertain origin.

Yule or **yule** **n.** Probably about 1200 *yole*; later *yoole* (probably about 1450); developed from Old English *geōl*, *geōla* Christmas day or Christmastide (before 899); probably borrowed from a Scandinavian source (compare Old Icelandic *jöl*, pl., a heathen feast lasting twelve days; later in the meaning of Christmas, Swedish, Norwegian, and Danish *jul* Christmas). An Old English (Anglian) *giuli* the name of December and January (726) corresponds to Old Icelandic *ýlir* the Yule month (middle of November to middle of December), and Gothic *jiuleis*, in *fruma* *jiuleis* November. — **yuletide** **n.** (about 1475)

yuppie **n.** 1984, formed from the initial letters of *y(oung)* *u(rban)* *p(rofessional)* + suffix *-ie*; influenced by *yippie* a politically active hippie (1968); formed from the initials of *Y(outh)* *I(nternational)* *P(arty)* + *-ie*, after *hippie*.

Z

zany **n.** 1588, borrowed from Middle French *zani*, from dialectal Italian (Venetian) *zanni*, familiar variant of *Giovanni* John, a stock character in Italian farce. — **adj.** ridiculous. 1616, from the noun.

zap **v.** 1942, kill, hit; a word suggestive of the destructive force of a ray gun, as used in the comic strip “Buck Rogers” or of a blow delivered by a heavy club, as in the comic strip “B.C.” Later meanings include to move fast (1968) and to erase electronically (1982).

zeal **n.** Before 1382 *zeel*, *zele*; borrowed (probably with influence of earlier *zealot*) from Old French *zel*, and directly from Latin *zēlus* zeal, from Greek *zēlos* jealousy, fervor, zeal. — **zealot** **n.** Before 1325 *zelote* member of a militant Jewish sect which fiercely resisted the Romans in Palestine; borrowed from Late Latin *zēlōtēs*, from Greek *zēlōtēs* a zealot, from *zēlōn* be zealous, from *zēlos* zeal, earlier and dialectal *zēlos*. — **zealous** **adj.** 1526, full of zeal; borrowed from Medieval

Latin *zelosus* full of zeal, from Latin *zēlus* zeal; for suffix see *-OUS*.

zebra **n.** 1600, borrowing of Italian *zebra*, and perhaps reinforced by Spanish *zebra*, *zebro* (now *cebra*), found also in Portuguese as *zevra* and *zevro*, originally in the sense of a wild ass; uncertain origin.

Zen **n.** 1727 *Sen*; later *Zen* (1834); borrowed from Japanese *zen*, and perhaps from Chinese *chán*, from Sanskrit *dhyāna-m* meditation, thought, sense.

zenith **n.** Before 1387 *cinit*; later *senith* (1391); borrowed from Old French *cenit*, *cenith*, and directly from Medieval Latin *cenit*, possibly *cenith*, *zenith*, from Arabic, transliterated as *samt* in *samt ar-rās* zenith; literally, the way over the head. Compare AZIMUTH, which retained the *m* found in the transliteration from Arabic.

The spelling *zenith* is first recorded in English in 1549 and the sense of highest point or state, acme, 1610.

zephyr *n.* 1369 *Zephrus* (personification of the west wind); found also in Old English (about 1000) as *zeffenus*; borrowed from Latin *zephyrus*, from Greek *zēphyrōs* the west wind, probably related to *zōphos* the west, the dark region, darkness, gloom. The spelling *zephyr* is first recorded in English in 1598. The meaning of a mild breeze is first recorded about 1610.

zeppelin *n.* 1900, borrowing of German *Zeppelin*, shortened form of earlier *Zeppelinschiff* (Zeppelin ship) and *Zeppelinkreuzer* (Zeppelin cruiser), in allusion to Count Ferdinand von *Zeppelin*, who perfected this type of airship.

zero *n.* 1604, borrowed from French *zéro*, and directly from Italian *zero*, alteration of Medieval Latin *zephirum*, from Arabic, transliterated as *ṣifr* empty, null, cipher, translating Sanskrit *śūnya-m* empty place, desert, naught, a cipher, neuter of *śūnyā-s* empty. Arabic numerals are written from left to right (contrary to the practice of Arabic writing) by influence of the Indian origins of our number system. —**adj.** 1810, from the noun. —**v.** 1913, to adjust (an instrument or device) to zero point, take aim on a target; now especially in the phrase *zero in on* (1950, from earlier *zero in*, 1944); from the noun.

zest *n.* 1674, orange or lemon peel; borrowed from French *zeste*, of uncertain origin. The sense of something that adds flavor or relish is first recorded in English in 1709; and that of keen enjoyment, in 1791. —**v.** 1704, from the noun in the sense of add flavoring to that add a piquant quality to is first recorded in English in 1737.

zigzag *n.* 1712, borrowing of French *zigzag*, from German *Zickzack*, possibly a reduplication of *Zacke* tooth, prong. First found in English in reference to the laying out of garden paths. —**adv.** About 1730, from the noun. —**v.** 1777, from the noun.

zilch *n.* 1966, nil, zero; earlier, meaningless speech, gibberish (1960); and found in *Mr. Zilch* an indefinite nickname (1931); possibly from association with earlier *zip*² and *nil*.

zinc *n.* 1651 *zinke*; 1813 *zinc*; borrowed from German *Zink*, related to *Zinke*, *Zinken* prong, point, from Old High German *zinko*; perhaps so called from the form *zinc* assumes after cooling. The spelling with *-c* was influenced by French *zinc*. —**v.** 1841, from the noun.

zinnia *n.* 1767, formed in allusion to Johann Gottfried Zinn, German botanist.

Zion *n.* Old English (about 1000) *Sion*; borrowed from Late Latin *Siōn*, from Greek *Seōn*, from Hebrew *šīyyōn*, originally, a hill. —**Zionism** *n.* 1896, movement to establish a Jewish national state in Palestine; formed from English *Zion* + *-ism*. —**Zionist** *n.* 1896, formed from English *Zion* + *-ist*.

zip¹ *v.* move rapidly. 1852, imitative of the sound of an object passing rapidly through the air or of a fabric being torn. —**n.** 1875, from the verb or of imitative origin similar to that of the verb. The sense of energy, force, impetus, is first recorded in 1900. —**zippy** *adj.* 1904, formed from English *zip*, *n.* or *v.* + *-y*¹.

zip² *n.* zero, nothing (often referring to a score in sports). About 1900, a mark or grade of zero (used among students); of uncertain origin.

zip³ *v.* to fasten or unfasten with a zipper. 1932, back formation from *zipper*. —**zipper** *n.* 1925, probably formed from English *zip*¹, *v.* + *-er*¹, a trademark *Zipper*, registered in 1925 for a kind of boot with such a closing, apparently not specifically for the fastener.

zip code 1963, from *ZIP*, acronym for *Z(one) I(mprovement) P(lan)*, the United States Postal Service system of numerical coding by zones for mail sorting.

zircon *n.* 1797, earlier *jargon*, *circon* (1794); probably borrowed from French *zircon*, *jargon*, and German *Zirkon*, from Arabic *zaraqūn*, from Persian *zargūn*; literally, golden, from *zar* gold, from Avestan *zari-* gold-colored.

zirconium *n.* 1808, New Latin; formed from *zircon* + *-ium*.

zither *n.* 1850, borrowing of German *Zither*, from Latin *cithara*, from Greek *kithará* lyrelike instrument; apparently a modification (known among the Tyrolese in the Austrian Alps) of the *cithara*, an ancient lyre of seven to eleven strings.

zo- the form of *zoo-* before vowels, as in *Paleozoic*.

zodiac *n.* 1391 *zodiak*, borrowed from Old French *zodiaque*, and probably directly from Latin *zōdiacus* the zodiac, of the zodiac, from Greek *zōidiakós* the zodiac, of the zodiac, of the figures (in reference to the *zōidiakós kýklos* circle of figures that make up the zodiacal signs), from *zōidion* zodiacal sign; originally, sculptured figure (of an animal), diminutive of *zōion* animal, living being. —**zodiacal** *adj.* (1576)

zombie *n.* 1871, borrowed from a Bantu language of West Africa; compare Kikongo, Kimbundu, and Tshiluba *nzambi* god, Kikongo *zumbi* fetish. The sense of a stupefied, stupid, or lethargic person, is first recorded in 1946.

zone *n.* 1393–94, any of the five great divisions (torrid zone, frigid zone, etc.) of the earth's surface; borrowed from Latin *zōna* geographic belt, celestial zone or band, from Greek *zōnē* (earlier **zōsnā*), originally, girdle, belt, from *zōnnýnai* to gird. The meaning of any region or area set off from adjacent regions is first recorded in 1822. —**v.** 1705 (implied in *zoned*), from the noun. —**zonal** *adj.* 1867, borrowed from Late Latin *zōnalis* of a zone, from Latin *zōna* zone; for suffix see *-al*¹. —**zoning** *n.* 1820, division into particular times or areas.

zoo *n.* About 1847, shortened form of *the Zoological in Zoological Gardens* of the London Zoological Society, established in 1828, to house the Society's collection of wild animals.

zoo- a combining form meaning animal, living being, as in *zoology*, *zooplankton*. Borrowed from later Greek *zōo-*, from Greek *zōio*, combining form of *zōion* animal.

zoology *n.* 1669, borrowed from New Latin *zoologia* science and study of animals, from modern Greek *zōiologia*, originally, science of pharmaceuticals derived from animals (Greek *zōion* animal + *-logia* -logy). —**zoological** *adj.* 1807, formed from

English *zoology* + *-ical*. —**zoologist** *n.* 1663, formed from New Latin *zoologia* zoology + English *-ist*.

zoom *v.* 1886, travel or move with a humming or buzzing sound; later, move speedily along (1924), often with an abrupt upward movement as by aircraft (1918, from the noun); imitative of the sound. The sense of moving quickly closer to something as an aircraft does when zooming down or up, is first recorded in 1918. —**n.** 1917, act of zooming; from the verb. The use in photography as in *zoom lens* (1936), developed from zooming in an aircraft, and is first recorded in 1934.

zounds *interj.* 1600, reduction of obsolete *God's wounds!*, an oath. A similar formation is found in *zooks* (1634, shortened form of *God's sokings* 1577). While *God's sokings* is obsolete (the meaning of *sokings* is not even known today), its modern form *Gadzooks* (1694) was familiar up into the 1930's and 1940's.

zucchetto *n.* 1853, borrowed from Italian *zucchetta* cap, small gourd, from *zucca* gourd, head, of uncertain origin.

zucchini *n.* 1929 *succini*; 1945 *zuchini*; borrowed from Italian, plural of *zucchini*, diminutive of *zucca* squash, gourd.

zwieback *n.* 1894, borrowing of German *Zwieback* biscuit, from *zwie-*, combining form of *zwei* two + *backen* to bake; loan translation of Italian *biscotto* biscuit. A similar formation in English is found in *twice-baked potatoes*.

zygote *n.* 1891, cell formed by the union of two gametes; borrowed from Greek *zygōtós* yoked, from *zygōn* to yoke, from *zygón* yoke.

zymurgy *n.* 1868, branch of chemistry dealing with fermentation; formed in English from Greek *zýmē* leaven + *-ourgā* a working, from *érgon* work.

GLOSSARY OF LANGUAGE NAMES AND LINGUISTIC TERMS

This glossary is a selected list of language names and linguistic terms that appear in the body of the Dictionary. The definitions identify a language or a language process in the context of a given etymology.

ablative a case in Latin and some other inflected languages which expresses the source or place of an action or the instrument or means with which it is carried out.

ablaut a systematic vowel alternation occurring in the root of words, especially in Indo-European languages, usually with corresponding variation of meaning, as in English *ring, rang, rung*. Also called GRADATION.

Abnaki the Algonquian language of a North American Indian people that lived mostly in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and eastern Canada.

absolute 1 (of a verb) used without an expressed object, as *give* in the sentence *Please give generously*. 2 (of an adjective or pronoun) having its noun understood, as *younger* in the sentence *Older pupils should help the younger*, and *ours* in *His house is larger than ours*.

abstracted (of a form) taken from all or part of an older form but used in a different or broader range of contexts, as *-aholic* (abstracted immediately from *workaholic* but ultimately from *alcoholic*), *-athon* (abstracted from *marathon*), *mini-* (abstracted from *miniature*), and *-burger* (abstracted from *hamburger*).

accent 1 = stress. 2 a designation of vowel stress, as in Spanish, vowel quality, as in French, or vowel quantity, as in Hungarian. 3a a distinctive regional or national way of pronouncing a given language, as in an Irish accent. b a foreign accent, as in to have an accent. 4 the phonetic features of a language influencing a learner's second language, as in a French or Russian accent.

accusative a grammatical case used as the direct object of the verb, as the subject of an infinitive, or as the object of a preposition to indicate the goal of action or motion toward.

acronym a word formed from the first letters or syllables of other words, as *laser, quasar, radar, and scuba*.

active showing the subject of a verb as acting. *Example:* The verb *broke* in *He broke the dish* is in the active voice. Compare *passive*.

Afar A Cushitic language spoken in Ethiopia.

affix a prefix, suffix, or infix.

Afghan = Pashto.

Afrikaans a Germanic language of South Africa, developed from the Dutch of the colonists who settled there in the 1600's, formerly called South African Dutch.

Afro-Asiatic a language family of northern Africa, extending into Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Iraq. Branches of Afro-Asiatic include Semitic, Berber, Cushitic, and Egyptian.

Akan a Kwa language spoken in Ghana and other parts of western Africa.

Akkadian the eastern division of the Semitic languages, spoken in ancient Mesopotamia, and including Babylonian and Assyrian.

Albanian the Indo-European language of Albania, not closely related to other Indo-European languages. It has two dialects, Geg and Tosk, and a large number of loanwords from Latin, Greek, Slavic, and Turkish.

Aleut the language of a people inhabiting the Aleutian Islands and the Alaska Peninsula, distantly related to Eskimo, and a branch of the Eskimo-Aleut language family.

Algonquian or **Algonkian** the most widespread family of North American Indian languages, including Abnaki, Cheyenne, Micmac, and Ojibwa.

Altaic a language family of the Turkic, Mongolian, and Tungusic groups, spoken over most of Asia, and often combined with Uralic to form a hypothetical Ural-Altaic family.

alteration a change in the form of a word or phrase, usually as a result of the influence of a phonetically or semantically similar word. *Example:* English *crayfish* is an alteration (influenced by *fish*) of Middle English *crevis*, borrowed from Middle French *crevice*.

American English the form of English spoken and written in the United States.

American Spanish the group of Spanish dialects spoken in South America, Central America, and some islands of the West Indies (Cuba, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic).

Amharic a Semitic language of the Ethiopic branch; the official and literary language of Ethiopia since the 1300's.

analogy the process by which words or grammatical forms are made to conform to similar words or forms or to some regular pattern in the language. Analogy has led to the regularization of inflectional endings (such as *-ed* for the past and past participle of verbs) in English. New words are often formed by analogy, as *sexism* and *sexist* on the model of *racism* and *racist*.

Anatolian an Indo-European language or group of languages spoken in ancient Anatolia, including Hittite.

Anglian the Old English dialect of the Angles, originally spoken in Mercia and Northumbria.

Anglicize to make into English in form or pronunciation, as *covet*, *buffoon*, and *jail*, originally French words. —**Anglicization**. See also NATURALIZE.

Anglo-French the dialect of French introduced into England mainly by the Normans (French-speaking descendants of Scandinavians who settled in France in the 800's) following their conquest of England in 1066. Anglo-French was used chiefly by the governing classes through the 1300's. Also called ANGLONORMAN and NORMAN-FRENCH.

Anglo-Indian a dialect of British English spoken in India, containing many words taken directly from the languages of India, especially Hindi.

Anglo-Latin the form of Medieval Latin used in England during the Middle English period.

Anglo-Norman = Anglo-French.

Anglo-Saxon = Old English.

Annamese = Vietnamese.

aorist a verbal aspect in Greek and some other inflected languages showing that an action took place in the past without indicating whether the act was completed, repeated, or continued.

Apache the Athapaskan language of a native American people living in the southwestern United States.

aphesis the loss of a short, unaccented vowel at the beginning of a word, as in *possum* for *opossum*. Aphesis is a specialized variety of a more general phonetic process, *apheresis*, which is the omission of one or more sounds or words from the beginning of an utterance, as in *'em* for *them* and *most* for *almost* ("most all of 'em are here"). —**aphetic** having to do with or resulting from apheresis. Compare APOCOPE, SYNCOPHE.

apocope the loss of a sound or syllable at the end of a word, as in the pronunciation of *old* as (ôl) or *child* as (chîl). Compare SYNCOPHE.

Arabic the Semitic language of the Arabs, now spoken chiefly in the Arabian Peninsula, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, and North Africa.

Aramaic a Semitic language or group of dialects dominant in the Near East from the 300's B.C. through the 500's A.D. Aramaic includes Syriac and was the language spoken in Palestine at the time of Christ. It is still spoken in parts of Iraq, Iran, and Syria.

Arawakan a family of South American Indian languages, including the Arawak language, now found in parts of northern South America (Colombia, Venezuela, Guyana, Brazil), but formerly spoken in the West Indies and a part of southern Florida.

Armenian the Indo-European language of Armenia and parts of Georgia, Azerbaijan, and Iran, not closely related to any of the other Indo-European languages.

aspect a category of verb forms which express action or state as beginning, ending, continuing, or repeating, rather than indicating time, as do tense forms. See, for example, AORIST, FREQUENTATIVE, INCEPTIVE, PERFECTIVE.

assimilation a change in a speech sound making it like a similar sound nearby. *Example*: The Latin prefix *ad-* becomes *ab-* before *b* by assimilation of the *d* to the following consonant, as in *abbreviāre* (*ad-* + *breviāre* shorten). Compare DISSIMILATION.

Assyrian the ancient Semitic language of Assyria.

Athapaskan or **Athapaskan** a family of North American Indian languages extending from Alaska and Canada to Mexico, and including Navaho and Apache.

Attic the ancient Greek dialect of Attica, whose capital was Athens. Attic became the literary language of Greece.

attributive placed immediately before a noun and serving as a modifier. *Highway* in the phrase *highway patrol* is an attributive noun.

augmentative a form of a word expressing largeness or bigness, usually by the addition of a suffix. *Example*: Italian *trombone* (the musical instrument) is in origin an augmentative of *tromba* trumpet.

Australian a collective name for the aboriginal languages of Australia, especially Aranda (or Arunta) and Worora, having no known relationship to other languages.

Australian English the form of English spoken and written in Australia.

Austronesian a probable linguistic family of the Pacific, comprising the Indonesian, Polynesian, Melanesian, and Micronesian languages. Also called MALAYO-POLYNESIAN.

Avestan the Iranian language in which the Avesta, the sacred book of the Zoroastrian religion, is written, closely related to Old Persian.

Aymara a group of South American Indian languages of Bolivia and Peru, related to Quechua.

back formation a new word formed by analogy from an older word on the mistaken assumption that the older word is a derivative of the new word, as in *escalate* formed from *escalator*, *burgle* from *burglar*, *typewrite* from *typewriter*, and *kudo* from *kudos*. Compare CLIPPED FORM and APOCOPE.

Baltic the Indo-European ancestor of the languages of the eastern Baltic region, including Lithuanian, Latvian, or Lettish, and Old Prussian (now extinct).

Bantu a major branch of the Niger-Congo language family, consisting of languages found through most of Africa south of the Equator, including Swahili, Mbundu, Sotho, Setswana, Xhosa, and Zulu.

base = root.

Basque the language of the Basques, an ancient people inhabiting the western Pyrenees, in southern France and northern Spain. Basque is not related to any other known language. Also called EUSKARA or EUSKERA.

Belarusian = Belorussian.

Belorussian the Slavic language of Belarus. Also spelled BYELORUSSIAN.

Berber a Hamitic language spoken in North Africa, especially in Morocco and Algeria. Berber still has some words of Latin origin traced to the period of Roman domination of North Africa.

blend 1 a word made by combining elements of two words, often by fusion of a letter or syllable they have in common. *Examples:* *chortle*, a blend of *chuckle* and *snort*; *motel*, a blend of *motor* and *hotel*; *smog*, a blend of *smoke* and *fog*. Compare *fusion*. **2** a combination of consonant sounds represented by two or more letters, as *bl* in *blend*. Compare DIGRAPH, DIPHTHONG.

borrow to take (a word, phrase, meaning, etc.) from another language, as *basis* from Latin *basis*, *bassoon* from French *basson*, and *bas-relief* from Italian *basso-rilievo*. Compare DEVELOP, ANGLICIZE, NATURALIZE. —**borrowing** a word taken from another language. Borrowings may retain their original form (adoption) and retain their foreign spelling (as *coup d'état*) or retain only part of their original form (adaptation or derivation) and take on the characteristics of a native English word (as *cab*, *cabbage*, *coleslaw*, etc.). Also called LOAN WORD. Another form of borrowing is a translation of a foreign term into the borrowing language (as English *superman* translating German *übermensch*). Also called LOAN TRANSLATION.

bound form or **morpheme** a form which never occurs alone but always as part of a larger unit. *Example:* The word *activation* has three bound forms in it — activate-*ion*, activ-*ate*, and act-*ive*. Compare FREE FORM.

Breton the language of Brittany, a Celtic language closely

related to Welsh and Cornish, and the only Celtic language now spoken on the European continent.

British English the form of English spoken and written in Great Britain, and to some extent imitated in India, South Africa, and certain other former British colonies.

Brythonic a division of the Celtic languages comprising Welsh, Cornish, and Breton.

Bulgarian the Slavic language of Bulgaria.

Burmese the Tibeto-Burman language of Burma (Myanmar).

Bushman a Khoisan language spoken in Botswana, South-west Africa (Namibia), and parts of South Africa.

Byelorussian = BELORUSSIAN.

calque = LOAN TRANSLATION.

Canadian English the form of English spoken and written by English-speaking Canadians.

Canadian French the form of French spoken and written by French-speaking Canadians. English influence is evident not only in borrowed words but also in loan translation; note the use of *bienvenu* "welcome" as the answer to *merci* "thanks" instead of standard French *de rien* "don't mention it."

Cantonese the dialect of Chinese spoken in the city of Canton (Guangzhou) and the southeastern province of Kwangtung (Guangdong), of which Canton is the capital.

Carib a family of South American Indian languages found in northern South America (Colombia, Venezuela, Guyana, Suriname, and Brazil), in Honduras and Belize, and to a lesser extent the West Indies.

case one of the forms of a noun, pronoun, or adjective used to indicate its relation to other words, usually by the addition of inflectional endings. Latin has six case endings, seven if the locative is considered separately (nominative, genitive, dative, accusative, ablative, and vocative), Greek has five, German four, Old English four and Modern English only the possessive, except for some pronouns, which have three case forms (such as nominative *he*, objective *him*, and possessive *his*).

Castilian = Spanish.

Catalan the Romance language of Catalonia, a region in northeastern Spain, closely related to Provençal. Catalan is also spoken in the Balearic Islands, the area around Perpignan in France, in Andorra, and in the Sardinian city of Alghero.

Caucasian a family of languages spoken in the region of the Caucasus Mountains, between the Black and Caspian seas.

causative a word or form indicating that the subject causes performance of an action. *Examples:* The prefix *en-* in *enrich* is a causative. English *lay*, v., is the causative of *lie*, v., to recline.

Celtic a branch of Indo-European that includes Irish, Gaelic,

Welsh, Breton, and Manx, and is usually divided into Brythonic and Goidelic.

Cherokee the Iroquoian language of an American Indian people now living mostly in Oklahoma and North Carolina, but originally throughout the southern Appalachians.

Cheyenne the Algonquian language of an American Indian people now living mostly in Oklahoma and Montana, but originally in Minnesota.

Chinese the language of China, comprising a large group of dialects (Cantonese, Fukienese, Hakka, etc.) of which the Beijing dialect, Mandarin, is regarded as standard.

Chinook 1 the language of a North American Indian people living along the Columbia River in the Pacific Northwest. 2 = Chinook jargon.

Chinook jargon a pidgin language based on Chinook and Nootka, with additional English and French elements, used in trading in the Pacific Northwest.

click a speech sound consisting of a stop produced by a sucking action of the tongue against the gums, used especially in the Khoisan languages of southern Africa.

clipped form or **word** a form or word shortened by dropping syllables, as in *quote* from *quotation*, *bus* from *omnibus*, *deli* from *delicatessen*. Compare BACK FORMATION and APOCOPE.

cognate related by common origin; descended from the same original language, root, or source. English *mother*, German *Mutter*, and Dutch *moeder* are cognate because they are all descended from Proto-Germanic **mōdēr*.

coinage an invented word or phrase, usually created for a specific purpose. *Jabberwocky* and *chortle* were two of Lewis Carroll's coinages. Compare *nonce word*. —**coined** (of a word or phrase) made up or invented for a specific purpose. *Nylon* was coined by the Du Pont Company.

collocation a group of words commonly used together, as *little girl*, *prevail upon*, *have a good time*. Compare IDIOM.

colloquialism a word, phrase, or other expression used in common, everyday, familiar talk.

combining form a form of a word which is used to combine with other words or other combining forms to make new words, such as *astro-*, *hydro-*, *multi-*, *paleo-*, *semi-*, and the like.

comparative the second degree of comparison of an adjective or adverb. Examples: *Better* is the comparative of *good*, *less* or *lesser* is the comparative of *little*. Compare POSITIVE, SUPERLATIVE.

compound two or more words combined to form a new word or term with a different meaning. Examples: *playground*, *bookkeeper*, *high school*, *post office*, *go-between*, *nevertheless*, *on-again off-again*.

conjugation a systematic arrangement of the forms of a verb. Latin verbs, for example, are grouped in four conjugations

according to the ending of the infinitive: 1) *-āre*, 2) *-ēre*, 3) *-ere*, and 4) *-īre*.

contraction 1 a shortened form of a word or words, as English *can't* or *I've*, and French *des* (instead of *de les*). 2 the process of forming a contraction.

Coptic a Hamitic language developed from ancient Egyptian. The use of Coptic is now confined to rituals of the Coptic Church.

Cornish a Celtic language spoken by the people of Cornwall, England, until the late 1700's.

creole a standard native language or primary language of a community, formed from a mixture of elements from several other languages with which there is intensive contact. A creole was originally a pidgin, often characterized by vocabulary of one language (as French or Portuguese) with simplified morphology and with the structure influenced by other languages (as for example African languages in the case of Haitian Creole and of Cape Verdean). Compare PIDGIN. —**creolization** the process by which a creole is created out of a pidgin or a mixture of languages in contact.

Creole 1 a dialect of French spoken in southern Louisiana. 2 = Haitian Creole.

Crimean Gothic Germanic language spoken in the Crimea into the 1500's, known from a small group of words and phrases recorded in Constantinople in 1560.

Croatian the form of Serbo-Croatian spoken by Croats and written in the Roman alphabet.

Cushitic a group of Hamitic languages of Ethiopia and eastern Africa, including Somali and Afar.

Czech the West Slavic language of the Czechs, spoken in the Czech Republic.

Danish the Scandinavian language of Denmark.

dative a case in Latin and other inflected languages, showing the indirect object of the verb or preposition. The dative function in English is indicated by word order (as in *show him the painting*) or a prepositional phrase (as in *show the painting to him*).

declension the system in inflected languages for giving different forms or endings to nouns, pronouns, or adjectives to show their case, gender, and number.

derive to originate or form a word, especially by adding a prefix or suffix to another word. —**derivative** a word formed by adding a prefix or suffix to another word. *Unkindly* is a derivative of *unkind*; *kindly* is a derivative of *kind*.

develop (of a word or form) to be formed from earlier words or elements of the same language or evolve through internal changes from an earlier stage of the language, as a Middle English word from an Old English word. Words which de-

velop within a language are often said to be *inherited*, as opposed to words *borrowed* from another language, which often become *naturalized*.

dialect a distinctive form or variety of a language, usually one spoken in a particular geographical area and differing in some way from the standard or literary form (itself a dialect) of the language. Scottish is a dialect of English. Creole is a dialect of French.

digraph a combination of two letters used to represent a single speech sound (phoneme). *Ch* in *chin*, *sh* in *shop*, *th* in *with*, and *ea* in *eat* are digraphs. Compare DIPHTHONG, BLEND.

diminutive a form of a word used to express smallness, usually by the addition of a suffix. *Examples: Droplet* is a diminutive of *drop*. Latin *capreolus* wild goat, roebuck, is a diminutive of *caprea* wild she-goat.

diphthong a vowel sound (phoneme) made up of two vowel sounds pronounced within a syllable, as the sound of English *ou* in *house*, *oi* in *noise*, and *i* in *ice*. Compare DIGRAPH, BLEND. —**diphthongize** to change (a vowel or vowels) into a diphthong. The Middle English phoneme /ū/ diphthongized to /ou/ in *house*.

disassimilation a change in a speech sound in a word making it less like a similar sound in the same word. *Example: Latin peregrinus became pelegrin(o) in some of the Romance languages by disassimilation of the first r to l. Compare ASSIMILATION.*

Dravidian a family of languages found in southern India, Sri Lanka, and Pakistan, including Tamil and Telugu.

dual a number category indicating two persons or things, used in addition to the singular and plural in certain languages, such as Greek, Old Slavic, and Sanskrit. In grammatical systems having a dual, the plural applies to three or more.

Dutch the West Germanic language of the Netherlands, descended from the Low German dialects of Franks and Saxons.

echoic = imitative.

Egyptian the Hamitic language of the ancient Egyptians. Coptic developed from it.

ending a letter or letters attached to a word or stem to change its meaning, to indicate its grammatical relationship to other words, or to Anglicize a foreign ending in a borrowed word. The adverbial suffix *-ly*¹, the plural inflection *-s*¹, and the Anglicization *-ish*² are common endings in English.

English the West Germanic language of England, including Old English (before 1100), Middle English (about 1100–1475 or 1500), and Modern English (from about 1475 or 1500). Modern English is also spoken in Australia, Canada, India, Ireland, New Zealand, the Republic of South Africa, the United States, and many other countries.

eponym a person from whose name a nation, people, place,

or institution derives its name. *Examples: Colombia* from *Colombus*, *Judea* from *Judah*, *Smithsonian* from *James Smithson*, *Rhodesia* from *Cecil Rhodes*. —**eponymous** giving one's name to a nation, people, place, or institution.

Eskimo the language of a people living in Greenland, northern Canada, Alaska, and eastern Siberia, distantly related to Aleut, and a branch of the Eskimo-Aleut family. The name *Inuit* or *Innu* is now preferred.

Eskimo-Aleut a family of languages spoken in the most northerly areas of North America, from Greenland to Alaska and into Siberia, along the Arctic coast.

Estonian the Finno-Ugric language of Estonia, closely related to Finnish.

Ethiopic a branch of Semitic that includes Amharic.

Etruscan the language of an ancient people who inhabited Etruria (modern Tuscany) in central Italy and developed a flourishing civilization from about 600 B.C. to 100 B.C. Etruscan influenced Latin, though its origin and relationship to other languages is obscure.

etymon the form of a word from which another or other forms have developed. *Example: the immediate etymon of English azure is Old French azur; the ultimate etymon is Persian lāzward.*

euphemism a mild or indirect word or expression used as a substitute for one thought to be too direct, harsh, unpleasant, or offensive. *Example: Gosh! for God! Compare taboo.*

Euskara or Euskera = Basque.

Ewe a Kwa language of western Africa, spoken in Ghana and Togo.

eye dialect a written form suggesting dialectal or nonstandard speech, as *wanna* for *want to*, and *should of* for *should have*.

Faeroese or Faroese the Scandinavian language of the Faeroe Islands, situated between Norway and Iceland.

family a group of related languages developed from a common language; language family. Some of the largest families of languages are the Indo-European, Afro-Asiatic, Austronesian, Niger-Congo, and Sino-Tibetan.

Farsi = Persian.

Finnish the Finno-Ugric language of Finland.

Finno-Ugric a family of languages of eastern Europe and western Asia that includes Finnish, Estonian, Lapp, and Hungarian.

Flemish the West Germanic language of the people of Flanders, a form of Low German closely related to Dutch.

folk etymology the alteration of an unfamiliar word to make it sound like a familiar one, thus distorting or obscuring its real

etymology. *Examples: Sparrow-grass*, alteration of *asparagus*; *female*, alteration of Old French *femelle* on the analogy of *male*. Also called **POPULAR ETYMOLOGY**.

form any of the ways in which a word or morpheme is spelled, pronounced, or inflected.

formative a sound, syllable, or bound morpheme used to form words. Prefixes and suffixes are formatives.

Franconian the West German dialect or dialects spoken by the Franks who lived along the Rhine.

Frankish the West Germanic language spoken in northern Gaul in the 400's and 500's. Many French words derive from Frankish.

free form or morpheme a form which can be used alone as a word with a distinct meaning or meanings. *Example: The compound applet has two free forms, apple and cart; the derivative boosterism has one free form, boost, and two bound forms, boost-er-ism.*

French the Romance language of France, including Old French (to 1350 or 1400), Middle French (to 1600), and Modern French (from about 1600).

frequentative (a verbal aspect) expressing habitual or repeated action, as English verbs in *-le³* (such as *babble* and *giggle*) and *-er⁴* (as *clatter* and *jabber*).

Frisian the West Germanic language of Friesland, in the northern Netherlands, and some nearby islands on the North Sea. Frisian is closely related to English.

Fulani a West Atlantic language spoken widely in western Africa, especially in northern Nigeria.

function the way in which a word or phrase is used in a sentence, whether as a noun or verb, adjective or adverb, and so on.

functional shift a change in the function of a word or phrase without a change in form, as from one part of speech to another. The nouns *author*, *chair*, and *elbow* became verbs by functional shift.

function word a word that expresses the function or grammatical relationship of the words in a sentence. Prepositions, articles, conjunctions, and auxiliary verbs are function words.

fusion the blending or combining of two sounds or words so that the new sound or word often has a part common to the combined elements.

Gaelic the Celtic language of the Highlands of Scotland. Also called *Scottish Gaelic*. Compare **IRISH**.

Gallo-Romance a Romance language of largely hypothetical forms, thought to be developed from Vulgar Latin and spoken in France from about 600 to 900 A.D.

Gaulish The Celtic language of the ancient Gauls. Many Latin and Old French words came from Gaulish.

gender a grammatical division of nouns, pronouns, adjectives, and articles into certain classes such as masculine and feminine (French, Hebrew), masculine, feminine, and neuter (Old English, German), animate and inanimate (American Indian languages). Gender may be shown by the form of the article (*el, la* in Spanish, *der, die, das* in German) or by the form of the noun and adjective (Hebrew, Latin, Russian). In modern English, gender is based chiefly on sex differentiation and indicated by the meaning of words (*man/woman, niece/nephew, hen/rooster*) and certain noun endings (*-ess* and *-or, -us* and *-a*, as in *actor/actress, alumnus/alumna*), except in pronouns, where the distinction is between *he/him/his, she/her*, and *it*.

genitive a grammatical case used to show possession, source, or origin. In Modern English, the genitive relationship is shown in nouns by the ending *'s* as well as by the preposition *of* and in pronouns by the genitive forms *my, mine, her, hers*, etc.; in Latin words, where the full form of the stem is obscured by the nominative, the genitive form is frequently given, as in *rēx* (genitive *rēgis*) king.

German the West Germanic language of Germany, Austria, and parts of Switzerland, especially High German.

Germanic a branch of Indo-European customarily divided into East Germanic (Gothic), North Germanic (the Scandinavian languages), and West Germanic (English, Frisian, Dutch, German).

gerund 1 a verb form in English ending in *-ing* and used as a noun, as in *Dancing and acting are fine arts*. **2** a Latin verbal noun ending in *-andum* or *-endum*, used only in the singular number and in four cases (genitive, dative, accusative, and ablative).

gerundive (in Latin and certain other languages) a word functioning as an adjective but having characteristics of a verb; a verbal adjective. Unlike the gerund in Latin, a gerundive is used with both numbers and in all cases. *Example: cōficiendās* for accomplishing (or to accomplish).

gloss a word or words inserted into a text to explain or translate a difficult or foreign word or phrase.

Goidelic a division of the Celtic languages comprising Irish, Gaelic, and Manx.

Gothic the east Germanic language of the Goths who settled mainly in eastern and southern Europe and, with the Vandals, invaded the Roman Empire from about 200 to 400 A.D. The Gothic language essentially died out in Europe in the 1500's.

gradation = ablaut.

grade a change in the vowel in an ablaut series to show a change in function or meaning, as in the principal parts of English strong verbs, such as *ring, rang, rung*, and *ride, rode, ridden*.

grapheme the smallest significant unit of a written language;

any form of a letter or combination of letters that represents a speech sound. Compare **PHONEME**, **MORPHEME**.

Great Vowel Shift a series of sound shifts which occurred in certain vowels during the late Middle English period to about 1600, resulting in the development of the Modern English vowel system. The two highest Middle English vowels, (ē), (ū), became diphthongs (ī) and (ou) respectively, while the long vowels shifted upwards: Middle English (ā) became (ē), (ä) became (ā), and (ō) became (ū).

Greek the Hellenic language of Greece, or a particular dialect or form of it, especially Attic. Classical Greek was the language until about 300 A.D., Late Greek until about 700 A.D., Medieval Greek until about 1500 A.D., and Modern Greek began to develop about 1500. The Greek of the New Testament represents a later stage of the language than that of the Classical writers.

Grimm's Law a phonetic law describing the systematic sound shift of certain Indo-European consonants that occurred in the Germanic languages: Indo-European *bh, dh, gh* became Germanic *b, d, g*; Indo-European *p, t, k* became Germanic *f, th, h*; Indo-European *b, d, g* became Germanic *p, t, k*. Compare *Verner's law*.

Guarani a South American Indian language spoken mainly in Paraguay and constituting the southern branch of Tupi-Guarani.

Gujarati an Indic language spoken mainly in the state of Gujarat, western India.

Gullah a dialect of English spoken by blacks living along the coast of South Carolina, Georgia, some offshore islands, and northeastern Florida, containing elements from African languages.

Gypsy = Romany.

Haitian Creole the dialect of French, with many structural elements from African languages, spoken in Haiti.

Hamitic the branch of Afro-Asiatic comprising ancient Egyptian, Berber, and Cushitic.

Hawaiian the Polynesian language of Hawaii.

Hebrew the ancient Semitic language of the Jews, a modern form of which is spoken in Israel.

Hellenic the branch of Indo-European that includes the various dialects of Greek.

High German the West Germanic dialect or dialects of central and southern Germany, from which the literary and official language of modern Germany developed.

Hindi an Indic language of northern India that is a literary and official language of the Republic of India. It is closely related to Urdu.

Hittite the Indo-European (Anatolian) language of the Hittites, an ancient people of Asia Minor and Syria whose civilization dates from about 1900 B.C. to about 1200 B.C.

homograph one of two or more words having the same spelling but a difference in meaning and origin, as *bow* (bou) bend, *bow* (bō).

homonym 1 one of two or more words having the same pronunciation but a difference in meaning and origin, as *mail* letters, *male* masculine. 2 = homograph.

homophone one of two or more words having the same pronunciation but a difference in meaning and sometimes in spelling, as *eight* and *ate*.

Hottentot a Khoisan language spoken mainly in Southwest Africa (Namibia).

Hungarian the Finno-Ugric language of Hungary. Also called **MAGYAR**.

hypercorrection = overcorrection.

Ibo a Kwa language spoken chiefly in Nigeria.

Icelandic the Scandinavian language of Iceland.

imitative imitating or suggesting a sound. Words like *babble*, *bump*, *buzz*, *clash*, *dash*, *flick*, *bobolink*, *pewee*, and *pewit* are imitative or of imitative origin. Also called *echoic* and *onomatopoeic*.

imperative a verbal mood which expresses a command, request, warning, prohibition, etc. In English, a verb in the imperative mood has the form of the infinitive (Go! Look out! Let's begin. God bless you.), but in some languages it has a present, past, and future tense.

inceptive or **inchoative** a verbal aspect expressing the beginning of an action.

Indic the branch of Indo-European that includes Prakrit, Pali, and Sanskrit and its descendants, among which are Hindi, Urdu, Gujarati, and Marathi.

indicative a verbal mood which expresses a statement of fact or simple declaration, such as "I am leaving" or "It rained all night."

Indo-European the assumed prehistoric language family from which many of the languages spoken in India, western Asia, and Europe are derived. Branches of Indo-European include Indic, Iranian, Baltic, Slavic, Germanic, Italic, Hellenic, and Celtic. Such independent languages as Albanian, Armenian, Tocharian, and Hittite also belong to the Indo-European family. Also called **PROTO-INDO-EUROPEAN**.

Indo-Iranian a division of Indo-European comprising the Indic and Iranian branches.

Indonesian 1 a branch of Austronesian, including Malay,

Indonesian, Tagalog, and Malagasy. **2** the official language of Indonesia, based chiefly on Malay with elements from other related languages of the area.

infinitive a form of the verb not inflected for person or number. In English, the infinitive form may or may not be preceded by *to* and can function as a noun (*To swim across the lake is his goal*), adjective (*They had money to burn*), or adverb (*He went home to rest*). In some languages, such as Hungarian, the infinitive has a personal ending which expresses person and number.

infix an element inserted within a word to change its meaning or to make another word. *Example:* In Tagalog, *-um-* and *-in-* are infixes.

inflected (of a form, word, or language) showing or characterized by inflection. —**inflection 1** the addition of an ending or suffix to the stem of a word to show gender, number, case, person, tense, mood, voice, or comparison. **2** the inflected form of a word.

inherited. See DEVELOP.

instrumental a grammatical case that indicates the instrument or means by which something is done. *Example:* Russian *stolom* by means of the table, from *stol* table.

intensive a word, prefix, or other morpheme that gives force or emphasis to the meaning of a word. *Example:* The prefix *re-* in *repine* and *replenish* is an intensive.

intrusive a speech sound that develops between syllables or words, generally for easier pronunciation. *Example:* The *d* in English *thunder* is an intrusive, since in Old English the word was *thunor*.

Inuit or **Innu** = Eskimo.

Iranian the branch of Indo-European that includes Persian, Old Persian, and Avestan, Pashto, and Kurdish.

Irish the Celtic language of Ireland. Also called *Irish Gaelic*.

Iroquoian a North American Indian language family including such languages as Cherokee, Mohawk, and Oneida.

irregular (of a word) not inflected in the usual way. *Examples:* *sing* and *lie* (recline) are verbs with the irregular conjugations *sang*, *sung* and *lay*, *lain*; *goose* and *man* are nouns with the irregular plural forms *geese* and *men*.

Italian the Romance language of Italy and one of the official languages of Switzerland. Modern literary Italian is essentially Tuscan, one of many dialects of Italy. However, the development of the Florentine dialect in comparatively recent times has led some to characterize Italian as the Tuscan spoken by the Romans (*lingua toscana in bocca romana*).

Italic a branch of Indo-European including Latin and other ancient dialects of Italy, such as Oscan and Umbrian.

Japanese the language of Japan, having no definite relationship to any other language, written in a syllabic script, generally refashioned from Chinese characters (either *kana* and *katakana* or *hiragana*).

Javanese the Malayo-Polynesian language of Java.

juncture the way in which sounds and sound sequences are joined together in the stream of speech, often not corresponding with the conventional division between words. *Examples:* *not at all*, pronounced (no'tətôl'); *nitrate* (nī'trât) and *night rate* (nīt'rât'). Juncture has been responsible for such misdivisions as *an apron* (for a *napron*), *an adder* (for a *nadder*), and *a newt* (for an *ewt*).

Kentish the Old English dialect spoken originally by the Jutes who settled in the kingdom of Kent.

Khmer the Mon-Khmer language of Cambodia.

Khoisan a group of languages of southern Africa, including Bushman and Hottentot, characterized by the use of click consonants.

Kikuyu a Bantu language of Kenya.

Kirghiz the Turkic language of a Mongolian people living in the western part of central Asia.

Korean the language of Korea, having no definite relationship to any other language.

Kpelle the Mande language of Liberia.

Kurdish an Iranian language spoken mainly in Turkey, Iran, Iraq, and Syria.

Kwa a branch of Niger-Congo, spoken along the coast of the Gulf of Guinea, including the Ivory Coast and extending into Nigeria. Kwa includes Akan, Ewe, Ibo, Twi, and Yoruba.

Kwakwaka'wakw the Wakashan language of an Indian people of the northern Pacific coast.

language family = family.

langue language as a social or conventional system or code used by a speech community, as distinguished from *parole* (individual speech).

Langue d'Oc, Langue d'Oïl. See PROVENÇAL.

Lao or Laotian the Sino-Tibetan language of Laos.

Lapp or Lappish the Finno-Ugric language of Lapland, a region in northern Norway, Sweden, Finland, and northwestern Russia.

Late Greek the Greek language from about 300 to 700 A.D.

Late Latin the Latin language from about 300 to 700 A.D.

Latin the Italic language of the ancient Romans and the

ancestor of the Romance languages. See also OLD LATIN, LATE LATIN, MEDIEVAL LATIN, NEW LATIN, VULGAR LATIN. The Latin translation of the Bible, known as the *Vulgate*, represents a later stage of Latin than that of the Classical writers.

Latvian the Baltic language of Latvia. Also called LETTISH.

learned borrowing 1 a Latin word or form borrowed by a Romance language, usually with slight phonetic alteration, as distinguished from a borrowing that has undergone changes in form according to the system of phonetic change in the borrowing language, or an inherited word or form. Learned borrowings come either from actual literary remains of Classical Latin or from the Latin of the learned classes of the middle ages (Medieval Latin). 2 the process by which such words were borrowed into French and other Romance languages.

Lettish = Latvian.

lingua franca a language used as a medium of communication by people speaking different languages. Medieval Latin was a lingua franca. Swahili is the lingua franca of eastern Africa. Compare CREOLE, PIDGIN.

Lithuanian the Baltic language of Lithuania.

loan translation a word or phrase that is a literal translation of a foreign expression. Examples: English *superman* is a loan translation of German *Übermensch*. *Marriage of convenience* is a loan translation of French *mariage de convenance*. Also called CALQUE.

loan word = borrowing.

locative a grammatical case used to indicate location, as in Latin *domi* at home, *Rōmae* at Rome.

Low German the German dialect or group of dialects of northern Germany, often called Plattdeutsch, distinguished from High German.

Magyar = Hungarian.

Mahratti = Marathi.

Malagasy the Indonesian language of Madagascar.

Malay the Indonesian language of the Malay Peninsula and nearby islands.

Malayo-Polynesian = Austronesian.

Malinke a Mande language spoken in Senegal, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, and Ivory Coast.

Maltese the Semitic language of Malta, developed from Arabic with an admixture of Romance elements.

Mandarin the dialect of Chinese regarded as standard, based on the pronunciation of Beijing.

Mande or **Mandingo** a branch of Niger-Congo including several languages widely used in western Africa, such as Malinke and Kpelle.

Manx the Celtic language spoken on the Isle of Man until recently.

Maori the Polynesian language of the native inhabitants of New Zealand.

Marathi an Indic language spoken chiefly in western India. Also spelled MAHRATTI.

Mayan or **Maya** a language family descended from the language of the ancient Maya people, consisting of a number of languages spoken in Mexico and Central America, especially Guatemala and Belize.

Mbundu the Bantu language of Angola, comprising Umbundu, spoken in the southern part of Angola, and Kimbundu, spoken in the north.

Medieval Greek the Greek language during the Middle Ages, from about 700 A.D. to about 1500.

Medieval Latin the Latin language, especially of European intellectuals during the Middle Ages, from about 700 A.D. to about 1500. During this period (perhaps by 900) Latin ceased to be anyone's mother tongue in the countries where the Romance languages developed. The syntax and meanings of Medieval Latin were often much closer to modern languages (from which Medieval Latin borrowed liberally) than Classical Latin. Compare ANGLO-LATIN.

Melanesian a branch of Austronesian that includes the languages of Melanesia (the Solomon Islands, Fiji, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, etc.).

Mercian the Old English dialect originally spoken by the Angles in the kingdom of Mercia in central England.

metathesis the transposition of sounds or letters in a word, especially one in which a vowel and a consonant exchange position, as in English *bird* from Old English *bridd*, *ask* from Old English *ācs(ian)*, *burn* from Middle English *bren(nen)*. The process is seen in modern speech in "aks" for ask.

Mexican Spanish the dialect of Spanish spoken and written in Mexico.

Micmac the Algonquian language of an American Indian people living in the Maritime Provinces of Canada.

Micronesian the branch of Austronesian that includes the languages of Micronesia (Guam, Kiribati, Nauru, etc.).

Middle Dutch the Dutch language from about 1100 to 1500.

Middle English the English language from about 1100 to 1475 or 1500. During the Middle English period there were extensive changes in pronunciation and many of the grammatical distinctions that had begun to disappear in late Old English became obsolete. The word stock was completely altered by the introduction of words borrowed from French that replaced Old English formations.

Middle Flemish the Flemish language from about 1100 to 1500.

Middle French the French language from about 1350 or 1400 to 1600.

Middle High German the High German language spoken in central and southern Germany from about 1100 to 1450 or 1500.

Middle Indic = Prakrit.

Middle Irish the Irish language from about 900 to about 1400.

Middle Low German the Low German language spoken in Germany from about 1100 to 1450 or 1500.

Middle Welsh the Welsh language from about 1150 to about 1500.

misdivision a mistaken or incorrect division of a word, as *an adder* instead of *a nadder*, a nickname for Middle English *an eke name*, etc. See *juncture*. The process is found in French *lingot* (a contraction of the theoretical form *le ingot*) from English *ingot*.

Miskito American Indian language spoken on the eastern coast of Nicaragua and Honduras.

Modern Dutch the Dutch language from about 1500 to the present.

Modern English the English language from about 1475 or 1500 to the present. It is sometimes divided into Early Modern English (1500–1700) and Late Modern English (1700 to the present).

Modern French the French language from about 1600 to the present.

Modern German the German language from about 1450 or 1500 to the present, developed from High German and distinguished from *Platdeutsch*.

Modern Greek the Greek language from about 1500 to the present.

Mon the Mon-Khmer language of a people living in southeastern Burma (Myanmar), not culturally related to the native Burmese.

Mongolian 1 the Altaic language of Mongolia. **2** a branch of Altaic that includes the language of Mongolia and several closely related languages or dialects spoken in Russia and in northwestern China.

Mon-Khmer a language family of southeastern Asia that includes Khmer (Cambodian), Mon (spoken in Burma or Myanmar), and several other languages spoken in parts of China, India, Burma (Myanmar), and Vietnam.

mood the form of a verb which indicates the manner in which the act or state expressed by the verb is performed. See, for example, *INDICATIVE*, *IMPERATIVE*, *SUBJUNCTIVE*.

morpheme a minimal meaningful form in a language. Morphemes may be words, affixes, or endings that show inflection. *Examples*: The word *books* has two morphemes, *book* and *-s* (*book* is a *free morpheme*, *-s* is a *bound morpheme* since it cannot occur as a separate word). Compare *PHONEME*.

Munda a group of languages spoken in scattered areas of northern and central India, of unknown relations but predating Indo-European and sometimes linked with Mon-Khmer.

Muskogean a North American Indian language family originally of the southeastern United States, including the languages of the Choctaw, Chickasaw, Creek, and Seminole.

Nahuatl the Uto-Aztecan language spoken by the Aztecs, Toltecs, and other American Indian peoples of central Mexico and parts of Central America, and their descendants. It is the chief Indian language of Mexico.

native (of a word, etc.) not a borrowing, but belonging to or developed from the earliest known elements of a language.

naturalize to adapt (a borrowed word, phrase, etc.), so that it conforms to the spelling patterns or phonetic system of the borrowing language; to integrate into the language.

Navaho or **Navajo** the Athapaskan language of an American Indian people living in New Mexico, Arizona, and Utah.

neologism a newly formed or borrowed word, phrase, or meaning, usually not yet widely used.

Nepali the Indic language of Nepal, also spoken in the Indian states of West Bengal and Assam, and in Bhutan and Sikkim.

New Latin the Latin language after 1500, containing words formed from Greek, Latin, and other elements. New Latin is used in supplying new words to the sciences, especially biology and medicine.

New Zealand English the form of English spoken and written in New Zealand.

Niger-Congo the major language family in Africa, including Bantu, Kwa, and many other West African languages.

nominative a grammatical case showing a noun or adjective as the subject of a sentence. The nominative is usually a primary form, without any inflection indicating syntactical relationship. The modern English pronouns *I*, *he*, *she*, *we*, *they*, and *who* are in the nominative case. Compare *OBLIQUE*.

nonce word a word coined specifically for an occasion, and often recorded in a single occurrence, as Coleridge's use of *mammonolatry* worship of money, formed by analogy with *idolatry*.

nonstandard not conforming to the currently accepted pronunciation, grammar, or vocabulary of a language.

Nootka the Wakashan language of an American Indian people living on Vancouver Island and in northwestern Washington.

Norman-French = Anglo-French.

Northumbrian the Old English dialect spoken originally by the Angles in the kingdom of Northumbria.

Norwegian the Scandinavian language of Norway. There are two standard languages in Norway: *Bokmål*, or *Dano-*

Norwegian, formerly called Riksmål "state language," the language that developed from Danish and replaced Old Norse, and *Nynorsk* "New Norwegian," earlier known as Landsmål "country language" that developed from the various dialects spoken in Norway. The two forms are gradually being introduced as a combined form called *Sammorsk*.

objective a grammatical case showing the direct object of a verb or the object of a preposition. A direct object is found in "The boy threw *the ball*." An indirect object is found in "The boy threw the ball *to me*."

oblique of or in any grammatical case except the nominative and vocative. Oblique cases include the accusative, dative, genitive, ablative, etc. In Old French, the oblique case combined the function of all the non-nominative cases, so that Old French had only two cases, nominative and oblique. The Greek grammarians assumed that the nominative was the original form and that other cases had developed or "fallen away" from the nominative, thus becoming the *oblique* cases.

Occitan. See PROVENÇAL.

Ojibwa the Algonquian language of an American Indian people living in the area around Lake Superior.

Old Church Slavic or **Old Church Slavonic** = Old Slavic.

Old Dutch the Dutch language before 1100.

Old English the West Germanic language of the English people before 1100. It included four principal dialects: Mercian, Northumbrian, West Saxon, and Kentish. Mercian and Northumbrian are often grouped together as Anglian. Old English differed from Middle English and Modern English in some fundamental ways in that it had many inflections, four grammatical cases, seven groups of strong verbs, and grammatical gender. In Old English thousands of words were derivatives or compounds that had been elaborated to provide equivalents for the scientific and philosophical concepts found in Latin. Most of these were replaced or swept away in Middle English times. Also called ANGLO-SAXON.

Old Flemish the Flemish language before 1100.

Old French the French language from about 800 A.D. to about 1350 or 1400. Old French literature had a great influence in medieval Europe.

Old Frisian the Frisian language before 1500. Old Frisian texts date from the middle of the 1200's.

Old High German the form of the German language used in southern Germany before 1100. Modern standard German is descended from Old High German.

Old Icelandic the Icelandic language before 1500. Because it is extensively recorded in notable literary works such as the sagas of the Vikings, Old Icelandic is sometimes referred to as the literary language of the North.

Old Irish the Irish language before 1200.

Old Latin the Latin language before the 100's B.C.

Old Low German the form of the German language found in northern Germany and the Netherlands before 1100.

Old Norse Old Icelandic and Old Norwegian collectively, especially as representing the North Germanic language of the Scandinavians before the 1300's.

Old North French the dialect of northern France before the 1500's, especially that of coastal Normandy and Picardy.

Old Norwegian the Norwegian language before the 1500's.

Old Persian the ancient Iranian language, recorded in cuneiform inscriptions.

Old Provençal the form of Provençal before the 1500's, widely known as one of the principal languages used by the troubadours. Old Provençal literature had a great influence in neighboring areas of northern France, Italy and Catalonia.

Old Prussian an extinct Baltic language preserved in records of the 1400's and 1500's.

Old Saxon the form of Old Low German spoken by Low German tribes in northwestern Germany before 1100.

Old Slavic a South Slavic language preserved in Eastern Orthodox religious texts of the 800's and 900's A.D., still used in some Orthodox Churches; also called OLD CHURCH SLAVIC, and OLD CHURCH SLAVONIC.

Old Spanish the Spanish language before the 1500's.

onomatopoeic = imitative.

Oscan the ancient Italic language of Campania, a region in southern Italy, closely related to Umbrian and more distantly to Latin.

overcorrection a change in pronunciation or grammar mistakenly introduced by a person in an effort to avoid supposedly "incorrect" forms of speech. The sentences *I feel badly*, *Be there at 8 sharply*, and the phrase *between you and I* are examples. Also called HYPERCORRECTION.

palatalization the pronunciation of a consonant with the front or middle of the tongue near or touching the hard palate, as in pronouncing the initial vowel sound of *Tuesday* with a y-sound at the beginning. Palatalization explains the development of [ch] in Italian *cento* from [k] in Latin *centum* hundred.

Pali an Indic language found in the sacred writings of Buddhism and still existing as a literary language in Sri Lanka, Burma (Myanmar), and Thailand.

Panjabi an Indic language of the Punjab region of northwestern India that is the major language of the Sikh religion. Also spelled PUNJABI.

paradigm the set of all the inflectional forms of a word or class of words. *Examples:* *run, runs, ran, runner, running; walk, walks, walked, walking; dog, dog's, dogs, dogs', dogged, dogging, etc.*

parole language as spoken and understood by an individual; individual speech, as distinguished from *langue* (language as a system or code).

partial translation a borrowed word or phrase, part of which is translated into the borrowing language. *Examples:* *Feldspar* is a partial translation of German *Feldspath*; *songfest* is a partial translation of German *Sängerfest*.

participle a verb form that has both the character of a verb and of an adjective. *Examples:* The present participle *walking* functions as an adjective in *a walking encyclopedia*. The past participle *broken* functions as an adjective in *a broken promise*.

Pashto the Iranian language of Afghanistan and of the Pathan tribes of Pakistan. Also called **AFGHAN**.

passive showing the subject of a verb as acted upon. *Example:* the verb *was broken* in *The dish was broken by him* is in the passive voice. Compare **ACTIVE**.

pattern the manner in which the phonemes, morphemes, etc., of a language are arranged or fall into certain classes, groups, or units according to their regularities of form or function. Nouns, verbs, adjectives, etc., are classified by pattern.

pejorative (a word or phrase) having or showing a worsening of meaning, often disparaging, depreciating, or derogatory. English words that acquired pejorative meanings are *knave*, *boor*, and *silly*.

Pennsylvania Dutch = Pennsylvania German.

Pennsylvania German a dialect of High German with an admixture of English, spoken in southeastern Pennsylvania by descendants of immigrants from southern Germany and Switzerland. Also known as **PENNSYLVANIA DUTCH**, as a holdover of the German use *deutsch* meaning "German," transformed to the known English word *Dutch*.

perfective a verbal aspect in some languages, such as ancient Greek, that expresses completion of action, whether in the past, present, or future.

Persian the Iranian language of Persia. Though an Indo-European language, Persian makes use of the Arabic alphabet. Also called **FARSI**.

Phoenician the ancient Semitic language of Phoenicia, an ancient kingdom in the eastern Mediterranean. The unknown language of Carthage was probably related to Phoenician.

phoneme one of the distinctive sounds in a language that is the smallest meaningful unit of speech, such as the /p/ in *pit* and the /b/ in *bit*. Phonemes are comprised of slight variations called allophones, such as the *p* of *ship* and the *p* of *pin*. Compare **MORPHEME**.

phonetic having to do with or representing the sounds of speech.

phonetic law a statement that explains a sound shift or other regular phonetic change in a language or group of languages. *Grimm's law* is an example of a phonetic law.

Phrygian the Indo-European language of Phrygia, an ancient country in central and northwestern Asia Minor.

pidgin a language with a reduced grammar and vocabulary, used as a trade or communications jargon between people not having a common language. Pidgins often become the native and sole language of a group, at which time they are known as **CREOLES**.

Pidgin English any of several varieties of English having a simplified grammatical structure and often a mixed vocabulary, used in western Africa, Australia, Melanesia, and formerly in China, as a language of trade or communication between natives and foreigners. **PIDGIN** is also found in reference to a simplified form of French and in West African Pidgin and *bêche-de-mer*, a bartering language of the South Pacific.

Pilipino the official language of the Philippines, based on Tagalog. Since there is no (f) in Tagalog, Spanish *Filipino* became *Pilipino*.

Piman a branch of Uto-Aztecan that includes several languages spoken in southern Arizona and northern Mexico.

pitch the highness or lowness of a sound or tone, important in the study of intonation patterns and juncture.

Plattdeutsch the speech of northern Germany, now often considered a nonstandard dialect, and distinguished from Modern German; modern spoken Low German.

Polabian a West Slavic language formerly spoken in the basin of the Elbe River and on the Baltic coast of northern Germany; extinct since the mid-1700's.

Polish the West Slavic language of Poland.

Polynesian a branch of Austronesian that includes the languages of Polynesia, such as Hawaiian, Tahitian, Samoan, and Maori.

popular etymology = folk etymology.

portmanteau word = blend.

Portuguese the Romance language of Portugal. It is the chief language of Brazil, and also known in such former Portuguese colonies as Angola, Mozambique, Cape Verde, Timor and Goa (in India). A variety of Portuguese called Galician (or Gallego) is spoken in northwestern Spain; in medieval times Galician was an important literary language.

positive the basic form of an adjective or adverb as distinct from the comparative and superlative. *Example:* positive *quick*, comparative *quicker*, superlative *quickest*.

possessive a grammatical case indicating possession or origin, generally equivalent to the genitive.

Prakrit any of the Indic languages or dialects spoken in ancient and medieval times in northern and central India, exclusive of Sanskrit. Also called MIDDLE INDIC.

prefix a syllable or syllables put at the beginning of a word to change its meaning or to make another word, as *pre-* in *prefabricate* and *un-* in *unlike*. Compare INFIX, SUFFIX.

preterit a tense form that expresses occurrence in the past; past tense.

privative a prefix, suffix, or other word element expressing deprivation, denial, or absence of something. The prefixes *a-*⁴ as used in *amoral*, *atonal*, and *un-* as in *unnatural*, *undone* are privative.

proper name the name of a particular person, place, or thing, written in English with an initial capital letter.

Proto-Germanic the hypothetical language that was the ancestor of the Germanic languages. Branches of Proto-Germanic include Scandinavian (or North Germanic), West Germanic, and Gothic (or East Germanic).

Proto-Indo-European = Indo-European.

Provençal the Romance language of Provence, a region in southeastern France bordering on the Mediterranean. Provençal is also used as a synonym of *Occitan* or *Langue d'Oc* to designate the various Romance dialects of southern France, as distinguished from *Langue d'Oïl* of northern France (*Oc* and *Oïl* being the word for "yes" in the two parts of France).

Punjabi = Panjabi.

quantity the length of a sound or syllable in speech, conventionally differentiated by *long*, as in the long *e* of *see*, and *short*, as in the short *e* of *let*.

Quechua a South American Indian language spoken in Colombia, Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador, Argentina, and Chile. It was once the language of the Inca Empire.

reconstruction 1 the process of reconstructing or re-forming (a word or other part of a prehistoric language) by comparing shared features of recorded languages that presumably descended from the hypothetical language. **2** a reconstructed form, usually indicated by an asterisk (*). All Proto-Germanic forms are reconstructions.

reduced form a word formed by shortening of a full or longer form, as *can't* from *cannot*, and *flu* from *influenza*. Also called CONTRACTION.

reduction 1 the process of forming a contraction or reduced form. **2** = reduced form.

reduplication repetition of a syllable or the initial part of a syllable. In English, words like *chit-chat* and *razzle-dazzle* are reduplications.

reflex a word or form corresponding to and usually derived from another comparable form. *Example:* Italian *assenza* is a reflex of Latin *absentia*; *-enza* is the Italian reflex of the Latin suffix *-entia*.

reflexive a pronoun that refers back to the subject, or a verb that implies action by the subject on itself.

replacement 1 the deliberate alteration of a word or form to make it conform to its earliest or classical form, as in the Middle French period, when many old, regularly derived or inherited words of the language were refashioned to conform with their Classical Latin or Late Latin forms. The process of replacement continued in English with the Latinization of borrowed French words (see, for example, words in *ad-*, such as *advance*) even after the practice waned in French. **2** a word or form altered in this way.

Rhaeto-Romanic or **Rhaeto-Romansh** a group of Romance dialects spoken in the Rhaetian Alps of Switzerland and adjoining regions of the Tyrol and northern Italy.

rhotacism the use or substitution of [r] in place of some other speech sound, especially s [z]. The difference in such related pairs as English *was* and *were*, *lose* and *forlorn* is the result of rhotacism. Rhotacism also occurs in the substitution of [r] for [l] in Portuguese (compare *branco* for Spanish *blanco* white) and in the Japanese pronunciation of foreign words with [l] (compare *Buraziru* Brazil).

rhyming slang a type of slang in which a word is replaced by a phrase which rhymes with it, as "hit or miss" for *kiss*, "bread and honey" for *money*, etc.

Romance the group of European languages that developed from Vulgar Latin. French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Romanian, Provençal, Rhaeto-Romanic, and Catalan are Romance languages. See also GALLO-ROMANCE.

Romanian or **Rumanian** the Romance language of Romania. A variety of Romanian known as Moldavian is spoken in Moldavia.

Romany the Indic language of the Romany (Gypsy) people, containing loanwords from Persian, Greek, Armenian, and other languages.

root 1 = stem. **2** a reconstructed form, as in Proto-Germanic, from which words with similar structure or meaning in cognate languages are thought to have developed. Also called *base*.

Russian the East Slavic language of Russia, the most widely used Slavic language.

Samoan a Polynesian language spoken in Western Samoa (an island country) and American Samoa.

Samoyed a branch of Uralic comprising several languages of northern Siberia and northeastern Russia.

Sanskrit the ancient sacred and literary language of India, important in the study of Indo-European. Its introduction to Western scholars in the late 1700's led to the development of modern comparative linguistics.

Scandinavian the historical and modern North Germanic languages of Denmark, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, and the Faeroe Islands, such as Old Danish and modern Danish, Old Icelandic and modern Icelandic, etc.

Scottish a dialect of British English spoken in Scotland, especially in the Lowlands.

Scottish Gaelic = Gaelic.

Semitic the branch of Afro-Asiatic comprising Hebrew, Arabic, Aramaic, Syriac, Ethiopic, Phoenician, and Assyrian.

Serbian the form of Serbo-Croatian spoken by Serbs and written in the Cyrillic alphabet.

Serbo-Croatian a South Slavic language spoken by the Serbs and Croats.

Setswana the Bantu language of Botswana, in southern Africa, closely related to Sotho.

shortening = clipped form.

Sindhi an Indic language spoken in southern Pakistan and northwestern India.

Singhalese or **Sinhalese** the Indic language of Sri Lanka.

Sino-Tibetan a linguistic family that includes Chinese, Tibeto-Burman, Thai, and Lao.

Siouan a North American Indian language family of the northern Midwest, including the languages of the Sioux, Crow, Omaha, and Osage.

Slavic a branch of Indo-European customarily divided into West Slavic (Polish, Czech, Slovak, Wendish, and the extinct Polabian), East Slavic (Russian, Ukrainian), and South Slavic (Bulgarian, Serbo-Croatian, and Slovene).

Slovak the West Slavic language of Slovakia.

Slovene the South Slavic language of Slovenia, closely related to Serbo-Croatian.

Somali the Cushitic language of Somalia.

Sotho the Bantu language of Lesotho and the western border of Natal, closely related to Setswana.

sound shift a systematic change in the sounds of a language or a group of languages at a particular time, such as the GREAT VOWEL SHIFT in English.

Spanish the Romance language of Spain, and the language of most Latin-American countries. Originally the language of

Castile the term CASTILIAN has become synonymous with *Spanish*.

spelling pronunciation a pronunciation influenced by the written form of a word, as the pronunciation of *comptroller* as (kəmpt'rō'lər) and *often* as (of'tən).

stem the part of a word to which inflectional and other endings or prefixes are added and in which changes occur. *Examples:* In English *run* is the stem of *running* and *runner*; *want* is the stem of *unwanted*. The stem of Sanskrit *bhārati* he bears, *bhāratha* you bear, and *bhāranti* they bear, is *bhāra-*.

stress a greater force or emphasis given to a sound, syllable, or word. Also called ACCENT.

strong verb a verb inflected for tense by a vowel change within the stem rather than by adding inflectional endings. *Examples:* rise, rose, risen; ring, rang, rung. Compare WEAK VERB.

subjunctive a verbal mood which expresses a wish or a state or act as possible, conditional, hypothetical, or dependent, rather than as actual.

Sudanic a family of languages of northern Africa that are not related either to the Bantu or Hamitic languages. Sudanic languages are spoken chiefly in Sudan, Chad, Kenya, and Uganda.

suffix a syllable or syllables put at the end of a word to change its meaning, make another word, or indicate person, number, tense, or grammatical relationship to other words. Compare INFIX, PREFIX.

Sumerian a non-Semitic language of ancient Sumer (a region in the lower part of Mesopotamia), recorded in cuneiform inscriptions.

superlative the third and highest degree of comparison of an adjective or adverb. *Examples:* *Best* is the superlative of *good*, *least* is the superlative of *little*. Compare POSITIVE, COMPARATIVE.

suppletive serving as a substitute for a form missing from a set of inflected forms. *Examples:* the past tense *went* is a suppletive form in the paradigm *go, went, gone*. Latin *lātus* is a suppletive past participle of the verb *ferre* to carry.

Swahili the Bantu language of eastern Africa that is the official language of Tanzania and Kenya, also spoken in Zaire, Uganda, Rwanda, and Burundi. Swahili has borrowed many Arabic and other foreign words.

Swedish the Scandinavian language of Sweden and part of Finland, where it is the second official language.

syncope the loss of a weakly stressed sound or syllable from the middle of a word, as in *ne'er* for *never*. Compare APOCOPE, APHESIS.

Syriac the ancient Semitic language of Syria, a dialect of Aramaic.

taboo avoidance of the use of a particular word (*taboo word*) regarded as extremely offensive to good taste or morality, often leading to the word's replacement by a euphemism.

Tagalog the Indonesian language of the Philippines. Pilipino, the official language of the Philippines, is a form of Tagalog.

Tahitian the Polynesian language of Tahiti.

Tai a branch of Sino-Tibetan that includes Lao, Thai, and several other languages spoken in Burma (Myanmar), China, and Vietnam.

Tamil a Dravidian language spoken in southern India, Sri Lanka, Singapore, and Malaysia.

Tatar or **Tartar** a Turkic language, spoken in the Volga region of European Russia and in western Siberia.

Telugu a Dravidian language spoken in southeastern India.

Temne the Niger-Congo language of Sierra Leone.

tense the form of a verb that shows the time of the action expressed by the verb. English has present, past, and future; present perfect, past perfect, and future perfect.

Thai the Sino-Tibetan language of Thailand.

thematic vowel a vowel occurring between the root and the inflectional ending of a word in Latin, Greek, and some other Indo-European languages.

Tibetan the Sino-Tibetan language of Tibet, closely related to Burmese.

Tibeto-Burman or **Tibeto-Burmese** a branch of Sino-Tibetan that includes Tibetan, Burmese, and a large number of unwritten languages of southeastern Asia.

tone a speech sound of definite pitch and character, used in tone languages to distinguish words that are otherwise pronounced identically. Chinese has four tones: high level, rising, low, and falling.

transcription a representation of speech by means of phonetic or phonemic symbols.

transliteration the representation of the letters, ideograms, or other symbols of one writing system by equivalents in another. Rendering Arabic or Greek characters in approximately phonetically equivalent Roman letters is an example of transliteration.

Tshiluba a Bantu language used widely in Zaire as a lingua franca.

Tungusic a branch of Altaic including several languages spoken in central and eastern Siberia and in northwestern China. It includes Manchu, the now almost extinct literary language of the Manchu Dynasty.

Tupi a South American Indian language spoken in the Amazon Valley of Brazil. Tupi constitutes the northern branch of Tupi-Guarani.

Tupi-Guarani an American Indian language family of central South America, found especially along the lower Amazon. Tupi is the principal language of the northern branch of the Amazon and Guarani of the southern branch.

Turkic a branch of the Altaic language family spoken in Turkey and south central Asia. Turkic includes such languages as Turkish, Tatar, Kirghiz, Uzbek, and Yakut.

Turkish the Turkic language of Turkey.

Twí the Kwa language of Ghana.

Ugric a division of Finno-Ugric that includes Hungarian and Vogul.

Ukrainian the East Slavic language of Ukraine.

Umbrian the ancient Italic language of Umbria, a region in central Italy, closely related to Oscan and more distantly to Latin.

umlaut a change in a vowel sound in the Germanic languages because of the influence of another vowel in the following syllable. Umlaut is responsible for such pairs in English as *man-men*, *foot-feet*, *gold-gild*, in which the vowels of *men*, *feet*, and *gild* are caused by vowels which have since disappeared; e.g. *fōti* (fōeti) feet became (fāt) and then (fēt) through the *Great Vowel Shift*.

unvoiced uttered without vibration of the vocal chords, as the *s* in *sit*, the *f* in *fit* and the *th* in *thin*; voiceless. Compare *voiced*.

Ural-Altaic a hypothetical language family comprising the Altaic and Uralic families, based chiefly on grammatical (not lexical) correspondences.

Uralic a language family consisting of the Finno-Ugric and Samoyed languages.

Urdu an Indic language, originally a dialect of Hindi, that is the official language of Pakistan. Urdu uses Persian and Arabic loanwords and the Arabic alphabet.

Uto-Aztecan an American Indian language family of the southwestern United States that includes Piman and Nahuatl.

Uzbek a Turkic language of central Asia.

verbal a verb form functioning as: a noun, as in *to paint* (infinitive) is enjoyable; *Painting* (gerund) is an enjoyable pastime; or an adjective, as in a *painting class*.

vernacular 1 a native or indigenous language; the language used by the people of a certain country or place. **2** the everyday and informal language of a speech community, as distinguished from its literary or formal language.

Verner's Law a phonetic law explaining certain apparent exceptions to Grimm's law: Proto-Germanic voiceless sounds such as *f*, *th*, and *s* became voiced *v*, *þ*, *z* when in voiced

surroundings, unless the original Indo-European stress was on the immediately preceding syllable.

Vietnamese the language of Vietnam, having no certain affiliation with any other language. Also called ANNAMENSE.

vocalism **1** the vowel system of a language or dialect. **2** the range of vowels in a particular context. **3** a vocal sound or articulation.

vocalization **1** the voicing of a previously unvoiced sound. **2** the changing of a consonant into a vowel. As *l* is a consonant close in quality to a vowel, it is frequently affected (for example in Italian *piazza* from Latin *platea*, or French *sauter* from Latin *saltāre* to jump).

vocative a case in Latin and some other inflected languages, indicating the person or thing being spoken to, as in Latin *Et tū, Brūte?* You too, Brutus?

Vogul a Ugric language of western Siberia.

voice a verb form that shows whether its subject is active or passive. In English, the passive voice is made with the past participle and some form of the verb *be*, as in *was asked*, *were caught*. In Greek and some other languages a *middle voice*, typically passive in form but active in meaning, expresses reflexive action that affects the subject. Example: Greek *phainesthai* I show myself, is middle voice to *phainein* to show.

voiced uttered with vibration of the vocal chords, as any vowel or such consonants as *b*, *d*, *m*, and *g*. Compare UN-VOICED.

voiceless = unvoiced.

vowel gradation = ablaut.

Vulgar Latin the spoken or popular form of Latin used throughout the later period of the ancient Roman Empire, and the main source of French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, and other Romance languages. Gallo-Romance is considered a development of Vulgar Latin.

Wakashan an American Indian language family of the north-west United States and British Columbia, including Nootka and Kwakiutl.

Walloon a French dialect of Belgium spoken by the Walloons,

a group of people living chiefly in the southern and southeastern parts of Belgium and adjacent regions in France.

weak verb a verb inflected by the addition of regular endings to the stem, rather than by vowel change. In English, weak verbs form the past tense and past participle by the addition of *-d*, *-ed*, or *-t*, as in *dive/dived*, *work/worked*, *dream/dreamt*. Compare STRONG VERB.

Welsh the Celtic language of Wales.

Wendish a West Slavic language spoken in Lusatia, a region in southeastern Germany. The language has two distinct dialects, Upper Wendish (influenced by Czech) and Lower Wendish (influenced by Polish).

West Atlantic a branch of Niger-Congo that includes Fulani and other West African languages.

West Germanic the division of Germanic consisting chiefly of English, Frisian, Dutch, and German.

West Saxon the Old English dialect originally of the Saxons living in the kingdom of Wessex south of the Thames and westward from Surrey and Sussex. Most of the Old English manuscripts existing today are written in West Saxon.

word element a combining form, prefix, suffix, or other element that by addition to a word changes the meaning or use of the word.

Xhosa the Bantu language of a people living mainly in the Transkei, east of Cape Province, in South Africa. Xhosa is closely related to Zulu.

Yakut a Turkic language of eastern Siberia.

Yiddish a West Germanic language spoken mainly by Jews of eastern and central Europe and their descendants. Yiddish, developed from one or more dialects of Middle High German, contains many Hebrew and Slavic words and some Romance words.

Yoruba a Kwa language of Nigeria.

Zulu the Bantu language of a people of southeastern Africa, living chiefly in Natal. Compare XHOSA.

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